

'Speak Words' brings speech alive

By Matt Gallagher

Play with words and someone is bound to get burned. Juggle adjectives, spin verbs, stand a profound idea on its head, and you've sparked a poetic circus, a festival of the spoken word for ranting madmen. The Donkey Coffee stage welcomes you to spout your trout, fry your fish and butter your blueberry waffles—poetically speaking, of course.

Spoken word at Donkey Coffee is about playing with words. Scrap is divine, so give voice and life to the coffee-stained pieces of notebook muse left abandoned in shoe boxes and jean pockets across the nation. Whether you read from a Betty Crocker recipe book, lyrics you wrote for your dog in the middle of that dreary class or a muse you

pulled out of the moon, there's an open microphone with your name on it and a packed house that will take on your every word.

Packed houses are a Sasquatch sighting in Athens during the summer. It's rare to see a packed room in the summertime when no music is involved, especially in a place where they don't serve beer or beer nuts and smoking is relegated to the sidewalk. With mere coffee and smoothies to lure in the palate, Donkey Coffee spoken word night managed a packed house in the middle of July because people were genuinely interested in sharing each other's words.

But the people at Donkey go to bed early, so get there ahead of time and get your name on the list, some

caffeine in a glass and a chair to rest your bones. Sign-up happens at 8:30 p.m. Words start spouting at 9, it's over by 11, and we are safely tallying sheep by the stroke of midnight.

Turn on, tune in and drop in. Donkey Coffee will make a poet out of you, even if you do other people's taxes for a living.

-Courtesy of The Athens Insider

"Speak Words" is held every other Tuesday, starting Sept. 9 at 9 p.m. Donkey Coffee and Espresso is located at 17 1/2 W. Washington St. For more information, call 594-7353.