

FLASH

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sidelines

Sex and salutes with Slack

By Leslie Carol Boehms
Flash Editor

Keen originality, witty lyrics and catchy harmonies are just three of the key elements that make up Slack's immense appeal. The trio, consisting of brothers Nick and Chris Spoltore and Ben Wilkinson, was formed in 1994 and has been working toward the regain of rock in a music society governed by those under fourteen.

These three guys are not only rock stars in the making; they are MTSU students and clever conversationalists.

Q: If Slack were the product of two rock 'n' roll parents who would the parents be?

Ben- The Go go's. Lemmie from Motorhead and the Ramones.

Chris- And Glen Danzig is our uncle.

Q: How do you describe Slack?

Chris- Big rock without the leather pants.

Nick- It's hard rock. It's not this punk crap.

Ben- We're not punk. We're not concerned with how fast we can possibly play songs.

Chris- We can tell you what we're not but we won't tell you what we are.

Nick- We call it bomber rock.

Q: The song "Oops I did it again" by Britney Spears; what did she do that she accidentally did again?

Ben- She completely uprooted and defaced the popular recording industry.

Chris- I don't know and as long as she doesn't do it around me I'm happy.

Q: What do you think it's going to take to bring down the reign of teenybopper music?

Ben- We talk about this all the time.

Chris- I think people just need a good kick in the ass to remember what good music really is.

Ben- Plus we just got the Republican president, that usually does it.

Chris- Every 10 years real rock bands come back. Hopefully we can ride on that wave or something.

Q: So do you think that having a Republican president is going to change the course of music?

Ben- I mean that's what does it. Usually when there's a Republican president the young working class seems to get screwed over in some way. But we'll see.

Nick- It will happen.
Chris- Yeah it will.

Q: When was your favorite Slack performance?

Chris- We played at Starwood with Metallica one time a couple of years ago, on the side stage -that was pretty fun. It felt like we were actually doing something real. But then the power went out twice. But that's not my favorite one.

Chris- The Famous Monsters one was really fun.

Nick- It's Shawn from White Zombie actually. She plays guitar. But the Superdrag one in Knoxville was my favorite one.

Q: What was the last song you heard that made you want to throw in the towel as a musician?

Chris- Oh, Jack and Joe and Jared. Or whatever their name is.

Ben- Joey and Jared or something. The super twins.

Chris- Evan. Yeah Jared and Evan. Watch VH1 they show them a lot.

Ben- They're like twins and they play power pop.

Chris- Musical diarrhea is what it is.

Q: Would you rather be stuck on an elevator for two days with Ricky Martin or Rob Zombie?

All- Rob Zombie! We love Rob Zombie.

Nick- Actually Rob Zombie was going to be the rock 'n' roll

father.

Chris- Well wait which Ricky Martin? When he grew his hair out a little longer or when it was still cropped short? No. Rob Zombie all the way.

Q: How does Slack propose the "music industry" be fixed?

Nick- These are some tough questions.

Chris- To not write songs where every line is a cliché that I've already heard.

Nick- Or to not have the same songwriter for every record. There's one guy that writes all the songs.

Ben- There's nothing really original. Even with the so-called new rock bands there's not anything new. They all sound the same and they're all really generic. I can't think of a new rock band that's any good. I mean there are lots of good new bands, they just don't get air play.

Q: How do you feel about the large number of musicians in the Murfreesboro/Nashville area?

Ben- Well it's really good because it's not hard to get shows around here. There are a lot of really good bands and it doesn't get boring. I mean because I can think of 10 bands off the top of my head in this town that are just awesome. And playing with any of them is fine.

Nick- But its not like in Nashville where there are like 40 bands and everybody sucks.

Ben- Here it's a really tight knit community, everybody knows everybody and a lot of people are in bands with incestuous relationships. In a good way, definitely.

Q: How does going to college interfere with your rock 'n' roll lifestyle?

Ben- I can't party as hard as I want to.

Nick- It interferes way too much. We can do the rock 'n' roll all night. But we can't party every day.

Chris- We can't go on tour or

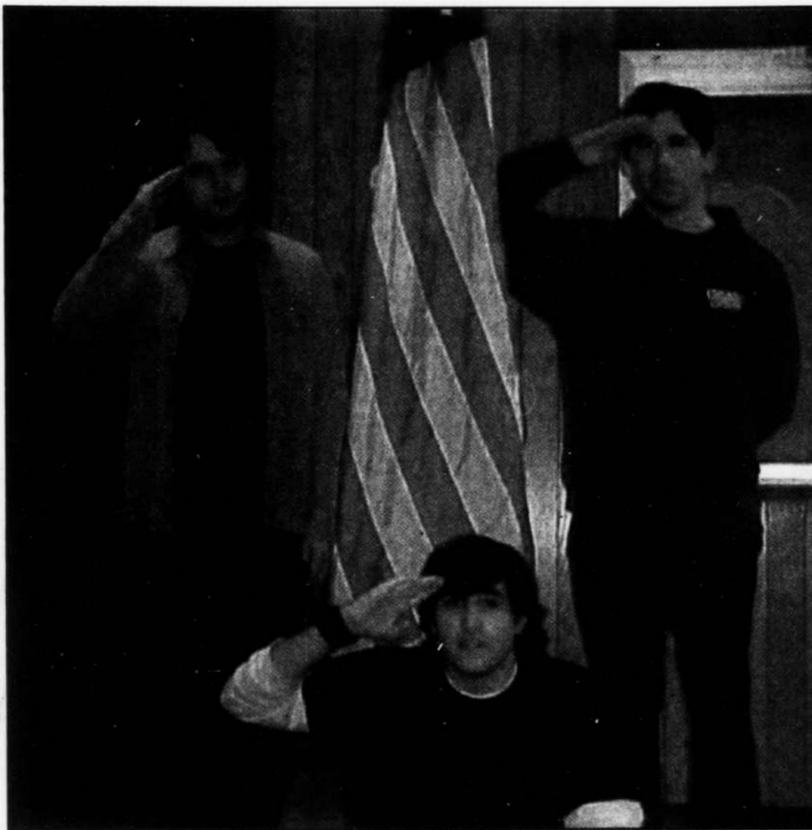


Photo by Leslie Carol Boehms | Staff

Pictured from left to right: Chris Spoltore, Nick Spoltore, Ben Wilkinson

do shows out of town. It's too hard. And if you want to eat you have to have a job. So that doesn't help either. It kind of cramps our rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

Ben- Rock 'n' roll is our first priority. School's kind of our safety net.

Chris- That explains my solid 2.2 GPA.

Nick- I think I moved mine up to 2.1 last semester. I was impressed.

Chris- You wanted to keep getting those student loans in didn't you?

Ben- Actually student loans kind of compliment the rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

Nick- Yeah that's how we got our first record.

Ben- Courtesy of MTSU. ♦

Stuck in Traffic

Traffic may leave viewers in stand still

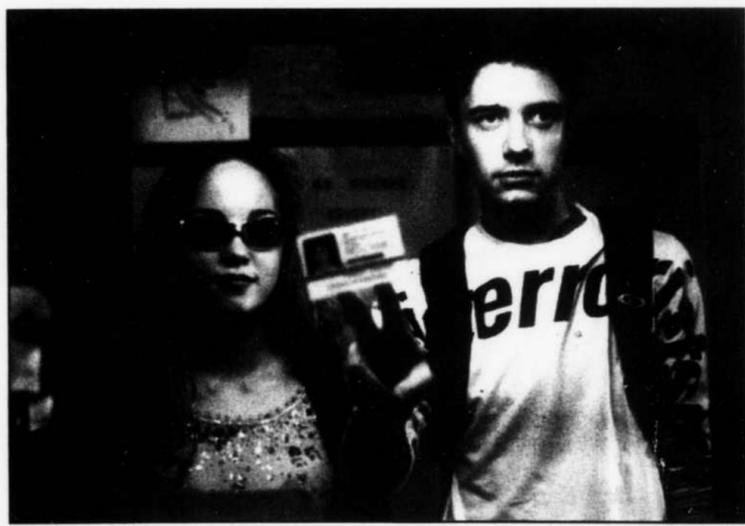


Photo Provided

By Steve Murden
Staff Writer

Most have probably heard about the new film *Traffic*. It's the one about everybody's favorite illegal substance: cocaine.

Traffic was supposed to be so good that even prior to its release the film was nominated for numerous awards. Critics have described *Traffic* as "superb" and "the best picture of the year." However, with 2001 barely begun that isn't saying much.

I agree with the critics except for the tiny fact that *Traffic* was immensely boring. The picture unfolds like one of those documentaries on the Discovery Channel (you know,

the ones that make you change the channel to something interesting like underwater basket weaving).

Traffic's plot bounces around from Ohio to D.C., Mexico, Southern Cal, and back to Ohio again as the director Steve Soderbergh attempts to give the audience a broad and unfiltered look at every possible aspect of the cocaine trafficking industry. This includes the dealers, their customers, and the authorities that attempt to put them behind bars.

Even prior to the start of production the film's ensemble cast was stirring up talk throughout Hollywood. With such big names as husband and wife team Catherine

Zeta-Jones and Micheal Douglas, I was expecting a little more from the film.

Zeta-Jones plays a naive wife who learns the unscrupulous nature of her husband's source of income. Her righteous performance toward the end of the film left something to be desired. Douglas, as a newly appointed drug czar, has to deal with his own teenage daughter's drug addiction. In typical Douglas style, he played the role as straight-faced and unemotional as possible. It seemed more like he was the one on drugs.

Traffic's other major players include Dennis Quaid as a close friend of a "reputable" dealer and Don Cheadle as a dedicated DEA agent. Topher Grace of *That 70's Show* gave a surprising glimmer of his true acting talents as a Catholic schoolboy who draws a young girl into his euphoric world.

However, the best performance of film was surprisingly given almost entirely in espanol. (You know, Spanish, dude!) Benicio del Toro's of *Way of the Gun* and the upcoming film *Snatch* was amazing as a Mexican police officer that has to walk a fine line between who he can and can not trust. Even in a foreign language, del Toro manages to express more emotion than any other member of the cast. But stand back because unless you're a speed-reader the subtitles may prove a little much for you.

Soderbergh's vision for *Traffic* and its all-star cast could have made it one of the best films ever. But his overly ambitious attempt to show so many different points of view, left audiences still waiting for the suspenseful thriller they expected. After more than three hours the only thing I was thrilled about was that I didn't O.D. on boredom before the credits rolled. ♦

LINE UP

RED ROSE CAFÉ

Thurs- The Jim Williams quintet

Fri- Elizabeth Cutler

Sat- Moment's Notice

Sun- The Falling,
The Adverbs, Greg Jacks,
and The Lend Lease Act

THE BORO BAR AND GRILL

Thurs- Crank Like Frank

Fri- Benefit for the Beasley Humane Society with Glossary, The Davenport and The Glorious Return

Sat- Benefit for the Beasley Humane Society with The Mud Dogs, Big Dave and Foey

Tues- Michael Acree

FACES

Fri- Expansion (every Friday)

Sat- Owen

SEBASTIAN'S

Thurs- Eric Molford

Fri- Money Penny

Sat- XBX2X, Ohio Casualty Group, Asschapel, The F*cking Cobras

Tues- Cashmere Crash

INSIDE FLASH: Holiday Blockbusters and Slack's New Record

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