

# [flash]

September 23, 2004

## meet me at GRIMEY'S

Grimey's Record Shop rejoices in 'High Fidelity' coolness

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# second annual the 'boro's best 2004 ballot

Please nominate as few national chains as possible

Start your engines, Pedro. Once again, it's time to highlight your favorite bars, clubs, bands, video stores, restaurants and whatever else passes for culture in this decaying college burg we affectionately call Murfreesboro.

Below is democracy-in-action. Our beautiful Quark-made ballot now includes: Best Place to Shop for

Under \$5, Best Local deejay, Best Tattoo Parlor and Best Bookstore.

Ballots should be turned in to the *Sidelines* office, in the James Union Building, Room 310, by Nov. 11. You can also mail us at Post Office Box 8, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. And if you're a Webhead, fill out your ballot online at [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com). Whew.★

## Music

Best Murfreesboro Band

Best Murfreesboro Musician

Best Place to Hear Live Music

Best Place to Play Live Music

Best Local Deejay

## Food & Drink

Bar With the Best Bartenders

Best Cup of Coffee

Best Mixed Drinks

Best Happy Hour

Best Beer

Best Atmosphere (Restaurant)

Best Atmosphere (Bar)

Best Breakfast

Best Mexican Food

Best Oriental Food

Best Soul Food

Best Sit-Down Meal in Town

*food and drink continued*

Best Service (Restaurant)

Best Service (Bar)

Best Drunk/Stoned Food Place

Best Grab-and-Go Lunch Place

## Arts & Entertainment

Best Place to Spend a Friday/Saturday Night

Best Place to Spend a Weeknight

Best Place to Pick Up a Date

Best Place to Take Your Date

Best Place to Cheat on Your Date

Best Place to Shop for Under \$5

Best Place to Dance

Best Place to Rent Videos

Best Local Tattoo Parlor

Best Bookstore

Best Place to Experience Local Culture

Best Place to See Local Art

Best Place to Sit, Chill Out and Read





Photo provided by Tennessee Repertory Theatre

Henry Drummond and Matthew Harrison Brad star in the Rep's season opener, "Inherit the Wind." The play chronicles the Scopes Monkey Trial.

## 'Inherit the Wind' blows the roof off the Rep

By Collin Winter

I'll come clean and admit it: when I read the initial synopsis for *Inherit the Wind*, the Tennessee Repertory Theatre's season opener, I was wary.

I am happy to report, however, that I was very much mistaken.

Though I arrived expecting a fairly dull reenactment of material from my history text, I was instead treated to a wonderful production, ranging from witty to chilling to poignant.

*Inherit the Wind* was written in the 1950s as a response to the social climate borne of McCarthyism. The authors drew inspiration from the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial, held in Dayton, Tenn., in which a schoolteacher was charged with violating a law prohibiting the inclusion of evolution in the curriculum.

Despite the factual basis, the play is not a dry history lesson. The authors took considerable liberties with the events surrounding the trial, using the historical framework

to launch an attack on the atmosphere of anti-intellectualism gripping the United States during the early 1950s. While most of the major players and events of the trial come through intact, the authors de-emphasized certain aspects of the trial, including the primarily religious conflict and its real origins (the trial was originally designed as a publicity stunt to draw attention to the town). They also added other items for dramatic effect, such as a love interest for Bert Cates, the schoolteacher on trial.

The title of the play is taken from Proverbs 11:29, "He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind; and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart."

Despite the success that the play has enjoyed over its 50-year life span, including a run on Broadway, television and Hollywood adaptation, the 2004 Rep season marks the first time *Inherit the Wind* has been performed in Nashville.

Director David Alford, moonlight-

ing from his position as artistic director of the theatre, chose this work as part of his mission to stage productions relevant to his Nashville audience. To this end, he made an effort to cast local actors in as many roles as possible.

"This story is about Tennessee, and I wanted to have Tennessee actors playing the parts," Alford said. "We're fortunate to have so many talented performers working here in our community."

One talented performer, Mark Cabus, who stars as defense attorney Henry Drummond, agrees.

"Too often you see Hollywood portray Southerners as eccentric or quirky," Drummond said. "This story is not particularly flattering to Tennessee, but I think we offer a fair portrayal, and I'm excited to be a part of that."

Cabus stars opposite Cecil Jones, who plays the fundamentalist prosecutor, Matthew Harrison Brady. Playing their respective lawyers to the hilt, Cabus and

Jones gave performances at their usual level of excellence. These two fine actors conspired to fill the theatre with rhetoric and impassioned arguments, many of which were lifted verbatim from the transcripts of the actual trial.

Matt Chiorini absolutely exuded slime in his role as E. K. Hornbeck, the sensationalist Baltimore reporter sent to cover the trial.

Also, casting Henry Haggard as the fire-and-brimstone fundamentalist, Reverend Jeremiah Brown, was an inspired choice. The scene in which Brown whips his congregation into a frenzy, calling down the wrath of God upon any supporter of evolution or evolutionists left me with chills. Even in scenes where he was merely sitting in the courtroom, Haggard had me anxious of what would come out of his mouth next.

The play runs through Sept. 25. Show times are available at The Tennessee Repertory Theatre's Web site, [www.tnrep.org](http://www.tnrep.org). ★



# meet me at GRIMEY'S



# Grimey's Record Shop rejoices in 'High Fidelity' coolness

By Joey Hood

With Nashville's smattering of soulless mega-chain record stores, it's refreshing to find a mom-and-pop record shop awash with hipper-than-thou counterculture.

Nashville's Grimey's Record Shop is the paradigm of indie sensibility and vintage goodness.

It borrows amply from its progressive predecessors: the punk rock rooted Lucy's Record Shop and Indienet.

"We want to turn Nashville's focus away from Music Row, and provide a voice to its counterculture," co-owner and Grimey's namesake Mike Grimes said in a recent interview with [flash].

Grimes, an occasional Bare Jr. guitarist and Sony Records refugee, began his ambitious vision five years ago on the amorphous

Bransford Avenue, a winding South Nashville road prone to unpretentious dentist offices and blue collar gas stations.

The original record shop was a place for Grimes to hock his leftover Sony Records' promotional compact discs, a shrewd business maneuver for an aging thirtysomething burdened with phone bills and insurance premiums.

Soon thereafter, Grimes courted Great Escape Record Shop's Doyle Davis, a wiry intellectual with heaps of *Rock 'N' Roll Jeopardy* trivia questions to spare.

The duo sequentially turned a last-ditch record store into a formidable player in Nashville's underrated indie scene, a quasi-nationally recognized venture mentioned in the same breath as Austin's Waterloo or Atlanta's Wax N' Facts.

With its new location on the heavily trafficked Eighth Ave South,

Grimey's Record Shop is sure to grow among Nashville's Saddle Creek set.

The store has already aligned itself with Eighth Avenue nightclub The Basement, a nearby neighbor that has hosted Grimes' adoration for all things relating to the late-70s punk band, The Clash.

Also factored into the new location are acoustical performances from a ragtag list of trendy recording artists, a feature that was not possible in the constrictive Bransford Avenue location.

Said in-store performances have included recent Universal South signees, The Features, Butterfly Boucher, By Divine Right, Pedro the Lion and of course, Grimes' old bandmate, Bobby Bare Jr.

For more information about these in-store performances and everything else Nashville indie, visit [www.grimeys.com](http://www.grimeys.com). ★



Photos by Steve Cross

Grimey's Record Shop is located at 1604 8th Ave. S. in Nashville. For more information on the indie record store, visit the official Web site at [www.grimeys.com](http://www.grimeys.com).

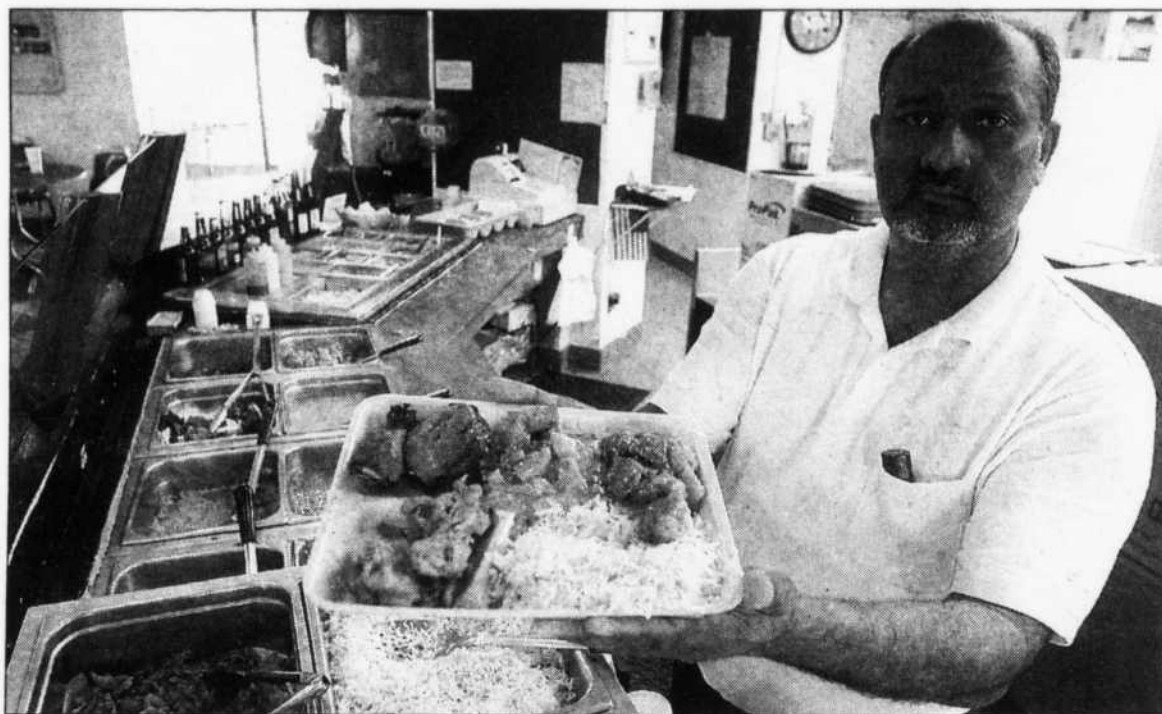


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Clay Pit owner Babir Derer has managed his shop in Murfreesboro since last fall.

## Clay Pit adds zest to local cuisine

By Sarah Crotzer

The Clay Pit, located at 1813 Memorial Blvd. (just a few blocks down from the Hastings shopping center), is not exactly an awe-inspiring place to look at. From the outside, it resembles what the building probably once housed: a deli, or some other small restaurant. And, its location next to Poppy's Frozen Custard doesn't really help the ambience. No matter the appearance, however, the food inside is worth stopping by for.

I've been a fan of Indian cuisine for many years now, so I was very excited when The Clay Pit moved in last fall. Indian food is sharp, spicy, aromatic and usually not for those with sensitive digestion. Nor is it for those with a thin pocketbook. You pay for the privilege of eating this exotic fare, and while it probably won't break your bank, The Clay Pit's prices are no exception to the rule. The sheer fact that it's still here, in a college town where O'Charley's seems to be the culinary favorite, is a testament to the quality of food The Clay Pit offers.

Like Chinese food, it's best to go for smaller portions of several different dishes at once, and The Clay Pit supports that approach. Various dishes are served cafeteria-style from behind a partition, and you get a nice range that isn't exactly the same every time you come in. You've got your vindaloos, your kormas and your curries. Also, The Clay Pit has some very nice tan-

### The Clay Pit

☆☆☆ 1/2  
(out of four stars)  
1813 Memorial Blvd.  
M-F: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

doori, and it's all served over basmati rice, with an optional side of nan. It's traditional and entirely satisfying.

Everything I've ever had at The Clay Pit is either chicken or vegetarian, so it's a good place for mixed palettes; presumably, they've got the lamb hiding in a back room until I leave. Instead of different levels of spice, as with most Indian restaurants, everything on the buffet is a nice, routine, mid-range spicy that should satisfy most diners without their breaking into a sweat. Perhaps the best part is that you can go back to the counter and get more, and as we all know, more is better.

If you don't like sitting in a little, spartan room with your fellow diners, or if you're running home to catch a movie on TV, you can always opt for takeout.

If you go that route, however, you'll have to choose the exact dishes you want, and the servings aren't exactly...well...plentiful.

Unless you're very particular and don't

See Pit, 7

## Murfreesboro's Carolina Avenue fondly channels Hootie & the Blowfish

By Calley Stroud

Carolina Avenue is composed mostly of MTSU college students. The band, who will play the first [flash] showcase of the semester, entertains young locals at tasteful Murfreesboro venues.

The band's rhythm guitarist and lead songwriter Josh Walliser likens Carolina Avenue to tossed-aside Clear Channel gems Better Than Ezra, and Hootie and the Blowfish.

"We like to say that we sound like ourselves, but I'm sure we follow a lot of the same pop-oriented ideas of the '90s such as Sister Hazel," Walliser said in a recent interview with [flash].

"Most other bands lean toward jam bands or harder music, such as distortion.

We try to separate ourselves from that," Walliser added.

Walliser moved to Murfreesboro from Aiken, S.C.

His fellow band members include percussionist and Cincinnati native Brian Rosser, bassist Kyle Cornett and lead guitarist Ben Stansbury.

Along with local hip-hop acts Big Fella, Te' Arthur the Great and Quarter to Nine, Carolina Avenue is rocking the Red Rose's [flash] showcase this Sunday. Tickets are \$5 and the show starts at 9 p.m.

For more information about the band's music and upcoming touring schedule, check out the official Web site at carolina-avenue.com.★



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# [flash]

## concert calendar

★ – [flash] pick of the week

### Thursday, Sept. 23

- ★ Americana Music Association showcase with Delbert McClinton, Dave Alvin, Buddy Miller, Tift Merritt at Mercy Lounge, 8 p.m.
- Sound Sector 9 at the Exit/In, 10 p.m., \$15
- Carolina Ave., The Hot Rocks, and Folk Medicine at the Boro, 9:30 p.m.
- Michael Inge at Bluesboro in Nashville, 8 p.m.

### Friday, Sept. 24

- AMA showcase with Billy Joe Shaver, Junior Brown at Mercy Lounge, 9 p.m.
- Holden World Music Festival with Rucksack Wanderers, Moe Raw and Rawgroup, Bells for Aida, The Doomers, Terry Prince, Holden, Travis

Vance and many more at Caffeine 7 p.m.

- ★ Victor Furious, Across the Fields at the Boro

### Saturday, Sept. 25

- ★ Spooky Johnson, Fluent Dialects at Wall Street, 9:30 p.m.
- Good Paper at Windows, 10 p.m.
- Sham Battle at The Exit In at 7 p.m., \$5.

### Sunday, Sept. 26

- ★ [flash] showcase with Big Fella and Te' Arthur, Quarter to Nine and Carolina Avenue at the Red Rose, 9 p.m., \$5
- Old Union at B.B. Kings 9 p.m. \$10-40.
- Steff Mahan, Tift Merritt at 3rd & Lindsley at 8 p.m.



Carolina Avenue

27

- Kings X at the Exit/In, 9 p.m., \$15
- Daybreak, Kingbilly at 3rd and Lindsley, 6 p.m.

28

- Dan Bern at Mercy Lounge, 8:30 p.m., \$15

29

- Secret Machines at Exit/In, 9 p.m.,
- Writing Center Benefit with H-Beam and Florez at the Red Rose, \$5.

30

- The Visitors at Wall Street, 9:30 p.m., \$5.
- The Melvins at Exit/In, 9 p.m., \$13.

1

- Mile 8 at the Mercy Lounge, 9 p.m. \$8.
- Immortal Lee County Killers, A Fir-ju Well @ Red Rose.

2

- Perpetual Groove at Exit/In, 10 p.m., \$8
- The Only Children, Spiderfighter, The Velcro Stars at the Red Rose

3

- The Jamie Hartford Band, Gabe Dixon, 8 p.m.
- Vertical Horizon at Exit/In, 8 p.m., \$12

## Grimey's Top Sellers

1. **The Black Keys** *Rubber Factory*
2. **Paul Westerberg** *Folker*
3. **Medeski Martin & Wood** *End of the World Party*
4. **Various Artists** *This Is Americana*
5. **By Divine Right** *Sweet Confusion*
6. **Fela Kuti** *Underground Spiritual Game*
7. **Various Artists** *Wattstax: The Highlights*
8. **Bjork** *Medulla*
9. **John Cale** *Hobo Sapiens*
10. **Matthew Sweet** *Living Things*

Compiled by Grimey's Record Shop owner Doyle Davis. Grimey's is located at 1604 Eighth Ave. South in Nashville.

## WMTS Playlist

1. **The Features** *Exhibit A*
2. **Various Artists** *Future Soundtrack For America*
3. **Interpol** *Radio EP*
4. **Guided by Voices** *Half Smiles Of The Decomposed*
5. **Rilo Kiley** *More Adventurous*
6. **Fiery Furnaces** *Blueberry Boat*
7. **Rogers Sisters** *Three Fingers*
8. **The Faint** *Wet From Birth*
9. **Clinic** *Winchester Cathedral*
10. **Talking Heads** *The Name Of This Band Is...*

Compiled by Jason Jones, WMTS-FM 88.3 music director. WMTS is MTSU's student-run radio station.

## WRLT Playlist

1. **Norah Jones** "What Am I To You?"
2. **Carbon Leaf** "Life Less Ordinary"
3. **John Mellencamp** "Walk Tall"
4. **Bruce Hornsby** "Gonna Be Some Changes"
5. **Ozomatli** "(Who Discovered) America?"
6. **Jamie Cullum** "All At Sea"
7. **Rachael Yamagata** "Worn Me Down"
8. **BoDeans** "If It Makes You"
9. **R.E.M.** "Leaving New York"
10. **Finn Brothers** "Won't Give In"

Compiled by Keith Coes, WRLT-FM 100.1 music director. WRLT Lightning 100 is Nashville's progressive radio station.

# [flash]

Joey Hood  
Marie Patrick  
Editors  
Brandon Morrison  
Designer

## Continued from Clay Pit, page 6

like getting your own Coke from a soda fountain, the dine-in option is definitely your best bet.

It may be a little pricey for anything but a special occasion, but I'm glad The Clay Pit is here. We have a dearth of good ethnic restaurants in Murfreesboro, and whenever one comes along, I feel a need to support it. The Clay Pit is one of the few where I know an extra buck or two is well spent. ★

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## Lady Beasties show chutzpah with 'City'

By Andrew Young

Northern State is an all-girl hip-hop trio straight out of New York City. So let's get the obvious "female Beastie Boys" comparison out of the way before we begin. There.

*All City* is Northern State's major label debut, coming on the heels of their critically acclaimed 2002 indie EP, *Dying in Stereo*. Apparently on a lark, the college-educated trio decided to form a rap group three years ago. After a handful of shows, the press began to pay attention and eventually the record labels followed suit.

The Beastie Boys comparison is more than apt, because Northern State rhymes in the same snotty, Caucasian cadence as the Beasties, and truth be told, the girls bring down the house when rocking the old school style on songs like "Ignite" and "Last Night." But *All City's* obvious novelty appeal wears off rather quickly, as Northern State's flat, monotone delivery fails to enliven all but the most raucous tracks.

Befitting their status as major label artists, Northern State brings aboard a handful of producers and guest artists, including Muggs, Pete Rock, The High and Mighty and ?uestlove of the Roots. But despite the creative contributions of these high-profile producers and guests, the songs often fall flat. The sole exception to



**Northern  
State**  
'All City'

**Label**  
Columbia

☆☆  
(out of four  
stars)

this is the album's bouncy closing track, "Summer Never Ends," a collaboration with Har Mar Superstar.

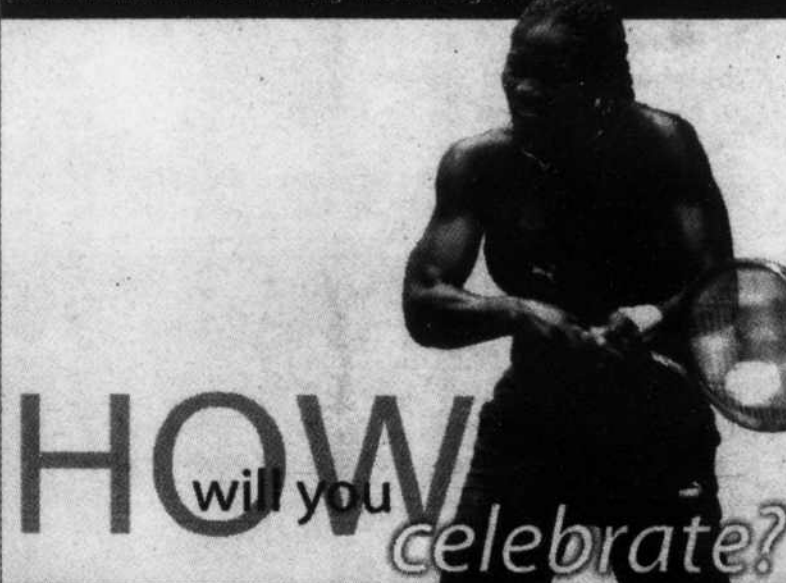
What Northern State lacks in skills, they more than make up for in chutzpah. Even at this relatively late point, white females are about as difficult to find in hip-hop as homosexuals are.

As hip-hop's first official white female group, Northern State seems to exist more as a novelty than as a harbinger of things to come. But only time will tell, and perhaps Northern State will inspire other girls to pick up the mic. ★

[flash]  
presents...

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