

Vol. 2, Issue 1 Sept. 14, 2006

# EXPOSURE



**KEITH CARTER'S  
PHOTOGRAPHIC ART  
ON DISPLAY IN LRC**

**Bang  
Bang  
Bang!**

**LOCAL BAND SIGNS  
WITH WARNER  
BROTHERS**

# New Exposure, New Town

So, the third week of school is coming to a close...Anyone else feel as though it has been longer? Just kidding.

A lot has happened in the 'Boro since Exposure's last full issue, both good and bad. Guitartown Music, which was located on Greenland next to Textbook Brokers, opened and unfortunately closed their doors over the summer. The Features were dropped from Universal Records, but are coming back with a vengeance and a new EP called "Contrast" on Friday, Sept. 15.

New restaurants cropped up around town during the summer: Carrabba's Italian Grill, Bonefish Grill and The Chop House. I'm sure there are others on the way.

In June, Concert Productions was destroyed in a fire. This building housed a studio and practice rooms for local bands. Several bands, including Boo Boo Bunny, Espaso, The Tony Tap Dance Extravaganza and others, lost their equipment and instruments in the fire. A benefit is in the works for the musicians

affected by this tragedy, and will hopefully take place sometime this semester. For more information about the benefit, visit [myspace.com/phoenixbenefit](http://myspace.com/phoenixbenefit).

But it's not all bad, I promise!! The Pink Spiders released their major-label debut and the single, "Little Razorblade," is getting airplay on MTV. More recently, Bang Bang Bang announced Warner Brothers Records signed them to a deal. I had the pleasure of interviewing Neil Mason of BBB, which you can read all about on page

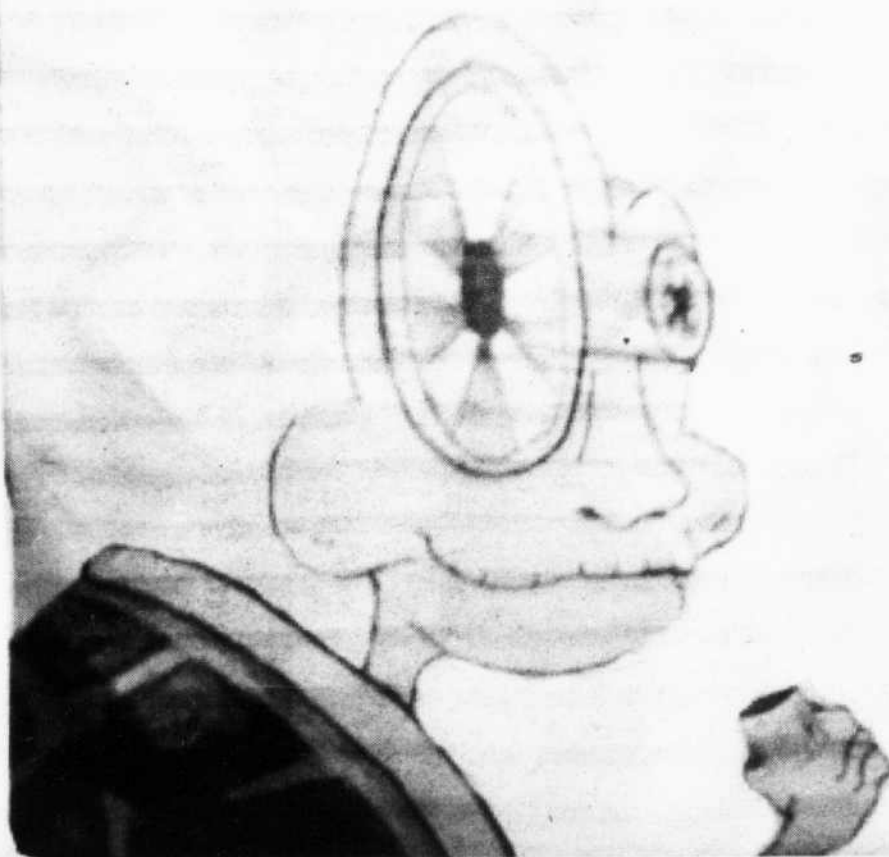
four.

We also have Video Culture – "The last bastion of independent video" – and a guide to dining options on the Square in this issue.

If you have any comments, gripes or want to get your band or event listed on the calendar, send me an email at [slflash@mtsu.edu](mailto:slflash@mtsu.edu).

Thanks to Bang Bang Bang for the cover photo.

Kristen



Editor-in-Chief:	Michaela Jackson
Exposure Editor:	Kristen Teffeteller
Design Manager:	Erica Hines
Art Director:	Jeremy Wyatt
Ad Design:	Andy Harper Matt Adair
Advertising Manager:	Jeri Lamb
Business Manager:	Eveon Corl
Exposure Adviser:	Steven Chappell

**Exposure**  
**STAFF**

# See what's cooking on the Square

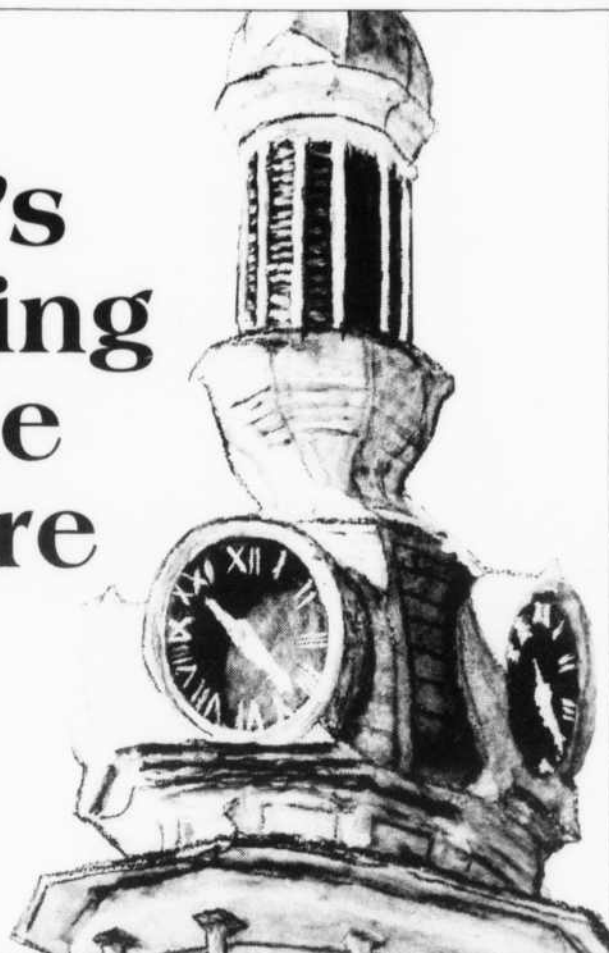


Illustration by Jeremy Wyatt

## Rangebar Merani

### Contributing Writer

**All Souped Up** – This family owned business has been open here in Murfreesboro since 1999. Anyone craving a hot, fresh bowl of soup should definitely drop by.

"We have fresh homemade soups daily, sandwiches and salads," said Debbie McGowan, owner. "Everything is made here fresh. We have daily specials, such as sloppy joes and Philly-cheesesteak sandwiches, during the week."

It's a traditional spot for both the business types and for students on break from class. The menu consists mostly of lunch items such as soups, salads and sandwiches. Daily specials are offered Monday through Friday.

"We appreciate the MTSU students a lot," McGowan added.

115 East Vine Street. 494-0092

Entrees \$4-\$8

Hours: Monday-Thursday: 10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday: 10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**B. McNeels** – Whether it's for a quick lunch with co-workers, brunch with friends or a fancy dinner with a

date, this quite spot on the Square can impress. Although a little pricey, the service and food are quite worth the money. B. McNeel's is a great spot to bring a group of people or a social gathering. The dinner menu varies from the Creamy Chicken Marsala to the Grilled Portabella Mushrooms. Oh, and a little hint: save room for the Mascarpone Cheesecake.

215 North Church Street. 896-1002

Entrees \$14-\$24

Hours: Tuesday: 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Thursday: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 5pm- 10 p.m.

Friday: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Saturday: 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Sunday: Brunch is served 10:30 a.m. - 2 pm

Monday: Closed

**Bluesboro Rhythm and Blues Company** – Bluesboro is a well-known late night spot for many MTSU students to enjoy live music with hot food and a beer. Start off with the Buffalo Shrimp, then move on to the New Orleans Po-Boy and

end it off with a glass of wine. The wonderful live music only adds to the exciting environment.

Happy Hour – Everyday 5 – 8 p.m. Well, Draft and Wine.

114 North Church Street. 907-1115

Hours: Sunday – Saturday: 5 p.m. - 1 a.m.

**The City Café** – A small joint right off the Square, it's a cozy spot to come in for a quick lunch. Business workers from the Square usually populate the place during their breaks. The menu consists mostly of sandwiches and small entrees. Start out with the D.L. Chicken Tenders or the Hamburger Steak with fries or baked potato and end it with a fudge pie or cup of coffee. Daily specials are offered everyday.

113 East Main Street. 893-1303.

Entrees: \$5-\$10

Hours: Monday – Saturday: 6 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**The Clay Cup Café** – Just like it says on the menu, "Great Food. Great Coffee. Great Fun."

"We're a soup and sandwich café with a variety of coffees that we serve," said Nathan McLendon, assistant manager. "A lot of business workers on break and MTSU students like to come in for lunch."

The Clay Cup is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Start off with one of their soups of the day, progress to the Boca Burger on a Swiss Cheese Bagel and end your meal with a Cappuccino or Latte. Don't forget to come by early to try their biscuits and bagels for breakfast. Catering is also available with a 24 hour notice.

113 North Maple Street.

896-9494

Entrees: \$4-\$7

Hours: Monday – Friday:

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Front Porch Café** – This café has offered its fine food and caterings in Murfreesboro since 1990. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Front Porch Café is known for being great hosts for rehearsal dinners and special occasions of all sorts. They have

Continued on page 7

## ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

### Garters and guitars

Vaudeville and vamp unite at The Boro on Saturday, Sept. 16! Local band Juan Prophet Organization and Nashville's Lady and the Tramps burlesque troupe will take the stage for a "nite of vaudevillian art rock and burlesque spectacle." This 18 and over show begins at 10 p.m.; cover is \$5.

For more information, check [www.myspace.com/juanprophetorganization](http://www.myspace.com/juanprophetorganization) or [www.myspace.com/ladyandthetramps](http://www.myspace.com/ladyandthetramps)

### Acoustic burritos

John Salaway of Def Kat Music in Murfreesboro has announced a new acoustic night for local artists: "Blue Coast After Hours." The show will be held every Saturday night at 9 p.m. in Blue Coast Burrito, located on Memorial Blvd.

"I am doing these weekly showcases to support this struggling yet prolific music scene we have in the 'Boro,'" Salaway said in a press release. "And [I] want to provide an outlet for great artists to showcase their talents."

In related news, Salaway's Original Acoustic Nights have relocated permanently to the Bluesboro Rhythm and Blues Co. on the historic square. The Original Acoustic Nights are every Wednesday night from 8-11 p.m., with food and drink specials available, such as a burger and beer for \$2.99.

Artists such as Charlie Murphey, Penguin, Shelby Merchant and Vicki Sue have performed as part of the Acoustic Nights series.

For more information on the shows or artist booking opportunities, visit [www.myspace.com/acousticatnight](http://www.myspace.com/acousticatnight).

### The Features return!

Murfreesboro's own The Features are having a show to celebrate the release of their latest EP, Contrast. The party is at Mercy Lounge in Nashville on Friday, Sept. 15 and begins at 9 p.m. The Young Professionals will open the show.

# Bang Bang Bang

## Local band signs with Warner Brothers

Kristen Teffeteller

Exposure Editor

The popular Nashville venue Exit/In was stacked to the rafters on a humid Friday night. Once inside the doors, you had to shimmy your way between throngs of people in order to see the band playing on stage. The fans' sweaty dancing, loud singing and the stage lights trained on the headlining act intensified the warmth of the large room.

But this was not a touring band on stop in Nashville - on this Friday night, folks from Nashville, Murfreesboro and other surrounding towns turned out to see local rock act Bang Bang Bang. Barely over a year since its inception, Bang Bang Bang has opened for Shooter Jennings, Lynyrd Skynyrd and has sold out the 450-capacity Exit/In without the assistance of a record label. The band has officially announced they signed a deal with Warner Brothers Records on Aug. 28.

Bang Bang Bang, comprised of Ben Brown (guitar), Kelby Caldwell (bass), Jaren Johnston (lead singer/guitar) and Neil Mason (drums), knows how to make the local scene work for them. When they aren't playing, they are supporting other local artists or creating opportunities for themselves and Movement Nashville. Whether you love them or hate them, they have made themselves a fixture on the local and regional scene and are prepared to continue their work for a major-label, national level.

Although all the members hail from Nashville, three of the four members attended MTSU and count Murfreesboro as part of the band's touring circuit. Neil Mason explains the band's origins, work and record deal, amongst other things, in an interview with Exposure.

**Exposure:** How did Bang Bang Bang come together?

**Neil Mason:** We've known each other for about 10 years, since high school. Ben & I used to play in another local band called Llama. We did that for a long time. Kelby and Jaren played in other bands and we used to play shows together. Actually, Kelby used to play in Silent Friction with [Pink

Spiders lead singer/guitarist] Matt Friction. We all met there, grew up jamming together and goofing off. We still do that. [laughs]

A little over a year ago, Jaren & I were hanging out at my work . . . he gave me a CD one day and said, "I'm kinda thinking about starting a thing up. Would you be interested?" We just got together and started talking about the kind of sound we would like to have and goals we would like to accomplish. We're both getting to the point where we're like, "We're both 24, 25. This needs to work." [laughs] "It needs to be a real happening thing."

So we started talking about who might be good for the band; we brought Ben in first. We had another bass player - actually, when Kelby started, he played guitar and then the bass player ended up leaving, so he moved to bass.

We played our first show on July 4, 2005, at a party at Ben's parents' house. We put out a CD in October. All the promotion, all the booking, putting out the CD - everything up until the last month or so has been on our own. We ran around hanging posters and trying to book as many shows as possible around town. We made enough money playing shows that we bought a van, so then we were able to go wherever as much as we could.

**Exposure:** How do you describe BBB's sound and what are the influences?

**NM:** We've got a ton of influences that are pretty far outside that whole Southern rock vibe. I describe it as a Black Crowes meets Lenny Kravitz . . . I see it as a rock 'n' roll thing. Jaren has a bit of that Southern thing going on. He's from Nashville, so it's kind of impossible to not draw comparisons [to local act Kings of Leon]. But, at the same time, it's not a terrible comparison. They're a really great band. I think that we're all into that new, up and coming stuff, like Wolfmother and The Raconteurs, but I also like Paul Simon and other random stuff. It goes back to Led Zeppelin and Sabbath, and even the pop side of it, such as Michael Jackson.



Photo courtesy of Bang Bang Bang

(Above) Kelby Caldwell plays to the crowd at Starwood Amphitheater as opening band for Lynyrd Skynyrd on Aug. 12. (Right) Jaren Johnston rocks out at an outdoor show.



Continued on next page



**Exposure:** So, the first record label we heard you were signing with was Sony. How did the deal with Warner Brothers come about?

**NM:** We had been talking to Sony since about March. It was about two weeks ago, the day the Sony deal was done, [Sony] called us and said, "We're sending copies of the contract for you to sign." At the same time, we had been playing for a bunch of guys at Warner Brothers the past couple of months and we got an offer from them right then. It kind of came out of nowhere, but we knew it was a possibility. We had a lot of people say a lot of things they would do and then it never happened, so we didn't really expect anything. Then it happened and it was a better deal. It gave us more creative freedom and it set up the whole situation the way that we wanted it.

So after some debating and what-not, we decided we wanted to go with the Warner deal and not the Sony deal. We really wanted to get to work and we couldn't keep doing the back and forth, fighting between labels. It can be fun, but it can also be a pain in the ass.

**Exposure:** When do you plan on returning to the studio?

**NM:** The new album will probably be a combination of both [new and previously released material]. It'll probably be about a year before the record comes out, but we're going to put out a CD in the meantime, probably around November. We'll keep selling that at shows, and then throughout the next six months we'll be working on the record while on the road.

**Exposure:** BBB has t-shirts for sale; how did you, as an unsigned band, end up with merchandise?

**NM:** We hooked up with this really good merchandise company called Zamboie. It's here in town and they're good friends of ours. Merchandise is kind of having the Bang Bang Bang thing more of a brand; it's a big part of what we're trying to do. No matter who

you are, whether you like us or not, you know who we are.

We had a CD, then the t-shirts and the stickers and all that kind of stuff. We're playing around with more creative ideas with merch.

**Exposure:** The Bang Bang Bang thong mentioned at the show?

**NM:** Yeah, the Bang thong. That was the running joke of the night. [laughs] We are doing some shorts, so we'll see if we get to the thong eventually. Pink Spiders are one of them [who sells thongs]. They are good friends of ours and they do well with the thongs. It's certainly not a bad idea.

**Exposure:** What do you think about the local bands you signed?

**NM:** I think it's great. We're all from Nashville and playing in bands ten years ago in Nashville, there was no camaraderie; there were no bands working together to make things happen. It's been really good the last two years, three years. You see bands really coming around and supporting each other.

A couple of weeks ago, the Pink Spiders had an interview in Rolling Stone and they mentioned our band. I think it's all about that kind of stuff. The Pink Spiders are a great band. They're really nothing like us, but they're also good friends of ours. I think their music is pretty good. We get out there and perform with each other and make sure everyone supports each other. If everyone is doing that, then it's all going to come around and it is going to be a better thing. Ultimately, it's going to be a really great thing for Nashville.

**Exposure:** Tell us a little about Movement Nashville.

**NM:** It's been a big thing that's really helped us - we started the Movement Nashville with AutoVaughn, Jeremy Lister and Kyle Andrews [Nashville solo artists]. Now there are a handful of others, such as

Luna Halo, but there are about nine bands now. We do shows together, different groups of us, and it's been a great launching pad for new fans to hear different bands. All our fans would come, AutoVaughn's fans would come and they all see it. It's not like, "Hey AutoVaughn's ripping off Bang Bang Bang," or vice versa; it's "This is good music and this is good music - wow what a great show!" It's been a really big thing for us. We're doing another one of those at the end of October at Exit/In on the 27th. It'll be a big Halloween party.

**Exposure:** Speaking of fans, your fans are enthusiastic. How does that make the band feel?

**NM:** As far as that show the other night [Sept. 1 at Exit/In], we're hoping for it to be the kind of night it turned out to be but you never know. Right now, we're at a good pace where it's really growing, by about a couple hundred fans each show. That's a really thing and we've had really great opportunities, such as the Lynyrd Skynyrd show out at Starwood [Aug. 12].

I noticed at the Exit/In the other night when we played "Turn It Up," it was one where everyone knew the words, knew what was going on. The point of that song is - not about making money and all the stuff that everyone thinks about - but about the fans and making something that's bigger than the four guys on stage.

It's great that after playing for an hour in one of the hottest rooms I've ever been in my entire life, that anyone is still here chanting anything. [laughs] We're definitely stoked and want to go out there and play some more.

**Exposure:** How did Bang Bang Bang get the gig with Lynyrd Skynyrd?

**NM:** They were looking for a local band to be the opener and there were a handful of people that were called by the promoter, asking "Who would be

good?" We were recommended by all of them. We started making phone calls - thinking, "Who do we know that knows someone else?"

We figured, "Hey, we'll get out here and play for a couple thousand people." Ah, there were like 10,000 people there when we started playing, and even more than that by the time it was done. It was a wild and really good experience. We got to see what that was all about and then go back to where we're really at and try to grow to that point.

**Exposure:** Tell us about the song "Nashville."

**NM:** Jaren wrote that one...It's just a way to say thanks to Nashville and the community, but also to all the people, while pointing out there is a really cool thing going on here. People are being really supportive of it.

In the second verse, there's this lyric: "Don't get me wrong/Johnny Cash till the end/Waylon was my idol/And Shooter's my friend." That kind of thing! Shooter Jennings is a great example. Here's a guy born in Nashville and who now lives in L.A. He plays country music and he plays rock. I knew Shooter when he was 16 years old and his music sounded like Nine Inch Nails. But now he's going more country. It's important for people to realize that there is a broad spectrum in Nashville, just like there is anywhere else in the world. Stigmas suck, man, and we're all about breaking them.

**Exposure:** What is the band's goal?

**NM:** We know what we're trying to accomplish and the things it is going to take to make it all come true. I think that we want to be in a rock band that makes great records and tours successfully regardless whether there's a song on the radio or not. But we also want to write songs that anyone would love to

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## September 14 - 20

## THURSDAY

Bluesboro—**Universoul** and **The Karg Boys**: 8 p.m., 21+, \$7

The Boro—**Boo Boo Bunny** CD Release show: 9 p.m., 18+, \$5

KUC Films—**"United 93;"** 9 p.m. (final showing)

Liquid Smoke—**Brandon Pruitt**: 9 p.m.

Mellow Mushroom—**Along for the Ride**: 10 p.m.

Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts—**"Once Upon a Mattress;"** 7 p.m., \$8 with student ID

Wall Street—**Jessica Dawn Band**: 10 p.m., 18+, \$5

## FRIDAY

Bluesboro—**Super T**: 9 p.m., 21+, \$7

The Boro—**Brandon Pruitt**: 9 p.m., 18+, \$5

Liquid Smoke—**Danny Salazar & Los Kuarto**: 9 p.m.

Mellow Mushroom—**Undershade**: 10 p.m.

Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts—**"Once Upon a Mattress;"** 7 p.m., \$8 with student ID

Wall Street—**Frendamyne and Bender**: 10 p.m., 18+, \$5

## SATURDAY

Bluesboro—**Penguin** and **Sky-Hi**: 9 p.m., 21+, \$7

Blue Coast Burrito—**Blue Coast After Hours**: 9 p.m., \$3

The Boro—**Juan Prophet Organization** and **Lady and the Tramps**: 9 p.m., 18+, \$5

Mellow Mushroom—**Universoul**: 10 p.m.  
**FAREWELL SHOW!**

Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts—**"Once Upon a Mattress;"** 7 p.m., \$8 with student ID

Wall Street—**Strut**: 10 p.m., 18+, \$5

## SUNDAY

Bluesboro—**Rock Star Band Battle**, Week One: 9pm

The Boro—**Acoustic Night**: 9 p.m., 18+, no cover

Mellow Mushroom—**Casey Williams** acoustic and **Frank Moore** acoustic: 5:30 p.m.

Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts—**"Once Upon a Mattress;"** 2 p.m., \$8 with student ID

## MONDAY

Bluesboro—**World Tavern Poker No Limit Texas Hold 'em**: 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.

KUC Films—**"Pirates of the Caribbean 2: The Curse of the Black Pearl;"** 7 & 9:30 p.m.

Liquid Smoke—**Monday Night Football**

## TUESDAY

Bluesboro—**Live Rock Band Karaoke**: 8 p.m., 21+, \$7

The Boro—**Lavamen**: 9 p.m., 18+, \$5

KUC Films—**"Pirates of the Caribbean 2: The Curse of the Black Pearl;"** 7 & 9:30 p.m.

Liquid Smoke—**Mike Jones Quartet**: 9 p.m., 21+, no cover

## WEDNESDAY

Bluesboro—**The Original Acoustic Nights**: 8p.m., 18+, \$3

The Boro—**Clist**: 9 p.m., 18+, \$5

KUC Films—**"Pirates of the Caribbean 2: The Curse of the Black Pearl;"** 7 & 9:30 p.m.

Liquid Smoke—**Luke Pruitt**: 5 p.m., 21+, no cover

## "Bang Bang Bang"

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hear at the same time. We're trying to do a balancing act, but at the same time, in order to do that our top priority needs to be songs.

That's why we're playing as much as can, flying as much as we can, and talking about the band as much as we can. I don't expect that a record label or a manager or lawyer or a publicist or anyone else is going to be able to describe my band better than I can. I think that a lot of people assume that it's going to be enough. I don't want to work a nine to five unless it's with my band because otherwise it feels like

it's a waste of time. Luckily, now, we're at a place where we won't have to do that.

If you would like to catch Bang Bang Bang in Murfreesboro, the guys will be playing Bluesboro on Sept. 27 with AutoVaughn. If you would like to purchase a copy of their independent disc, "I Shot the King," check the merchandise table at their shows. Grimey's Preloved Music Record Store and CDbaby.com. For more information on Bang Bang Bang's show dates or other information, visit [www.myspace.com/bangrock](http://www.myspace.com/bangrock).

## "Video Culture"

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that Blockbuster may carry of the same movie. Instead, the store focuses on offering its customers films that others simply will not carry. Video Culture has about 8,000 titles on DVD and most of those are dedicated to obscure horror movies, Hong Kong action films or independents.

Video Culture, which is owned by Shelley Justiss and her partner Byron Cumbie, opened in a small lot behind The Boro Bar & Grill in June '95. Justiss was frustrated by the lack of variety offered by the few video stores that were in Murfreesboro at the time and decided to just open her own store.

"I put my personal collection up for rent and told my friends to come by," Justiss said.

They have never spent money on advertising and their business grew by word of mouth. Rising costs forced the store to move to the building on Main St. in June '04 but the new location has been better for business. Video Culture, now that the store is out in the open, has attracted new customers

because of the high traffic area.

Business has gone so well that there are plans for expansion. A second Video Culture is set to open on 8th Ave. in Nashville within the next couple weeks.

Video Culture offers its customers three different membership plans. Those that open a membership with a credit card can rent movies for \$3 for three days or they can pay a monthly fee of \$24.99 and get unlimited rentals, two at a time, throughout the month. For those that don't have credit cards, Video Culture offers a cash membership plan where customers pay a one-time \$20 deposit and can rent one video at a time for \$3 for three days. Video Culture rewards their customers with a free rental for every ten paid rentals and also gives their customers a free rental on their birthday.

They even have gumball machine where if you happen to get a gumball that is marked "winner," you will get a free rental. Try getting a deal like that at Blockbuster!





Photo courtesy of Baldwin Photographic Gallery  
These are examples of Keith Carter's photographic art on display in the Baldwin Photographic Gallery Sept. 11 through Oct. 19 in the Learning Resource Center.

# KEITH CARTER

## COMES TO MTSU

**Aiken Pierce**

### Contributing Writer

An exhibit featuring the works of Keith Carter opened on Sept. 11 in the Baldwin Photographic Gallery, located in the Learning Resource Center. The exhibit, entitled "A Certain Alchemy," contains forty-seven black-and-white photos compiled from his thirty-year career.

The exhibit will be displayed Sept. 11 through Oct. 19, with the following hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Keith Carter's photos have an otherworldly feel to them. Ranging from dogs to strange shadows, his work catches the eye of any passerby. Many of his photos have a main center of focus with fuzzy, blurred edges. Another interesting characteristic of his photos is the absence of any facial features on his human subjects. Most of the people that

Carter has photographed have their faces in shadow or blocked by an object. Art students say he doesn't show faces to make people see themselves in his work.

Mr. Carter is also scheduled to make an appearance here at MTSU and give a lecture. Organizers hope he will help explain to students how to be successful in the photography world. He will express his thoughts on where the industry is going and hopefully inspire young photographers. He will discuss his career and share his personal experiences.

Carter will give a slide presentation and lecture on his work Monday, Oct. 2 in the LRC, Room 221, at 7:30 p.m. A reception and book signing will follow in the gallery. The exhibition and lecture are free and open to the public. This event has been co-sponsored by the University Honors College and the College of Mass

Communication.

Keith Carter is an internationally recognized photographer and educator. He has received many honors and awards, including two National Endowment for the Arts Grants. In 1997, Carter was the subject of an arts profile on the national network television show, CBS Sunday Morning. Carter has also received Lamar University's highest teaching honor, the University Professor Award, and was named the Lamar University Distinguished Lecturer. His work is included in numerous permanent collections, including The Smithsonian Institute, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The George Eastman House, Art Institute of Chicago, The Museum of Fine Arts of Houston and the Wittliff Collection of Southwestern and Mexican Photography.

### "Downtown" continued from 3

six different rooms for parties up to 60 guests. Some of the main entrees consist of Roast Turkey, Chicken Monterey and Meat Loaf. Stop by on Friday for the night buffet for \$11.25.

114 East College Street.  
896-6771  
Entrees: \$8-\$16  
Hours: Monday - Saturday:  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Friday Night Buffet: 5:30  
p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Maple Street Grill** - Only two months after opening, Maple Street Grill is already a popular spot on the Square for a meal with friends, family or a date.

"We're a full service restaurant offering everything from soups, salads and sandwiches to steak, seafood and pasta," said Mike Zelenak, owner of Maple Street Grill.

Start off with the Loaded Cheese Fries and a cup of soup, then move on to the Shrimp Scampi Maple Street Style. Other entrees include Salmon, Shrimp Alfredo, Baby Back Ribs and their delicious Certified Angus Beef® Steaks. You might want to check out the Fried Hershey Bar for dessert.

"You can spend money here like you would at Chili's or you can spend money here like you would at B. McNeel's," Zelenak said. "Full service, full bar and we offer 10% off for MTSU students with student I.D."

109 North Maple Street.  
890-0122  
Entrees: \$9-\$25  
Hours: Monday - Thursday:  
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Saturday: noon - 10 p.m.

**Marina's on the Square Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria** - A breath of fresh Mediterranean air, Marina's offers pizzas, calzones, pastas and many other Italian favorites. Open for lunch and dinner, start off with the Spinach Artichoke Dip, then on to the Manicotti and finish off with the Tiramisu with a cup of coffee. Catering is available, as well as a lunch menu offered until 4 p.m. daily.

125 North Maple Street.  
849-8881  
Entrees: \$7-\$15  
Hours: Tuesday -  
Thursday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday - Saturday: 11  
a.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Sunday and Monday:  
Close



Photo by Jeremy Wyatt | Contributing Photographer

Buddy Johnson, a Video Culture employee, is sorting through DVDs at the Video Culture located on the corner of S. Rutherford Boulevard and E. Main Street.

## Video Culture: A film fanatic's paradise

Reid Conner

Contributing Writer

Just down the road from the gigantic Wal-Mart Super Center is a small, box-like building that sits on the corner of Rutherford and Main. Despite its minimal size, the building offers the largest variety of films for rent in the 'Boro. If you would prefer to watch the latest independent films, the works of the greatest directors in world cinema, or the cult classics rather than the latest Hollywood release, then Video Culture is the place for you.

Video Culture has been a staple in the campus area of Murfreesboro for twelve years and has offered students and local residents the opportunity to explore and discover films that corporate video store chains don't offer.

Along with the usual video store categories such as New Releases, Drama, Comedy and Horror, Video Culture also contains unique sections such as

Asian Cinema, Party Films, Cult Classics, Anime, Same Sex Cinema and Independent Films. They also have a large selection of documentaries, including shockumentaries and mockumentaries, and performing arts DVDs that include concert films and music video collections. They even have a wall dedicated to the Criterion Collection, a prestigious line of DVD releases that include some of the greatest foreign films in cinematic history as well as films that have obtained a cult following over the years.

The store contains a relaxed atmosphere and the employees are all film fanatics themselves.

"This is the most relaxed job I've ever had," said Dustin Hiser, part-time employee.

There is no dress code and the employees can watch anything they want in the store. Anything, from Ed Wood's B-movie classic "Plan 9 from Outer Space" to "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," with the Hunter S. Thompson commentary track turned on, can be seen playing on

the display televisions. The employees also do not pressure customers to buy extra items such as popcorn or candy like other video stores do.

There is not much of a managerial structure within the store but employee Buddy Johnson comes closest to the lead. He has been there the longest and works the most hours. His Volkswagon bus, covered in movie icons painted by his son, can usually be seen parked on the corner. Johnson, like most of the other employees, offers his opinions on cult, independent or foreign films, but just don't ask him about the newest blockbuster release.

"If Jennifer Aniston is in it, I'm not going to watch it," Johnson explained. "Except maybe 'Leprechaun.'"

Even though they carry the newest Hollywood releases, they usually only have three or four copies at the most of one movie opposed to the seventy copies

## Check It Out!

Featured selections from the Video Culture library

### From the New Asian Cinema section:

"Battle Royale" – A class of high school students is kidnapped and brought to a deserted island where they are forced to hunt down and murder each other. The last one remaining will be allowed to go home. This extremely rare film is a prime example of what makes Video Culture so great.

"Oldboy" – A man, who has been kidnapped and imprisoned for 15 years for unknown reasons, vows to seek out his captor after he is released and enact revenge. Chan-wook Park's visionary direction and the fast-paced story lead to one of the most twisted endings ever put on film.

### From the Criterion Collection section:

"8 1/2" – Federico Fellini's semi-autobiographical masterpiece is about an established film director who seems at the edge of having a complete career burnout. The main character escapes into fantasies and boyhood memories that flow seamlessly with his reality, allowing Fellini to add surrealistic touches to this mesmerizing film.

"Walkabout" – After being deserted in the Australian Outback, a teenage girl and her younger brother befriend a young Aboriginal man who helps them find food and water as he leads them back to civilization. The amazing cinematography, mixed with Nicholas Roeg's unique editing style, make this film a must see.

### From the Cult Classics section:

"Eraserhead" – David Lynch's grainy black and white feature film debut is beyond description but offers many surrealistic visuals and opens itself to interpretation. You may not know what's going on while you watch the film, but once you finish it you will never forget it.

"Freaks" – In this 1932 horror classic, director Tod Browning cast people with real deformities as circus "freaks", a move that was unheard of in the early days of Hollywood. Browning portrays the "freaks" in a human light while the real monsters of the film are those that scorn them.

**Location: 2321 East Main Street,  
Murfreesboro, TN 37127  
Phone: (615) 895-5202  
Hours: Mon. – Sun.: 10am - Midnight**

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