Local band hopes to get far in record industry

By Kaylewi Wyatt
Asst. News Editor

The best things are yet undiscovered, and that happiness is always the case with the band Asher and Shan.

Asher and Shan is made up of Ashley Harrison, Shannon Stigall and Richard Oliveira.

"We're all natives of Fayetteville. N.C. Harrison plays lead guitar, Stigall sings and Oliveira plays the drums/percu- sion. Harrison and Stigall have been best friends for eight years and through- out their friendship music has always been their love. The majority of their middle and high school years were devoted to not just grades, but to also song writing.

"We have a lot of songs, but we just haven't put most of them up on MySpace," Stigall said. "This is our first album since I could talk. Performing wise I started in church when I was 8." Stigall recalled his time at church when he played the piano for his church. "He was 11 years old, she was in a gospel group with a few friends from church. They often refer to it as an island. "Their eclectic taste in music is a big influence on their sound. Such bands as the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Blondie, Silver Sun Pickups, and Coldplay are just a few of their favorites. "Our sound is kind of Pop Punk-Rock, but we're however we feel that day," Stigall said. 

Both girls focused on school after graduating from Seventy-Four High School in 2006. They both attended college. Stigall went to the Arts Institute of Charleston. Harrison went to Charlotte and in the midst of all the home- work, they came back to their music by form- ing, Asher and Shan. Later in 2008, Richard Oliveira was added to the band.

So far, the band has three songs featured on their MySpace page, "Victim of the dance floor," "Faith," and "Circles." Every song also has a live video. "The website is going up soon. We record all of our own music on Garage Band," Stigall said.

Dr. Muhammad Yunus, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, answers questions posed by Fayetteville State University Chancellor James Anderson, right, in the Seabrook Auditorium on Feb. 11. Dr. Yunus, also known as the "father of microcredit" won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end poverty through economics.

Dr. Muhammad Yunus, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, holds copies of his latest book, Creating a World Without Poverty, after speaking to a crowd of about 750 about his concept of microcredit.

"It would be a super financial movie," he laughed. "Known as the father of microcredit, Dr. Yunus suggested that we should recycle money, instead of giving it away, to help make business profitable and beneficial for everyone.

"For example, in Bangladesh the loan sharks said they take money and use it to make nutritious yogurt for malnourished children. Two cups of the yogurt a week for nine months significantly improves the child's health.

"Dr. Yunus noted that his mission is not to find a job for himself, but to try to make jobs for others. He said that is the purpose of microcredit to help people.

According to Dr. Yunus, the women do not have any lawyers, and they have no money, he said. "Even with no lawyers, and no one goes into the office in the mornings, instead, employees visit the cus- tomer's houses to collect minimal payments on these microloans."

After a long day's work, Dr. Yunus explained that the current banking system catered to only one third of the population and that it doesn't make any sense to give only to people who already have it. "The banks should give money to people who have no money," he said. "Conventional banks go to the rich. We go to the poor. Conventional banks go to the men. We go to the women," he said.

According to Dr. Yunus, his native country of Bangladesh treats women much differently than America.

He mentioned that in America, women can hold offices of high prestige and rise to great levels of success, but such is not the case in Bangladesh. The word "poverty" has never been used. It is always referred to as "determination to live in a world free from poverty." Dr. Yunus brought forward his concept of microcredit in order to help people who are not to blame for their poverty, and struggles. "Poverty is not creat- ed by poor people. Poverty is created by the system we have built," Dr. Yunus said.

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