

# Vermillion's '20 Bold Ideas' Records Debut EP

By Thomas Hatzenbuehler  
For the Plain Talk

I spent the better part of a day during the recent academic vacation, better known as spring break, in Scotland. No, not the country to the north of England; rather, the Scotland to which I am referring is the less exotic Scotland of South Dakota.

Despite the fact that Scotland is home to fewer than 900 people, hidden amid a sleepy residential area is an exciting secret: an inconspicuous building and unexpected silence conceals All Poetic Audio, a truly professional recording studio in the middle of proverbial nowhere.

I joined the musicians of Vermillion-based 20 Bold Ideas—Zachary Baltz, Jesse Mohling, Joss Loeb, and Ross Loeb—during their second day in the studio, a less than ideal time to begin the documentary process, and was happily surprised by the positivity and energy I found there. Spending eight hours with the band, even after they've done a 12 hour day of recording previously, one quickly realizes that they are still having fun with the process of making and playing their music.

Upon my arrival, Baltz was plugged in, his trusty cream-colored Epiphone in hand, and was laying down the guitar tracks for



Zachary Baltz of the Vermillion-based band, 20 Bold Ideas, left, and Jeremy Schaeffer, owner and audio engineer at All Poetic Audio in Scotland, SD, right, record guitar tracks for the song "Power Lines."

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

one of the band's popular songs, "Power Lines."

Despite having listened to the song performed live innumerable times, the sculpted sound of every riff and guitar solo coming through the studio monitors, accompanied by the brilliant work done by Josh and Ross Loeb on bass and drums, respectively, gave the piece a new and vibrant life, a certain je ne sais quoi, emanating from the combined talents of Baltz, the Loeb brothers and Jeremy Schaeffer, the audio

recording engineer and owner of All Poetic Audio.

"Everyone I had talked to from other bands was familiar with [Schaeffer] and his work and told me he was the best person to record with," explained Baltz. "I was nervous for our first time in studio, but it's what we've been preparing for."

The nervousness that the musicians of 20 Bold Ideas may have felt entering a recording studio for the first time manifested itself as the raw expression of their

talents resulting in, as Baltz stated best, "an energetic EP from your favorite Vermillion goofballs, 20 Bold Ideas."

And the energetic sound of the EP is a testament to the undeniable quality of each member's musicianship. Considering that the foursome began the recording process at All Poetic Audio with little knowledge of what to expect, it is truly impressive that the end result sounds and feels as though it has come from a veteran group of recording artists.

"I really had no idea what to expect going into the recording process," said Mohling. "I didn't know if we would sound terrible or if we would just struggle with the entire process. The whole process was so surreal. I'm still not entirely convinced that we actually recorded anything."

Bassist Josh Loeb shares a similar sentiment about the recording process: "I went in knowing pretty much nothing about the recording process, and I have to say that it was one of the most insanely fun experiences of my life."

The experience of recording their debut EP was also an opportunity for introspection, which is a powerful mental exercise for helping shape the future of 20 Bold Ideas.

"I think it says a lot that we made it to a studio in the first place, and then we've come out the other side having grown more from the experience," explained Baltz of the experience. "Hell or high water, we've accomplished something musicians dream of doing. Four songs doesn't sound like much, but those four songs have been the heartbeat of four guys in the Vermillion area for quite some time. It's real, and it is possible."

Despite all their accomplishments, and the forthcoming and inevitable excitement about having finished their debut EP, the gentlemen of 20 Bold Ideas have remained humble and loyal to the Vermillion community.

"I feel like we owe thanks to [Schaeffer] for all his work recording us, Thomas and Andrew Johnson for taking pictures and video over the last couple of years, Sam Drapeaux for the t-shirt artwork, and Diane Wirth at the Varsity for always helping us play shows," said Baltz. "Not to mention all the other places and people we've shared stages with. I know the four of us in 20 Bold Ideas put in a lot of work, but I don't think anyone would disagree that we've had a lot of help along the way."

## More on New VTC Building in Vermillion

By Randy Dockendorf  
Press & Dakotan

VERMILLION — A \$4.2 million building on the outskirts of Vermillion remains the object of a lawsuit, but a local economic development official remains confident the vacant structure will soon house one or more businesses.

The Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company (VCDC) is suing Minnesota-based Eagle Creek Software Services. VCDC says the technology company didn't follow an agreement to move into the 32,000-square-foot Vermillion Technology Center (VTC).

The VCDC says it built

the technology center for Eagle Creek in return for the company entering a long-term agreement to lease and occupy the building. The building is located at 1012 Princeton Street, near Hy-Vee, Wal-Mart and Polaris. Eagle Creek runs its Vermillion operation out of another site.

The VCDC is seeking about \$3.1 million in future rent and about \$154,000 for past rent and other expenses.

"I cannot comment on the current lawsuit, specifically. But I will say the VCDC is using every right we have and (every) opportunity to market the building," said VCDC executive director Nate Welch.

"We are aggressively going out and trying to find people because we want somebody in this building. We want to make sure we get something going with it."

Welch views the unused center as an opportunity.

"We did have this building for one specific purpose, and those plans didn't pan out," he said. "But it's nice we're able to pivot and turn. This building is an amazing asset for us. We expect to use it for recruiting."

The VTC carries a great deal of flexibility, Welch said.

"This is basically a state-of-the-art office building," he said. "It has so many different functions to it, that it can either house one large company, multiple small companies or two companies at a time."

The VTC is considered a turn-key operation, Welch said.

"The building is fully up and operating and could be moved into right away. This provides such a great opportunity because, if a business wants to move and wants to move now, time is not the deterrent," he said. "It's now a motivator and asset. It very much opens up immediate interest from companies that don't want to wait."

The VTC layout uses an open concept, starting with the front doors opening into a large reception area, Welch said.

"Because of the central entrance location, it would allow for businesses to share a person to take calls, direct visitors and provide access to different areas, if they wanted," he said.

"It's wide open right now, but (it) could be divided into at least two sides with the two wings right away. Or if someone wanted a smaller space, the building was designed and utilities are already in place to 'cut up' the building into sections where everyone

can have control in their own systems but rent smaller space at a time."

"This flexibility is a great asset to the versatility in the building," he added.

The technology center could be divided many different ways, Welch said. The two large office wings each contain nearly 11,000 square feet of open office space, as well as up to seven private offices in each. The two wings can also be split into — and up to — three separate full offices to accommodate multiple tenants.

The building is equipped with three-phase power as well as technology wired throughout the structure, Welch added.

"It also has security access to close off different parts of the building, if multiple tenants are in there. It's equipped with multiple bathrooms and even showers," he said. "It has a commons/break area and a training room that can be divided by a diving wall."

The center's biggest asset is its flexibility to handle nearly any situation, Welch said.

"The list of attractions to the building is long, but some of the highlights are the technology throughout, the diversity of the building as well as an ability to even add on, if needed," he said.

Welch declined to list the rental charge for tenants. The VCDC does remain open to selling the building, he added.

"We look at and consider all types of offers for either leasing or purchasing the building," he said. "There are so many different factors that play into those rates and numbers. I can't put a specific number on them at this time."

Hitting the Market  
The VCDC is marketing the building in different ways, Welch said.

"One way is having it listed on the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) website of available office spaces in South Dakota. We are marketing it locally, and we will consider marketing it regionally through a broker in the coming months," he said.

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The recent warm weather brought with it some dramatic skies. This image was created by stacking and blending together more than 70 photos while looking to the east during the "golden hour" of the day as the clouds receded quickly along the breezy winds at the Clay County Park. The paintbrush strokes of the clouds and the smooth Missouri waters were captured using many long exposures

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

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