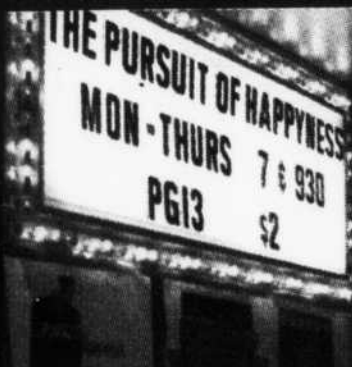


Punk Politic

Bialra brings smug anarchy to Belcourt

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Will Smith and son pursue happiness

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Country takes center stage at seminar

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February sweeps bring ratings gold

**From the Editor
by Dara Tucker**



Well, it's another issue of *Exposure* and another opportunity to highlight some of the best – and worst – in entertainment.

On the national scene, sweeps month has brought us some of the season's most memorable television moments. If there hasn't been a fire, a senseless killing, or a hostage crises of some kind on your favorite show in the month of February, chances are you're an avid Government Access Channel viewer.

Since advertising rates are established every February, May, and November, networks take it upon themselves to up the ante during these months to pull in top advertising dollars for the remainder of the season.

Hence, the Superbowl, the Academy Awards, and the profiling of the more talented singers on Fox's mammoth

"American Idol" all taking place in the month of February.

With Superbowl ads edging up past the \$2.5 million mark, the time has come to question whether advertisers are receiving an adequate return on their investment.

And the granddaddy of Hollywood's season of self-congratulation, the Academy Awards, hosted by funnywoman Ellen Degeneres, did not disappoint.

Only the second woman in the history of the Oscars to host solo – the first being Whoopi Goldberg – Ellen infused the evening with just the right amount of tasteful humor, spontaneity, and yes, variety show cheese that we've come to expect from the annual ceremony.

A positive trend: calling on comic actors such as Will Ferrell and Jack Black to bring a moment of levity to the evening by lampooning a ceremony to which their ilk is rarely invited.

On the "Idol" front, what can I say? I'll try to remain as positive as possible, and leave the contestant-bashing to Simon. Let's just say, nowhere is the color line more visible than in a singing competition.

Some early standouts: Brentwood, Tennessee's own Melinda Doolittle, Lakeisha

Jones, Jordin Sparks, Jared Cotter and proud papa, Phil Stacey. For my money, it's former background vocalist Doolittle's competition to lose.

Standouts in this week's *Exposure* include Tracie Grigsby's preview of the 38th annual Country Radio Seminar. At this event, insiders instruct industry wannabes on what an insider's game country radio can be.

For country music hopefuls willing to pay the \$635 registration fee, there are plenty of seminars, meet-and-greets and potential industry contacts to make the event a worthwhile investment.

Daniel Potter provides our cover story this week, "Democracy, anarchy and a side of Jell-O." Daniel's tastes skew to the underground element of pop culture. This week, he takes us into the world of 'spoken-word punk.'

Jello Biafra, former lead singer of 80's hardcore punk band Dead Kennedys, is now a poet, pontificator and unyielding proponent for the impeachment of President

George W. Bush.

His Feb. 20 show at Nashville's Belcourt Theater proved to be just the event to set punk hearts a-flutter, and send the rest of us rushing to the nearest bomb shelter, bracing for the fallout.

Finally, Deandra Mack covers "The Pursuit of Happiness," playing at the Keathley University Center through March 1.

If you haven't seen this film yet, be prepared for the least-hammy performance by a child actor in recent memory. Will Smith is at his most affecting in this father-and-son tale delivered tastefully by Italian director, Gabriele Muccino.

Because Muccino has done his audience the service of going easy on the ham in this 'tug-at-your-heartstrings' rags to riches story, we'll find it in our hearts to forgive him for leaving in the tiniest little sliver of cheese.

We at *Exposure* hope you thoroughly enjoy your feast.

Bon Apetit. ♦

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**EXPOSURE
STAFF**

So happy together: Will Smith and son bring family bond to big screen

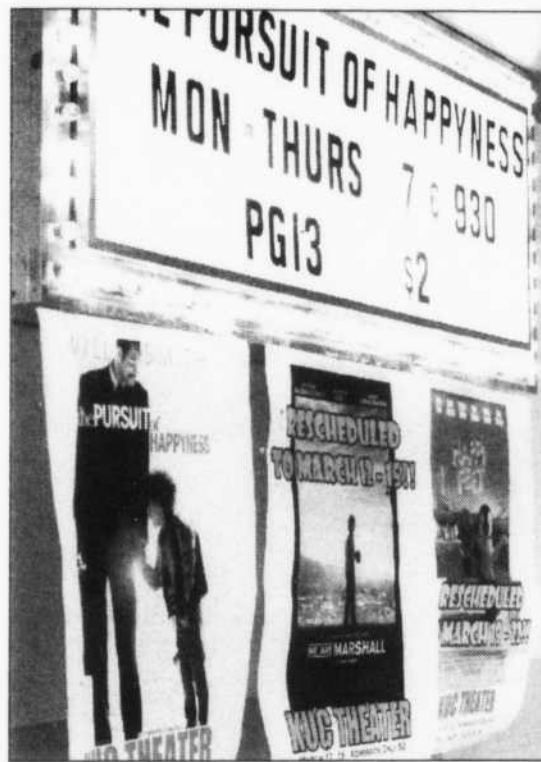


Photo by Chris Barstad | Photo Editor
 "The Pursuit of Happyness," starring Will and Jaden Smith, ends its run at the KUC Theater tonight.

Deandra Mack

Staff Writer

The final showings of "The Pursuit of Happyness" are tonight, March 1 at the Keathley University Center.

Inspired by a true story, "The Pursuit of Happyness" shares the rags-to-riches account of the hardships endured by Chris Gardener and his five-year-old son, Christopher.

Greg Feiling, Student Programming and Events coordinator, feels the film's inspirational message will resonate with moviegoers.

Feiling said Gardener's story is proof positive that "if you push yourself to accomplish a task, you can accomplish anything, really."

In the 2006 film, Gardener, played by Will Smith, struggles to provide

for his son, played by Smith's real-life son Jaden Smith. Desperate to find a better paying job to care for his son, Gardener has a chance meeting with a stockbroker who happens to work for a major brokerage firm.

With his mathematical skill and natural ability to forge relationships, Gardener plunges into a risky journey that takes him to places he never thought he would go.

The natural chemistry between Will and Jaden lends a great deal of believability to the movie. Their interactions are genuine and touching in a way that may not have been as convincing without a true-life father/son pairing.

Given Smith's comedic background, he gave a surprisingly sobering performance. Jaden's natural

approach to acting was refreshing, though at times a bit rough around the edges.

This film presents a sentimental and hopeful portrait of the American dream. It lends credence to the idea that no matter who you are, you can find liberty, riches and happiness in the United States.

In that sense, the film tends to idealize the plight of the poor and the success of the rich. It glamorizes the potential to secure a better life, regardless of one's race, class or background, and offers a romanticized version of Gardener's life and journey.

Although the movie promotes capitalistic values, other themes include the value of family, trust, and the "Happyness" that lies therein. Like the misspelled word

on the wall outside of Christopher's daycare, life has many imperfections.

When Gardener picks his son up from daycare, he asks, "Are you happy?" When his son answers, "Yes," he tells him that's all that matters. With his son's trust and adoration and his own dogged determination, Gardener resolves to stop at nothing to fulfill his dream.

The film seeks to communicate the notion that, elusive though it is, Happyness is available to each and every person who is willing to pursue it.

"The Pursuit of Happyness" is now showing at the KUC Theater for \$2 per person.

The final showings are tonight at 7:30 pm and 9:00 pm. ♦

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PUNK POLITIC
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PUNK POLITIC

Democracy, anarchy
and a side of Jello
by Daniel Potter

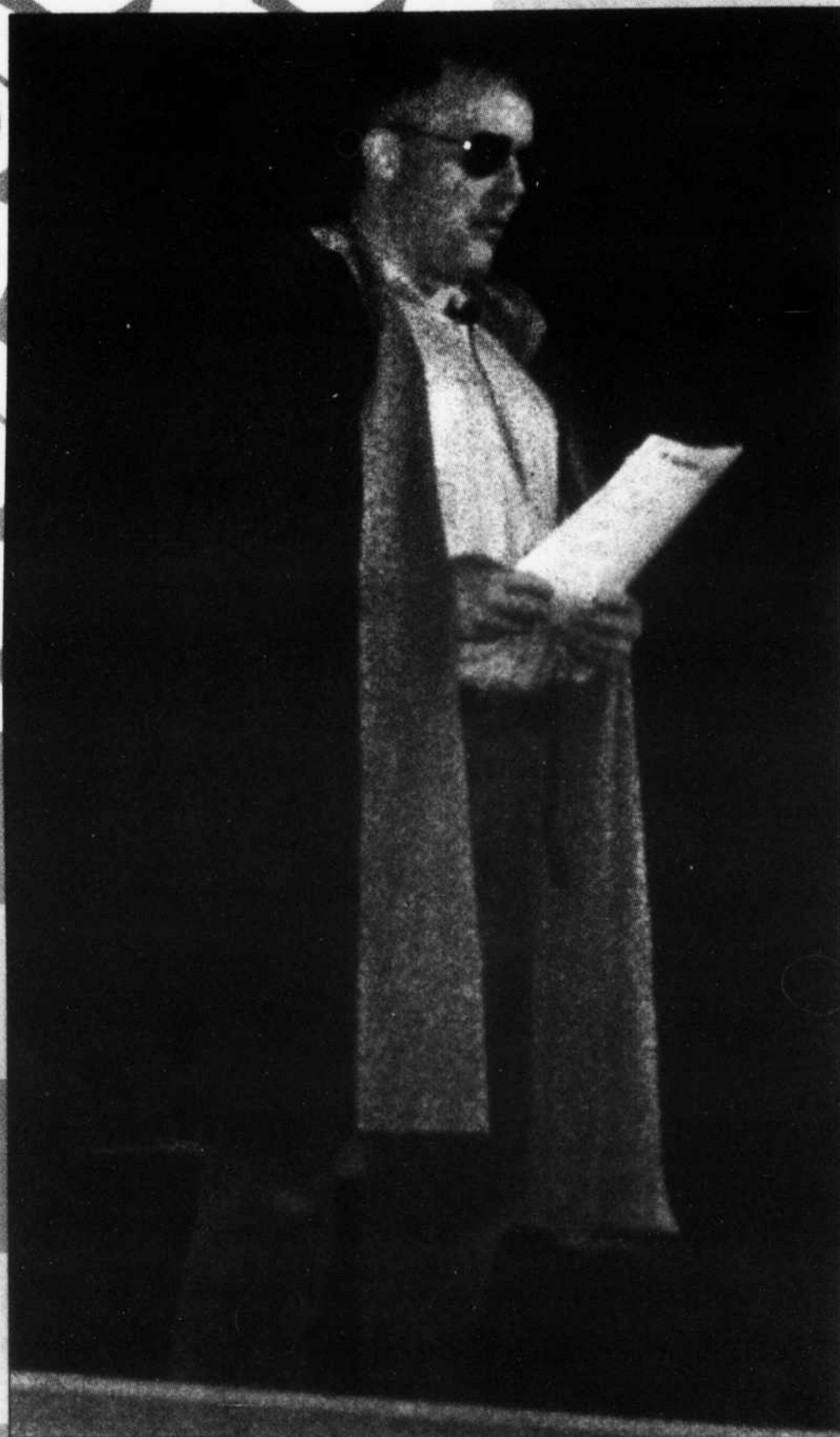


Photo by Rachel Erwin
Jello Biafra, former lead singer of Dead Kennedys, used 'shock and awe' to dispense his unique brand of provocative social protest at the Belcourt Theater on Thursday, Feb. 20.

Jello Biafra has been a loud-mouthed, political charged punk icon for three decades.

Biafra, who lectured at the Belcourt Theatre in Nashville last Tuesday, Feb. 20, was the lead singer and songwriter for the influential 1980s punk-rock group Dead Kennedys. However, despite his reputation as a provocative writer and musician, Biafra is living proof that music is not the only way to entertain and engage people politically.

"We interrupt this program with a special bulletin," he began from off-stage, speaking ominously despite his trademark nasally, quivering voice.

Walking into view in a black cloak and dark glasses, he continued: "America is now under martial law. All constitutional rights have been suspended. Stay in your homes. Do not attempt to contact loved ones, insurance agencies or attorneys. Shut up! Do not attempt to think, or depression may occur."

Biafra, whose real name is Eric Boucher, quickly dropped the theatrics and cloak in favor of a more personable approach. He spoke for roughly three hours to an audience of about 300, addressing such topics as American democracy, the erosion of civil liberties, the War on Drugs, and most prominently, the Iraqi War.

The stop in Nashville was one of the last on a U.S. tour for Biafra, whose spoken word tenure began in the late eighties after the demise of

the Dead Kennedys. The band's recordings and Biafra's lectures are both published by his record label, Alternative Tentacles.

Although Biafra was likely preaching to the choir in a room filled by liberal punk fans, many sporting tattoos and unusual haircuts, his mix of humor, news, pep talk and rant was refreshing in an era where public figures seem increasingly loathe to discuss politics openly.

Just as in his days with Dead Kennedys, Biafra was the very embodiment of sarcasm, often caricaturing President George W. Bush's "Don't mess with Texas" attitude.

Interspersed with his silly voices and ironic asides was a torrent of deadly serious remarks. Biafra spewed data and figures at a rate that made his references difficult to follow without the aid of footnotes or hyperlinks.

Incisively criticizing the Bush administration's handling of the occupation, Biafra quickly targeted L. Paul Bremer, the chief American administrator in Iraq following the invasion in 2003.

"Within a few days of being there, he fired all 400,000 members of the Iraqi army who could've helped keep order when we didn't send enough people. Fired them all, replaced them with nobody," Biafra said, before suggesting this facilitat-

ed the rise of insurgents in the country. "With all these unemployed soldiers, the insurgents instantly had organization, experience, a chain of command, and a [...] lot of guns."

Citing a survey from Johns Hopkins University done in conjunction with a university in Baghdad, Biafra noted an estimated 650,000 Iraqi deaths occurred as a result of the war. This was ample reason, he contended, to doubt the ongoing war will win the United States any popularity in the region.

"Think they're going to love us in the future, embrace corporate-managed democracy and go hand-in-hand to the prom with Israel? I really don't think so."

Despite his sometimes detached cynicism though, Biafra did not shy away from the occasional opportunity to sincerely laud positive action.

"It's not as though our lovely little ruling class, in the goodness of their corporate hearts, handed us the end of the Vietnam War. They didn't hand us all the gains of the Civil Rights era, the environmental movement, feminist movement, gay rights movement - We built that ourselves. We went out and got it," Biafra said, shortly before leading an audience chant cursing Bush.

Biafra's criticism was hardly limited to the Republican Party, however. At one point he said "the Democrats

stand for pretending to feel guilty" about sharing in such aspects of Republicanism as "greed, corruption, pollution, bigotry and war."

Biafra discussed this topic ad nauseum, at times interrupted by applause and shouts of agreement.

The packed room seemed so angry and stirred it could've whipped into a mosh pit, had the loud, fast music that first propelled Biafra to prominence been present. Biafra's humor, however, served to diffuse the audience's anger and frustration.

Not all of Biafra's rants were about politics, though. Biafra also spent nearly 10 minutes reminiscing about the malaprops of an old teacher with a heavy Scandinavian accent, in a bit that proved to be an audience favorite.

Biafra concluded his address with numerous entreaties to his audience to be mindful of current events as well as an encouragement to the crowd to be politically active.

"If we sit [...] waiting for some magic leader or Barack-star on a white horse to come in and lead us to the Promised Land, we will get fooled again."

He then thanked the audience, and gave a final admonishment to those who claim that his work has changed their lives.

Said the would-be revolutionary, "Now, it's your turn." ♦

DO NOT CROSS - DO NOT CROSS



Jello Biafra
(Eric Boucher)

Born: June 17, 1958
Boulder, Colorado

Acts:
Dead Kennedys, Lard, Revolting Cocks, 1000 Homo DJs, No WTO Combo, Jello Biafra & The Melvins, Body Count, Métal Urbain

Facts:
★ Formed the Dead Kennedys with East Bay Ray in June, 1978.

- ★ Started Alternative Tentacles, his independent record label, in 1979 after most major labels refused to sign the Dead Kennedys.
- ★ Ran for mayor of San Francisco in 1979 under the slogan "There's always room for Jello."
- ★ Became a spoken-word artist in 1986.
- ★ Tried for obscenity over a print of the poster "Landscape #XX" that was included

in the album *Frankenchrist*. The charges were dropped after a mistrial, but the court battle resulted in the breakup of the Dead Kennedys. He and prosecutor Michael Guarino reconciled their differences in 2005 on the radio show *The American Life*.

- ★ Was selected as a Green Party nominee in 2000 by New York, and helped cover the Republican and Democratic conventions that year for the Independent Media Center.

Information from AlternativeTentacles.com and Wikipedia

Country takes center stage at annual seminar

Tracie Grigsby

Staff Writer

At the 38th annual Country Radio Seminar, top country music artists mix with the new faces of country music for three days of live performances. The event will take place Feb. 28 through March 2 at the Nashville Convention Center.

Live performances include top country music artists Terri Clark, Miranda Lambert, Trace Adkins, Chris Young and newcomers Taylor Swift, Jack Ingram, Luke Bryan and Rodney Atkins.

More than 2,000 professionals from the country radio music industry attend CRS every year, including general managers, programmers, promoters, record producers, artists, label presidents, and others.

Charlie Cook, senior format director of Cumulus Media, who also serves as the head of the research committee for the CRB board, states, "Beyond musical tastes and listening habits, understanding lifestyle issues allows us to make smart programming decisions."

"CMA is honored to have the opportunity to co-sponsor the 2007 CRS research project," says Rick Murray, CMA vice president of strategic marketing. "Both primary and secondary research is a key foundation of our mission to build a statistical case for advertisers, media, film and television producers to utilize country music and artists."

According to Murray, funding the event is well worth the investment. "We are very glad we can extend our partnership with CRB by helping to co-fund this very important piece of research that will be presented by our friends at Edison Research at this year's

CRS convention."

Country Radio Broadcasters Inc is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1896 to bring radio broadcasters from around the world together with the country music industry for the purpose of guaranteeing the perpetuation of the country radio format.

Festivities for CRS-38 will take place from 10:00a.m. to 10:45p.m. on Feb. 28. At 7:30 that evening, CRB will host the "Music City Jam." Toby Keith will be joined by a few friends to give seminar-goers a laid-back performance to cap off the day.

The seminar kicks off again on March 1 at 8 a.m. At 12p.m., Sony/BMG Nashville will showcase up-and-coming artists Chris Young and Terri Clark.

Another highlight of the seminar is sure to be performances by top recording artists/singer-songwriters at BMI/WCRS Live event. This year will feature Pat Green, Sarah Buxton and Mac Davis. The artists will present songs that have helped to boost country radio listenership and establish country music as a viable genre. Songwriter Jeffery Steele will host this event which begins at 4:15p.m.

The final leg of this 3-day event begins at 9 a.m. when CRB, Inc. will present a study that looks at attitudes of country listeners on everything from the state of the current product to the impact on Country radio of MySpace, HD Radio and even Bon Jovi. The presentation is co-sponsored by CRB, Inc. and the CMA. Lunch will feature Capitol Nashville artists Trace Adkins and Luke Bryan.

Larry Rosin, president of Edison Media Research, feels that the study does a great service to country music listeners

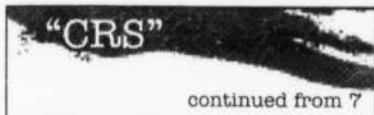
Thousands of college students are addicted to this kind of pot.

Gambling is a common part of college life, but some people become addicted to gambling and get into serious emotional, financial and even legal trouble.

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and programmers. "We're excited to continue our tracking of country listeners this year. We'll do our best to create findings that will help the industry continue its run of success."

The 'New Faces of Country Music Dinner and Show' will mark the end of the annual event. At 7pm on Friday, March 7, some of the top new faces of country music will perform. Slated to appear are Rodney Atkins, Eric Church, Jack Ingram, Miranda Lambert and Taylor Swift. The event will be hosted by Nashville's own honorary mayor of Music Row, Charlie Monk, and Kix Brooks of ABC Radio Networks American Country Countdown.

Christy Walker, publicist for AristoMedia, explains, "CRS is a very hectic time of year for the publicity department, but also my favorite. I have press releases to write and media credentials to prepare while also making sure the artists and managers are satisfied." CRS-38 is going above and beyond the previous years with performances by the most popular country music artists. I think it is our best seminar yet!" ♦

Math Lesson:

(from your friends at Exposure)



+ You

FAME!

(or something like that.)

Visit us in COMM 269 for more information.

(Everything you need to know about is right here.)

TODAY

- ← Video Works by Cindy Rehm, continuing through March 2.
- ← MTSU Wind Ensemble @ T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building.
- ← Pursuit of Happiness @ KUC Theater 7 & 9:30pm
- ← "Technology and the Future of Media Ethics," a presentation by University of Southern California professor Adam Clayton Powell III about new technologies and their impact on important ethical issues including privacy @ Learning Resource Center room 221, 7:30pm
- ← Murphey Farewell Show with Brooke Waggoner and Bender @ Wallstreet, 8pm
- ← Def Kat Music presents Acoustic Nights in the Boro feat. Lara Landon, Taylor Davis, Nick Hardy and Caroline Brewer @ Bluesboro
- ← The Privates, The Hotpipes and The High Strung @ The Basement, 9pm (21+)
- ← Black White. at MTSU, Tucker Theater, 7pm.
- ← Chasing Monroe, The Turf, Steward Bronough and Daryl Ritch Band @ The Muse. \$5, 21+/\$7 under 21.
- ← Tyler Perry's "What's Done in the Dark" @ TPAC, 8 pm.

MAR. 2

- ← Live interview with Atlanta's 13 Stories on 88.3's "Eclectic Cuts" @ 10am
- ← "Recommendation for Change in Media Ethics," a panel/press conference with participants of the second U.S. Media Ethics Summit Conference, Dr. Clifford Christians, Dr. Tom Cooper and host, Dean Anantha Babbili @ the State Farm Room (Rm. 102), Business and Aerospace Building, 10:30am
- ← Illegal Alien, Habitat, Saint Jude, Woody, Josh Quaid, Justin Kase and Dorian @ the Velvet Lounge
- ← The Vermicious K'nids feat. The Transcenders and Tequila @ The Boro 9pm (18+)
- ← Stone Jack Jones, The

- Latchlifters and Altered Statesmen @ Springwater, 10pm
- ← Punkk Rock Party feat. DRI @ The Muse
- ← Tyler Perry's "What's Done in the Dark" @ TPAC, 8 pm.
- ← First Friday Nashville, "Fat Tuesday" Mardi Gras Edition @ Club 615, 9:30 pm

MAR. 3

- ← Eclipse: Visions of the Crescent and the Cross @ TPAC
- ← Gym Class Heroes, RX Bandits, POS and K-OS @ Rocketown, 6:30pm
- ← Def Kat Music presents Open Mic Writer's Night feat. Chris Richardson, Lara Landon and Alexis Thompson @ Blue Coast Burrito, 8pm. Artists must sign in by 7:45 to play 3-5 songs.
- ← Sunny Sweeney with the Eli Young Band and Jack Ingram @ The Exit/In, 8:30pm
- ← The Velcro Stars, Elekibass and The Hot Pipes @ Casa Burrito, 9pm
- ← Orpheus Vocal Competition @ T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building.
- ← MTSU Oboefest @ T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building.
- ← Tyler Perry's "What's Done in the Dark" @ TPAC, 3 and 8 pm.

MAR. 4

- ← Madeleine Peyroux and Ron Sexsmith @ TPAC
- ← Tyler Perry's "What's Done in the Dark" @ TPAC, 3 and 7 pm.

MAR. 5

- ← Elana James and Bruce Robison @ Douglas Comer, 8pm
- ← 8 Off 8th Writers Night feat. Tigers Con Queso @ The Mercy Lounge, 9pm (21+)
- ← The Intrusive and more @ The Muse. \$5 21+/\$7 under 21.

MAR. 6

- ← "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," a musical comedy @ TPAC through the 11th

- ← Karaoke Contest @ Bluesboro 10pm, (21+)

MAR. 7

- ← Explorers Club, Imagine Asians and Lylas @ the Exit/In, 9pm (18+)

MAR. 8

- ← Acoustic Nights in the Boro @ Bluesboro (18+)
- ← New Love Over and Ian Doerr @ Bonhoeffers
- ← Rutherford County Elementary Choral Festival @ T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building
- ← Calico System, The Burning Season, Nights Like These, A Day to Remember and Fall Out Forgotten @ The Muse, 8 pm. \$12

MAR. 9

- ← Live interview with Say No More Tongues on 88.3's "Eclectic Cuts" @ 10am
- ← Glossary's 10 year Bandiversary show with very special guests Mock Orange and Hands Down Eugene @ The Boro
- ← Silviu Ciulei @ Trinity Presbyterian Church 7pm
- ← New Love Over @ The Muse Spike and Mallets @ Wallstreet, 9pm

MAR. 10

- ← Open Mic Writer's Night hosted by Def Kat Music and Alexis Thompson @ Blue Coast Burrito, 8pm. Artists must sign in by 7:45 to play 3-5 songs.
- ← The Features, Spinto Band and The Whigs @ The Mercy Lounge, 9pm (18+)
- ← The Clutters, Dixie

March 1-14

- Dirt and The Hard Lessons @ The Basement, 9pm (21+)
- ← All We Seabees, De Novo Dahl and Ra ra Riot @ Casa Burrito, 10pm.
- ← Off Duty Ninjas, Gutterble and Radioflyer @ The Muse. \$5 21+/\$7 under 21

MAR. 11

- ← Keating, As Tall As Lions, The Deerhunter and Sleepwalker @ The Rutledge, 6pm
- ← Leftover Crack, Citizen Fish, Witch Hunt and Stuck Lucky @ The Muse, 8 pm. \$12

MAR. 12

- ← "Sound in Print: Contemporary Music Posters," through March 30.
- ← Katelyn Thurow student flute recital @ T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building.
- ← Monteverdi and Stozzi concert @ T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building
- ← Happy Feet @ KUC Theater, through March 15
- Bloodlined Calligraphy, Cassius, This Moment and Of Hearts and Shadows @ The Muse, 8 pm. \$8

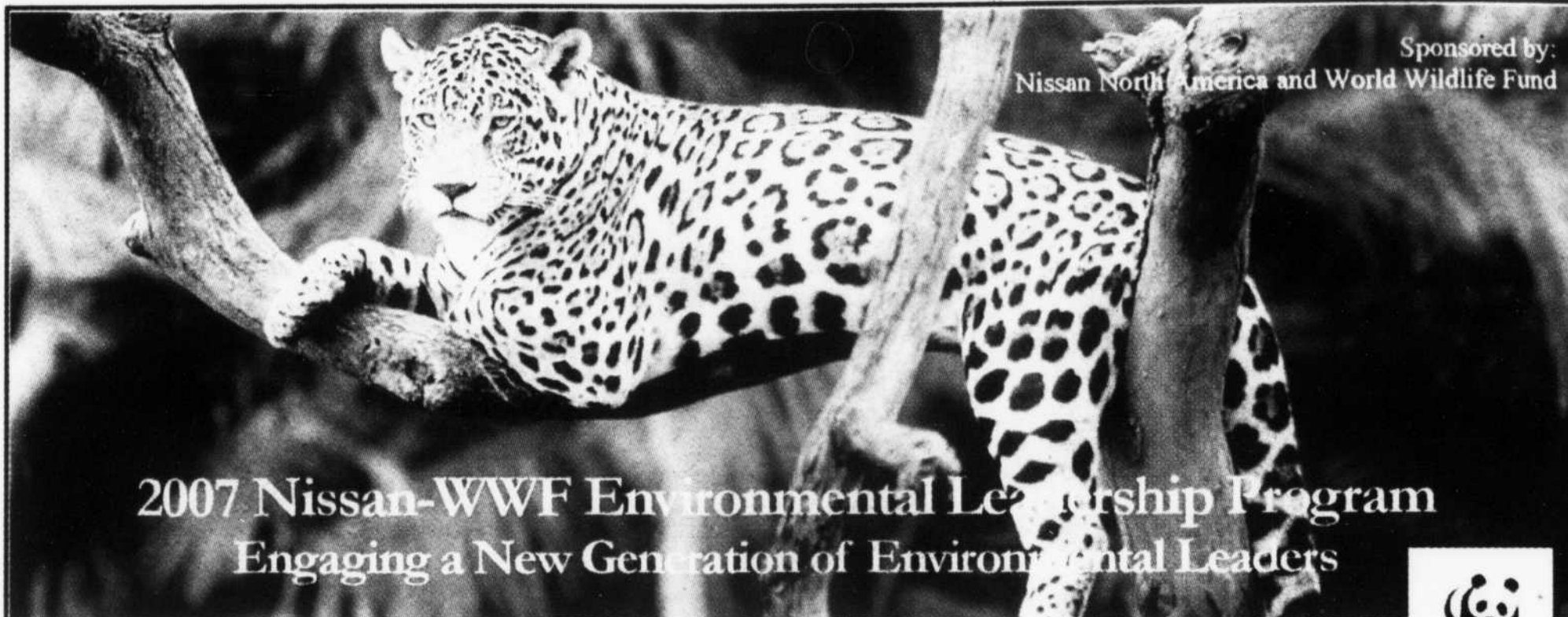
MAR. 13

- ← Threat Signal, Last Breath, Sangrar and Autumn Lies Buried @ The Muse. \$5 21+/\$7 under 21

MAR. 14

- ← Sean Donovan junior horn recital @ T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building





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Online application deadline
▶▶▶ **March 5, 2007**

For more information, send an email to:
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Application available at:
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