



Adventurer finds his way to Truman

Photos courtesy of DougLansky.com

In addition to his speaking tours, Lansky is working on an art exhibit called Signspotting, which currently is on display in Stockholm, Sweden. The success of the exhibit has led to requests from more than 25 cities.

BY EMMA MUELLER
Staff Reporter

Forget travel books. Forget the Web sites. We've got Doug Lansky.

Lansky, travel enthusiast and America's youngest nationally syndicated columnist, will present "Get Lost," a talk focusing on how to travel around the world inexpensively at 7 p.m., Feb. 27 in the Student Union Building.

Lansky said he began his adventure in traveling through a study abroad program, the way most students do.

"I hated it," Lansky said. "It was awful. It was like the anti-cultural experience."

Lansky didn't let this experience extinguish his desire for traveling though.

"When the semester was over, I just stuck around in Europe for three months and did the Eurail thing," Lansky said. "That's when I got truly and utterly hooked on travel. I just had a lot of great, somewhat safe adventures that summer."

Lansky said he consistently traveled for more than 10 years and hitchhiked to more than 50 countries.

"I've now got it down to an art, or a science, I should say," Lansky said. "I can get rides quicker, most of the time, than by taking the bus or the train."

Senior Emily Meyer is a member of the scholarship committee for Phi Sigma Pi, the honor fraternity responsible for helping bring Lansky to campus.

"When I contacted someone at the [speaking] company, they actually suggested Doug Lansky because of our strong study abroad program," Meyer said. "They thought he would be really good for our school."

The presentation includes an

incentive as well as a good way to spend a Friday night.

"It's supposed to be a funny, almost comedic presentation about his travels," Meyer said. "Also, if 300 people come, he's going to give away a Eurail pass that's worth \$1,200."

Lansky said he caters his presentation to the college-age crowd.

"I feel like that's who needs to hear this message most," Lansky said. "This is at the time of your life to do this. I get e-mails from people sometimes or they will look me up, and they'll say 'I heard you speak a year or two ago, and I've been traveling ever since.'"

Lansky has spoken three times at North Carolina State University.

Allison Medlin, assistant director of the University Scholars Program at NCSU, said it's great for students to hear his message.

"We encourage our students to be global students," Medlin said. "He tells students to travel, not just in the sense to go on a cruise, but he wants students to travel to get to know the local population and culture."

Each time Lansky visited the NCSU campus, he drew a crowd of about 400 students.

"A lot of students don't know what's coming," Medlin said. "Also, we have a lot of repeat audience members. He's a good crowd pleaser."

Before the speaking tour began, Lansky was an accomplished writer. After deferring a dream job at the New Yorker, he went in search of a job at a newspaper.

"I came home and sent off some letters to Rolling Stone and Esquire and said I wanted to be [their] travel writer columnist," Lansky said. "I didn't even hear back. And then I thought, I'm going to go after newspapers as a syndicated columnist be-

cause all the young, hip writers are going after magazines and there's too much competition with these old writers that had been there 20 years who weren't giving up their post."

Lansky soon became the youngest nationally syndicated newspaper columnist for the Chicago Tribune, among other publications, and hit the road. He became a full-time traveler and wrote a weekly column from a different spot each week.

"The mission was to just do as many cool things as I could figure out how to do," Lansky said. "Sumo wrestling school in Japan, test drive Ferraris, go to a sand sculpting competition and try to get on a team."

In addition to a speaking tour, Lansky is working on an art exhibit of funny signs that he and other travelers have spotted along the way.

"It's been a pretty big success in Stockholm, and I've had requests to bring it to about 25 cities around the world," Lansky said. "I'm trying to figure out how to do that. Suddenly, I'm like this art curator. I sort of fell into this backwards."

Blues trio provides Mardi Gras entertainment

BY SHANNON WALTER
Staff Reporter

Blues music will provide the theme of Kirkville's Mardi Gras party tomorrow night.

The Kirkville Blues Showcase is highlighting music from three different blues bands, each with its own style: Blues Hog, Deadwood and BJ Allen & Blue Voodoo.

Senior Paul Niehaus said he organized the event to get all three blues bands together for the first time. Niehaus plays guitar and harmonica and is a vocalist for Blues Hog.

"I've had this idea [to get these bands together] for well over a year," Niehaus said. "The town has three great blues bands. We all play the same kind of music, we all love the same kind of music, and we never really get together to have fun and do it together."

Physics professor Peter Rolnick and Niehaus are opening the show with acoustic blues. Rolnick and Niehaus started playing together a few years ago for fun.

"Recently, [blues musician] Harper was here and [Blues Hog] was opening for that show, and I was opening ... by myself, and I thought since [Niehaus] was there, I'd ask him if I could play one song with his band," Rolnick said. "So he asked me if I could open this

show with him."

Rolnick said although he likes music, he chose to be a professor because it was a better career route.

"A long time ago, I thought about which career direction I should go into, and I thought if I become a professional musician I probably will never do physics but if I become a professional physicist I probably would do music," Rolnick said.

Rolnick is a member of the band Redwing, which plays country and rock. However, he said he enjoys playing blues on his own.

Blues Hog is made up of senior Luke McDuff, who plays bass, senior Tony Kroeger, who plays drums, Kirkville resident Bill Newell, who plays keyboards, and Niehaus.

Niehaus said he characterizes Blues Hog's sound with hard-driving shuffles heavily influenced by St. Louis- and Chicago-style blues.

"I'm from eastern St. Louis, [where there] is a jam session every weekend," Niehaus said. "It's a blues community. Here I haven't found that so much, and I asked myself why — I want to change that somewhat. I want the bands to work together and come see each other and jam together."

Niehaus arranged this show to get all the bands together to jam and support each other.

Niehaus said Blues Hog will be playing some Zydeco music with a washboard to celebrate Mardi Gras.

Physics professor Ian Lindevald is a member of Deadwood, which started in 1998 with classics professor Clifton Kreps.

Lindevald said the band's first gig was in the Pershing gym where they played for no audience. Then they played at "Kirkstock," sponsored by Tau Kappa Epsilon, which kick-started their local popularity, Lindevald said.

Currently, the band is made up of Lindevald, who plays the bass, Kreps, who plays guitar and harmonica and sings, Kirkville resident Rebecca Murphy, who sings backup vocals and senior John Hitzel, who plays the drums. The band has had revolving members for the last 10 years.

"The band has morphed over the years a lot," Lindevald said. "We've had all different [members], but it's always been Kreps and I. We've just had all different kinds of people [join us] — students, faculty and local people."

Lindevald said Deadwood usually plays electric blues and rockin' blues.

"We went through a [Bob] Dylan phase, actually, where we learned two or three or four Dylan songs that we played a lot," Lindevald said. "And I was actually never really a big Dylan fan, but I liked the Deadwood version."

Lindevald said Deadwood is inspired by the legends of electric guitar blues bands including Albert King, Muddy Waters, B.B. King and Albert Collins.

BJ Allen & Blue Voodoo is the last band playing in the showcase. The band is comprised of guitarist Jerry Fuller, drummer David Daniels, who owns Circle M Music, bassist and harmonica player Jon Hurd and singer Barb (BJ) Allen, who is Daniels' wife.

Blue Voodoo started playing country and rock together about six years ago, but they soon decided they wanted to stick with blues, Fuller said.

"We've all been playing together for years and just playing country or rock," Fuller said. "About six or seven years ago, we finally decided we just wanted to play blues. We wanted to try and form a blues band to play the music that we all really like."

Blue Voodoo travels quite a bit playing upbeat, contemporary blues to keep the crowd interested, Fuller said.

The Kirkville Blues Showcase is tomorrow night at the Journal Building. Rolnick and Niehaus will open the show at 7:45 p.m. The order of the show will be chosen at random, and it will culminate with a jam session during which members of the audience will be welcome to jam with the musicians.

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