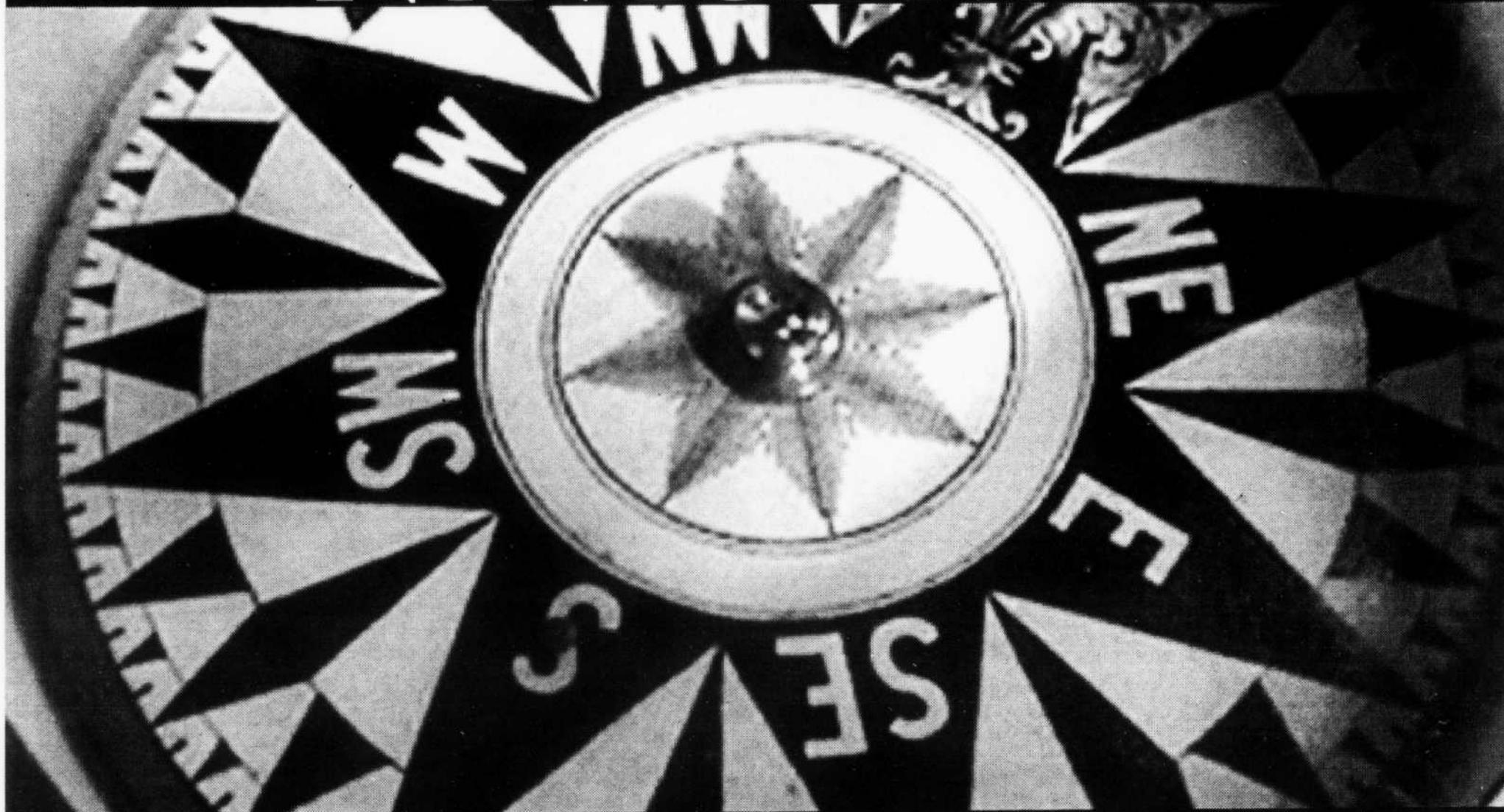


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If I could pick the Oscars...

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The 'Net

MUSIC REVIEW

Grammy nominees could be better





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Here's to you...
Looking back and stepping forward

Passing

"I'm late, I'm late for a very important date," are the all-too familiar words made famous by the scurrying rabbit from "Alice in the Wonderland."

Despite modern time-saving conveniences, we have less and less time to spend in leisure. While I am still driven by demanding deadlines and time efficiency, it is my feeble rebellion against the constraints of time by not wearing a watch.

So what! All we can do is keep running the rat race as long and as fast as we can, right?

Perhaps not, but we can certainly adjust our perspective of many hidden time capsules — waiting in line. Although we don't exactly treasure waiting, especially to buy something, these waits may actually be a blessing in disguise.

For all the times we wish to have a minute to stop and collect our thoughts, this is our shining moment. So rather than getting in a huff and ruining the rest of our day, we should try to take advantage of those minutes spent waiting for this and that.

Maybe for just a second or two, our minds and bodies will catch up with us and we'll find ourselves able to relax.

Maybe, just maybe.

Robin Wallace
Flash! Editor

Nobody's Perfect: Last week's theater review "Special Occasions" plays out the pain of divorce" was written by Ruth Peltier, not Daniel Ross. Please excuse our editing error.

NOISE FROM

WHAT ABOUT
THE 'NET:
GOOD, BAD
OR INDIFFERENT?

THE KNOLL

"Good, but the importance of web sites should be taken into consideration to keep the web minimized."

Zack Hansen
Freshman, RIM
Cleveland, OH



"Wonderful tool. Brings people together who would not communicate otherwise."

Brian Loggins
Senior, Mass Comm
Franklin, TN



"Great thing as long as the government keeps out of it."

Dennis Chesler
Mathematics
Columbia, TN



"Wonderful because it is an unregulated medium where true freedom of expression is exercised - for now."

Cristina Minter
Senior, English
Houston, TX



"Good because you can access so much information without leaving your house"

Natalie McConnell
Freshman, Undecided
Spring Hill, TN



"Good because I can buy climbing gear from online auctions and get discounts from online stores"

Jeff Wills
Junior, Political Science
West Palm Beach, FL



"Good because of the amount of information, but bad because there are little or no regulatory policies as of yet."

Sarah Carota
Junior, TXMD
Nashville, TN



"It's the second layer of wordly consciousness. It's good and bad because everybody can participate"

Emil Sakwall
Senior, Philosophy
Nashville, TN



he said...

A Man's Man
by Josh Ezzell

Men and women have many roles in relationships. They are supposed to be friends, lovers, caring, nurturing, etc. These things are all well and good, but there is one more thing a woman needs to do — cook at least twice a week.

Cooking doesn't mean hooking up a grilled cheese sandwich. Cooking means using a stove, pots, pans or a grill. Cooking is also preparing a main dish and two side items. The meal doesn't have to be filet mignon — it just has to be something hot.

There are three reasons for this: Food is the way to a man's heart. Nothing pleases a man more than eating a good, hot meal, except maybe sex. Plus, it's only fair that a woman cook.

They nag men about everything, and they expect men to fix things around the house. They say that fixing stuff is traditionally a man's job. Well, hasn't cooking traditionally been a woman's job?

Many women expect us to put up with them during that time of the month when they are bitchy. Those days out of the month are pure hell for men. Putting up with a woman during those days earns at least one meal a month.

Women should cook because it's the right thing to do. We take them out to dinner and treat them nice because we want to be nice. Therefore, women should return the favor by doing a little cooking.

Although I expect women to cook, I expect the same from men. It isn't fair to expect women to do all of the cooking, just like it isn't fair to expect women to do all of the cleaning, dish washing and other household chores.

I have a solution: Women should cook two or three times a week, men should cook two or three times a week, and on the remaining days couples should eat out. This solution is fair and it gives a couple some variety.

This probably won't happen because of Femi-Nazis like Angela. She says that things aren't equal between sexes, though they are. She thinks that women should basically treat men like crap. If they are nice to men, then they are Donna-Reed-types.

She later says that I would be insulted if my significant other fixed something around the house. That's not true.

My girlfriend has fixed stuff around my apartment, and I haven't complained. But I've cooked for my girlfriend and she hasn't complained.

Angela says that men like me are sexist. Men like me aren't sexist; we're old-fashioned. There's nothing wrong with being old-fashioned.

Maybe if more people were old-fashioned, the world would be a better place.

she said...

Atypical Woman
by Angela White

I have only one thing to say to my co-columnist Josh after reading his column this week. What the hell?!

While he may prefer to live in the Eisenhower administration, I think I'll stay here in the not-quite-equal present.

Unfortunately, many men like Josh still have the I-want-to-marry-a-Donna-Reed-type-who-looks-exactly-like-my-mother complex. This complex has survived women's suffrage, the '60s and the near-passage of the ERA. It thrives in the Bible Belt more than anywhere else.

The woman could work more hours, make more money, be the primary caregiver to the children, it doesn't matter — she's still expected to take hours out of her day to prepare a fifteen-minute meal.

The concept of "roles" in a relationship is simply ludicrous. Men shouldn't be expected to fix anything around the house any more than women should be expected to cook and clean. These stereotypes perpetuates the sexual equality gap.

Furthermore, to say that a woman "owes" a man a meal because of her hormone cycle or because he has occasionally buys her off with a meal is laughable.

There was a line a man once said on the T.V. show "Sliders."

"Men have too much testosterone. Look at women. They only cycle once a month. Men cycle every twenty minutes. With as many mood swings as I go through in an afternoon I wouldn't want to be in charge of anything."

If we have to deal with your mood swings, then get over ours.

As for buying women dinner, if a man's with a woman who demands to be so pampered she won't even go Dutch on a meal, then he deserves what he gets.

Josh also claims that men should cook as well to be "fair," even though earlier he said that cooking is traditionally a woman's job. He doesn't suggest that women should do the "traditional" male job of fixing things around the house. In fact, men become insulted if we even try.

Men like Josh were raised to be the way they are. And they will probably raise their sons the same way. And their sons will expect their wives to cook for them, even in the year 2020.

This is also our fault. After all, a lot of us do cook for them when they expect it. We give in. Well, I don't give in. But some women do. Why? I'm not sure. Guilt? Their constant nagging? Their convenient inability to take care of themselves? I choose D — all of the above. But one thing's for certain — they certainly whine their asses off when we don't.

The perilous waters of the World Wide Web

For our generation, the new frontier is the Internet. The 'Net also contains perils that no one expected. At the same time, it holds new opportunities to discover. The explorers will determine what it will become.

As university students, we ought to be in the forefront of the exploration and development of the strange new "land" of cyberspace. Yet, many of us are hanging back, afraid to walk the slippery decks of our computers and venture into the future.

For persons brave enough to make the trip, the Internet is a storehouse of treasure from which we can reach out and take. Not only will doing this make our lives richer and more satisfying, we will know, years down the road, that we were part of the beginning.

The earliest explorers of the New World made maps for those who followed them into the wilderness. Their maps were rudimentary, but they were a beginning. The following is a map to the Internet, not perfect, but at least a start in the right direction.

University students usually venture onto the Internet for the first time while doing research for a class. However, they quickly discover a vast array of Web sites that have nothing to do with classes. E-commerce is one of the fastest growing areas of the Internet. Major improvements in security software have made Internet shopping much safer. Most sites use Secure Socket Layer

[SSL] encryption, which allows for a secure connection between your browser and their server and authorizes the credit card immediately. As long as you are dealing with a reputable company, it is safe to use your credit card online.

A notable exception, however, is pornography sites. There seems to be a higher tendency of fraud with these sites, and people may be more likely to have their credit card illegally accessed after using one.

An example of e-commerce is beautyjungle.com, which claims to be "the end-all-be-all beauty site for college women and men." It not only sells beauty products, but also provides gift suggestions, a list of answers to beauty-related questions and an e-mail address so you can ask other questions.

Consumers have the advantages of a friendly local shop with personnel who are willing to answer questions and give advice. Yet, they also have access to a variety of brand-name items not likely to be available in a local venue.

Several companies sell textbooks, as well as other books, videos, recorded music and computer software online. Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, efollett.com and varsitybooks.com are all reliable online bookstores, as are bigwords.com and ecampus.com. Varsitybooks is also offering scholarships to university students. Their literature states that the company "will give away \$1 million during the year 2000." The site also features links to other scholarship offers. Another online textbook company, efollett.com, has joined forces with JobOptions.com, a list of online job sites, to help

students find employment both while still in school and after graduation. Together they offer a database of job opportunities with more than 6,000 leading companies in many different industries. Each of the sites mentioned earlier also provides links to other sites directed at university students.

When you do have time for yourself, the Internet offers ways to enrich your social life as well. One possibility is TimeDance at www.timedance.com. This service allows you to create invitations to events like parties. You can also include maps and directions to the event, post a message on a message board and e-mail the information to your potential guests. Your guests post their RSVP's on the message board.

TimeDance advertises that "the service provides a variety of easy-to-use tools for managing get-togethers: RSVP tracking, a private message board, integrated maps with directions and weather forecasts, plus scheduling tools to collect guest information and identify the best event time."

The terms of service, to which you must agree in order to use the service, state that while this service is now free, they reserve the right to institute a fee with 30 days notice to users.

Terms of service, otherwise known as TOS, provide the rules and restrictions to using a particular site. They can contain requirements concerning acceptable language, or an agreement not to modify software or limits on the time you can be online on their service.

TOS agreements are particularly prevalent in Internet services involving communication, such as e-mail, bulletin boards, forums and virtual worlds. America Online, an Internet service, has one of the most extensive TOS's on the Web.

Probably the most widely-used form of Internet communication is e-mail. Most MTSU students have a Frank account. Students who do not have one can go to the Office of Information Technology in the basement of the Cope Administration Building and request one. Frank accounts can also be opened online. OIT can be contacted 898-5345 for assistance.

Another way to communicate on the Internet is through bulletin boards and forums. Message boards are usually a component of a Web site. They tend to be devoted to a specific topic, such as diabetes or the presidential election. You read the messages on the board, answer any that interest you and wait for others to answer your message. Everyone can read most of the messages left on the message board, although there are some forums that allow messages to be marked private, meaning they can be accessed only by the writer and the recipient.

Chat rooms are a step closer to real communication. Here the conversation can range from many topics, and it takes place in real time. Many lasting friendships and even marriages have begun in a chat room. However, never give your real name, telephone number or address on a bulletin board or in a chat room. In addition, use caution when revealing personal information to anyone that you have met on the Internet. Online friendships tend to become close very quickly, and people sometimes forget that their online friend is really a stranger. The verbal cues and body language that we learn to rely on in personal relationships are not present online. If you decide to meet your online friend in the real world, meet in a public place, and remain in public until you have a chance to evaluate your friendship in the cold light of day. There is a growing list of people who learned this lesson the hard way. Some of them died in the process.

Because of Internet chat rooms and other online meeting places, such as virtual reality worlds and online games, I have friends all over the world. The potential for international understanding grows exponentially when the people of the world meet this way. It is far too late to decide if the Internet is "good" or "bad." It's here, and we have the opportunity to explore it, to use it and to build it into what we want it to be. Are you going to cast off your anchors and sail into cyberspace? Or will you remain behind in the Old World?



NETSPEAK

Modem: The part of your computer that connects to the Internet. It is usually inside your computer, but you will have to connect it to a telephone line.

ISP: Internet service provider. The company who you pay to link you up with the Internet (AOL for example or Mindspring, Juno, or Earthlink.)

Browser: Netscape or Internet Explorer. You have one or the other, maybe both. They connect your computer to those web sites out there. Most MTSU computers use Netscape.

Internet: All those web sites out there.

World Wide Web: A system that links the web sites together so it is easy to go from one to the other.

Link: An icon on a web page that, when you click on it with your mouse, takes you to another web site, perhaps thousands of miles from the first one.

Frank: MTSU's server that holds our email and web sites.

Webmail: The new easier way to access frank (www.mtsu.edu/web-mail.)

MAC: A Macintosh computer: it is unable to communicate with PC's

(MAC's at MTSU are found mainly in the sidelines newsroom.)

PC: IBM compatible computer, any computer other than a MAC (see above)

Win95, Win98: your computer's operating system. (What makes the thing work) It does not matter very much which one you have, but find out, so you will not feel like a fool when some asks, "what are you running, 95 or 98?"

Linux: Another operating system, but if you had it you would know too much about computers to be reading this article.

Hard drive: The place where your computer stores its information.

Floppy disk: A device that you can use to carry information from one computer to another. Having at least one is necessary if you are using MTSU computer labs.

<g> grin

<vbg> very big grin

<eg> evil grin

:) smiley face, turn it on its side to see it.

:(frownie

;) wink

LOL: laughing out loud.

ROFL: rolling on floor laughing.

Imao: laughing my a** off

IOW: in other words.

BTW: by the way.

BRB: be right back.

TY: thank you

GL: good luck

LTNS: long time no see.

by Jared Wilson
Staff Writer

If I picked the Oscars...

Every film buff daydreams at least once about being in the movies, and most of those dreamers end up presenting Oscar acceptance speeches to their bathroom mirrors. This film buff daydreams about picking the Oscars more than receiving them, though. I was not very surprised to learn a few years ago that Academy members are not even required to view the films they vote for on their Oscar ballots. It's no wonder then that many of the preceding years' best pictures didn't win Best Picture and that many a tour-de-force performance goes unsung.

The notorious injustices of the Academy boil my blood every year. For every deserving win [“Unforgiven” for Best Picture; Cuba Gooding, Jr. for Supporting Actor], there are multiple “what the heck” moments [“Titanic” for Best Picture; Anna Paquin for Best Supporting Actress]. Even more awful than those who lost by a nose are those who snubbed of a deserved nomination. Jim Carrey has won the Golden Globe for Best Actor twice in a row but has been denied a mere nomination for an Oscar both times.

Allow me to pull up my own soapbox here and declare the worthy nominees as only a critic with a bone to pick can. These are the film achievements deserving recognition. Some match the Academy's own choices; some do not. In the former case, we are both in the right; in the latter, I am.

BEST PICTURE:

“American Beauty”
“Limbo”
“Magnolia”
“The Sixth Sense”
“Three Kings”

BEST DIRECTOR:

Paul Thomas Anderson, “Magnolia”
David Fincher, “Fight Club”
Sam Mendes, “American Beauty”
David O. Russell, “Three Kings”
John Sayles,

“Limbo”

BEST ORIGINAL SCREEN-PLAY:

“American Beauty”
“Limbo”
“Magnolia”
“The Sixth Sense”
“Three Kings”

BEST ADAPTED SCREEN-PLAY:

“Eyes Wide Shut”
“Fight Club”
“The Green Mile”
“An Ideal Husband”
“The Winslow Boy”

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY:

“American Beauty”
“Eyes Wide Shut”
“Magnolia”
“Three Kings”
“Xiu Xiu: The Sent Down Girl”

BEST ACTRESS:

Annette Bening, “American Beauty”
Julianne Moore, take your pick: “End of the Affair,” “An Ideal Husband,” or “Magnolia”
Mira Sorvino, “Summer of Sam”
Sharon Stone, “The Muse”
Reese Witherspoon, “Election”

BEST ACTOR:

Jim Carrey, “Man on the Moon”
Tom Cruise, “Magnolia”
Haley Joel Osment, “The Sixth Sense”
John C. Reilly, “Magnolia”
Kevin Spacey, “American Beauty”

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

Patricia Arquette, “Bringing Out the Dead”
Angela Bassett, “Mumford”
Minnie Driver, “An Ideal Husband”
Nicole Kidman, “Eyes Wide Shut”
Vanessa Martinez, “Limbo”

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

Wes Bentley, “American Beauty”
Chris Cooper, “American Beauty”
Rupert Everett, “An Ideal Husband”
Philip Seymour Hoffman, “Magnolia”
Spike Jonze, “Three Kings”

BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM:

“Autumn Tale”
“The Dream Life of Angels”
“Princess Mononoke”
“Three Seasons”
“Xiu Xiu: The Sent Down Girl”

This review constitutes a wish list for the Academy to demand members actually view the films they are considering and for the voters to sacrifice the sacred cows of popularity, pop corny-ness, and populist posturing. Hand the golden boys to those who deserve them.

With that off my chest, I now offer a brief set of my own categories [the bone has not been picked completely].

WORST FILM:

“End of Days”
“Go”
“Jawbreaker”
“Lake Placid”
“Teaching Mrs. Tingle”

FILM MOST OVERRATED BY CRITICS:

“The Blair Witch Project”
“Bowfinger”
“End of the Affair”
“Go”
“Notting Hill”

FILM MOST OVER-APPRECIATED BY AUDIENCES:

“The Blair Witch Project”
“Enemy of the State”
“The General's Daughter”
“Patch Adams”
“She's All That”
... And to end on an upbeat note ...

BEST SOUNDTRACK

“Bringing Out the Dead”
“Dick”
“The Matrix”
“Star Wars Episode One”
“Three Kings”

MOST OVERLOOKED GEM:

“Autumn Tale”
“Dick”
“Limbo”
“Office Space”
“The Winslow Boy”

La Siesta

easy on stomach
and wallet

by JASON GOODRICH
STAFF REPORTER

Do you enjoy the luxury of dining out while staying within your budget?

Well, for the next several weeks we will show you local restaurants that students [and professors] can go to without having to break open the piggy bank.

Our first review is one of the laid-back La Siesta Restaurants. They have two locations, one on Greenland Drive near the MTSU campus, and another at the corner of NW Broad Street and Northfield Blvd.

When you first walk into the Northfield location, you are promptly greeted and shown to your table. The sounds of Mariachi bands or soft, easy-listening music play over the speakers. This, along with the southwestern and Mexican decor mounted on the walls, provides a very relaxing dining atmosphere. Even international soccer games and game shows are shown on Univision. Stained glass lamp shades hang from the ceiling, illuminating the restaurant to read their colorful menus perfectly.

Tables and booths with hardwood backs are waiting to be filled, and you sit down to fresh tortilla chips and salsa. While going over your menu selections, your waiter greets you with a familiar, “Hello, amige...” Ready to take your order and to provide you with the necessities for a terrific meal, La Siesta servers are some of the best in town working very hard to take care of every customer.

The food. Aahh. The food is, well, fantastic! You will find a wide variety of dishes to choose from for your meal. All have seasoning and spices that complement the food wonderfully. You will find everything fresh, tasty and cooked to your liking. Not bad for a good price. One of the best things is that you do not have to wait very long for your food to arrive. Kitchen to table to stomach time is usually less than 10 minutes. That beats a lot of restaurants in town...

For a more social atmosphere, you may wish to try the La Siesta located at Greenland Drive. An outdoor patio decorated with hanging plants is an added benefit here. Enjoying an evening dinner on the patio, especially with margarita in hand, is a euphoric experience — almost as though you were in a restaurant in Mexico City. Speaking of margaritas, both locations serve the tasty drink.

All items on the menu, whether combination plates, appetizers, full entrees or express lunch items are all affordably priced for most anyone. La Siesta is a great bargain.

3.5 stars

by DANIEL ROSS
STAFF WRITER

Nominations could have brought down the house

The Grammy Awards are tonight. While the nominees for this year's awards are, in my opinion, weak, they are nonetheless, nominees for the biggest awards in the music industry. These are my picks for several major categories. Please note, these are strictly my opinions.

Record of the year:

Santana "Smooth" [featuring Rob Thomas]

Album of the Year:

Santana "Supernatural"

Song of the Year:

Santana "Smooth"

Best New Artist:

Milli Vanilli, just kidding, Kid Rock should be the real winner.

Female Pop Vocal Performance:

Madonna "Beautiful Stranger"

Male Pop Vocal Performance:

Ricky Martin "Livin' La Vida Loca"

Pop Performance by a Duo or Group:

Sixpence None the Richer "Kiss Me"

Pop Album:

Madonna "Beautiful Stranger"

Female Rock Vocal Performance:

Sheryl Crow "Sweet Child 'O Mine."

Anyone who can transform this Guns 'n Roses song into a beautiful piece deserves a Grammy just for guts.

Male Rock Vocal Performance:

Everlast "What it's Like"

Rock Performance by a duo or group:

Santana featuring Everlast "Put Your Lights On" An absolute masterpiece.

Hard Rock Performance:

Metallica "Whiskey in the Jar." If Korn or Limp Bizkit wins, I quit.

Rock Song:

Red Hot Chili Peppers "Scar Tissue"

Rock Album:

Santana "Supernatural"

R&B Album:

Brian McKnight "Back at One"

Rap Album:

The Roots "Things Fall Apart"

Country Song:

Lonestar's "Amazed"

Country Album:

Dixie Chicks "Fly"

Traditional Blues Album:

B.B. King "Blues on the Bayou"

Contemporary Blues Album:

Jonny Lang "Wander This World"

Producer of the Year [Non-Classical]

Rick Rubin for the Red Hot Chili Peppers "Californication"

Rock Gospel Album:

Third Day "Time"

Well, there you go. You can check my accuracy at 7 p.m. on CBS. Remember that these are only my opinions and you know what those are like.



rory patrick paisley

has a string tenor vocal mixed with a hardness and tenderness that croons in heavy lyrics of passion and anger that simultaneously brings a stirring and silencing mood, reflective of the hardships and the lessons that are taught by life, as well as love. Appearing at Red Rose Cafe Thursday, 9 p.m. Call:

Tommy Womack

has a stunning collection of flat-out rockers, love songs and suburban dustbowl ballads of open-hearted intelligent lyrics, with a sound that ranges from guitar cranked to confessional, bare acoustics. Appearing at 12th & Porter Friday, 10 p.m. Call: [615] 254-7236.

by Kevin McNulty
Staff Writer

The definition of a classic rock kid

My musical tastes have always been quite diverse — from jazz, pop, and rock to classical — and I don't really listen to one style more than another. I must say, however, 70s rock, particularly in an acoustic format, has a reserved place in my heart. If you feel similarly, I've found a singer in town who can fill that space.

Alex Ogburn does an acoustic-rock, one-man show, and he's pretty good. I caught him on Friday night at Puffing Billy's. He's a lefty guitar player with a relatively unique style of playing. First, he plays with the strings "upside-down" — that is with the low strings at the bottom of the guitar. Secondly, he tunes the open strings of his guitar to an E-major chord — very untraditional. In doing so, it allows him to play a variety of chords without having to use a lot of finger positions. Some guitar players would say it's an oversimplified way of playing. Whatever — I say it's creative. He does it very well and gets an extremely full sound.

In any case, he's playing an excellent array of songs from all the classic bands like Bob Seger, the Eagles, Clapton, Steve Miller and Fleetwood Mac, to name a few. He's a talented vocalist with a decent range and clean voice. He doesn't try to imitate the original artist of any particular song, but he does stick close enough to the original sound — which I find most listeners appreciate — so that we "recognize" the song and

can sing to it. He also has a diverse-enough voice that he does justice to every song he sings and many of them he does really well.

He connects with the audience, although it wasn't all that apparent at first because they weren't riveted to him. But at least tonight, the Puffing Billy's crowd is lively, conversational and

Ogburn is an aspiring singer-songwriter who moved here

from Johnson City, TN, to major in RIM at MTSU. He said he has

abandoned his degree for now to pursue his real love of writing songs

and singing and now he's in the transition of making music his full-time job.

having fun. They do appear to like him, as they're making requests, responding and interacting well and mostly singing along with him while he performs the great classics.

Speaking of connection, that brings me to another point. I'm wondering how it is that Ogburn is being successful singing 70s rock to a Puffing Billy's crowd, who appears to be in their middle-to-late 20s. In fact, I'm astounded with one patron sitting across from me, who is 24 and

singing word-for-word with Ogburn the tune, "The Chain," a 1977 song by Fleetwood Mac. "Listen to the wind blow, watch the sun rise," "...down comes the night" and "if you don't love me now, you will never love me again." I don't want to stereotype or presume how she knows and appears to like the songs that predate her, so I ask — and her answer is quite simple. "I

love this music. I grew up listening to 70s rock because my dad played it all the time."

In a later conversation I

asked Ogburn, who is only 31, about why he chose to sing 70s rock and why he got such a good reaction from a younger crowd. He said he likes the music because the songs are timeless. He alluded to the idea that if you sing quality music, "that" quality and timelessness transcend age and other barriers to music listening. I guess it's true that everyone recognizes a good song when they hear it.

Ogburn is an aspiring singer-songwriter who

moved here from Johnson City, TN, to major in recording-industry management at MTSU. He said he has abandoned his degree for now to pursue his real love of writing songs and singing — and now he's in the transition of making music his full-time job. His short-term goals are to stabilize his career by getting regular gigs at various clubs in the area while working his way into the "songwriters' nights" at some of the Nashville clubs to expose his original music. Eventually, he wants to record a CD and become a well-known singer-songwriter.

We didn't get to hear his original stuff Friday, so I asked him to describe his style. He started to lay out a long sort of multi-level, multi-style of musical influences, but then conceded that he really couldn't put his finger on what his original style was like. But he went on to say that was the point, to "be original." He's trying to develop a signature sound. He did say his music was strong and intense. I guess we'll have to wait for his first CD.

So in the meantime, while Ogburn prepares his future, we can enjoy the present by listening to him play classic rock from the past.

Ogburn will perform at Puffing Billy's Pub in Murfreesboro every Friday night. You can also see him at Daddy Billy's in Tullahoma every Wednesday night.

by TURNER HUTCHENS
STAFF WRITER

MTSU's 'Raisin' compelling, emotional, political

The production of "A Raisin in the Sun," being performed at the Studio Theater on MTSU campus was marvelous and compelling. It pulls at the emotions of the audience.

The overall performance is nothing short of inspiring. The moving script and the real but rich dialogue recreate a reality. Race, poverty, pride, and family all act as catalysts to the plot, moving it along so fast plot and so fully the time doesn't seem to pass at all.

While watching the play it seems as though the time is right now, that it is still 1959. The entire play is set in the Younger family's rundown apartment, the set for which highlighted the mood beautifully, down to the worn paint on the cabinets and the stained wallpaper.

The play is extremely political and the issues are that of the early civil rights movement. But many of those issues are still relevant, and the play does not come across as "a lesson in history." Rather, it seems to put us in the lives of individuals.

Humor and sadness, strife and love all came in smooth waves, changing moment to moment, and pulled the audience along. The acting is almost flawless. The performers work in beautiful harmony, playing off each other marvelously and seamlessly. The lines were we not recited but spoken almost as if they came from each individual's soul.

Angela T. Scruggs gives a powerful performance as Mama Younger, the head of the Young family. Scruggs takes the audience in emotional turmoil with her as Mama grappling with keeping the family together, and keeping the family strong. She shows the love and concern of a mother for her family, but also the anger that can swell in a person's soul if pushed to far.

Rodgers Clay gives an outstanding performance as the complicated and Walter. Clay manages to make Walter's hopes, dreams and failures come alive. Walter is a dreamer, a drinker and a bit of an overgrow boy. He wants to do what is right for his child and his family, but is lost himself. Wanting to be more, to achieve, but not really knowing how, Walter fights against the unseen cage of his life; the cage of the world around him. His only plan for making something of himself is to open a liquor store, completely contradicting his mother high moral standards.

Ruth, played by Telicia Strickland, is the strong and steady wife and



The Cast:
Top(L-R) Keith Dixon, Jon Royal, Shavon Lewis,
Telicia Strickland, Rodgers Clay, John Swader, Adell Hobson
Bottom (L-R)
Clarence Harris, Angela Scruggs,
Marie Lewis

mother, who puts aside her hopes and dreams for her family. But she doesn't forget her dreams. Walter's sister Beneatha, played by Marie Lewis, is full of dreams and new ideals. Representing the new age of African-Americans, she wants to become a doctor but struggles with her family's poverty, and unwillingness to accept her dreams. She is also torn between the hope of advancing herself in the culture she exists in and preserving her African heritage.

Ruth and Walter's 12-year-old son Travis is played, amazingly convincingly, by 22-year-old Clarence Harris. Playing a real 12-year-old more convincingly than most children could, it is doubtful that most members of the audience had any idea of his real age.

The play's complex and compelling elements are all pulled together by the experienced hand of director Deborah Anderson. "A Raisin in the Sun" is a thought provoking and moving play. The amazing ability and dedication of everyone involved in this production has certainly paid off.

"A Raisin in the Sun" will be performed Feb. 23-26 at 8 p.m. Admittance is free to MTSU students. Those wishing to buy tickets or make reservations should call 898-2267.

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by RUTH PELTIER
STAFF WRITER

A different kind of opera

If you are sure that you do not like opera, then 'Susannah' is an opera you need to see. The Nashville Opera Association brought this fine opera to the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in January.

Susannah has the same plot as most other tragic operas. The heroine, through no fault of her own, gets into an impossible predicament. All efforts to save her make the situation worse until at last most of the main characters are either dead or "ruined" completely.

However, the characters in this opera are not kings and queens of exotic foreign cultures. While its story is rooted in the Biblical tale of Susannah and the elders, this opera moves the story into the American South of the 1950s.

The music is the tunes of the people of Tennessee. Mountains elevated to the level of opera. It soars to the top of the theater yet still rings with the hymns and folk melodies of the mountain people. The words are in the vernacular of the mountain people.

Susannah is a simple mountain girl from East Tennessee, rejected by the women in her church because she grew up in the home of her "drunken" older brother, Sam. One of them remarks, "Susannah an' Sam is evil I say. There is bad blood in that family. It's too pretty a face and wicked them eyes.

They sing in unison, "She'll come to no good, mark my words" and we understand exactly what they mean.

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WEEKDAY FEATURES

MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

"FRESH AIR" WITH TERRY GROSS (4-5PM)

OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

JAZZ
WMOT-FM 89.5
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Horoscopes

(February 16 - February 23)

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Fears about travel could emerge on Monday. Allow more time than usual or postpone the trip. On Tuesday and Wednesday, hold your temper to further your career. Your friends inspire you on Thursday and Friday. Finish an old project over the weekend.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Get together with friends this week and clear up old misunderstandings. Avoid an argument about money on Monday. Travel on Tuesday and Wednesday. Push a project to completion on Thursday and Friday so you can travel with friends over the weekend.



Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Use your talents this week. Listen to a critic on Monday and become more successful. Focus on making money or getting a loan on Tuesday and Wednesday. You may have travel complications on Thursday and Friday, but a long-distance connection could turn out well. Take it slow and easy over the weekend; practice makes perfect.



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Travel and higher education are in the spotlight this week, especially on Monday. Clear up a problem by setting priorities. Save travel for the weekend. On Tuesday or Wednesday, a partner is important to get past a setback. Do the homework on Thursday and Friday, or you could lose money. Get out of town over the weekend.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Shared money could cause confusion this week. Don't gamble on Monday, even if it looks like a good deal. You'll work hard for what you get on Tuesday and Wednesday. Do what your partner wants on Thursday and Friday. Figure out a way to pay off an old debt over the weekend.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You'll learn a lot from a partner this week. If you don't have one, hire somebody. Don't get into a hassle Monday, though. Make sure you understand what the other person said, not what you thought you heard. Tuesday and Wednesday should be easier. Rest up then. Expect messes at work on Thursday and Friday, but you can get through. Do something fun over the weekend. Let the other person drive.



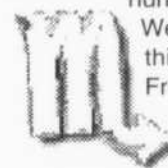
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Watch for ways to do good deeds this week. A new project's coming, so clean your workspace. Try something new on Monday. Stay close to home on Tuesday and Wednesday. Schedule your big date for Thursday or Friday. Heed your sweetheart's suggestion, too. You'll be creative over the weekend, so finish all the old projects you can.



Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You could have a misunderstanding with a loved one, possibly a child, this week. Be patient. On Monday, don't gamble with love or money. Your hunches pay off better on Tuesday and Wednesday. Clean house and fix things at home on Thursday and Friday. This is a good weekend for romance. Do something traditional with an old flame.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Domestic issues take priority this week. Expect breakdowns. That's your excuse to fix things once and for all. Work hard on a household project on Monday. Be diligent and bring in the money on Tuesday and Wednesday. You're intelligent on Thursday and Friday, so take on a technical task. Entertaining at your place is a possibility this weekend. Show off your handiwork.



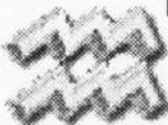
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You could have trouble with errands this week. Expect delays in communications, too. Keep your sense of humor on Monday; you'll need it. You're more decisive on Tuesday and Wednesday, so whip things into shape. Be careful of your money on Thursday and Friday. You may have less than you think. Get together with your neighbors and siblings over the weekend.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18)

Money's your theme this week. There'll be confusion about it, especially on Monday. Watch out for past-due payments on Tuesday and Wednesday. Don't pay them if they're not. Look for a new way to bring in cash on Thursday and Friday. Don't loan money to a friend over the weekend. Hire that person to do something for you, instead.



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Mercury's retrograde in your sign this week. If you're confused, blame it on that. Don't take yourself too seriously, either. This will clear up naturally, soon. You may have won when you think you've lost on Monday. Trust your friends on Tuesday and Wednesday. Analyze old behaviors on Thursday and Friday and put in the correction. Do something special for yourself over the weekend.



Special Events This Week

February 29th

Application for 2001-2001 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships are now available from the Murfreesboro Luncheon Rotary Club. For an application, contact Barbara Haskew, Provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, Middle Tennessee State University, at (615)898-2881. Application deadline is Tuesday.

February 25, 27, and 29

Brought back by popular demand, Nashville Opera presents an unforgettable evening for the whole family with a revival of its brilliant, original production of opera's favorite fairy tale, Mozart's "The Magic Flute." The wonderful mix of comedy, elaborate costumes, and stunning sets of "The Magic Flute" will be performed for four times only in the Polk Theater of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. Sunday, and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Call: (615)832-5242.

Ongoing

Nashville Children's Theater is proud to present one of its favorite pieces, "The Reluctant Dragon." Based on the book by *The Wind in the Willows'* author Kenneth Grahame, "The Reluctant Dragon" tells the lovely story of a boy, a saint and a most unusual and wonderful dragon. The production runs until March 24, Monday through Friday, at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Tickets: \$8.75 adults and \$6.75 for children. Call: (615)254-9103.

ENCORE FROM A DIFFERENT KIND OF OPERA

continued from page 7

for a place to use for baptisms and they come upon Susannah bathing naked in the creek near her home. They blame Susannah for their reaction to the sight and decide that their wives are right about her.

"It's an outrage ... a-bathing in a public place!" they declare. "The valley must be told."

This powerful drama speaks of hypocrisy, lust, jealousy, seduction, disloyalty and revenge. Susannah cries out for understanding and instead finds bigotry and the ultimate betrayal.

Diane Alexander gave a gripping performance as Susannah and Andrew Wentzel was very convincing as the powerful evangelist Olin Blich who, in a weak moment of loneliness, completed the task of destroying Susannah's life.

Dean Anthony was Little Bat, a boy of 15, who was clearly smitten with Susannah, but who also was deathly afraid of the townspeople and his abusive father, one of the elders of the church. He was so believable in the part that he almost upstaged Susannah several times in the performance.

Stephen Smith forcefully sings the part of Sam, the brother the town people describe as "A trifling one, that Sam is ... he just hunts an' traps an' fishes all day. An' is allures drunk at night."

However, Sam comes across to the audience as Susannah sees him, "He don't never hurt nobody and he's awful good to me."

It falls to him to sum up the story in the words, "It's a hard, hard thing for you to realize, I know, that people want to believe what is bad... It must make the good Lord sad."

Carlisle Floyd wrote "Susannah" in 1955 and it was first performed that same year at Florida State University. In 1956, the New York City Opera first presented it.

Susannah has been a huge success from the beginning. Critic Winthrop Sergeant declared it "the most moving and impressive opera to have been written in America or anywhere else as far as I am aware since Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess." "Susannah" is opera come alive in the Tennessee hill country.

The Nashville Opera Association will present two more operas in the current season. *The Flute*, Feb. 25, 8 p.m., Feb. 27, 2 p.m., Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. and March 4, 8 p.m. *The Flying Dutchman*, April 29, 8 p.m. and May 2, 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$44 depending on seating.