

# FLASH

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A SUPPLEMENT TO SIDELINES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

## CREEPLY STUFF



...THAT HAPPENED  
ON CAMPUS

# SIDELINES

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## In this issue

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- Page 6 Looking for some live entertainment after hours? Check out our concert list for some of the area's best bands. One special event this week: Tim Reynolds of Dave Matthews' acoustic tour of last year brings his rock act to Nashville at Jacklegs' Speakeasy.
- Page 7 Video games can be a great way to pass your free time. Brad, the FLASH video game expert, fills you in on what to expect during the month of November. Also, find out what's new in the Christian music scene.
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## Quote of the week

*"Everyone has a photographic memory, some just don't have film."*

*-Unkown*

# 'Story' is good, but predictable

## NATURAL TALENT



Aaron Tallent  
Staff reviewer

At the very beginning of "The Story of Us", I could not help but think that Bruce Willis's and Michelle Pfeiffer's characters acted like their marriage was all but over. I knew that there was no way this film was going to end with a divorce so I was interested to see what this film said about marriage and how couples make it work.

The film did not offer new

insight on marriage or relationships. It did offer several amusing jokes and some likable characters from a good cast.

The film tells the story of Ben (Willis) and Katie Jordan (Pfeiffer), who after 15 years are tired of dealing with the differences and annoying quirks of each other. Katie is the high-strung, fact-oriented Type A personality while Ben is the more laid-back creative Type B personality.

The two also have two children who help them stay together after 15 years. They both have friends that they can talk to about their marital problems and the differences between men and women. The scenes where Ben confers with

his friends, played by Rob Reiner and Paul Reiser, and the scenes where Katie talks with her friends, played by Rita Wilson and Julie Hagerty, are the funniest in the movie.

One problem arises in the film when Katie is courted by Marty (Tim Matheson) and the two begin hanging out. This causes a little more distance between the two.

The story of the couple meeting, getting married, and growing apart is told through flashbacks. They are able to reflect the beginning of each problem that grew within the marriage. The only problem is that Willis looks very silly with long hair when the filmmakers try to make him look younger.

"The Story of Us" offers us

two interesting messages on marriage. One would have to be that being in love means falling in love over and over again. The other is to find somebody you can get along with and are compatible with because the passion will eventually wane.

That is great but since I have heard these two sayings before and the only walking down the aisle I have ever done was with a bridesmaid, I will guess these messages have been passed along through other films before as well.

Even though not much originality is present in the film, it still offers several funny moments. The performances are good as well.

Willis and Pfeiffer seem to have a certain amount of chemistry. Paul Reiser and Rob Reiner provide some funny scenes as Willis' two friends, but Rita Wilson steals the scenes that she is in as Pfeiffer's opinionated, excitable friend.

As for other elements, the music by Eric Clapton and Marc Shuiman gives the film a boost. As always, Rob Reiner's direction leaves the viewer feeling good at the end.

Even though "The Story of Us" offers nothing new, it is entertaining and a good date movie.

STARS: (out of four) \*\*\*



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# 'Fight Club' a clash of id, superego

## THE MOVIE GUY

Jared Wilson  
Staff reviewer

"Whether good or bad, it's sometimes also very pleasant to demolish something."

— the Underground Man in Dostoevsky's "Notes from Underground"

"I just wanted to destroy something beautiful."

— the Narrator, after thrashing the face of pretty-boy Jared Leto, in "Fight Club"

You might have to be a male to appreciate "Fight Club," or, at least a sadomasochist, but even then I'm not so sure. This film may represent cinema's recent flirtation with darkness, wallowing in the new nihilism chic, but I sensed a deep end in its murky waters. To be honest, I still haven't decided whether the ambiguous moral really justifies the movie itself or is the director's cheap attempt at justifying the intense violence in the movie.

"Fight Club" tells the story of a nameless Narrator (Edward Norton) who becomes so sick of his boring life, he views his chance encounter with gruff salesman Tyler Durden (Brad Pitt) as his ticket to self-discovery. The two young men begin an underground organization formed specifically for men to beat each other's faces in. This, it is assumed, is cathartic.

The reasons for Narrator and Tyler's alliance are both clear and confusing. Norton's straightlaced office drone and Pitt's degenerate, soap-selling hipster are yin and yang. They

need each other (though most of the movie focuses on Narrator needing Tyler); they balance each other out.

"Fight Club"'s bare-knuckled pugilists are a generation of men with absentee fathers and were raised by their mothers. They are so in touch with their feminine sides that they've lost touch with the masculine. They feel neutered by their upbringing; they're less than men. Director David Fincher's proof of this is not subtle. Besides portraying Norton's Narrator as somewhat of a dandy, one beginning sequence involves finding solace in a support group for survivors of testicular cancer, one character (played by Meat Loaf Aday) has developed breasts from increased levels of estrogen in his system, and several characters spend their time guarding their privates. We get the point.

But the contributing factors to their aggression don't end there. Much is made of our "single-serving" culture. The film depicts Narrator as a slave to the corporate franchises that have duped him with hollow slogans and hypnotic jingles. Apparently, Starbucks, Ikea, and Calvin Klein have participated in his castration. He's moved from free-will being to grazing consumer. Tyler admits, "We are byproducts of the lifestyle obsession."

So which is it? Feminization or corporate homogenization? Curiously, it may be both, which adds strength to the film's conclusion.

Norton, as usual, is wonderful in his own understated way. He has a way

of commanding a scene in silence as much as Pitt does with all of his crazed melodrama.

Helena Bonham Carter is a nice touch as a codependent doormat to the men, but she's insignificant to the narration except to fuel the misogynist undertones and to create inconvenient scenes that become convenient in the light of the film's end.

Pitt, once again, evidences his talent, but he may be too much a movie star to totally convince us we're seeing an amoral anarchist with zero personal hygiene. I kept thinking to myself, "This guy dates Jennifer Aniston." Still, Pitt does an admirable job, relishing the way his character attracts young men with repellent behavior. Narrator says, "In Tyler we trusted," and in true anarchist fashion, Pitt's Tyler is "der Fuhrer," an antichrist of sorts.

He sacrifices himself to brutality, and his converts worship him. Like the biblical beast, he even "marks" the hands of his followers by burning them with lye. In the fight scenes, the less-than-men beat enough testosterone out of each other to share, as in some unholy communion.

One plus (or minus, depending on how you look at it) to the film is the way "Fight Club" has the guts to take its nihilism seriously. Unlike the teenybopper angst of films past, it doesn't sacrifice characterization for "wacky hijinks" (notice the quotation marks) involving sex, drugs and violence. It dives into the mud and swims around.

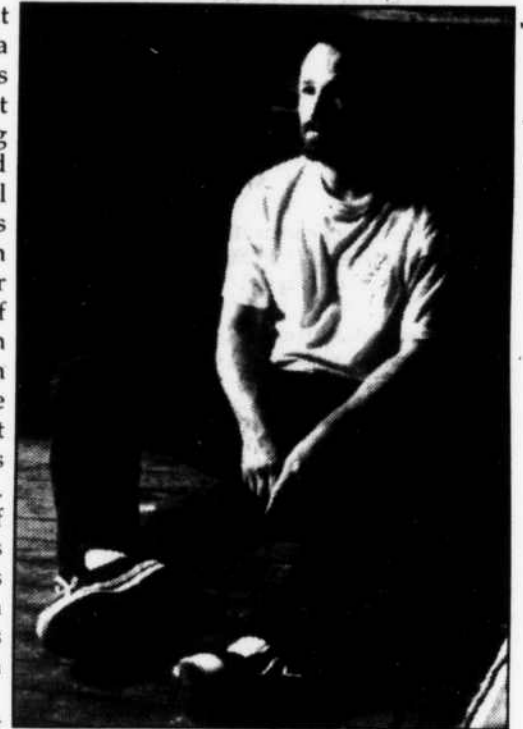
Another plus is in David Fincher's implicit

acknowledgment that evil does not exist in a vacuum. For all of its vivid brutality, "Fight Club" is less depressing than the sterile and amoral world of verbal violence in the works of, say, Neil Labute. In "Seven," Fincher created a triumvirate of new hope (Pitt), unseen sinister force (Kevin Spacey), and wise sage (Morgan Freeman) that balanced out the effects of the film's grotesque. The internal integrity of "Fight Club" is contingent upon its balance between Narrator and Tyler. It's a clash between superego and id.

With its convenient ending, it neatly sidesteps fully committing to what it had been insinuating about anarchy all along — that, because it is the antithesis of culture and not simply an alternative culture, it is the absence of all values, not just the false ones, and results in the destruction of people, not just political or social structure. With the film's "Sixth Sense"-ian twist, it portrays the German Romantic idea of "zeresenheit," or "split soul," and this may be its solution to the schizophrenic theme.

"Fight Club" is smart and technically brilliant, and I can appreciate it. I just don't know if I like it yet.

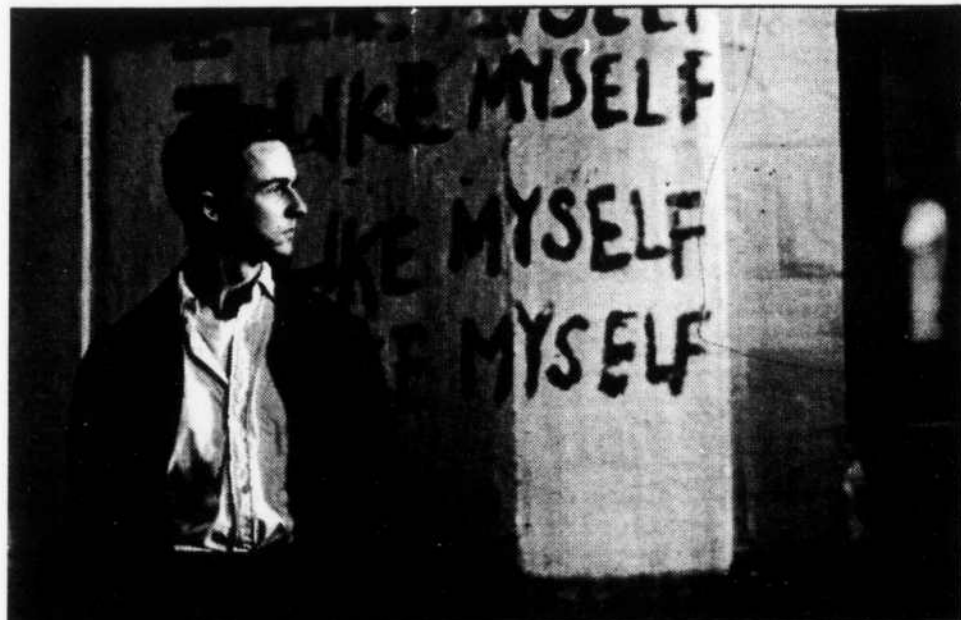
My grade: Grades are meaningless labels that reduce and objectify.



director David Fincher



Helena Bonham Carter as "Marla Singer"



Edward Norton as the "Narrator"



Brad Pitt as "Tyler Durden"



# MTSU is full of ghost

Susan McMahan/ staff reporter

There are some urban legends on college campuses that just won't die.

Like the proverbial "Dead Man on Campus," which says you get all A's if your roommate dies during the semester, some stories can be found anywhere — whether it's Tennessee or California or North Dakota.

But the best college ghost stories are the ones that are specific to each campus, and MTSU is no exception.

Charles Wolfe, a member of the Tennessee Folklore Society at MTSU and an English professor, said MTSU's history is full of spirits — ranging from a witch to a transient to a horse.

## THE BUGGED DORM

The scariest MTSU "ghost" story in Wolfe's opinion really isn't a ghost story at all. It's the kind of story that's scary all year long.

This story goes that a group of female dorm residents decided to sunbathe on the roof of their building on the first warm and sunny day of spring.

One girl fell asleep while on the roof soaking up the sunshine. When she woke up, it's about 4:30 or 5 p.m. in the afternoon, and it was chilly.

Realizing she could already feel the start of a bad sunburn, the girl went downstairs to tell her roommate what happened.

Her roommate warned her that the burn already looked bad. So, the girl decided to try home remedies like vinegar and Noxema to take the burn away.

She took aspirin before bed that night, but it didn't work. She woke up from sleep, screaming, "I can't stand it!" She was itching and scratching all over, but it was her face that hurt the worst.

Her roommate was worried that she would hurt herself, and she convinced her to stop and return to sleep. It worked for an hour until the girl woke up screaming once again.

She kept scratching her face — especially the area around her nose — and found it very hard to stop the itching. Her roommate saw she was scratching so hard that she was cutting herself.

The roommate was so worried this time that she called an ambulance to take her friend to Middle Tennessee Medical Center. During the ambulance trip and while she was being wheeled into the hospital, the girl kept scratching.

The emergency room doctors decided she must be restrained, but the girl was so determined to scratch that she broke the restraints. At this point, the girl was scratching so hard that her face would likely scar from the deep cuts and she was bleeding.

The doctor decided he must perform emergency surgery on her face to stop her from itching. She had to be sedated to keep her from scratching her face.

After she finally gave in to sedation, the doctors and nurses could finally get a good glimpse of her face.

As they looked down, they realized in horror what had actually been troubling the girl. They saw countless tiny ants in the girl's nose.

What they believed happened was that an

paper on the Bell Witch. As part of her research, she went to the library and took notes on notecards.

She sorted her note cards after she returned to her dorm room in Lyon Hall that night and then went to bed. She had bad dreams during the night, but did not let it bother her.

She went to class the next morning, and then returned to Lyon Hall. The dorm room was a mess, complete with an odd smell and missing notecards.

Her roommate promised her she was not behind the mess.

So, the girl decided to redo her notes, and the same thing happened the next morning — only worse.

She began to wonder whether someone was playing a trick on her, and her dreams — about the Bell Witch — were getting worse. She even woke up screaming.

This continued for two weeks, with her notecards being torn, scattered and covered in ink. However, the girl was very persistent, and she continued gathering research again and again.

This continued until Thanksgiving break, when the girl decided to stay at MTSU to complete her assignment. The paper was due the first class meeting after the holiday.

The girl told her roommate, who was going home for the break, good-bye and said she said she would see her when she returned Sunday.

When the roommate returned, the girl was not in the room, which was a mess and had an odor like sulfur or smoke. The roommate left the room and searched for the girl.

When she finally found the girl, she found only her body. The girl had hanged herself during the break.

According to the legend that Wolfe heard, MTSU officials were so ashamed after the girl's funeral that they sealed off her dorm room and covered the doors with plaster. They wanted to keep everybody from saying, "That's the room where the dead girl lived."

The room apparently exists in Lyon Hall, hidden away somewhere. Wolfe hasn't tried to find the room.

"I don't want to know if it's true," he said. "That's part of the fun of legends."

Another reason that he doesn't want to look for the room is that he said the hall has been remodeled since this time. Other spaces might have been covered up for other reasons, making it hard to tell which is the room.

## A TRANSIENT, THE HORSE AND THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

There are several other spirits reportedly floating around MTSU legend. Wolfe said one



Lyon Hall

ant had crawled into the girl's nose while she was sleeping on the roof. The ant had laid eggs in her nose, which hatched later that night so that baby ants were now crawling around in her nose.

Wolfe doesn't know whether the ant story is true. He first heard this story about 10 years ago. However, he said he meets someone every year who knows the girl who is the subject of this story.

## THE BELL WITCH COMES TO MTSU

She's a legend in Middle Tennessee, especially in the areas around Montgomery and Robertson Counties. She's the Bell Witch, and part of her legend is that her legend can't be altered, and anybody who defies this will suffer.

Because of that part of her legend, the Bell Witch is part of MTSU legend.

About 15 or so years ago, a female student decided she was going to do her English term





# stories

of the most persistent of these stories is that a body is buried somewhere close to the James Union Building.

The story behind that spirit is that some men murdered a homeless person, and it is his body that was buried.

To lend support to the legend, Wolfe said he has heard from MTSU Public Safety officers who said they have answered calls from the emergency call boxes in that area. Officers said sometimes nobody would be there when they responded and that they had not passed anyone on the way there.

Another possible spirit Wolfe has heard about in that area of campus could be Pauline Alsup, president of the YWCA, who is remembered by a marker near a tree in front of the JUB.

There is at least one body buried on campus — a Tennessee Walking Horse that was very well known in its day. He's buried in front of the Stark Agricultural Building, which faces the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building.

People have reported hearing the sound of horse hooves beat on the ground even when there are no other horses on campus.

Although it is not known for sure if humans are buried on campus, there is a place nearby that is believed to be a human burial place.

Wolfe said legend has it that Davis Market, located at the corner of Tennessee Boulevard and East Main Street diagonally across from the president's house, was a Choctaw Indian burial ground before it was a convenience store.

The reason for picking that site was very clear to the Choctaw — they believed that spot was the geographic center of the universe.

## SHOULD YOU BELIEVE THESE STORIES?

Wolfe said most people are in the middle of the extreme of believing every legend and not believing at all. For example, given the opportunity to walk underneath a ladder or walk around it, most people will walk around.

"Most people are half-and-half," Wolfe said. "Just in case."

And while many legends may not be entirely true, they probably are not completely false.

"Some legends probably are based on some kind of truth," Wolfe said.

Wolfe, who is familiar with the Bell Witch, has been asked several times why he never wrote a book on the subject. He decided that, "just in case that thing works, I think I'll wait awhile."

He encourages his students with an interest in folklore to gather folk tales, including several students who made a tape in the Bell Witch Cave in Robertson County. This tape was in the days before "The Blair Witch Project."

The students in the Bell Witch Cave reported they could hear odd sounds inside the cave.

Wolfe listened to the tape, but all he could hear he was water and wind.

The James Union Building



Stark Agricultural Building



Marker for the memory of Pauline Alsup





# The Skinny



Who's playin' where and what's goin' down

## Wednesday Oct. 27

• Elvis Costello and Steve Neive play the Ryman at 8

• The Kroger Hockey Haunted House continues nightly through Oct. 31. Call 770-2363 for info.

• Thrill Kill Cult and special guest perform at Jacklegs' Speakeasy in Nashville at 10 p.m. Show is 18 and over.

## Thursday, Oct. 28

- The Nevers and John Blaze play 527 Main Street
- Fizgig, Catywhompus, Jessica Splitz and Notch 8 compete in the Ernie Ball Battle of the Bands at The Outer Limits in Nashville at 8 p.m. Cover is free with a pass from Corner Music in Nashville

## Friday, Oct. 29

- Impact Clinic, Piranah, Doom Factor, End of Existence, Disarray and Soul Erosion play 328 Performance Hall at 9 p.m. \$10 door.
- Quiet Riot and Siol Now play Nashville Shores at 8 p.m.
- Sodium and Hullabaloo play Jackleg's in Nashville. No cover

## Saturday, Oct. 30

- Self, The Katies and The Features play 527 Main Street
- Halloween Extravaganza with the Evinrudes and Atomic Fireballs at Jacklegs' at 10 p.m.
- The Children's Discovery House is hosting the annual Great Pumpkin Festival at 503 N. Maple St. Cost is \$2 per person for non-members. Festival runs from 4 until 7 p.m.

## Sunday, Oct. 31

- Kenny Wayne Shepard plays 328 Performance Hall at 8 p.m. \$22.50
- L.A. Guns, Overture and Impact Clinic play 527 Main Street
- The Spot celebrates their 50th performance with House Night. Costumes are welcome. The show will be performed at the End in Nashville.

## Monday, Nov. 1

- Marianne Osiel opens for the John Hall Band at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville.
- Monday is Greek Night at Faces

## Tuesday Nov. 2

- Southern Gospel groups Ponder, Sykes and Wright, Jeff and Sheri Easter and the Crabb Family will perform a showcase presentation at the Ryman Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster
- The Tim Reynolds Band of the Dave Matthews Acoustic tour plays Jacklegs' in Nashville. General admission is \$8 p.m. 18 and over. Showtime is 10 p.m.

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Christian music review

# Waterdeep digs up roots on 'Beautiful'

Daniel Ross/ staff reporter

Every now and then a band comes along that defies explanation. In searching for the words to describe "Everyone's Beautiful" the new album by Squint Records artists, Waterdeep, I realized that this is one such band.

The band is composed of husband and wife Lori and Don Chaffer on vocals and guitars, bassist Kenny Carter and another husband and wife team of Christena and Brandon Graves on keys and drums, respectively. Waterdeep sold 40,000 copies of their self-produced demo to an ever-expanding fan base ala the Dave Matthews Band or Hootie and the Blowfish. While Hootie comparisons are a natural tendency, Waterdeep is much more complex than their secular counterparts.

With Lori and Don trading lead vocals on almost every other song, the band plays a brand of folk-rock reminiscent of no one. This is truly unique. Combining homespun lyrics such as those on "Sweet River Roll", the Chaffers' lyrics are perfectly suited for their respective voices.

When Don sings of "Homebound Henry he's got a tumor in his head/He wakes up sweating every morning after dreaming he was dead," one can easily picture the scene.

All of the lyrics contain beautiful imagery except for the one cover tune, Van Morrison's

"Whenever God Shines His Light", this song is decidedly simplistic with bumper-sticker theology woven into a catchy tune. Fortunately, this is the lowest point of the album. Lori's vocals are a cross between Alanis Morissette and Sarah McLachlan.

While not always easy on the ears, Lori's voice soars like an angel on tracks such as "Hush".

The musicianship, while ordinary for a roots-rock band, shows flashes of greatness. On the song, "Confessions of a Broken Down Man", Don's guitar at times calls upon the spirit of Jimi Hendrix with the vocal line expertly layered within the accompanying guitar line. The rhythm section is solid but lacks the flair that would complement the songs.

However, since it is a roots-rock album, one doesn't expect the rhythm section to be spectacular. Not many remember Bob Dylan's rhythm section, do they? It's the songs that matter.

In a move not often seen in Christian music circles, Waterdeep

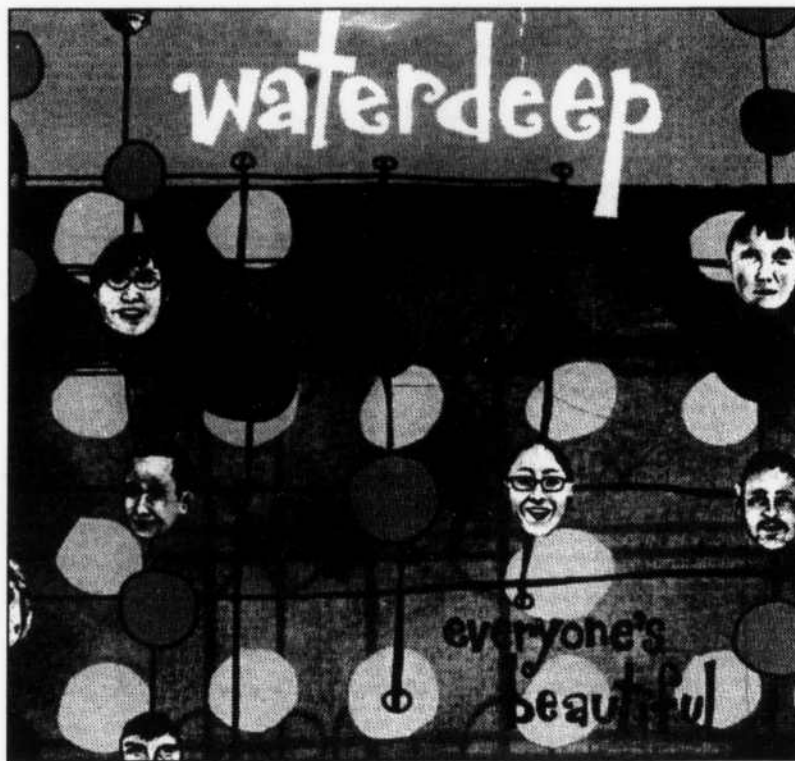
has been sent from its home church in Wichita, Kan., as musical missionaries. While not all of the songs have an in-your-face approach to Christianity, they are unmistakable in their faith.

"Psalm 131" is the definitive statement of faith on the album.

While the term roots-rock often elicits a groan, Waterdeep has shown on "Everyone's Beautiful", to have what it takes to maintain a career playing this college-friendly music. Their songs are mostly mid-tempo to slower numbers that ease the mind and soul. Many try to accomplish this, but few succeed.

No other band in recent memory has come out of the roots-rock scene and made such a splash.

My Grade: B and a relaxed attitude.



Dreamcast PlayStation  
**Brad's Game Corner**  
 Sega Genesis N64  
 Old School Nintendo

Brad Whitaker/ staff writer

## Be thankful for November

Hello, gaming fans! It looks like November is going to be one hot month for videogamers everywhere. For starters, more Dreamcast games will hit shelves early in the month.

Much anticipated games like "NBA 2k", "NBA Showtime" and "Rainbow Six." Dreamcast titles are pretty scarce at the moment, but gamers will worry no more in a few short weeks.

The Playstation is expecting a few titles as well. NBA fans shouldn't miss EA Sports' return to the court in "NBA Live 2000."

Last year's game wasn't all that great due to the strike that shortened the season. That dampened the feel and fun of the game. Because - if you are like me - accurate rosters are a must!

This year's "Live" promises to be much better with up-to-date rosters

and there is even a mode to go one-on-one with all time greats like Michael Jordan and Bill Russell. Keep your eyes on the shelves, this one is not to be missed.

The Nintendo 64 is trying to stay afloat with a few good releases as well. The show stealer will definitely be "Wrestlemania 2000." If you have ever played "WCW Revenge" on the 64, that's cool because "Wrestlemania 2000" plays just like it, except on steroids!


It will have over 55 wrestlers including hidden ones and, most of all, Titan Tron Entrance Videos! (On a side note, this will be Chris Jericho's debut in a WWF wrestling game).

So, if you're bored at your current stock of games and are looking for a new challenge, hang in there. November is right around the corner and gamers everywhere can rejoice!

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Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length.

-Robert Frost

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## Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black  
Tribune Media Services

**Aries** (March 21-April 19). Monday and Tuesday are your best days for groups. You'll have more patience. Stop worrying about an old project on Wednesday. You can get it done by Thursday. You'll be hot to trot on Thursday and Friday. It'll be easy to lap the pack. On Saturday, you'll run into more competition; take care. Rest Sunday, in the most comfortable spot you can find.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20). Your life should get easier this weekend when a partner comes to your rescue. Monday and Tuesday are slow; make plans. On Wednesday and Thursday, get together with friends and figure out who'll do what. Take action on Friday and Saturday, whether you're ready or not. Make decisions Sunday.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 21). You've been lucky in love for the past few weeks; now your workload is increasing. On Monday and Tuesday, play hard, as a final fling. You could get a new assignment on Wednesday or Thursday. Get it right. The competitions intense on Friday and Saturday! Finish old projects on Sunday.

**Cancer** (June 22-July 22). Your luck's improving this week. Get your place fixed up so you can entertain soon. Make a purchase on Monday or Tuesday. Travel and trade on Wednesday and Thursday. Friday's very busy, and tempers will be short. Take care then on Saturday, too. You get more powerful by then, so don't worry. By Sunday, you should feel in control of your situation. Make the choice that best suits you.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22). You've been learning, but now it's time to apply the lesson. Go along with a partner's suggestion on Monday and Tuesday. Save shopping for Wednesday and Thursday. Friday is intense; travel could be complicated. Take care. Saturday and Sunday could get raggedy, too. Pay attention to where you're going.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's plenty of work on Monday and Tuesday. Rake in the money then. Tuesday and Wednesday are best for investigating a legal matter. Look for the money on Thursday and Friday. Don't let other people waste yours on Saturday. Rather than traveling, visit a friend via phone or e-mail on Sunday.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've had it pretty good for the past few weeks; now it's time to get practical. You're luckiest on Monday and Tuesday; push for what you want. Work full time on Wednesday and Thursday. Follow a partner's lead on Friday and Saturday and make financial decisions on Sunday.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The sun's going into your sign this week and not a moment too soon! Take it easy Monday and Tuesday; bide your time. It'll be easier to get what you want on Wednesday and Thursday. Friday and Saturday could be tense. You get stronger, but you'll have to fight for control. Perseverance pays.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You and your friends will enjoy the first part of the week, but you'll need to get busy later. Study on Monday and Tuesday. Take extra care of yourself on Wednesday and Thursday. Travel beckons on Friday and Saturday but could be more trouble than it's worth. Take care of others on Sunday, and they'll take care of you.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've been taking care of business, and soon you'll have more time to play. Monday and Tuesday are good for doing business and making money. On Wednesday and Thursday, you should study. Friday or Saturday could be OK for entertaining guests, but expect the unexpected. Sunday's fun is too much!

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've had it pretty good, but you'll have to put the brakes on soon. Play as much as possible on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday are good for counting your pennies. On Friday and Saturday, you'll learn quickly. Cram your brain. The pace slows on Sunday. Resting at home's suggested.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20). Scurry around on Monday and Tuesday and get lots of work done. You get stronger by Wednesday and Thursday, but Friday and Saturday are hectic. Take care of your money then. Don't walk off and leave it somewhere.

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