

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT NEWS

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Spring Fling controversy shot down

By DUSTIN EVANS
Assistant News Editor

Amidst the controversy surrounding the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association "Spring Fling" and the recent "guns in parks" legislation, Bernhard Childress, executive director for the TSSAA, said "the whole thing has been blown out of proportion."

The City of Murfreesboro has held the annual event for four years. However, the TSSAA will be accepting bids from other cities in the state until July 13 when TSSAA officials will make a final decision on the event, which is scheduled for Aug. 17.

"We are not going to eliminate any

city because of what they decide to do," Childress said. "We don't have a stand on whether guns should be allowed in the parks."

Public Chapter, number 428 of the 106th General Assembly of the State of Tennessee permits any municipal or county government to opt out of the recent legislation that would allow residents with hand gun permits to carry them into state parks.

The City of Murfreesboro is working on a resolution to continue the prohibition, but the resolution was deferred unanimously at a council meeting on June 25, and it has not been scheduled for further discussion at the council.

"The city administration is on the record for overturning the guns in parks [legislation]," said Chris Shofner, the city spokesman. "It is a policy decision, [and] it is up to the council."

Childress said that the TSSAA has not allowed anyone to attend events with concealed weapons, and if the city allowed weapons into the parks, it would not be TSSAA's position to change its decision.

"We always have adequate security in place for any event where our kids are participating," Childress said. "If we were using Old Fort [park] for tennis and the city allowed weapons, that is none of our business."

Roger Haley, the city manager, released a statement on June 25 to the Mayor and the City Council urging them to maintain their position on overturning the state law.

"Lanny Goodwin, Parks and Recreation director; Tracy Wilkins, Old Fort golf director, and I believe that the status quo should be maintained for the safety and enjoyment of users of the city's outstanding and diverse recreational facilities," Haley said.

The state law permitting the carrying of weapons in parks and recreational facilities by persons who are carrying permits to do so is scheduled to take effect on Sept. 1.





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Annual festival stomping good time

Uncle Dave Macon Days returns to Murfreesboro for 32nd year

By CALLIE DURHAM
Contributing Writer

The 32nd annual "Uncle Dave Macon Days" Old-Time Music and Dance Festival is scheduled for July 10-12 at Cannonsburgh Village in Murfreesboro.

The festival was formed to pay tribute to a past Rutherford county resident, David Macon.

The festival's Web site said Uncle Dave Macon Days is the National Championship for Old Time Banjo, Buckdance and Clogging.

"He ['Uncle Dave'] had owned a freight wagon business that carried various things from Woodbury to Murfreesboro," said Wendy Bryant, publicity director. "Whenever 'Uncle Dave' was making a trip he would carry his banjo with him and play it on the ride home."

She said people began coming and sitting at the edge of their driveways and listening to him play.

"With the invention of cars, Uncle Dave's freight wagon business lost profit, [but] to his fan's delight, he began devoting all of his time to his musical career," Bryant said.

Macon was one of the first stars on the Grand Ole Opry Stage and was elected into the County Music Hall of Fame in 1966.

Among the festivities there are numerous acoustic, instrumental and dance competitions, an arts & crafts show and also a "motorless parade," featuring horse and mule drawn vehicles. This event is free and open to the public, but there is a small entry fee in order to participate in competitions.

Bryant said that an estimated 40 to 45,000 people attend the festival.

"There will be a children's area, different vendors and all kinds of competitions," Bryant said. "Everything from singing and free-style dancing to playing the harmonica."

Bryant said the festival offers something for everyone to enjoy.

"It sounds pretty cool," said Joshua Jacobs, a sophomore at MTSU. "I'd



Photo courtesy Wendy S. Bryant, publicity director of Uncle Dave Macon Days Festival

Musicians jam at Uncle Dave Macon Days annual old-time music festival at Cannonsburgh Village in Murfreesboro. The festival is scheduled to take place July 10-12.

go to it."

The Web site said "The festival has been consecutively selected by the Atlanta-based Southeast Tourism Society as one of the Top 20 events in the Southeast."

The Uncle Dave Macon Days Festival was announced by the American Bus Association as one of North America's 100 Best Events for 2008 by an elite tourism industry selection committee.

"It sounds like a great way to have fun, while also learning about Murfreesboro's history at the same time," said Abby Surles, a sophomore at MTSU.

Bryant said everyone planning on attending should park in the parking garage at City Hall. An officer will be on hand to direct traffic for those crossing the street.

The festival is scheduled to kick off at 5 p.m. on Friday July 10. For more information on the festival, visit uncledavemacondays.com.



Photo courtesy Wendy S. Bryant, publicity director of Uncle Dave Macon Day Festival

Jack, a broom maker, demonstrates the weaving and tying involved in creating brooms.

Electric car will produce jobs in Smyrna

Nissan's new EV is based on the 2009 Cube model

Staff Report

Smyrna's Nissan plant will begin converting its production line this year to mass-produce electric cars and batteries, which could create up to 1,300 jobs.

Nissan was approved for a \$1.6 billion federal loan to begin making zero-emissions vehicles that can be charged overnight.

The plant, which produces light duty trucks and sport utility vehicles, is one of the most active Nissan plants in the world, said the Nissan Web site.

It said the facility conversion is scheduled to begin later this

“This is the single best way to reduce dependence on foreign oil, clean the air and keep the cost of fuel low.”

LAMAR ALEXANDER
U.S. SENATOR

year in order to meet the planned demand for electric vehicles (EVs). Nissan will also manufacture quick-charge lithium-ion battery packs to power the vehicles.

Nissan plans to introduce its new EV in 2010 and mass-produce an affordable five-passenger vehicle by 2012. Nissan will not reveal the exact model slated for production, but the press release said the car will be similar in size to the Versa. Nissan has tested an electric version of its Cube in Arizona. Nissan said on their Web site that the new vehicles will be able to go 100 miles on a charge and will have no exhaust pipe.

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander said the idea of fully electric vehicles is a statement about Nissan's future plans.

“We can electrify half our cars and trucks if we plug them in at night, without building one new power plant because of all the unused nighttime electricity we have,” Alexander said in a press release. “This is the single best way to reduce dependence on foreign oil, clean the air and keep the cost of fuel low.”

Nissan was unavailable for comment about the specifics of the transition into the new facility.

Ed Zielinski, supervisor for a Nissan contracting company, said he works on truck dashboards after they come

off the line. He said workers employed by Nissan can't be laid off,

but contractors like him are in jeopardy of losing their jobs if the plant decides to replace them with new employees.

Zielinski said Nissan brought out around 3,000 employees to downsize its labor force. He said the Department of Energy's EV subsidizing loan, Nissan and other carmakers could soon employ a larger workforce to provide affordable electric cars within the next five years.

Nissan's choice to build electric vehicles in Smyrna could provide an economic boost for Middle Tennessee. The new battery division of the factory alone should bring at least 1,000 jobs to Smyrna, said Susan Brennan, Nissan North America vice president of Manufacturing.



Photo illustration by Chris Carter, production manager

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Advertising: 615-898-5240 Fax: 615-904-8193

www.mtsusidelines.com

Editor in Chief
Tiffany Gibson*
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Features
Katy Coil*
slfeatur@mtsu.edu

News
Alex Moorman*
slnews@mtsu.edu
slstate@mtsu.edu

Sports
Richard Lowe
slsports@mtsu.edu

Online
Bryan Law
slonline@mtsu.edu

Adviser
Steven Chappell
schappel@mtsu.edu

Opinions
Andy Harper*
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Assist. News
Dustin Evans*
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Advertising
Jeri Lamb
jlamb@mtsu.edu

Photography
Erin O'Leary
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Production Manager
Chris Carter
slsdesign@mtsu.edu

Business
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

Videographer
William Swart
wrs2s@mtsu.edu

Assist. Sports
Stephen Curley
sports02@mtsu.edu

* denotes member
of editorial board

SPORTS



More photos and a video of McNair's memorial at his restaurant



Check Out The "LoweDown" with Richard Lowe

LD365.blogspot.com

Staff Report

When Steve McNair played in the NFL, he was considered one of the toughest players to put on a uniform.

The 2002 co-MVP played through countless injuries and led the Tennessee Titans to two division championships (2000 and 2002), a conference title (1999) and a Super Bowl appearance (1999) that brought the team one yard

away from holding up the Vince Lombardi Trophy. He was the 2002 co-MVP and selected to the NFL's Pro Bowl three times.

On this day, "Sidelines" opens up its pages to the readers so that they may express their feeling on the man who wore No. 9 for the Titans for 13 years. For more tributes to McNair, check out MTSUSidelines.com.

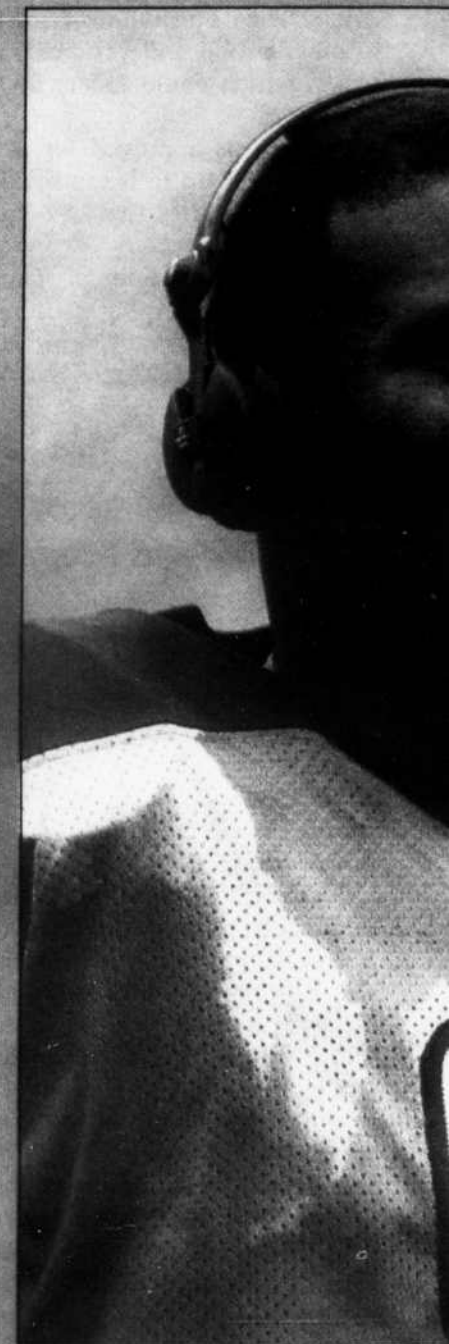
"I've grown up my entire life watching Steve McNair. My family loved going to see him play. He was a hero to me both on and off the field. Even with all the controversy surrounding him, I still want him to be remembered for the guy who took us to the Super Bowl and the guy who helped with so many different charities."
-Logan Bowlds
MTSU sophomore

"I think it's a tragic loss. McNair was a great quarterback and a joy to watch to play every Sunday in the fall in Nashville. He always displayed great toughness and for that I had so much respect."
-Chris Childers
MTSU Alum, Class of 2004

"As a very big Titans fan, I was deeply saddened to hear about Steve McNair's untimely death. I was lucky enough to have had the pleasure of meeting him more than once. He was a great athlete and an extremely nice, down to earth person. He will definitely be missed and I will continue to remember him for all the good things he did for the Titans as well as the many good memories he brought to his fans."
-Tay Phillips
MTSU senior

"Steve McNair was a great person on and off the field. Instead of dwelling on this incident, have respect for what this man did for the Titans and the community."
-Chris Harris
MTSU Alum, Class of 2009

"It was a big loss for the city of Nashville. He was instrumental in the team's early success and that early success is responsible for the fan support that the team has now."
-Rob Spires
MTSU Senior



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Steve S
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Due to the tragic events of Steve McNair's death this past weekend, Sidelines' Summer Football Preview will return next week with previews from the University of North Texas and Troy University. This week's scheduled preview of Middle Tennessee State University will be printed July 29. For a revised schedule of football previews go to MTSUSidelines.com.



"Steve was one of the toughest players in the league. I saw him play for the first time at the Liberty bowl. I use to work concessions there. He was one of those players that never gave up and was a leader on and off the field. He played through many painful injuries others might not play through. Coaches want this type of player on the field. He will truly be missed by the Nashville and NFL community."
~Roderick Pewitt
MTSU Alum, Class of 2009

"I have been a Titans fan ever since they moved to Nashville in '98 and the death of Steve 'Air' McNair really hit home. Steve is arguably the best African American quarterback to play in the NFL. I grew up to be an Alpha man, but Steve had me throwing the 'Que Hooks' in Little League football before I knew what it actually meant. No one was tougher on the field, and I agree with Chris Carter that Steve gave quarterbacks like [Vince] Young, [Donovan] McNabb, & [Dante] Culpepper the opportunity to be looked at as an NFL Quarterback."
~Billy Wilcox
MTSU senior

"It is horrible that Steve McNair lost his life in such a tragic way. He meant so much to so many people in Nashville. I remember when the Titans first came to Nashville and everywhere you looked there were 'NFL Yes!' stickers. I remember the first game I went to at the Coliseum and the time I met Steve at a gas station. He was friendly, shook my hand and wished me well; an all around classy guy in my opinion. He will be missed and his legacy will live on."
~Mark Thompson
MTSU senior

"I had the chance to sit down and talk with Steve McNair at Buffalo Wild Wings in Memphis my senior year of high school and he was very welcoming and very fun to be around. He was a great athlete and he always took the time to talk to the fans and show his appreciation and them. He will be deeply missed and my thoughts and prayers are with his family."
~Brandon McNary
MTSU senior

"After graduating from MTSU and living in the Nashville area, I had the opportunity to move to Mississippi for graduate school. I knew Steve McNair as a player while rooting for the Titans, but when I moved to Mississippi, I learned of Steve McNair the person. Everyone in Mississippi knew McNair and all of the great things he did for the state. He helped with hurricane relief, funded charities, and donated his time to others. The interesting thing about this is a number of these efforts were never publicized. Instead, McNair did it for all of the right reasons. Every person makes mistakes, that is why we are human. McNair did a number of great things for Mississippi as well as for the Titans. He certainly will be missed on and off the field. Hopefully, his legacy will live on through his charitable organizations and efforts to help rebuild areas of Mississippi. He will truly be missed here."
~Cody Gibson
MTSU Alum, Class of 2009

"Steve McNair was an awesome QB from being drafted third in the NFL Draft from division I-AA Alcorn State and finishing number three in the Heisman race to taking the Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans to a Super Bowl. His talents on the field were unmatched in my mind and I will remember him just for that his talents on the field."
~Justin Phillips
MTSU Alum, Class of 2008

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OPINIONS

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

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Don't use Internet for hate

By ANDY HARPER
Opinions Editor

It's a pretty simple concept for the majority of technology users: don't use the Internet to hurt other people. Everybody gets angry, everybody needs to vent, and the Web gives us the ability to express our opinions in a relatively safe environment.

And everybody knows that there are certain things that we do not, under any circumstances, ever do – the most important being post personal information.

But it seems a New York social worker forgot the rules on Internet etiquette last week.

On July 3, CNN.com reported about Long Island mother Margery Tannenbaum, who allegedly posted a sexual personal ad on Craigslist.com about a 9-year-old girl.

The ad did not inform the reader that the girl was underage, but it did give her home number and e-mail address for interested men to contact the child. CNN reported that the advertisement read: "I need a little affection... I'm blond, I'm cute and I'll be waiting."

Margery Tannenbaum is a sick, demented

social pariah who deserves whatever public backlash she will receive. We've already seen this behavior once before – with Lori Drew and the "MySpace Hoax" debacle that resulted in the suicide of a 13-year-old girl.

Like Drew, the situation with Tannenbaum is the same old song – her daughter and the 9-year-old victim got into a fight. To get revenge, Tannenbaum posted an ad under the personal's section of Craigslist. The victim's mother told CNN that "she received 22 calls in one day, in all around 40 calls from various men who saw the ad, including some seeking an escort service."

Drew had her misdemeanor conviction thrown out by an appellate court judge, but hopefully Tannenbaum won't get off so easily. It's time we start sending a message to "adults" who think that endangering minors is a respectable way to reap revenge.

Apparently, Tannenbaum has never heard of WhitePages.com and the "reverse lookup." Just because she only put a phone number doesn't mean that one of these men couldn't have looked up the victim's home address and

showed up looking for sex.

When Tannenbaum's lawyer was questioned, he said, "I think this has been blown out of proportion to what the actual alleged act was."

Tannenbaum posted a sex ad with information leading interested suitors to a 9-year-old girl. What exactly has been blown out of proportion? How does the mind of any adult not process that posting a sex ad with personal information about someone else is not a reckless, irresponsible, immature and dangerous act?

It doesn't even matter that the girl was a minor. Posting that kind of information about anyone can lead to devastating consequences. It is an absolute breach of personal privacy and perpetrators should have any access to the Internet immediately suspended.

But then again, Tannenbaum probably doesn't think she did anything wrong, which is probably the biggest crime of all. Too bad a lack of common sense and social decency isn't punishable by law.

Andy Harper is a senior journalism major and can be reached at slopinio@mtsu.edu.

FACES IN THE CROWD

What do you think should happen to someone who posts personal information without permission about another person on social networking sites like MySpace and Craigslist?



Burks

"It should be illegal because it's like name slander and a total violation of a person's privacy."

Amy Burks, adjunct elementary ed professor



Johnson

"There are already certain laws, but the penalties should be pretty harsh when dealing with a minor."

Eduardo Johnson, senior education major



Ingram

"I think they should be fined and heavy restrictions should be put on the person's Internet usage."

Ray Ingram, senior EMC major



Burck

"They should have to pay heavy fines and have Internet restrictions. Also, no contact with the victim."

Troy Burck, senior French major

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Media too distracted with celebrity deaths

Two weeks after Michael Jackson's death, people are still talking about his estate, recipients in his will and the custody battle over his children.

Jackson is a pop icon who has millions of fans worldwide and deserves to be remembered, but lately it seems like media outlets may be more focused on Jackson instead of actual news.

On Saturday, another celebrity/NFL quarterback died from four gunshot wounds. Steve McNair, former Titan quarterback and Tennessee legend, was found dead in his Nashville condominium with mistress Sahel Kazemi.

Since the Fourth of July, television stations and newspapers have reported numerous stories and updates on McNair's death.

While this is the purpose of media, it also raises the question of whether or not people are too obsessed with celebrities — dead or alive.

Maybe some people feel a deep connection with celebrities, and even though they may not know them, they feel like they do.

People may turn to celebrity news over politics or legislation because it entertains them. It's definitely a sad day when Britney Spears walking out of a gas station restroom barefoot attracts more attention than a Civil War happening in Iran.

But it isn't just the public that is obsessed. News outlets such as CNN, FOX and MSNBC seem to be infatuated with musicians and "celeb-reality" stars. It isn't because it is important news, it's because celebrity news raises a network's ratings. The problem comes from an interference with the distribution of important information.

Then again, what is important information? What constitutes as news? News is always changing and evolving, so news outlets have to conform to what society likes to read or watch.

It would just be nice to live in a society that wants to hear about something other than Michael Jackson's death.

COMICS



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FEATURES

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF THE
FOURTH OF JULY?

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IS MICHAEL JACKSON
REALLY THE "KING OF
POP?"
BASED ON VOTES FROM
MTSUSIDELINES.COM

Schrab creates lovable, vendible robot assassin

By ANDREW SWANSON
Staff Writer

"Scud: the Disposable Assassin" is the heartbroken creation of Rob Schrab. Published from 1994 to 1998, the comic was originally created to impress his ex-girlfriend. The book was published on Schrab's own Fireman Press and had 20 issues, with the last issue ending as a cliffhanger.

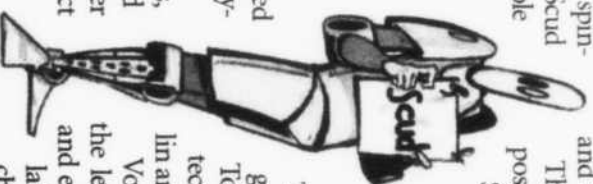
Apparently, Schrab wasn't happy with the direction "Scud" was taking, and wanted to focus more on other aspects of his career. Schrab left the world of comics and moved into that of movies and television. He has written, produced and directed a handful of shows and movies, the most popular of which is "The Sarah Silverman Program."

Fans, however, never forgot about "Scud" and still wanted a real ending. Fan support and the inclusion of a Scud action figure in Shocker Toy's Indie Spotlight line motivated Schrab to finish the comic. The last chapter

of "Scud" was released in four separate issues in 2008, with all 24 issues and two spin-offs collected in an omnibus called "Scud the Disposable Assassin: The Whole Shebang!" released later that year.

The comic is set in a bizarre world where people can buy self-destructing assassins from a vending machine. Called Scuds, the hero of the story is a typical 1373 Heart Breaker series. Scud's first and only assignment is to kill a female mutant named Jeff, who has been killing the employees of Marvin's Manikans.

As the fight between them unfolds, Scud sees the words "Attention! Scud Disposable Assassin: Heart Breaker Series 1373. This unit will self-destruct upon termination of target" written on his back. Upon seeing these words, Scud decides not to kill Jeff, but instead he shoots off all her limbs and



takes her to the hospital, saving her life and his own.

The main plot of "Scud: the Disposable Assassin" is then unveiled, as Scud becomes a hired gun in order to pay Jeff's medical bills.

Scud's quest for money takes him across the country in search of work. Along the way he meets an interesting cast of characters.

The first person Scud meets after he goes freelance is the cyborg mobster Tony Tasty. Tony hires Scud to protect his boss from voodoo Ben Franklin and his army of zombie dinosaurs.

Voodoo Ben is hell bent on becoming the leader of the criminal underworld and ends up being one of the main villains in the book. Another main character is Drywall, a small bag-like boy covered in zippers. He becomes Scud's sidekick and best friend.

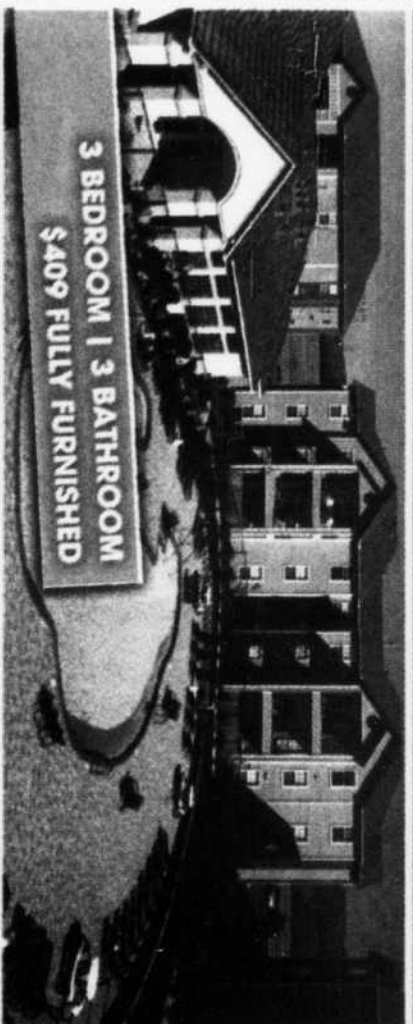
Though he doesn't talk, Drywall has almost everything you could ever think of stored within himself due to his zipper body. At one point in the story, he even pulls Scud into his body.

All these strange characters are brought to life through Schrab's own art. The entire book is in black and white, with the exception of the covers. The choice to not have color really adds to the overall style of the comic and allows the reader to fill in the blanks, as far as what everyone looks like.

In the end Schrab didn't win his girlfriend back with a comic book. What he did do was create a very funny and, at times, surreal adventure full of strange places and even stranger characters. This book is perfect for fans of off-the-wall comedies such as "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" or "Bones."

Schrab's book is time well spent for anyone who wants a good laugh.

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