## **Real World**

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peepers focused on me and my dreams of prime-time glory balancing on my response, I summoned this reply:

"Um, I would name it after a symbol. Like Prince. And the laws? On Sundays, everyone would wear tutus. And the official country beverage would be two percent milk."

Prime time, watch out.

Everyone received one hypothetical absurdity and nothing more. I did receive some more attention when a girl was asked to invent a personal history of one of us at the table. She chose me, remarked how I reminded her of Ethan Embry from "Empire Records," and that I suffered childhood trauma after I fell off the school bus a couple of times. Fell off? Was it a rural Mexican school bus, and was I squatting on the roof? "No, you just fell off," she answered. Hmpf. I am clumsy.

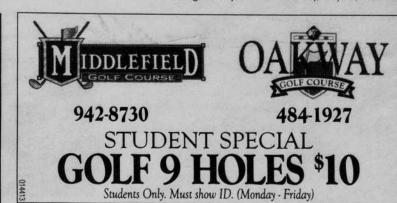
Ten minutes later, the interview was over. The casting directors hustled us out and herded in a new

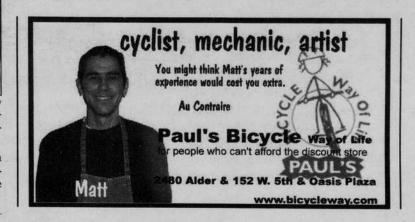


batch of hopefuls, all of them making the same Fonz and Cheshire Cat faces. In all, more than 500 people auditioned — more than twice the number of other cities currently being scouted. Approximately 20 people were called back on Sunday, with an estimated 10 more awaiting phone calls this week. Thousands will be interviewed nationwide, and the show's season will begin mid-August at a thus-far undisclosed location.

So far my phone has been silent. It's OK; I lied on my application, anyway. After all, in the real world, that's what people do.

Contact the Pulse reporter at markbaylis@dailyemerald.com.





# **Bechard**

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National Poetry Slam's other competitors, but who cares? We ended up with a pretty respectable and distinctively voiced team. With powerful themes and very individual styles, the competitors should make a decent showing for themselves as well as our fine city.

And without Foolscap Books owner Marietta Bonaventure, none of this would have happened. She has been kind enough to volunteer the use of her store as a venue; she arranged and held fundraisers while serving as the liaison between all of us weirdoes.

Now, minus a few more fundraisers, our poetry slam fun is winding down. Again we'll find ourselves getting drunk under the penetrating blue lights of the 20 television sets mounted on some seedy bar's walls, wishing there was something exciting to do on a beautiful Saturday night. And those lucky jerks in Chicago will have gotten to see the nation's best poets.

Contact the Pulse columnist at josephbechard@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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