

The Scroll

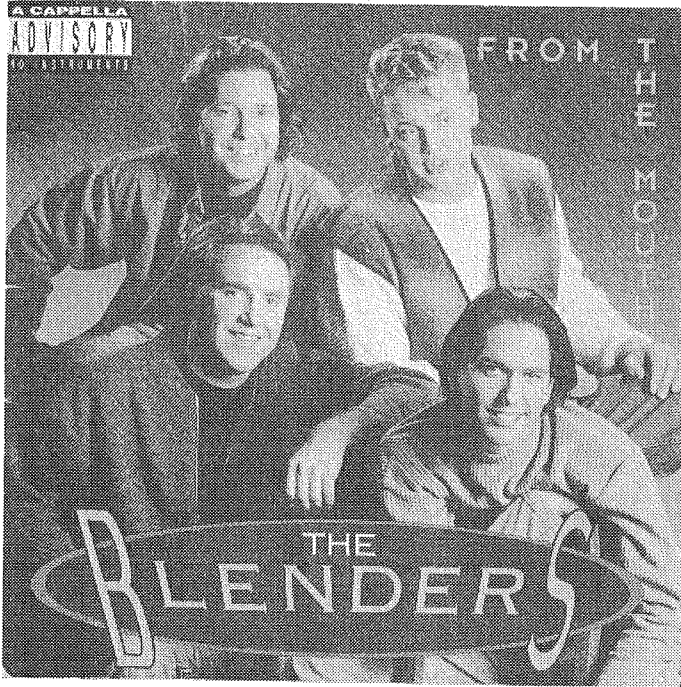
Fargo North High School

November Volume 30 Issue 3

A Cappella Funky Fellas



The Scroll



The Blenders: From the Mouth

Editorial Board

Editors: Darcy Aafedt, Megan Kiser

Associate Editor: Aaron Greterman

Features: Jamie Welton

Arts & Entertainment: Valerie Gillispie

Sports: Aaron Greterman

Business Manager

Sarah Putz

Photography

Darcy Aafedt

Copy Production

Matt Hanson

Mark Hanson

Staff

Megan Bergseth, Jarrod Danuser,

Mark Hanson, Matt Hanson,

James Hagen, Mike Kloberdanz,

Brian Larson, Jessica Meyer,

Jacquie Modin, Jackie Pratschner,

Ana Rusness, Peter Timm,

Susanna Vuorjoki

Adviser

Shannon Peterson

Principal

Andy Dahlen

Printer

Dennis Stormoe

The Scroll office is located at 801 17th Ave. N., Fargo, ND. Telephone: 241-6068. Advertising information can be obtained by calling the office. Ads are to be in by the tenth of the month to be printed in that month's issue. Signed letters to the editor are accepted at any time. The right to print is the sole decision of the editorial staff. Please talk to Shannon Peterson, Darcy Aafedt, or Megan Kiser concerning interest in writing for *The Scroll*. Also, graphic artists and photographers will be used throughout the year.



The Blenders

Darren Rust
Ryan Lance
Paul Dunkirk
Tim Kasper



Ryan Lance

peaks the

tory of their

uccess

Interview and graphic by Ana Rusness

"And now ladies and gentlemen, for your entertainment...The Blenders!"

Fans who recently gathered at the Fargo Theater to hear this a cappella group answered with whoops and hollers.

The next day, several of their fans appeared around the Fargo North hallways, where Blender Ryan Lance (formerly Ryan Myrold) once roamed.

Under the watchful squeegee of a local window washer, Lance took time out of his hectic schedule to tell the story of the four "A Cappella Funky Fellas:" Darren Rust, Ryan Lance, Paul Dunkirk, and Tim Kasper.

Were you pleased with the turnout for your recent concert at the Fargo Theater?

Ryan Lance: [laughing] Yeah, we couldn't believe that many people wanted to come out to see us. It was fun. We were totally pleased. We knew we wanted to do it.

Do you try to do a dance routine in all your concerts like you did at the Fargo Theater?

RL: We did one tap dancing piece. That's about as far as we want to go with it, because it's hard to dance and sing at the same time without sacrificing pitch and all those other musical things that are so important.

What do you like best about Fargo?

RL: [joking] It's really a cheap place to live. No, but my family's here. As a group it's a great place for refuge, after traveling all around the country, and it's been hectic. It's nice to come back to Fargo where it's a little more laid back. It's a great in between place, although we plan to relocate in Minneapolis in the spring.

What schools did each of you attend?

RL: I went to North, Paul went to South, Darren went to West Fargo, and Tim went to Shanley.

When did you guys meet and become friends?

RL: Tim and I grew up on the same block together, so we've known each other for all this time. Tim and I met Paul and Darren. Paul was at a dance class at Trollwood that I was teaching, and I met Darren through his brother, Alan, who was involved in Trollwood. Paul and Darren played sports against each other, and our families are kind of intertwined, too. Paul's grandma and Darren's aunt sang Sweet Adelines together. Tim's dad and Paul's dad sang in a choir group together. My dad and Paul's uncle played in a band together. But we hadn't been friends; our families were hooked to each other, but we never got acquainted till later.

How did you get the name "The Blenders?"

RL: We were sitting around a kitchen, spewing out a ton of names, and "The Blenders" sounds kind of fun and has a double-triple meaning.

What's your most memorable experience related to your singing career?

RL: There's a bunch of them. They're all memorable. It's fun to do TV. TV's cool, like Arsenio, that was cool. Meeting Robert DeNiro in his office, that was really neat. Doing Caesar's Palace with Jay Leno, and Howie Mandel, those are really neat people. You get to work with famous people. It's one thing to meet somebody to get their autograph or something; it's another to work with them, to be in Jay Leno's dressing room...

Which of your songs do you like the best?

RL: Do you mean the ones I've written? I like "Last Kiss." I like "Aunt Sue's Ant Soup" [Paul wrote it], that one was fun to work on. It's fun and funny, so that one's pretty cool. Recording is a tedious process, it's rarely ever fun to record.

How have your attitudes changed since you started singing together?

RL: Our attitudes toward music grow every time we're together. We enjoy working with each other; we've learned

that our attitudes have creativity and that can help a lot. We're not so channeled into one style. We've opened up and listen to all different types of songs. It keeps getting more and more wide.

Our attitudes about the record industry have changed quite a bit. When we first started out we were green. We've learned a lot. We've learned not to trust anybody but ourselves. We've learned to do it ourselves, 'cause it's not going to get done if we don't. Once in a while, somebody says or promises this could be a possibility. You can't wait around for that to happen. You get a little jaded by the music people. We've learned that record companies are businesses. They don't care about the artist; they want to change you to be more popular with a certain group. Our traveling attitudes have changed because now we see that after a while you start to really miss home and find value in your family and things like that...

When you go on a road trip, do you think of it as a job?

RL: A little bit of both; you can't think of it as purely a job. The job is driving, finding a place to eat, finding a hotel to sleep, setting up, doing all of that pre-show stuff, that's the job, that's what they pay you for. The show part, you don't have to pay me to do that, that's fun.... Other peoples' jobs really suck compared to this. We should be pretty lucky getting the day off to hang on the beaches. I could be flippin' burgers across the street.

Would you describe the Blenders as easygoing?

RL: Sure. Well, we work pretty hard. We're determined to get what we want. I mean, we get out there and fight for it, for people to hear us. We get out there and do publicity, but we don't take ourselves too seriously, because... we're not going to be around forever. Things could just turn. You're not

popular anymore, and then what do you do? That's why you can't take yourself too seriously.

How do you feel before one of your albums comes out? Are you worried about what people are going to think?

RL: You want everybody to like you... Nobody wants to be hated. As long as you stay true to yourself and actually believe in what you're doing, then people will like you. If you like you, other people will like you...

Do you have much personal time for girlfriends, dates, etc.?

RL: Yes and no... it's really tough. It takes a toll on you because you're never around and you need to be. It's hard on both parts. It's really hard to find time.

What makes it easy to work together?

RL: We respect each other and each other's talents. If we didn't, we wouldn't enjoy being creative... The hard part working together sometimes, though, is that we're friends. That's also the easy part. Friendships can get in the way when you want to make a decision as a business partner. It's

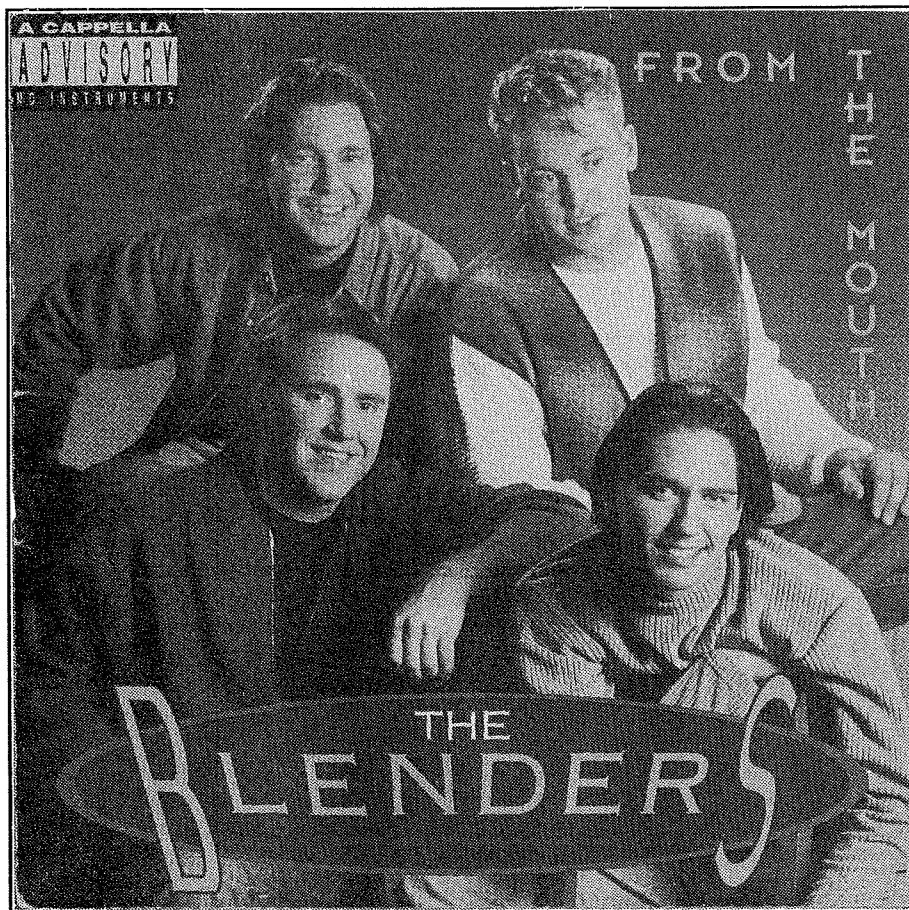
hard not to take a business decision personally sometimes.

Do you ever worry that you're going to hurt someone's feelings if you say something?

RL: We're pretty brutally honest with each other, about anything... It's like being on a family trip for six weeks. We're just like brothers...

Does it help that you're not alone on stage?

RL: It helps in every aspect. Individually, we'd have a really hard time doing anything... You can live off each other's energy and lean on each other's shoulder.



The cover of the Blenders new CD, From the Mouth