

Behind The Cellar Door

When I began working at The Other End, I had my doubts. I'd heard several crazy stories about the student improv and cabaret shows, and wasn't sure if I'd fit in with the crowd. But after just two months, I loved the little escape-from-reality hideaway in the basement of Sitterly House.

After heaving open the thick door at the bottom of the small dungeon-like staircase, the atmosphere and muted hum of activity inside always relaxed me—dim lights, a dark cement floor and stone walls, candles on all the tables, the smell of fresh espresso and coffee grounds, and, of course, the music.

I could often count on hearing some music I'd

never heard before, or seeing some act I'd never experienced before. It could be recorded new age or progressive music, live acoustic performers on stage, or jazz from WMNJ. Some of my favorites included John Fritz, student Jim Knapp, and bassist Steve

served all types of beverages: juices, frappes (juice and ice cream mixed in a blender), herbal teas, coffees, espresso, cappuccino, and such managerial specialties as Hippy Kippys (juice combos a la Rudy), and Cool Chrises (coffee and ice cream

"The Other End—a hip, funky, cool, Greenwich Village type coffeehouse cabaret."

Freeman and others in the fall Jazz Festival series. Occasionally, there were comedy acts, ranging from student stand-up routines during cabarets to the hilarity of Improv, Inc.

The food also greatly enhanced the place. We

blends a la Shotwell). For more substance, we provided ice cream, jumbo chocolate chip cookies, cheesecakes, mousse cakes, and, most popular, the world's greatest nachos.

A few years ago, it took the ideas and efforts of

professors Buzz McLaughlin and Norman Lowrey, Les Lloyd, and about twenty students to transform the dusty basement into The Other End. February marked the two-year anniversary of the coffeehouse, and several student founders—including Josh Friedman—graduated in May. Their hard work more than paid off, because they gave us more than just a coffeehouse. They gave us a place where we could relax and let down our shields, throw away our insecurities, and let our true selves come out.

Alyx Cheriyan



Improv, Inc., an improvisational comedy group comprised of students, performs at the coffeehouse.



Joining Gumby on stage are Jeff DeSmedt, Jennifer Green, and Dave Denison. The Other End was named primarily for its campus location, but also because it was a campus alternative.

Acoustic guitarist Jim Knapp sings a song by Jim Croce. The sophomore was just one of several repeat performers in the Sitterly basement.

Draper



Draper