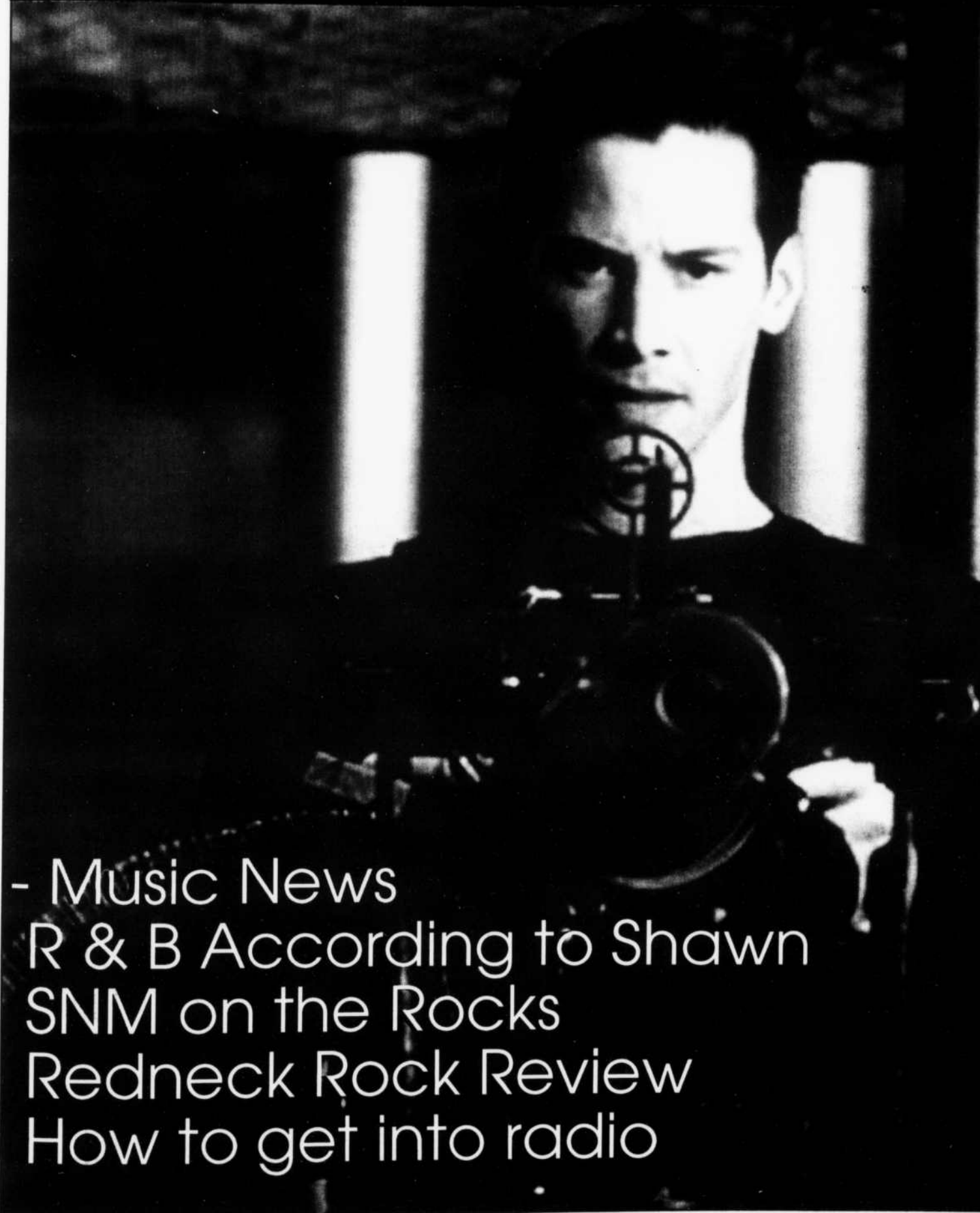


FLASH

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 22

A SUPPLEMENT TO SIDELINES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999



Movies
The Matrix
Ed tv

- Music News
R & B According to Shawn
SNM on the Rocks
Redneck Rock Review
How to get into radio

SIDELINES

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"Sidelines" is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and on Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. FLASH!, the entertainment magazine, is published every Wednesday during the Fall & Spring semester. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily "Sidelines" or the university.

Quotes of the week

"When it is dark enough
you can see the stars."

-Charles A. Beard

If you have any stories you would like to see in a future issue of FLASH!, please call Barry at 898-2917. We'd love to hear about your thoughts and ideas.



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Jared Wilson

MOVIES

Should you want your **ED** TV



Jenna Elfman as Ray's girlfriend, Shari

There is one brilliant moment near the halfway point of Ron Howard's latest film, "EDtv," in which real-life sophisticate George Plimpton, debating the merits of "reality television" on a CNN-like talk show, declares, "This is a joyous celebration of boobery." Plimpton, though parodying critics and commentators (and, basically, himself), hits the nail right on the head. Both "EDtv" the show and "EDtv" the movie are indeed "joyous celebrations of boobery." But the celebration is fun while it lasts.

Howard's film stars Matthew McConaughey as Ed Pekurny, a video store clerk who agrees to live every second of his life in plain view of millions of people via television. At first, Ed enjoys the spotlight, giving commentary on his toenail clipping, explaining how he rigs a mirror to allow himself to watch ball games while on the toilet, and riling up the crowd as he drives the Zamboni at a hockey game. Things are looking up for easy-going Ed. That is, until he moves in on Shari (Jenna Elfman), the girlfriend of his dimwit brother Ray (Woody Harrelson).

The more days he's on the air, the more opportunities the film crew has to catch Ed in compromising positions. They even begin to disrupt his family life. Fame, it seems, comes with a stiff price to pay. This appears to be the moral of "EDtv," but it is really beside the point. Whatever noble intentions the filmmakers had about portraying the pitfalls of fame or the unjust voyeurism of American audiences are never realized. Intuit a Faustian deal if you'd like, but it will get you nowhere.

All Howard offers is a two hour long sitcom. But it's a darn funny one. It is certainly ironic, though I presume calculated, that "EDtv" fills its roles with performers who entered the pop culture consciousness in landmark television shows: Elfman from "Dharma and Greg"; Harrelson from "Cheers"; Don Most, Howard's co-star from "Happy Days"; Rob Reiner from the groundbreaking "All in the Family"; and Ellen DeGeneres. Every performance is a sound one in "EDtv," including those by outstanding supporting actors Dennis Hopper, Martin Landau, and the ever-hilarious Adam Goldberg (McConaughey's co-star from "Dazed and Confused," and seen most recently in "Saving Private Ryan"). Supermodel Elizabeth Hurley, no



Mathew McConaughey as Ed and Woody Harrelson as Ray are best bud brothers until Ed hits on Ray's girlfriend.

stranger to the perils of fame herself, shows up as a tantalizing media whore scheming to share in Ed's limelight.

The onscreen relationships are smooth and utterly believable. McConaughey and Harrelson share a twangy Texas charm that makes them brothers, even if not by blood. Elfman redeems herself after her disappointing turn in last year's atrocious "Krippendorf's Tribe," as she transforms herself into McConaughey's first fitting female counterpart, besting his past partners Sandra Bullock, Ashley Judd, and Jodie Foster.

From start to finish, "EDtv" fails in its aspirations for social commentary, but succeeds in its efforts to draw genuine laughs. I wholly expected cinematic blasphemy, assuming "EDtv" would just be a counterfeit (with a twist) of last year's best film, "The Truman Show." I was pleasantly surprised to see that "ED" is more or less "Truman"'s second cousin once removed. Unlike Truman, Ed knows he's on television. And, unlike "Truman," "EDtv" is a straight comedy. Even in its attempts at a "fame as hell" message, it avoids the more intelligent approaches of related films. It has neither the covert darkness of "Truman" nor the overt darkness of, say, Gus Van Sant's "To Die For." It has neither the paranoid electricity of Martin Scorsese's "The King of Comedy" nor the down-the-drain degradation of countless celebrity biopics.

"EDtv" is chuckles, nothing more. It is merely a "joyous celebration of boobery."

My grade: C+



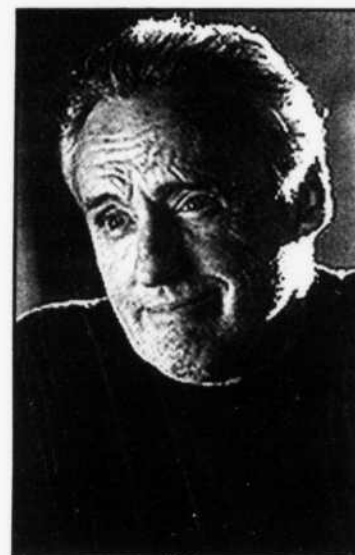
Martin Landau



Ellen DeGeneres



Rob Reiner



Dennis Hopper



Elizabeth Hurley



The Matrix has mind-blowing FX and brain draining plot twists

Aaron Tallent
Flash writer

The Matrix: Very Original, But Too Complex

Most science fiction films are never lacking in originality, alas "Stargate," "The Running Man" and "The Road Warrior." Some filmgoers argue that science fiction films borrow plots, themes and characters from other film genres. "Star Wars" is considered to be a prime example of this but who cares? As with many science fiction films, "Star Wars" was groundbreaking and deserves its own chapter in film history.

"The Matrix" has enough originality to set it apart from other science fiction films but other components of the film

hinder it from becoming a classic science fiction film.

The story centers around Neo (Keanu Reeves), a computer nerd who sits at his computer every night carrying on a mysterious search for the matrix. The audience is not sure what the matrix is and does not find out until halfway into the movie.

Neo is approached by Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss), an attractive woman who eventually leads him to Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne), the leader of a group of rebels who possess superhuman attributes. After Neo and Trinity's initial meeting, a group of agents begin pursuing Neo.

In order to take on this group of agents, Neo agrees to join Morpheus's group. By joining this group, Neo is taught to free his mind. After freeing his mind, Neo begins to possess superhuman qualities. He can dodge bullets, jump at least 100 feet and fly. Neo must use these superpowers to defeat the agents that are chasing him and the new group that he has joined.

If my plot summary sounds confusing, sorry. The plot to "The Matrix" is that complicated. I respect a film that tries to create a complex plot because it is, in a sense, gambling. If the plot is presented clearly and carried out by a strong supporting cast, then you have a strong foundation to a great film and a possible best screenplay Oscar nomination.

With "The Matrix," references to the script explain what is going on but the characters are confusingly jumping between parallel universes. The film also takes a lot of time to showcase Owen Patterson's fantastic production design along with Jon Gaeta's

superb visual effects instead of concentrating on plot.

The plot is one hindrance. The second hindrance is the performances. Keanu Reeves once again proves that besides playing Jack in "Speed," his best performance was in "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure." Everyone else seems robotic except for Fishburne as Neo's mentor and Joe Pantaliano as a weary member of Morpheus's group.

The film was written and directed by Larry and Andy Wachowski, whose last film was the lesbian noir thriller "Bound." "The Matrix" is a step down from "Bound" but the Wachowski Brothers seem to have the potential of making more great films.

Also of note is the film's soundtrack, which features artists such as Rob Zombie, Marilyn Manson, Rage Against the Machine, Monster Magnet and Ministry.

Even though its plot is unclear at times, "The Matrix" is worth seeing because of its originality and special effects. One more warning though, filmgoers should be warned that the film is dark, grim and may contain images that are disturbing to some viewers.

Stars (out of four): ** 1/2



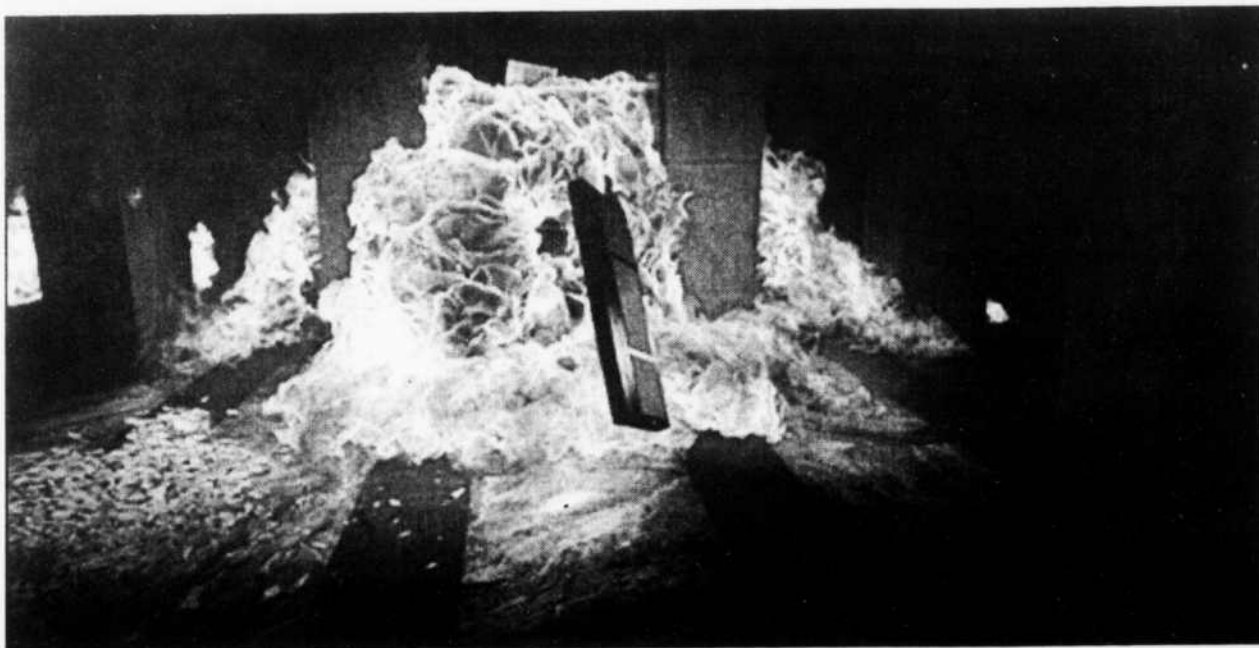
Keanu Reeves as Neo



Laurence Fishburne as Morpheus



Who will win? Morpheus' group or their pursuers?



Pyrotechnics were just the tip of the special effects iceberg used to bring The Matrix to life.

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Music News

S.N.M. on the Rocks

Lamont Gholston
Special to Flash

SNM on the Rocks is back again in full E-F-F-E-C-T (Old School Reference). Before I drop the 411, let us have a moment of silence for Freaky Tah... He was a member of the group The Lost Boyz, who had been recording their third album, *LB For Life*. He was shot and killed by an unknown assailant early Sunday morning, March 28. Tah was leaving a party at a Sheraton Hotel in Jamaica Queens, at 3:57 am, for the airport, when an unidentified black male approached him, wearing a ski cap, whom shot him once in the head and fled without saying a word. Tah was taken to a nearby Jamaica Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 4:20 am. Police have yet to identify a suspect or motive, but hope to question the other Lost Boyz about the shooting, who were reportedly at the same party. Anyone wishing to send condolences to Rodgers' family and friends may do so by writing to The Lost Boyz, c/o Group Home Entertainment, 1755 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019.

Civil rights figurehead Rosa Parks filed suit against Outkast and LaFace Records on Wednesday, March 31, asking for \$25,000 in damages and to have her name removed from all of their products. Gregory J. Reed, Parks' attorney and co-author of her two books, *Quiet Strength* and *Dear Mrs. Parks: A Dialogue With Today's Youth*, said, "You have her name associated with lyrics that contain vulgarity and profanity that she does not appreciate." Richard Manson, president of Millennium Entertainment Group that's representing Parks in this case, told MTV News, "[Outkast] did not confer with Mrs. Parks about using her name or likeness in the song in question," adding, "she views this as the same kind of conduct that she faced 40 years ago, an abuse of people." Group members Big Boi and Dre, in an attempt to get Mrs. Parks to hush that fuss, released the following statement: "Rosa Parks has inspired our lives since we were children. The opportunity to use our music to help educate young people about the heroes in the African-American community is one of the responsibilities we feel we have as music artists. It was, nor ever has been, our intention to defame a woman who we consider a role model and a civil rights pioneer. We hope to be able to work out this situation amicably." Outkast has retained former Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Conrad L. Mallet, Jr., as their representative in this suit. It's a shame that just as hip-hop is becoming more educational and less materialistic, something like this should happen. I think if Mrs. Parks had a translation of the lyrics from Street Slang into plain English, she would understand what the song is saying and would drop the suit. Sure there is profanity in the song, but they are not saying "F@*\$ Rosa Parks!" or "F*&% the Civil Rights Movement. Outkast is trying to get these young cats that be wildin' to remember the people that were beaten, attacked, dragged through streets and other horrible injustices so that African-Americans and all people would be treated fairly in the US. Just something to think about..."

Stacie Odeneal
Staff writer

Hey all. Lovely weather we're having isn't it. In fact, it's perfect weather for driving with the windows down and/or laying out. And, of course, what else can you do when driving around or laying out than listen to music.

In the latest news, I'm sure you have already realized that KDF no longer has a hard core edge having switched to the country-western realm. So, after getting another station, it's only fair that 102.9 turned to rock. It all evens out eventually.

Kenny Chesney topped the charts this week with "How Forever Feels". Then

Redneck Rock Review

Lee Ann Womack singing "I'll Think of a Reason Later". Then wrestling maniac, Chad Brock with his hit, "Ordinary Life".

Neal McCoy was in Shelbyville last weekend. Fat load of good it does you now, huh. Anyway to those who went, Beth, Janet, Hitch, and the rest of ya, hope you had a lovely time at the cow place.

Speaking of concerts, don't forget about FanFair. Tickets are on sale now, I believe. Lots of traffic, yet lots of country music stars. Don't miss it.

Allison Moorer is coming to the Ryman on April 30.

Now, getting back to summer pasttimes. You skipped class and you're soaking up sun. You obviously need

something to listen to. I finally broke down and bought Sara Evens's latest album, "No Place That Far", that ironically enough contains the hit "No Place That Far." Crazy, no? Anyway, this isn't the cd you're looking for if you need something summery yet fun. Still, it's a pretty good album. Maybe you caught "Cryin' Game" on CMT. I like that song. "Fool, I'm a Woman" is also pretty good. The cd can't be bad with backup singers like Vince Gill, Allison Krauss, George Jones and Martina McBride. But it's probably something you'd more than likely catch at a dancing function. You want tanning tunes, find some Hootie and the Blowfish or perhaps a little Aerosmith.

R & B: According to Shawn

Shawn Whitsell
Staff writer

What up R&B heads? How's everybody doin'? Well, I hope you have been livin' it up since the last time we touched base. Y'all know what we gotta do soooo, let's do this.

So, who's feelin' TLC's knew video, "No Scrubs"? I like it alright. Can't you tell it's a Hype Williams video? It's about time they got a video out because their album has been out for a minute now. Anyway, the song, "No Scrubs" was written by Kandi and Tiny, formerly of the group Xscape. Yes, I said formerly! Supposedly the group is defunct (grab a dictionary if you don't know what defunct means). Tasha (the heavy set one) went solo (I kinda saw that "hummin' comin' at us), Tamika is a minister and working on a gospel album and Kandi and Tiny are working as a duo on various projects. I hope the group doesn't call it quits for

good because they really had it goin' on. They were the ghetto version of En Vogue. But you know, groups branch off and do solo projects all the time these days. Speaking of which, recently Wyclef Jean announced that the next Fugee album is definitely going to happen although many a music critic have pronounced them dead. Jean said the Fugees are all supposed to sit down and work these out soon and recording should start when Lauryn's tour ends. Clef said they want to release the project in fall of 2000. BUT, we really can't completely take Clef's word because he also said he was going to produce Lauryn's album and you know how that went. But on the real, I hope they do at least one more Fugee album:

Oh, did I get off the TLC subject. Anyway, in Vibe magazine, Left Eye had the word "hate" carved in her arm. What's up with that?! She also confused readers with her comments about not

being able to complete her solo project and not completely being happy with the latest TLC project. She announced that she won't do anymore interviews until she can totally speak her mind on the "Fanmail" and her solo project.

For all of you who are missin' Erica Wright a.k.a Erykah Badu, don't fret because her next album is due at the end of the summer. The album will also feature a duet with D'Angelo (D gets to work with all the slammin' female artist). The song was recorded in '96 to go on the "High School High" soundtrack but it didn't make the cut. The song has been given new life. It will also be featured on the Marvin Gaye tribute album, called "Marvin Is 60," which will be released on June 8. Badu's verse in the song is the same as Tammi Terrel's in one of the Marvin Gaye-Tammi Terrel duets (I forget which song though).

Well peeps, I'm out. - Y'all keep it real from '99 til infinity. One love.

Local student well on his way

Amy Spears
Special to Flash

By night, he is only a voice, spinning some of Middle Tennessee's favorite songs over the airwaves. By day he is an average Middle Tennessee State University freshman. His name is Brian Wilmoth, and at age 21, he is already the host of his own radio show.

A native of Cookeville, Wilmoth grew up listening to the station where he would one day be employed. Then, one day during his senior year of high school, he got his big break. Wilmoth received a call concerning an opening at "The Country Giant" WGSQ-FM and jumped on it. A meeting with the station's program

director cemented it, and he began his career on the radio.

However, the beginning wasn't all that easy. After only four months on the job, he was thrust in front of the microphone with no experience in front of a live audience. During the next two years, Wilmoth learned the true meaning of the old cliché, "the show must go on."

"You can't yawn, you can't sneeze, and one of my worst moments was having to do a show with the stomach flu," he said. "The listeners need to have the illusion that everything is always running smoothly."

Practice does make perfect though, and Wilmoth has used his past experiences to improve his trade.

"In radio, you have to improve with

time or you'll get pulled off. Weekends are for improving your talent, and I feel I have been able to come a long way with my Saturday night show," he said. "But there is one thing I always have to remember: don't laugh at the live preachers or during the obituaries. People just won't understand."

When asked if he has any advice for people seeking a career in radio, Wilmoth said, "It's a tough job, and you have to love it to succeed, but everything you put into it you'll get back out. There are a lot of big egos to deal with and it's easy to burn out, but if you take it seriously, it's very rewarding."

To catch Wilmoth in the act, tune in to WGSQ 94.7 Saturdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

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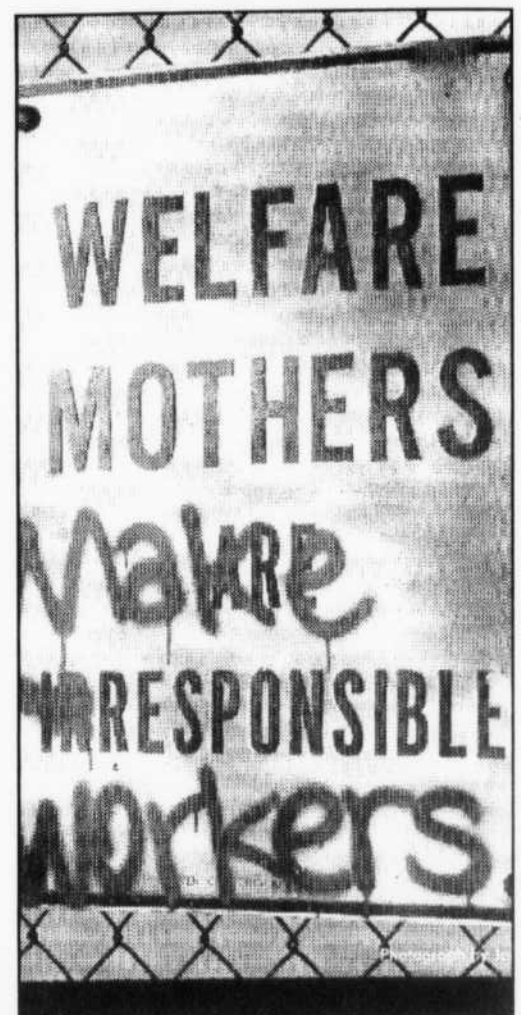
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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Aries (March 21-April 19). Monday and Tuesday, watch out for emotional outbursts, especially your own. On Wednesday and Thursday, be careful of your temper. You'll have a hair trigger then. Friday and Saturday are your best days for anything pertaining to money, and Sunday will be excellent for writing a love letter.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Make a commitment to a friend on Monday, even if a change is required. On Tuesday, you'll be more analytical, especially about love. Wednesday and Thursday, you've got a tailwind pushing you to move faster, but on Friday and Saturday, you can go at your own leisurely pace. Sunday is best for buying romantic gifts.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Sensitivity is required in dealing with an older person Monday and Tuesday. You could pretty much say whatever you want Wednesday and Thursday. Your friends won't care. Keep a friend's secret on Friday and Saturday, even if it's tough to do. Your love helps cause a miracle on Sunday.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Trust your intuition Monday and Tuesday, even if there's a pop quiz. Hitch your wagon to a star on Wednesday and Thursday. By Friday and Saturday, you should be able to rest. Contact a secret love on Sunday.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Study finances on Monday and Tuesday so you can make a decision later in the week. Wednesday and Thursday are your best for sports activities. Invest in your own success on Friday, and buy a few things to help you achieve it on Saturday. On Sunday, you and a good-looking friend win the argument.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your partner is on to something Monday and Tuesday, so listen carefully. You can access a lot of money Wednesday and Thursday if you're willing to pay the interest. Travel looks good on Friday and Saturday, especially if you're going shopping. Sunday is great for helping an older loved one make changes.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Monday and Tuesday are busy workdays. Try not to get rattled. Wednesday and Thursday, be tolerant with a person who has strong opinions. Friday and Saturday are good for shopping, especially for structural items. Sunday is your best day this week for travel and romantic conversation.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Talk about love on Monday and Tuesday, and get an old problem resolved. Make sure your safety nets are in place Wednesday and Thursday, especially in a working environment. Friday and Saturday, your partner will let you know the corrections you need to make.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll fuss over the folks back home on Monday and Tuesday. It's been long enough since you called. Wednesday and Thursday are excellent for falling passionately in love. Friday and Saturday, get back to work. Playing with a partner is favored on Sunday.

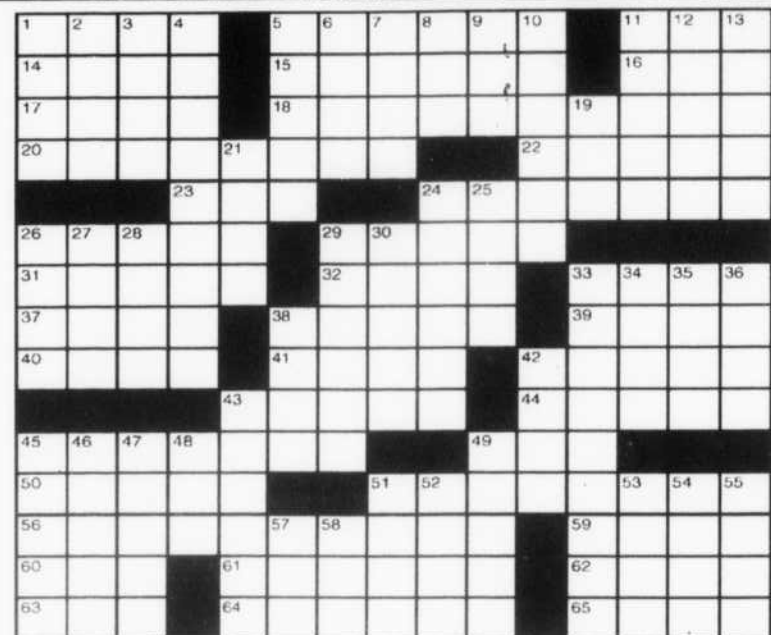
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You can probably find what you need nearby on Monday and Tuesday. Make changes at home on Wednesday and Thursday, and make romantic plans for the future Friday and Saturday. Paperwork dominates Sunday.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Call in old debts on Monday and Tuesday. They'll be easier to collect. Study intently on Wednesday and Thursday. You're at your smartest then. Settle in on Friday and Saturday. Conditions favor permanence. On Sunday you might fall in love, intellectually, anyway. Your best date is a person who can teach you something.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Your self-esteem is growing, possibly through a change in your career status. Or maybe the former causes the latter. On Wednesday and Thursday, you gain the rewards from work previously done. Watch for new opportunities then, too. Put structures into place on Friday and Saturday to make your work go more easily.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Feels ill
 - 5 Viennese tongue
 - 11 Make a choice
 - 14 Talk to God
 - 15 American songbird
 - 16 Contend
 - 17 Thin coating
 - 18 Military carriers
 - 20 Like pipe dreams and romance novels
 - 22 Religious belief
 - 23 Firearm
 - 24 Taunters
 - 26 Disney World attraction
 - 29 Heap
 - 31 Talks boastfully
 - 32 Remove knots
 - 33 Corsica's neighbor
 - 37 Boyfriend
 - 38 Smug puritans
 - 39 Look with malice
 - 40 Ago in Scotland
 - 41 Fasten wing-tips
 - 42 Holy hymn
 - 43 Stories
 - 44 Lane-crossing turns
 - 45 Deeds
 - 49 Crow's call
 - 50 Story
 - 51 Suffocates
 - 56 Indolent person in the "Odyssey"
 - 59 Lamb's pen name
 - 60 Ms. Gardner
 - 61 Kennedy assassin
 - 62 Telephoned
 - 63 Aviv-Jaffa
 - 64 Pays out (money)
 - 65 Finales

- DOWN**
- 1 Church projection
 - 2 Annoys
 - 3 Secular
 - 4 Jewish congregation
 - 5 Entered



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- 6 Blunders
- 7 Mob melee
- 8 Meadow bellow
- 9 High mount
- 10 Built a home
- 11 Of sheep
- 12 Pied
- 13 Quizzes
- 19 "And I Love ___"
- 21 Places
- 24 Forms an opinion
- 25 Adam's grandson
- 26 Recedes
- 27 Quarry
- 28 "Thief" star
- 29 Wall art
- 30 Preserved
- 33 In another place
- 34 Page
- 35 Alternative to suspenders
- 36 Weapons
- 38 Outline
- 42 Builder's map
- 43 Human trunks
- 45 G-sharp



- 46 Garlic section
- 47 Complete
- 48 \$ promise
- 49 Quantities of wood
- 51 Ollie's partner
- 52 Canasta play
- 53 Spirited vigor
- 54 Tough outer covering
- 55 Droops
- 57 Mind-reader's letters
- 58 Dumbstruck state