Alix Olson brings feminism to Farinon

■REVIEW: Slam poet visits the Farinon snackbar with her unconventional views on society.

BY TIFFANY DYER

Her name is Alix Olson, and she is nothing less than a feisty powerhouse determined to change the world. Olson performed her slam poetry in the Farinon snackbar last Thursday night, and as soon as she stepped up to the microphone her charisma filled the room. Olson began to share her ideas and experiences with the audience in a truly captivating way: honestly, humorously, and loudly.

During the performance, Olson threw her poetry at the audience, filling her words with emotion and honesty that made it possible for people to connect to her thoughts. Before each poem, Olson told the story behind the lyrics, making her words all the more meaningful. The personal anecdotes were hilarious and were as entertaining to listen to as the poetry itself. Olson was not afraid to say exactly what she was thinking, even if it might have been offensive to some.

Olson has a larger-than-life personality that comes to the surface in her poetry performances. An activist, she has a lot to say and knows exactly how to say it. Not only is Olson entertaining, but she also packs her shows with unconventional ideas and views about society. For example, Olson discussed American patriotism, the flag, and September 11, and how Americans had a false sense of pride after the event. Olson has run into much opposition in her career due to her blunt and honest nature.

Olson commented during her show that one conservative women's group stated, "Alix Olson is one of the top 10 most dangerous women in America." She speaks freely about feminism and homosexuality, as well as other issues that are considered controversial by some. In her performance in the snackbar, Olson proved that she is not afraid to challenge conventional ideas concerning conservatism, a woman's role in society, and homosexuality. She approached every topic with a smile, a positive attitude, and a healthy amount of humor.

According to her web site, Olson currently lives in Brooklyn, New York, but grew up in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She frequently tours at colleges, festivals, and clubs, averaging about 240 shows a year. Olson was one of two American poets to perform at the world-renowned International Poetry Festival in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and her debut album, *Built Like That*, was released in 2001.

She expects to release another album of spoken word in February 2003.

"America's on Sale!"

ATTENTION SHOPPERS!!!
attention 9 to 5 folk,
cell-phone masses,
the "up and coming" classes,
attention sports-utility,
plastic-surgery suburbianites,
viagra-popping,
gucci-shopping urbanites
attention george-clooney
loonies,
promise-keeper sheep,
stockbroker sleep-walkers,
big investment talkers,
ricki lake watchers,
attention walmart congregation,
shop til you drop generation,
ATTENTION NATION!
AMERICA'S ON SALE!

--poem by Alix Olson

PHOTO BY ALLISON CARRIER

Alix Olson performed last Thursday in the Farinon snackbar to a packed audience.

A&E...

is the place to be.

General meetings, 9 p.m. in Farinon 105.