

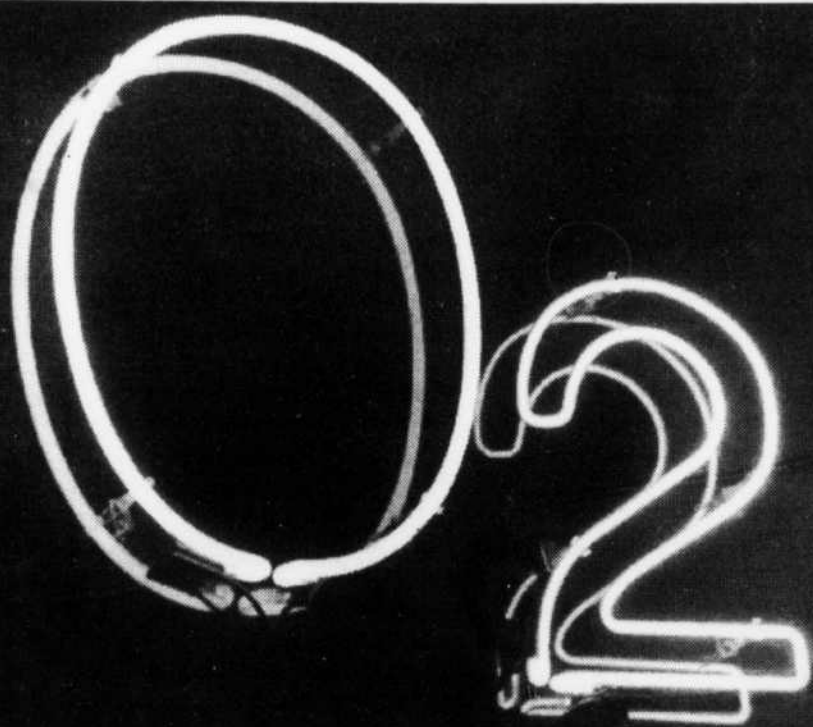
SIDELINES

FLASH!

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 20

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

MARCH 15, 2000



breathing life
into the 'boro



INSIDE



MOVIE REVIEW
Failed 'Mission'

**NOISE FROM THE
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ONE WISH

MUSIC REVIEW
MULES RULE



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STAFF

Sidelines Editor Angela White

FLASH! Editor Robin Wallace

Graphic Designer Becky Curtis

Photo Editor Pam Hudgens

Ad Designer Marisa Calvin

Ad Manager Suzanne Franklin

Advertising Representatives Tilope Joyner, Allison Pruette, Andrea Gillotte,
Bette Walker and Kristopher Jones

Student Publications Director Jenny Tenpenny Crouch

CONTACT INFORMATION:

P.O. BOX 42, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

e-mail: slflash@mtsu.edu

FLASH! 898-2917 • EDITORIAL: 898-2337 • ADVERTISING: 898-2533 • FAX: 904-8487

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Here's to you...

Looking back and stepping forward

So the cat is out of the bag, and I stand guilty as charged -- I am a child at heart, one who never has grown up -- a closet Never-Neverland citizen, if you will.

Yet, what's the harm? Can't we all stand a bit of comic relief from time to time -- even if it means reverting back to our childhood games or conjuring up memories of those days when everything was simple?

Through child's eyes we saw the world in 3-D Technicolor; yet life was simply black and white to us. Back then, there was nothing that mom couldn't fix or nothing more satisfying than cookies and a tall glass of milk after of course a long, grueling day of finger-painting, toad hunting, skipping stones, cowboys 'n indians and hop-scotch.

Aah -- yes, those were good times, and times that we should never forget, let go of or hesitate to talk about. After all, those early years of our life are probably the single most thing that everyone has in common. Children are children and childhood games are childhood games universally across all the borders of the globe.

So why not put the skip back into your step and whistle a little tune as you "go off to work" -- hey, whoever said that you couldn't have your cake and eat it too?

Robin Wallace
FLASH! Editor

NOISE FROM

WHAT'S ONE
THING YOU
WOULD CHANGE
ABOUT MTSU?

THE KNOLL

"I'd get rid of the
tree huggers."

Wes Hutcheson
Junior, Finance



"I would add engineering
techniques applying to urban
and alternative music for
RIM majors."

Jeffrey "Pocket" McManus
Senior, RIM
Baltimore, MD



"I would have
drinking on campus."

Shannon Babian
Freshman, Undeclared
Lynchburg, TN



"I would have the rugby
team be a school-sponsored
sport."

Marshall Sparkman
Freshman, Aerospace
Murfreesboro, TN



"I would do away with
parking tickets. Parking
should be included with your
tuition."

Brandi Dunn
Senior, Public Relations
Fayetteville, TN



"I wish there was more
interracial interaction."

Joel Price
Sophomore, Undeclared
Hendersonville, TN



"I wish that there were
programs to educate people
about the equality of men and
women."

Nick Cote
Freshman, Bio/Pre-Med
Mt. Juliet, TN



"I want more programs for
internationals such as
myself in order to meet lots
of people."

Schaekoota Hemmat
Sophomore, CIS
U.A.E. (Middle East)

he said...

A Man's Man
by Josh Ezzell

Sex is a word that gets a reaction from everybody. Some get angry, some get embarrassed and some get more excited than Angela at a Femi-Nazi conference.

Most men fall into the excited category. Beginning at puberty, men agonize over sex until the day they die. We think about the girls we wanna do and how to get them in the sack. Our dirty minds cause us to say and do stupid things. Usually our stupid actions and words get us no sex. Instead, they get us slapped in the face and humiliated. As a result, men stay horny and masturbate.

The stupidity-masturbation cycle lasts until the day a man gets laid. At first men think they've conquered the world. Of course men want sex over and over again. But sex causes problems. It changes things between men and women. Women -- and sometimes men -- get emotionally attached to each other after sex. Women think they own men. Men think sex is just a feel-good physical activity.

The result is interesting: women think men are jerks, and men think women are overbearing bitches. Do men and women learn anything from the experience?

Women learn some -- men learn nothing. That's probably because women think with their brain and we think with our dicks. Women get wiser and are careful when entering future relationships. Men stay horny and continue to enter relationships with the goal of getting some.

There's only one thing that changes a man's mentality -- marriage. Men's sex drive gradually decreases when we get married. At first, married people have great sex. It eventually gets to the point where couples have sex a few times a month. Why does this happen? Nature. We reach our sexual peak at 18, while women reach it at 32.

What's the best solution? Young men should date older women. There are many advantages to this for both sexes.

Let's examine the men first. Men don't have to put up with young women, who are often full of shit. Young women expect men to spend time with them doing stupid stuff. They know damn well that men only do stupid stuff to get nookie, and the young women know they aren't giving any to men. Instead of putting up with whining and games, men would get women who knew what they want.

Women would get men who want them. Older men want to eat and watch ESPN. Young men like that stuff too, but they put sex ahead of feed and TV.

But will this happen? Hell no. So I guess in the end we're all screwed.

she said...

Atypical Woman
by Angela White

When I first heard that I was writing about sex this week, I had no idea what I was going to say. In fact, I still don't. That's why I'm writing what I'm writing right now. I'm stalling.

Quite frankly, I don't have much experience in this field. Hell, I don't have any experience in this field. So don't expect any technical advice from this column.

One thing that I do know about sex, that everyone but maybe the Amish know about sex, is that physical appearance is very important. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. They are lying. A lot. Pathologically even.

In fact, I'll go so far as to say that it is the most important part in attracting one person to another. Period. And don't even try to say otherwise.

As I sit here writing, there is a conversation being held around me -- a common occurrence here in the newsroom.

This particular conversation is about breasts.

There is an article in one of the many fashion/beauty magazines to which I subscribe [yes, I subscribe to Cosmo and the like...that's right, me] about how different women feel about their breasts. The women interviewed ranged from an A cup to a DD.

Guess which one our opinions editor Colin was drooling over.

Our news editor Jenny Cordle and I came the conclusion that put together we wouldn't make a C cup.

Whether it be breasts, legs, ass or teeth [don't ask], men have a fascination with some aspect of a woman's body.

I suppose the same can be said to some degree about women and men's bodies -- some women like bulging biceps, some a rippled stomach, but you don't really hear of anyone being an "ass-woman."

One primary difference I have noticed between men and women is the importance aspects other than appearance make in being attracted to someone. Most women need something else there -- intelligence, wit, sensitivity.

Most men just don't seem to need those things quite as much.

In fact, for many of them, a nice rack or ass is enough.

I have to put my obligatory disclaimer here. Not all men are like this. That's why I said "most."

I know one guy who would read my last paragraph and start yelling at me.
continued on page 4

FEEDBACK

letters to the editor

TO EACH THEIR OWN

In response to Daniel Ross's article, "Will someone please kill the video star?" I speak in defense of these so-called "cookie cutter" artists. Mr. Ross claims that artists such as Britney Spears, the boy bands and Ricky Martin sell not only their music but also their images. I completely agree with this. I also believe that each and every artist has an image that he or she enhances, exaggerates and draws attention to in order to sell records.

It's called showbiz. It's the way things work. In a perfect world, artists would be commended only for their creative genius and self-expressions. However, this world is obsessed with images and trends and as a result, performers will play up their best features, whether it be grunge appeal, a cute midriff or sexy dance moves.

I'm not arguing that these artists are talented in comparison with some of the greats. I don't think they would either. I do, however, think they are good at what they do. They're cute, they're charismatic and obviously someone likes them because they're filthy stinking rich.

The clothes and the image are all part of presentation. If I remember correctly, the Weezer video "Buddy Holly" [that Mr. Ross commended] took a theme, exaggerated it and made it entertainment. That's exactly what Britney Spears did with her Catholic school girl look. Same idea, different tastes.

I don't want to insult Mr. Ross, nor do I disrespect his opinion. I too have watched with disgust as many followed a short-lived trend. However, I do think these young stars deserve some credit. They're performers, and they're good at what they do. If you don't like it, that's perfectly okay. But there's no need to continually insult them simply because they're popular.

Amanda Virgillito
Sidelines Features Editor



POP-CULTURE FIGUREHEADS

To Daniel Ross, the writer of "Will someone please kill the video star?" in last week's issue, THANK YOU!!! This has been a big issue to music lovers from time immemorial, although the issue goes a little farther than music. I am talking of the pop-culture industry. By pop-culture industry I mean the people who create culture for the masses, and try to give definition to American culture by instituting figureheads such as Britney Spears, the Backstreet Boys, and Christina Aguilera. This is also the power of capitalism working upon the masses. These figureheads wear clothes that signify popularity, and if one does not wear X style of clothes, or X brand of clothes, one is not socially accepted. And who sets these standards? The pop-culture industry. These are the role models of America's youth in the today's society; role models whose qualifications to accept that status I question. One shocking event that stands out in my mind bears witness to the previous statement. While passing through my family room one evening, my attention was caught by a yearly music awards event [the ultimate form of promoting Top 40 musical acts], and I stopped to watch. Christina Aguilera was announced the winner for some award or other, the title escapes me. She stumbled from her seat, nervous and crying, and made her way amid a flurry of screams and tears to the stage. The first words from her mouth into the microphone were "OH, MY GOD, you guys!" with heavy valley girl accent. "Like, Oh my god, thank you SOOO much!" Again, valley girl. The first thought that flashed into my mind was that this is how America is being represented to countries around the world, an image of 18-year-old looking 14-year-old bubble gum valley girls singing 98 Degrees' songs. A world superpower, huh? What happened to the days when music was validated by the essence of the music, and not the image a rock or pop star purports? When MTV actually aired videos more than an hour a day? The eventual decline of American culture is becoming a reality when the constructions of American capitalism designate 'N SYNC and Britney Spears to act as role models for the world's youth. This decline also became a reality when America began to define it's own culture by the latest trend shown on MTV. Let's wake up from our cotton candy, Catholic school-girl plaid skirt fantasies, America.

Mike Amrozowicz
Staff Writer

LOVE AND MARRIAGE

I am worn out from enduring a poor representation of myself and many of my acquaintances. I am disappointed that so many people who have given up on one of life's greatest, most rewarding challenges hold such a strong voice in college culture. We live under the shadow of a lost generation—a generation that expended much of it brain cells seeking a higher plane of consciousness with the help of mind altering substances and is now spoken for by contemporary prophets [Jerry Springer/Sally Jesse Raphael] whose lectern is maligned with a million self-help books composed of contradicting philosophies. Their message is a bad check, cashed in the bank of our culture and gaining interest in the form of brooding statistics. Half of us who marry will get divorced. There is no other way. You are not a person in charge of your own destiny—you are a statistic.

In support of such an empowering message is Flash's own Angela White [a. k. a. Atypical Woman]. White states that marriage "has become an institution so riddled with failure and broken promises that [she] cannot help but to separate [herself] from it entirely." She supports her rejection of marriage with a simple thought: "just live your life the way you want it, break away from the restraints of conformity.... in other words, screw it." [Flash! March 7, 2000.]

While White may have her own personal reasons for her disgust with marriage—reasons I care to respect—it is my duty to expose her view for what it is: an alarmist's message of fear. Our age has encrypted its understanding of why things go wrong by forming intimate relationships with people we don't know [Elizabeth Taylor and any other icons of the paparazzi who belong to the Multispouse 2000 club], receiving their stories as the gospel standard. We watch ourselves lay with multiple partners from within our own living rooms, vicariously experiencing what we see on television and read in fables [decorated with Fabio's masculine mug] forming fantastical ideas about what marriage really is. We practice 'American Pie' sex in high school and 'Melrose Place' sex in college and we think that we have discovered intimacy. So, why are we so challenged to create successful marital relationships? [your own answer here.]

One thing that health class hasn't taught you and Doctor Ruth won't enlighten you about during her next house call: sex is the number one cause of a false sense of intimacy. Two naked bodies can easily lie in bed, skin on skin, pressed together and perspiring like Crockett and Sheila E, and still be just two individuals who are as far away from one another as Venus and Mars. Next time you get to chat with Wilt

Chamberlain, ask him to recite the names of his last 14.2 billion lovers. This false sense of intimacy is directly related to many marital mistakes. I recommend that we re-evaluate the liberal expenditure of our virginity [what's that?].

Dear Ms. White: Divorce is more likely than a successful marriage. In order that we may break away from the restraints of conformity, shouldn't we just salute the current age with our commanding middle fingers and just get married and stay that way till we're old and gray? This is the best way to offend an age of pop culture that is beckoning us to acquiesce by letting us think that we are unique by losing our faith in the most rewarding and challenging institution: marriage. We have all been burnt by the failure of marriage whether your own parents, your friend's parents, or your own relationships—it is a tattoo placed on a very visible part of our culture's anatomy. Ms. White, you and I and all of our other peers don't have to wear the same tattoo. My cheap advice: treat marriage like it is a tattoo that covers your entire body and can never be removed. Make sure that it looks good.... real good. See that it is made of the kind of ink that won't bleed when your old and sick or just young and stupid, and then go find yourself a man of the cloth and make your masterpiece a reality. Put up your fingers, we are going to change the world.

rory patrick paisley
visit me at: rorypatrickpaisley.ivma.com
write me at: chilidogcowboy@yahoo.com

Atypical Woman Continued From Page 3

Intelligence is important to him, he would say. So are many other things other than looks. In fact, looks aren't even the most important of them all.

Then a Victoria's Secret commercial will come on, and he'll be lost to the world for about thirty seconds.

Simply put, the way we look determines who we will get, and who is out of our league. There is no getting past this. All the intelligence and wit and such isn't going to help a bit if you're ugly. But fortunately, as Jerry Seinfeld once pointed out, ugly people do have one salvaging factor: alcohol.

Yes, this may be morally and ethically and all other kinds of wrong, but it's the way we are. Society will always favor its beautiful, no matter the species.

The rest of us ugly people will just have make due in a mirror-obsessed world.

Of course we could always just ship all the pretty people to some island somewhere. Works for me!

Explosive element

by Robin Wallace
FLASH! Editor



Oxygen ignites 'boro life

While oxygen is vitally needed to sustain life, Oxygen is desperately what Murfreesboro's nightlife needs.

Since the club opened February 24, it has drawn over a thousand people each weekend night, making it without a doubt the hottest club in town.

So what's the hype about?

Maybe it's the 24x20 foot steel dance floor plus a 120 square-foot platform stage, or the fully stocked bars that surround the dance floor. Yet, it also could be the sound system that's completely equipped with 25,000 speakers. Then again, there's the eight track spotlights, six data flashes and four of the area's first intellbeam lights.

Is it any wonder that people are lining up around the block to "bust a move" at this club?

"It's better than I'd thought it'd be - it's really awesome and they play kick-ass music," said Crystal Novotny, a MTSU freshman.

Disc jockeyed by Everet Collins, former DJ of Chattanooga's South Beach, the club rocks to top 40s music, mixed with 80s, early 90s, as well as a little bit of rap and retro.

With the music vibrating, the lights strobing and the clubbers grooving, the ultimate party atmosphere is heightened by the mirror-lined walls and the multi-level "seating areas" of barstools and tables.

"I was surprised that we have a club like this. It's more like a Nashville type of club," said MTSU sophomore Mischa Nemeth.

Having a minuscule club scene, a college setting and a booming population, Tai-Pan, the corporation that owns Oxygen, found Murfreesboro to be an ideal location.

While Tai-Pan has established a "chain" of clubs in Chattanooga, Atlanta and now Murfreesboro, each club has its own name, motif and caters to different crowds.

With more construction to undergo and a quarter of a million dollars already invested, which is more than what was put into their last club, Tai-

Pan will most likely make Oxygen their most diverse club.

Oxygen plans to have finished, in time for the NCAA Championship basketball game, a 3,000 square-foot sports bar complete with wide screen T.V.s and pool tables, and decked out in the spirit of "March Madness."

By August, Oxygen will debut its VIP room, featuring an Absolut Vodka bottle-shaped bar, which will be a "happy hour" bar scene opening on weekdays at 5 p.m.

Management goals go beyond opening a successful club - they also include creating or monopolizing the Murfreesboro nightclub industry, depending on individual perspectives.

"I think people will like this so they don't have to drive to Nashville.

[The drive is] fine once or so a month, but it gets old and dangerous after clubbing all night," said Oxygen's general manager James Ford.

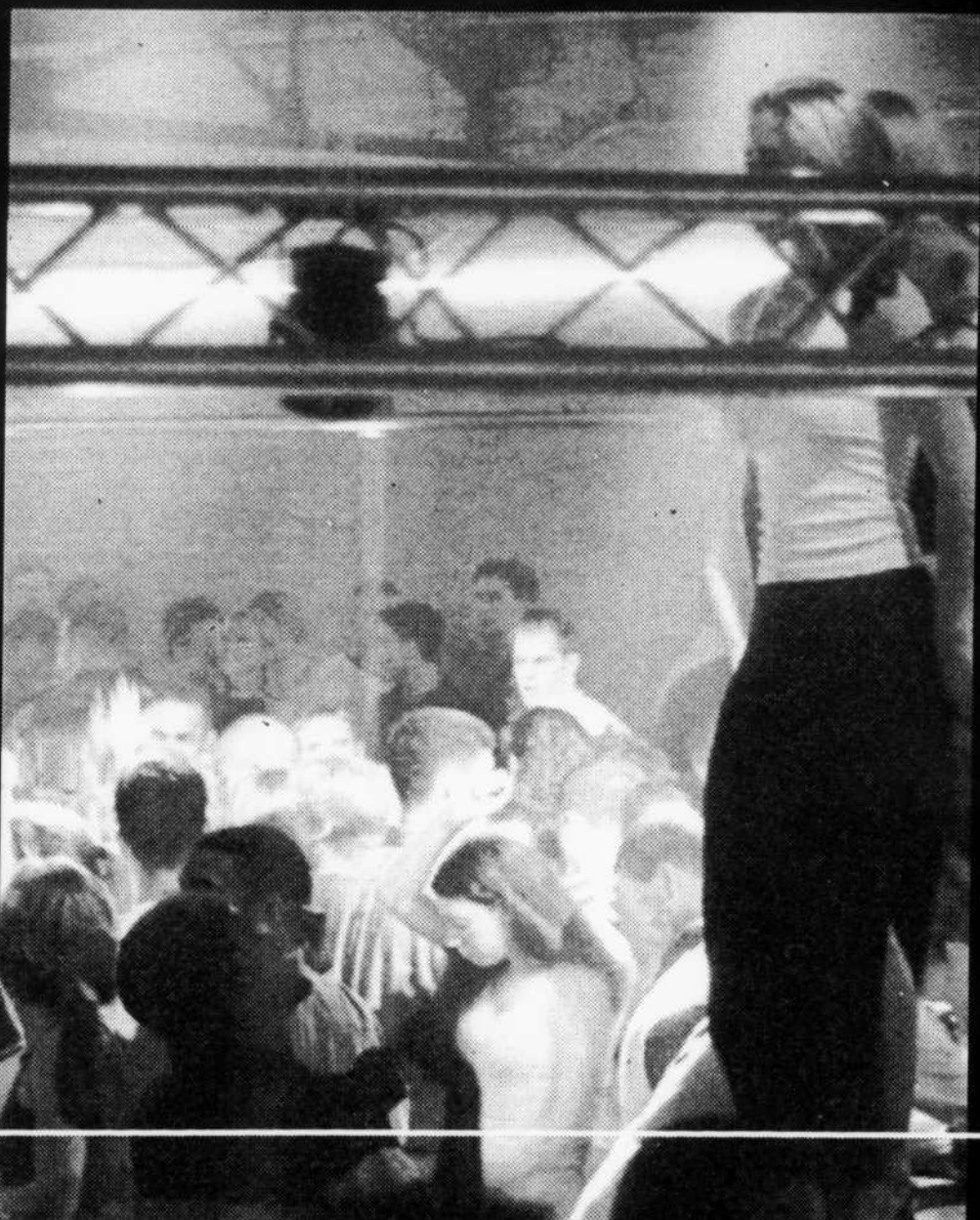
Although the dangers of late-night driving may not be a factor in partying at Oxygen, bar brawls tend to pose a threat.

"[Oxygen] has too many fights, but that comes with any club - the trouble really starts when it is moved into the street, but everything else about [Oxygen] is going smoothly," said Detective John Jones of the Murfreesboro police department.

While it seems that Oxygen has captured center stage of Murfreesboro's nightlife, it is just that - center stage. Other 'boro clubs still have a lot of varied musical atmospheres to offer the area besides just the top 40s dance-mix genre.

"Mainstreet has been here for 17 years and it has seen many new and supposedly modern clubs come and go - but I think that [Mainstreet] is a Murfreesboro landmark and will always be here," said Matt Russell, a "jack of all trades" at 527 West Mainstreet.

Yet, others contend that Oxygen will be around for a while, making itself the premier club of the 'boro - yet only time will tell.



'Mission's' impact doesn't come from the drama



Brian DePalma is one of those directors who walks the fine line between true artistry and the mainstream. His talent is immense, as evidenced early even in the B-grade "Body Double." The man knows how to move a camera. I just wish he'd move it around a story that packed more of an emotional punch.

DePalma's latest film, "Mission to Mars," stars Gary Sinise, Tim Robbins, Don Cheadle, Kim Delaney and Jerry O'Connell as American astronauts headed toward the Red Planet for the first time in history. Cheadle's character Luke is sent down first with three companions, and he alone survives a strange dust storm emerging from a mountain. Sinise, Robbins, Delaney and O'Connell attempt a rescue mission.

The primary premise of "Mission to Mars" is intriguing in itself: Cheadle has discovered a huge metal monument shaped like a face. [The face we see now in the satellite pictures is real, and not a trick of shadows!] All is well until the face begins emanating an encoded message, which Sinise immediately decodes after looking at a pile of M&M's on the floor [it's as strange as it sounds, believe me]. It appears that the message is a test of the intruders' humanity, and once they pass the test, the secrets of the origins of life will be revealed.

I won't be giving much away to reveal those secrets myself — articles on the film, and even the television trailer, are detailing how the astronauts discover that aliens are responsible for instigating life on earth. During the middle of the film's revelation, the astronauts actually walk around a miniature model of the solar

system as it re-enacts the Big Bang and evolution before their very eyes.

This approach is, of course, an interesting one. "Mission to Mars" is making some sound conclusions. In short, there can be no uncaused effects. In other words, if the theory of evolution is correct, where did the ingredients for Campbell's Primordial Soup come from? The answer, for them, is from extraterrestrials. [I often wonder why popular artists have no problem accepting the possibility of a creator, so long as it isn't God.]

But this material has been done before by television's "The X-Files" and by the films "Contact" and "2001: A Space Odyssey." The latter film appears to be DePalma's biggest inspiration.

Many of the scenes in "Mission to Mars" are so obviously Kubrickian it's amazing DePalma didn't dedicate it to the late auteur. The metal face functions similarly to "2001's" stone monolith. Some sequences in "Mission to Mars" pulsate with real, nail-biting tension. They are suspenseful through understatement, the actors rightly restraining their emotions, the music is light and not manipulative. These sequences sparkle with greatness.

Then, the whole thing unravels into an "Armageddon"-like popcorn movie. DePalma forgets that "2001" evoked awe with its cinematic impressionism. "Mission to Mars," in most scenes, employs wild expressionism for less dramatic impact. His Kubrickian homage is grotesquely overplayed.

When the finale arrives and we see our "creators" for the first time, the result is dismally anticlimactic, with use of obvious animation. I

recall seeing Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" as a child, and I watched it again over the Christmas holidays.

Though about 20 years of moviegoing experience had passed between those viewings, the wonderful, overwhelming sense of awe at the little bodies, faces partially obscured, emerging from the space ship at the end, still got to me. DePalma's alien is just a hi-tech Roger Rabbit.

The actors in "Mission to Mars" are fine. DePalma has certainly assembled a great cast, though Sinise and Robbins have done much better. Cheadle is the standout, though, as he is in most of his films. I firmly believe he is the most versatile actor working in Hollywood today, and I'd pay to see him in most anything. [If you didn't catch his award-winning turn in "A Lesson Before Dying" on HBO, make sure you rent it from your local video store.]

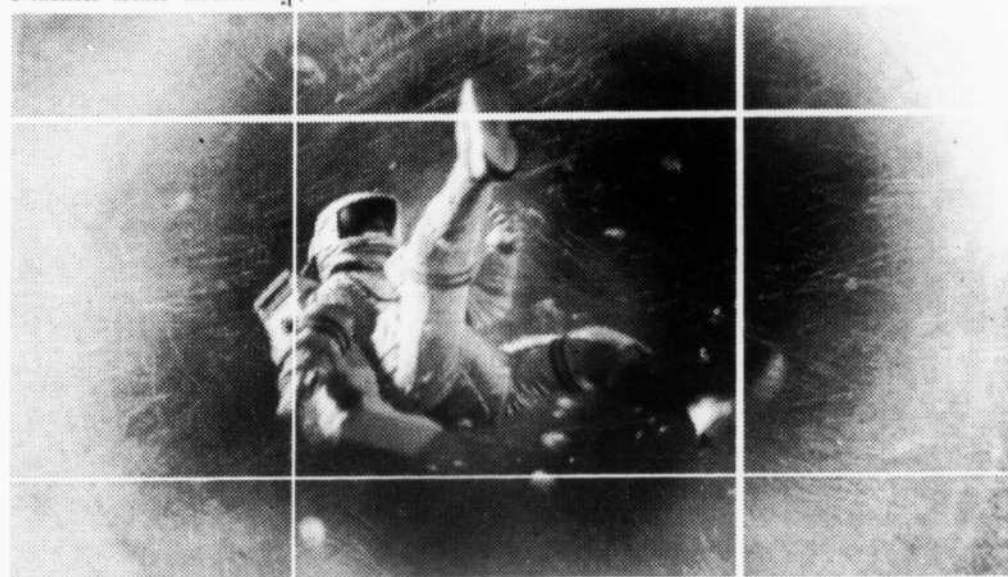
In specific moments, "A Mission to Mars" evidences astute directorship. As a whole, how-

ever, DePalma has added to his list of inconsequential movies. I liken DePalma to Joel Schumacher, who has directed both the great "Falling Down" and the abysmal "Batman and Robin."

But DePalma's derivative style may be his strength. In "Blow Out," he salutes Antonioni. "Body Double" was basically Hitchcock meets Russ Meyer. "The Untouchables," of course, was adapted from the old television program. DePalma's success also includes the rarely seen "Casualties of War" with Sean Penn and Michael J. Fox.

But with the dud "Snake Eyes" as his last film [another work with an overt Hitchcockian vibe], he may be in a bit of a rut. He can take heart, though. Even Francis Ford Coppola, the genius behind "The Godfather" trilogy and "Apocalypse Now," took a misstep with "Jack."

My grade: C-



Theater review

by Ruth Peltier
Staff Writer

Circle Players present racially-conscious 'Last Night of Ballyhoo'

Everyone wants acceptance from the people around them. However, the Circle Players' production of "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" reminds us that some things are too important to sacrifice on the altar of conformity.

Adolph Fretag, his sister Boo and his sister-in-law Reba live together in Atlanta just before World War II. Each of the women has a daughter around 20 years old. The family is very proud that they "have the only Jewish mailbox on their street, except for one family that is so far at the end that they do not count."

They work very hard at fitting into Atlanta society. The only concession that Boo makes to their Jewish heritage is a refusal to put a star at the top of their Christmas tree. The rest of the family insists that even that is unnecessary.

The biggest problem confronting the family at the time the play begins is the fact that Boo's daughter, Lala, has no date for the dance that ends the annual Jewish social event, Ballyhoo.

Kaul Bluestone gives a believable performance as Boo, who sees this as a final failure in the dismal social career of her daughter. She worries of Lala ever marrying into a Jewish family with the proper social connections.

Lala, played by Holly Allen, comes across as a caricature rather than a fully developed character. She had several excellent

opportunities to make us identify with her, but she does not make use of them as well as she could have.

Lon Gary gives a great performance as Adolph, the titular head of this clan who is somewhat overwhelmed by all the women in the house. The scenes that feature Boo and Adolph alone on stage are some of the best moments of the play.

However, it is Donna Stepherson as Reba and Lynda Cameron as her daughter, Sunny, that bring the play to life. Their mother-daughter interaction is convincing. Like Boo, Reba does not understand her daughter. At times, she even questions where this beautiful, intelligent stranger came from, and when she is finally able to identify with her, she runs up the stairs saying excitedly, "she is like me!"

Sunny has been away at college, but happens to come home just in time to meet Joe, a new employee of her brother's who she accompanies to Ballyhoo.

Joe, played by Eric Wagner, is from New York. He has always lived at the heart of a traditional Jewish community. He is proud to be a Jew and does not understand why the Fretag family behave as they do. Looking at the Christmas tree, he asks Sunny, "Are you sure that you are Jews?"

Although the romance between Joe and Sunny is not really

believable, the tension of prejudice between them comes across very well. The Fretag family is of German-Jewish lineage. In Atlanta, there is a subtle prejudice between the German Jew and Jews from other counties, regardless of how long their families have lived in America. The Fretags refer to non-German Jews as "the other kind" and do not realize that their attitudes mirror the prejudice of Atlanta Christians toward Jews.

Scott Johnson as Peaches Weil, Lala's last-minute-save-the-day date for Ballyhoo, brings the issue out into the open at the Ballyhoo dance. He explains to Joe that he is accepted at Ballyhoo only because he is with Sunny. Normally, "the other kind" is not welcome there. The resulting quarrel brings the play to a climax, as Sunny comes face to face with herself and discovers a need to understand what it means to be Jewish.

Throughout the play there are passing references to the specter that broods over them. Even Joe does not understand that Hitler will soon redefine Judaism for all of them.

Circle Players will present "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" in the Johnson Theatre at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, 505 Deaderick St. in Nashville, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. until March 26. Tickets are \$12 and can be ordered from Ticketmaster at 615-255-2787.

Gov't Mule kicks up its heels on 'Life Before Insanity'

by Daniel Ross
STAFF WRITER

When it rains, take a look up into the sky and you'll notice a ray of light peeking through the clouds. Such is the case with the latest release from Gov't Mule. Today's musical landscape is not only raining, it is lightning, thundering, hailing, etc. "Life Before Insanity" is that little ray of light.

Featuring one of the most intense musical releases of the year, Gov't Mule doesn't stray too far from the path they have laid down by their two previous releases.

All the familiar elements are there. There is the stellar guitar and vocal work of Warren Haynes, the sometimes-funky drumming of Matt Abts, and the bottom end produced by Allen Woody. What's different this time around is the addition of new instruments. Mandolin, lap steels and harmonica are the most notable.

While this album isn't filled with anything spectacular, it is filled with pure musicianship. That in itself may not be anything special in today's musical climate, but it is very special and very welcome. The album features guest appearances by Ben Harper ("Lay Your Burden Down"), and Hook Herrera guests on many tracks as the harmonica player.

Perhaps the most stunning development is the newfound scullfulness in Haynes' vocal delivery. The grittiness is still there, but Haynes seems to have taken a page from the book of Otis Redding on tracks such as the previously mentioned "Lay Your Burden Down."

The most important thing on "Life Before Insanity" is Haynes' guitar work. The styles never stay the same, but there is a common thread running through each piece of work.

Haynes' bloozy work is the trademark of Gov't Mule's sound. His guitar rocks like no other on tracks such as "Bad Little Doggie," while his tasty acoustic slide work appears on tracks such as "In My Life" and "Tastes Like Wine." Haynes' playing can range from teardrops flowing ["Fallen Down"] to the voice of an angry generation ["I Think You Know What I Mean"].

The rhythm section of the band is perhaps the most overlooked. Tightly wound

grooves bursting at the seams to be let loose are the norm on the album. Abts and Woody lay down the most solid of foundations for Haynes to shine. The best example is the bonus track, a cover of Robert Johnson's "If I Had Possession Over Judgment Day." Unfortunately, the listener will have to wait a little after the last track ends to hear this.

The work of Gov't Mule is in no way going to be noticed in today's musical landscape. This is the tragedy of it all. If they had come along before looks became more important than the songs, they would have been superstars. Unfortunately, Gov't Mule will probably remain somewhat obscure to the general masses. The beauty of it is that there is actually good music still being produced in the world.

Thank God for bands like Gov't Mule. My Grade: A+ [The best album of the year so far]

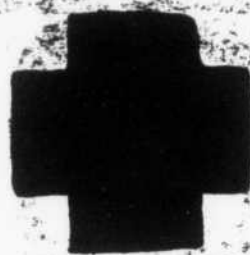
GOV'T MULE
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ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

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

OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

by Coach Mark Williams
Contributor

Moosemen victorious in double-header sweep

Game 1: MTSU 64 vs. PSU 5

Saturday was a cold and wet, with freezing temperatures and chilling winds that brutally reminded us that winter was not over yet. Despite the dramatic 40-degree weather change MTSU came ready to play, eager to improve on last week's performance.

With at least one-third of the first team absent, Penn State received a rude awakening to the frigid temperatures and the determined Moosemen of MTSU.

MTSU came out early and immediately established a "Go Forward" game with physical play from the forwards. Evan Bone placed the first try down after dominating play from the forwards. Paul Jordaan was justly rewarded with a try of his own, after leading the front row and entire scrum to another dominating performance. Pieter Van Vuuren slotted the conversion.

Minutes later, Handre Bassen dove over for a try and Van Vuuren converted. Going into a lull period and the road weary visitors took advantage of the Moosemen's mistakes and scored a try. The game teetered back-and-forth reminiscent of last week's OSU game, which allowed the Buckeyes to get back into it. This week was dif-

ferent as MTSU came roaring back and re-established the game plan.

Bassen went over for his second try and just before half-time he helped set up another try when he passed to Adam Anders who streaked past the opposition to score under the posts. Pieter converted both tries and the half-time score was 33-5.

MTSU remained focused in the second half and came out determined to finish the game strong. The forwards turned in a dominating performance and this opened things up for the backs, who scored the next three tries.

Chris Ryan found holes in the PSU defense several times and he was rewarded with a try, which Pieter converted. Cayo Nicelatu's hard running was soon capitalized on as he scored the next two tries. Pieter made one of those conversions, on the field's small goal posts.

Late in the half, Bassen was rewarded with his third try [a hat trick] culminating an outstanding performance on the day. Pieter converted the kick. In the end it was Captain Evan Bone who ended the scoring with a try.

After changing tactics from the OSU game, the patterns were only loosely executed it was a

sign that the Moosemen are moving in the right direction. Everyone turned in a good performance. We had approximately sixty minutes of outstanding rugby with periods of unfocused lulls mixed in. Overall it was an outstanding victory that we must build on and that should serve as a confidence booster for the team and all players.

Game 2: MTSU 17 vs. PSU 0

The second game was every bit as intense as the first. Rookie sensation Derek Wolfe scored the only first half try after he broke through the line and crashed through would-be tacklers to score. MTSU dominated phases of play, but lacked experience at key times.

The tactical kicking was horrible and we narrowly avoided being scored on because of our inability to clear the ball out from our own goal line. The Moosemen did dominate in most phases of forward and loose play and in the end that was the difference. At the end of the first half it was 5-0.

In the second half MTSU stuck to the simple game plan of "Go Forward" by hard running. Inspired play from many players carried this plan out and everyone in the game played well.

Dusty Brown had an inspired run that was justly rewarded with a try as he crashed through the defense and dove and stretched out to touch the ball down at the line.

Teammate Scott Knox also played passionately all day and he was met with a try after a 35 meter run. Knox broke several tackles and was not going to be denied. Todd Shorter made the conversion.

The proverbial "light bulb" is beginning to come on as several players turned in outstanding performances. Regardless of the frigid temperatures everyone enjoyed themselves and had fun playing, which is what it's really about anyway. It was another clean sweep against a quality opponent on our brand new field. It was the end of a great day of rugby.

NEXT WEEK: The Moosemen are off. ON MARCH 25 IT'S OFFICIALLY MARCH MADNESS FOR RUGBY, when MTSU will host the first round [quarterfinal] of the SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP against North Carolina. The winner of this game will go the South Final Four Championships in Huntsville. Bring friends and let the boys hear you - the Moosemen need your support!

HOROSCOPES | MARCH 15-22

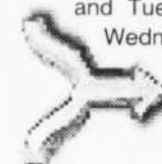
Aries (March 21-April 19)

The sun is in your sign now, so you're looking better than ever! You can afford to compromise on Monday and Tuesday, and that makes you even more attractive. Be careful with money on Wednesday and Thursday, and you could make a shrewd deal. Around Friday, you should start thinking about sports and travel. If you're going on a limb this weekend, take safety precautions.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This week, you're liable to be contemplative and interested in finishing old business. Make work your top priority on Monday and Tuesday. Give your attention to a partner on Wednesday and Thursday, and you'll most likely win the argument. Review your notes about a big purchase on Friday and get it over the weekend.



Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Monday and Tuesday should be a lot of fun. So many great invitations, so little time! Schedule some private time to contemplate your future on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday could be tough, but you should have most of the problems solved by this weekend. Go ahead and fall in love again, then.



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

This week, push yourself to use your talents. On Monday and Tuesday, you have too much to do. Delegate. You'll be more decisive on Wednesday and Thursday. You may have help by then, too, which is good. Paperwork dominates on Friday and Saturday. Get rid of accumulated junk this weekend.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

You want to go someplace and have fun this week, but Monday's not your best day to start. You may even have a breakdown on Tuesday and Wednesday. Fix it on Thursday and Friday so you can get out of town as early as possible on Friday. Something romantic would be perfect.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Money is important this week, especially on Monday and Tuesday. Look for ways to legally transform other people's money into your own. Wednesday and Thursday are good days to study, so learn a new way to get rich. Somebody's got to do it, might as well be you. Finish up business on Friday and hide out at home for a low-key weekend.



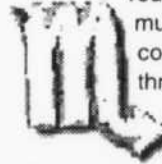
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Partnerships are important to you this week, and you're important to someone else, too. You're looking good on Monday, especially. On Tuesday and Wednesday, you'll think more about practical matters, like how to get the money you want. Creative work pays well on Thursday and Friday, so maybe you can afford an interesting excursion this weekend.



Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You'll work harder this week, so take care. You could get nervous on Monday, due to a perceived lack of control. Take care of paperwork on Tuesday, and you'll feel much better. You'll come on strong Wednesday and Thursday, much to your inner delight. The money should come in on Friday, and that condition could extend through the weekend. So, if you can get overtime, take it!



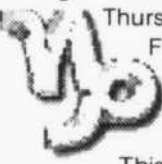
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're entering a fun four-week phase. Congratulations. You may have to pick and choose between engagements on Monday and Tuesday. There are simply not enough hours in those days. Consider the bottom line on Wednesday and Thursday before you make some tough decisions on Friday. Over the weekend, get out and play where you have room to run.



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You may decide to take on a big household project soon. Work requires your attention on Monday and Tuesday, though. Enroll a team for support on Wednesday and Thursday. You're getting luckier in romance around Friday. Plan and prepare this weekend so you'll be ready to launch early next week.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This should be a good week for you to study. On Monday and Tuesday, your communication skills could be excellent. How about going back for another degree or credential? From Wednesday through Friday, you may wish you already had it. Get together with friends this weekend. A team-style sport activity would be especially relaxing.



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your confidence should be in good shape by now. So, go out and make a bunch of money. On Monday and Tuesday, learn how to invest wisely. You might have mechanical difficulties on Wednesday or Thursday, so watch out. By Friday, you should be able to fix them. Listen to an older person over the weekend, and you may find out how to win at a game you've been losing.

