

# SIDELINES

# FLASH!

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

APRIL 12, 2000



## Vices in the name of Swank

by Robin Wallace  
FLASH! Editor

Sebastian's became the scene of a great number of vices Saturday night as every definition of "swank" was defined by the Swank Fest presented by TAG, the online trash-culture magazine of Nashville.

As the club filled to nearly standing room only, characters of all kind, came out of the woodwork, particularly those who put on high class airs reincarnated in a gaudy mocking tribute.

Suit-clad, devilish men, posing as gentlemen and the revived James Dean-like-vintage-hard-core-swingsters toked and mingled in the cigarette smoke and the clouding smell of cigars.

Breaking through the thick clouds came the varied entertainment, which

shared the common lines of shock and rock, from the first band, Dharma Kaya, ending their act with the lead singer/guitarist exposing a dildo from his pants to the closing band, The Hoptown Tigers, who started their act with an explosive line of obscenities.

Yet, the act that stole the show was ironically "Sideshow" Bennie. When he took the stage the raucous and the slightly drunk crowd became like a can of sardines, packed in tight with some standing on tabletops for a better view of the freaky carny geek. But what makes Bennie's act a hit is the fact that he admits on stage that he's repulsive and he embraces that while the audience embraces it with him.

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By SYLVIA SLAUGHTER  
Staff Writer  
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Here's to you...

Looking back and stepping forward

# Carpe

Among other things, what separates us from the animal world is our ability to feel. Emotions such as anger, jealousy, excitement, joy, remorse and love are the cogs behind what makes humans tick.

Feeling all the emotions in the course of one day is a natural part of our routine. Although we may also express our emotions through clenched fists, tearing eyes and laughing smiles, we also try to hide what we are feeling from the world, as well as from ourselves. It is these buried emotions that tears us up and plagues us with nagging unsettledness.

While it may be painful or difficult to consciously acknowledge or verbally communicate those well-camouflaged feelings, it certainly isn't natural to keep them all bottled-up within ourselves. How is someone to know that you are angry, hurt, touched or head over heels in love with them if you don't speak up?

Carly Simon wrote a song a couple years ago about letters never sent and wondering how her life might of been different if she had sent them to the people for which they were written.

Being a writer, I prefer to hide behind ink and let my words on paper speak for me. Yet as I have discovered with some letters given or kept from the postmaster, the best way to tell someone how you feel about whatever it may be good, bad or indifferent is in person. So bolster up your courage, take a deep breath and just say it...no if's, and's, or but's!

Robin Wallace

Flash! Editor

## FEEDBACK

letter to the editor

### Big Business

The rise of big business in today's small town only epitomizes the American citizen's ever-growing need for more STUFF. What I mean here by stuff is defined as mass-produced goods that saturate the economy and store shelves that don't necessarily have any value beside the fact that the purchase of them helps in a seemingly insignificant way to boost the economy. You know the old adage, "Help the economy; CONSUME!" The rise of superstores like Wal-Mart and Hastings help us to do just that.

We buy and buy because we believe that we need more STUFF, when in reality we just buy the same things over and over again. Take clothes for instance. Why do certain people have eight of the same short-sleeve Polo shirt [different colors, of course!] in their closet at one time? One cannot even wear all of these shirts in a week, let alone the other shirts that he/she owns.

Another example is music. We buy the same music all the time. The same songs are reproduced on different discs [ex. greatest hits albums, compilations, etc.]. We are always looking for something new and

exciting. While much of what we buy is different on the surface, the utility of the object is the same [in the case of the shirts], or the product is exactly the same, only produced under a different marketing scheme [as with the songs]. We have been indoctrinated into a consumerist lifestyle from day one, and now it is nearly impossible to buy goods based on need alone. This is how the big business contributes to the problem of Americans consuming useless products. They make STUFF available at all hours of the day, so we can get in our cars at 3:00 in the morning and buy on a whim.

The issue between the big-business Wal-Marts and small town shops is not only the service and specialized goods, but it seems like small shops actually sell what people need on a need-basis. They do not saturate their shelves with worthless STUFF that is produced just for rapid consumption, but rather sell items for the purpose of utilization. The difference is between what we want and what we need. We seem to spend so long looking for STUFF to satisfy our desires that we miss the truly important question: What is all this STUFF for?

Mike Amrozowicz

he said...

A Man's Man  
by Josh Ezzell

What's right and wrong?

Everybody thinks they know the answer to this question, but one issue causes people to question their values.

I'm talking about the death penalty. Is it right or is it wrong?

Everybody has an opinion.

But you know what they say about opinions.

Being the vengeful southern boy, I feel that the death penalty is absolutely necessary for our judicial system.

By barbequing criminals, we make room for other criminals.

Criminals that would otherwise go free now have a jail cell waiting for them. They, unlike people on death row, have a chance to be productive members of society.

The only people who should be exempt are those who commit vehicular homicide. While vehicular homicide is wrong, it's not cold blooded murder.

Let's face it: people who commit murder are subhuman. Humans have a conscious — you know, that little voice that tells you right from wrong.

Without that little voice, we're animals, and if you act like an animal, you deserve to be treated like an animal.

Robert Glen Coe is a perfect example. He raped and murdered an 8 year old girl, Cary Ann Medlin, and was convicted in 1981.

If anyone deserves the death penalty, it's this guy.

What kind of person would do this to a little girl?

Not one that deserves to live. To prolong his imminent death, he's asked for — and received — a stay of execution. I am truly disappointed in the two judges who allowed this to happen.

Nothing pisses me off more than stays of execution and appeals. They eat up tax dollars and buy the proven guilty a little more unnecessary time.

The unnecessary time bought gives criminals a little more time to enjoy the cable TV, weight room and cards. This is hardly punishment. Hell, most free people wish they had that much free time on their hands.

Opponents of the death penalty will say that society doesn't have the right to take someone's life. They think that letting someone sit in prison for life will make the criminal remorseful.

Yeah, right. The chance of criminals feeling remorseful is about as slim as me going to an opera.

The victims have had to suffer, and they deserve to see the person — who ruined their life — suffer like they have.

Will either side of the death penalty issue ever get satisfaction?

Not as long as nuts like me and wussies like Angela White are alive.

she said...

Angela White  
Atypical Woman

I'm not your normal death penalty opposer. I don't believe a superior being is the one who should make the decision. I don't buy into the idea that they should sit in their jail cell and ponder what they did for the rest of their life like a child being punished for stealing a candy bar. What I do believe is that we have no more of a right to take someone's life as the person we are supposedly punishing did.

I also don't believe, however, that we need to make these people's prison lives nearly as pleasurable as they already are. Josh pointed out the cable TV, weight rooms and cards. I didn't know prisoners spent that much time playing cards. But that's not the point. Quite frankly, I don't see us having any responsibility in making the life of the prisoner a "quality" experience.

With our democratic system and its "let ten free guilty men go free" ideal, it's hard to actually find someone guilty and throw them into jail. So when it does happen, more likely than not that person deserves it. Yes, mistakes do happen. The innocent do go to jail. But we cannot let such a rarity cloud our ultimate goal. With the state that our society is in right now, some sacrifices will have to be made.

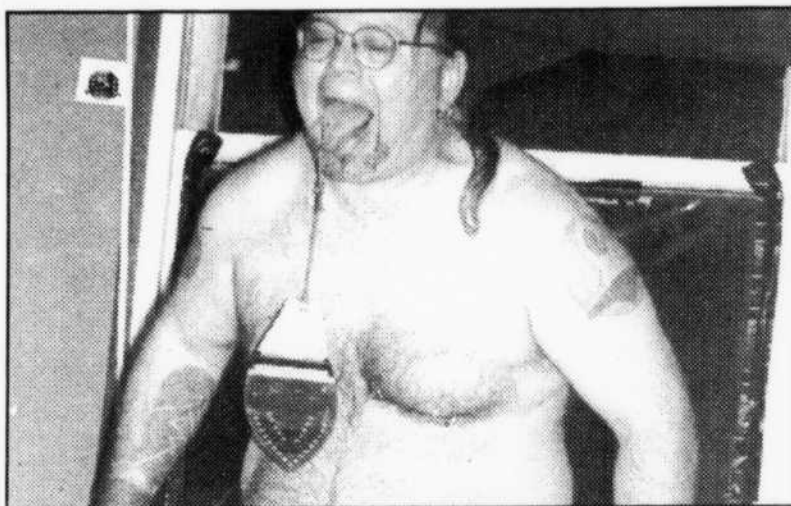
I also agree that tax money is being wasted on these people, whether or not they are on death row. As far as I'm concerned, throwing them into a pit somewhere and giving them the bare necessities to survive is about all most of them deserve. Let the tax money go to education, so that it at least can help those who still have a chance to be productive citizens.

One of the main reasons why I don't approve of the death penalty is because I don't see it as enough of a punishment. Nobody knows what happens after death. Personally, I don't believe in an after-life. So how can nothingness be a punishment? If anything, we are relieving these people from their punishment by ending it with death.

If I'm a family member of a victim who's been killed by someone on death row, I would be much more satisfied with the knowledge that they are living a miserable excuse for a life. But seeing them fry? That would do nothing for me. And I can't see how it would do anything for any other victim, even if they do believe in a superior being or an after-life. Once it's over and the murderer is dead, then what? What will these people have left to console them then?

Finally, I see the death penalty as hypocritical. We are punishing these people for doing exactly what we are doing to them. We don't cut off the hands of those who steal because that would be considered "cruel and unusual punishment" under our Constitution. So how is the death penalty any different?





## The flipside of 'sophisticated' swank culture

*continued from cover*

Sideshow Bennie's strong tongue and cheek humor relieved some of the hair-raising tension from stunts such as: hammering a nail up his nose, having someone walk on top of him as he lay face down, including his face, in a bed of freshly broken glass, stapling a dollar bill to his forehead with a staplegun or using his back as the target for a round of darts.

He also likes to set into action new trends: "Screw your body piercing and tattoos — buttons is where it's at," proclaimed Sideshow Bennie as he sewed a button onto quite a large amount of flesh on his bicep.

While all of these things may seem rather spine crawling, nothing can compare to Sideshow Bennie's grand finale, where he swings irons first from his pierced earlobes, then his tongue, his nipples and finally his scrotum.

From Bennie's experience once you do it and feel the initial pain, the next time it doesn't register as pain. Apparently, he knows how to mentally prepare himself for what he's about to feel by visualizing his whole act and arranging it from the least to the most painful, giving his endorphins and adrenaline a chance to kick in.

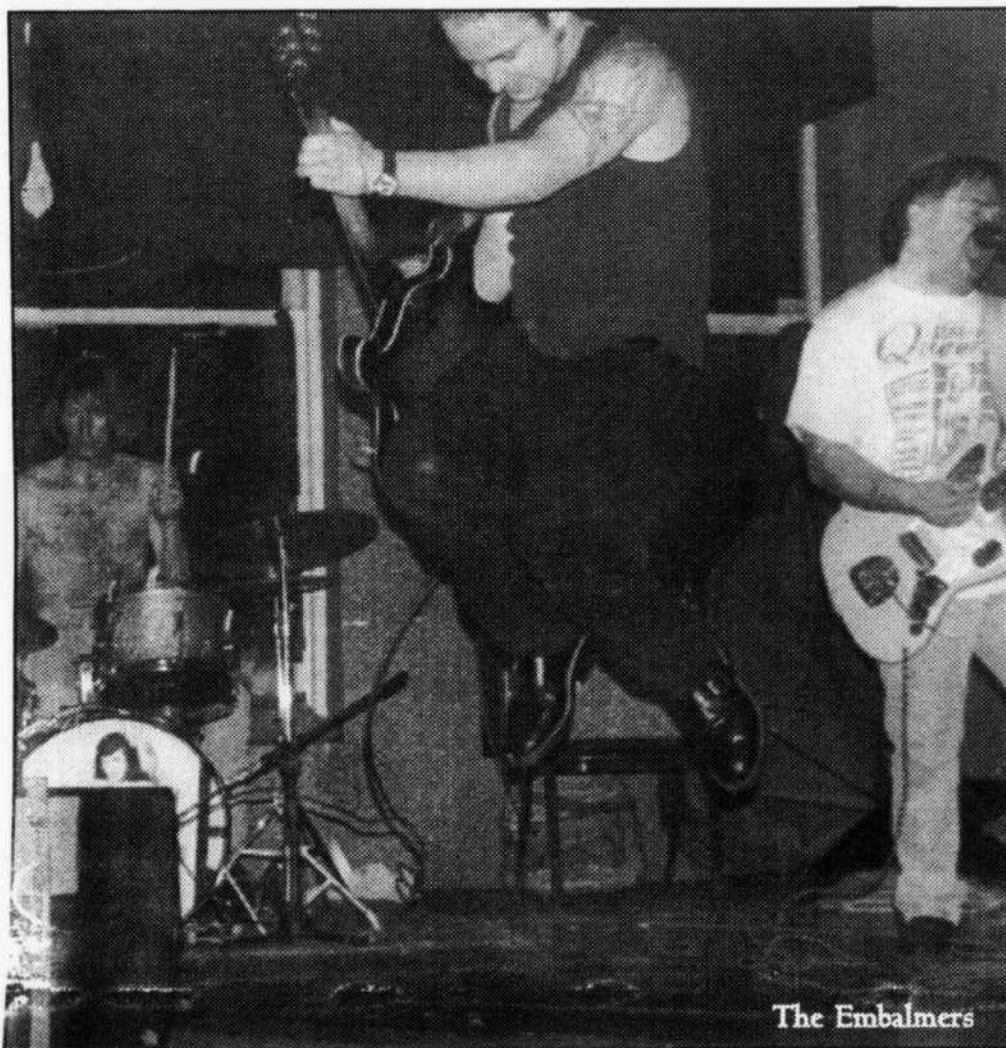
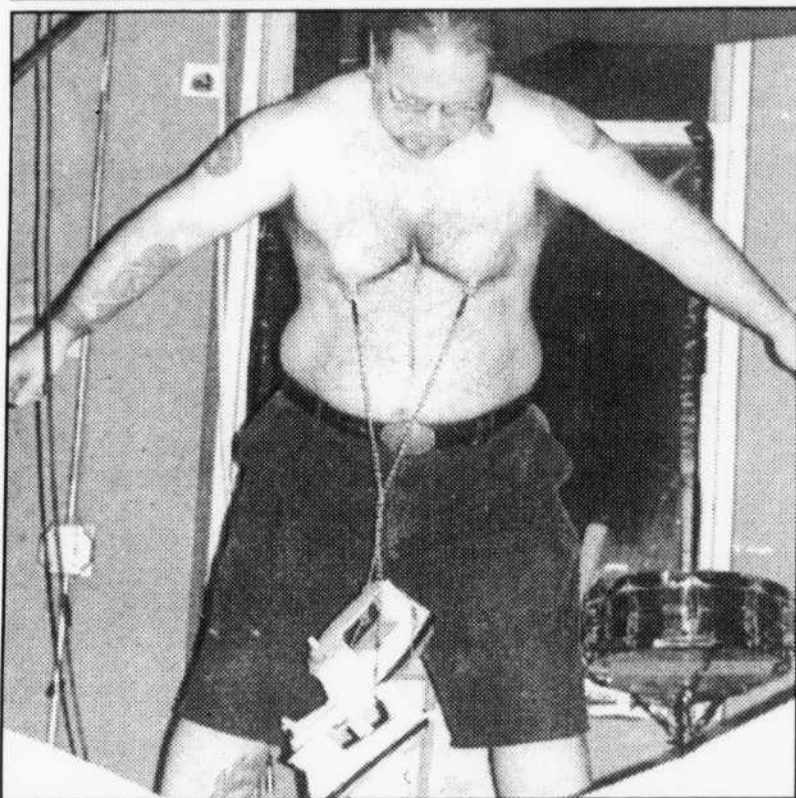
The wide array of music and entertainment is brought together by the informal mission statement set into action by the four individual driving forces behind TAG [Will Reynolds, contents researcher and business administration, David Willie, webmaster and lead singer of Nine Parts Devil, Robert Logue, photographer, and Benjamin Wade, writer and Sideshow Bennie].

"Coming out of a band background, we want to bring a variety of entertainment that follows different formats, while staying within the overall culture of what we're doing — trying to give back from whence we came," said Reynolds.

With the desire to be the outlet for enjoying life and to present the other side of sophisticated culture, TAG in addition to its monthly online issue, will be hosting upcoming monthly events including a heavy-metal/wrestling extravaganza, a vintage burlesque show and the "On the Edge" art show to display controversial or previously restricted pieces.

The next "nite of vice" will be held on May 6 at 12th and Porter. Call for more information: [615] 383-4814 or visit <http://www.thetag.net>.

*all photos by Rory White*



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# Etching words in stone



# A journalist with a heart

by Jenny Cordle  
Staff Writer

With a chisel in one hand and a paint brush in the other, journalist Sylvia Slaughter carves out the truth of a story and paints it on the page for her readers.

As a feature writer for the "Tennessean," Slaughter has interviewed a variety of people, from innocent children to cold-blooded murderers.

The difference between news and features is clear for Slaughter: "It's more fun," she whispers with one hand cupped over her mouth to prevent news writer Patrick Connelly from hearing.

"We try to lure readers with soul," she explains in a raspy voice, evidence of the many years she's puffed on cigarettes. "And I think a news writer should do the same thing. I don't think there should be any difference."

It's a Tuesday. Slaughter is sitting in front of her computer screen, wearing a casual shirt and jeans — attire fit for someone who doesn't "believe in formalities." A few strands of her long gray hair are pulled to the side with a tortoiseshell clip that matches the rims of her huge glasses, which enlarge her bright green eyes and the wrinkles surrounding them.

Slaughter shares a cubicle with Deputy Managing Editor Catherine Straight and staff writer Elizabeth Betts, four computers and multiple issues of the "Tennessean" scattered about the area.

Slaughter's perfectly content with her section of the cubicle, much more than she would be if she were sitting at the desk of the feature editor, a position she held years back in Indiana at the "Sunday Courier Press."

"Editors don't write," she explains. "They shuffle papers and make horrifying decisions."

By the time Slaughter manages to explain that being organized is "the key to not having ulcers," Betts compliments her.

"Sylvia's a good person to shadow," she says. "She's won a slew of awards."

Slaughter, who admits she has never taken a journalism class in her life, gets comfortable in her "office" chair as she explains how she developed her eye for detail as a feature writer.

"By wearing contacts and glasses," she says modestly.

She then proceeds to explain the real reason she's won "too many awards" for stories she layers with thick coats of her heart and soul.

"Curiosity is probably the best thing to have in this business, and you want it in an abundance."

As Slaughter recalls the most satisfying story she's ever placed her byline above, those eyes begin to water, revealing an experience

Slaughter has held close to her heart.

"A little boy died," she says, summarizing the story, "and I'd written a column about him. He was just a little bitty kid, and wanted to live to earn his orange belt in karate, but knew he wouldn't live to earn his black belt."

"Meanest little kid," she says smiling and thinking about the first time she met him.

"He had grapes, and of course he had a cancer and a hammer," she explains in a roundabout way. "And was sitting on his mom's beautiful kitchen table smashing those grapes with a hammer," she laughs, still astounded at the image.

Slaughter explains that the child was "working out a lot of his anxiety."

"When I left [his house], I was covered

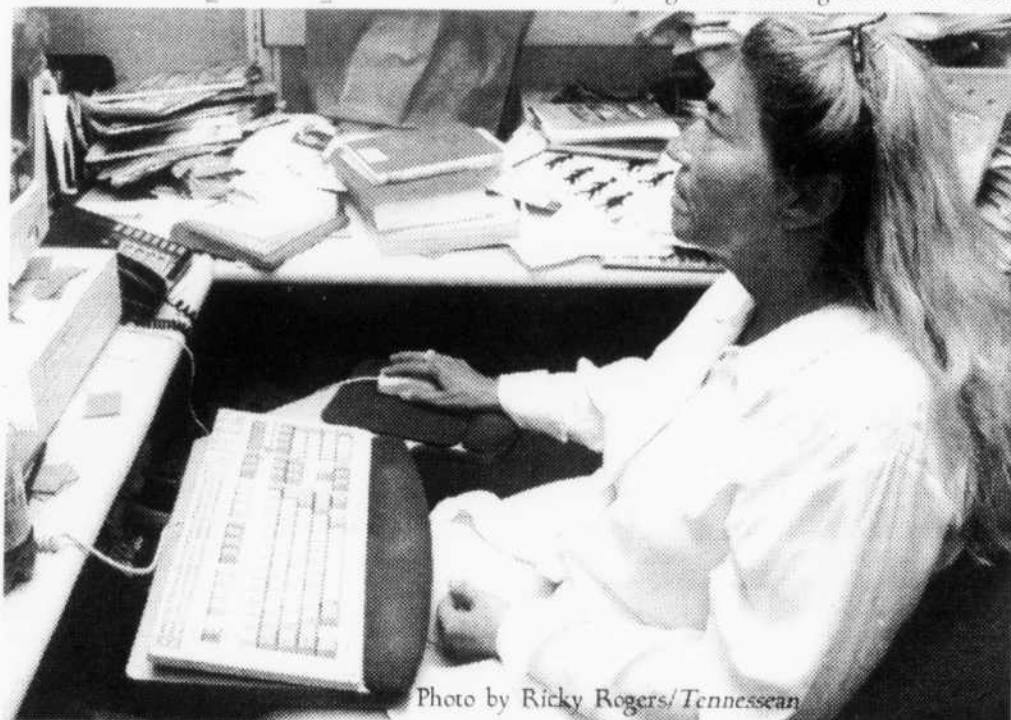


Photo by Ricky Rogers/Tennessean

with grape juice," she says, waving her hands in front of her. "But I liked the little kid, and I wrote a column and cried an awful lot."

After he died, Slaughter found herself in front of his grave, staring at the engraved words on the headstone.

They were her words.

His mom and dad had lifted a sentence she had written in her article and had it carved into the headstone.

"I said something that covered the people that loved him most, and that was his mom and dad," she says.

"And I think that was the award I was most pleased with," she says, then pauses. "Most pleased with."

That was 20 years ago. Little did she know she'd still have as much of an impact on readers today as she did then.

"You learn to care about different segments of society," she explains. "You learn that 'Mo' across the street, homeless, probably has a gun and a knife in the bottom of his plastic bag. I'll walk out there and it will be, 'Well, Ms. Slaughter, I read you today. Got any money for breakfast?'"

And with that, Slaughter says she's heading to McDonald's.

Slaughter devotes her time to aiding her "favorite people," the homeless, at the Help Center in downtown Nashville.

She's also written several stories about the homeless.

"They're people, you know," she says. "They get hungry, they hurt, they get cold, and they might be babbling down the street,

gives her a chance to "see how the other world lives."

"You know, journalists are very insular," she explains. "We know what each other is thinking, we yell it across the news room."

"But what's going on out in the world beyond 1100 Broadway?"

For Slaughter today, it means driving back to the focal point of her next project story: a house in Old Hickory once occupied by a 78-year-old woman named Ms. Lenny.

Slaughter's curiosity about animal control led her to the story about Ms. Lenny, who had six dead animal carcasses and two copperheads lurking in her "horribly filthy house."

"She's a little lady who's a hoarder who can't throw anything away," she says after explaining that it took five truck loads of trash for the Department of Health workers to clean the house out.

Slaughter makes her way to the porch, ready to cover her nose in case the stench is still as bad as it was months ago.

After realizing the front door is locked, she carefully examines every inch of the house on the outside and notices a Department of Health Services sign taped to the window.

"Not fit for human habitation," she reads aloud, shaking her head in pity and shame.

Before she makes her way off the porch, a metal box nailed to one of the poles catches her eye.

She cautiously reaches down to open the box and pulls out a tiny calendar which has been worn from the weather.

The calendar dates back to 1984. Holding it between her thumb and forefinger, she places it on the dashboard of her car.

She will use it for the story, as a crucial detail to illustrate how long Ms. Lenny has been hoarding.

"I don't want the story to sound like I'm beating up on an old woman," Slaughter explains. "I wanna say, 'There are other Ms. Lenny's out there who probably live right next door.'"

After researching and interviewing several sources, Ms. Lenny's story will be plastered on the front page of the living section under Slaughter's byline.

Slaughter says her ultimate goal is to find the truth, the essence of Ms. Lenny, and to paint an accurate picture of her for readers.

She will then wait for the phone call from a reader reacting to her story.

"Even if they say, 'Ms. Slaughter, you were dead wrong,' even that, at least they're thinking."

continued page 11

by Daniel Ross  
Staff Writer

## Old country passes the torch to new generation



In recent years, country music has become unidentifiable. Is it the pop sounds of Shania Twain or the arena folk rock of Garth Brooks? Somewhere in the middle of all of that is the forgotten country. Just when all seems to be hopeless for "country" country music, along comes a savior. His name is Marty Stuart.

On his latest release "The Pilgrim," Stuart presents something rare in country music, a concept album. While famous in rock music, the concept album has been ignored by country music nearly altogether. "The Pilgrim" is the true story of a man who is in love with another man's wife, although he doesn't know she's

married. The love is not meant to be, however, the husband confronts the two together and kills himself in front of the two lovers. "The Pilgrim," as he is known, begins a journey ranging from desperation and drunkenness to riding the rails as a hobo and ultimately redemption.

Each song is a piece of the pilgrim's mind. For this task, Stuart has called upon some friends of his to lend a hand. Pam Tillis, George Jones, Emmylou Harris and Earl Scruggs all make guest appearances as a different voice in the tale. Johnny Cash, appropriately enough, is the final voice of a redeemed pilgrim as he recites an excerpt from Alfred Lord Tennyson's

"Sir Garland." This recitation of the pilgrim's life is so moving in its reading by Cash that chill bumps are instantaneous.

However, it is Stuart who makes the album great. A consummate country purist,

Stuart sheds some of his rowdy "honky-tonkin's what I do best" attitude for a more subtle, melancholy rendering on the album. Even the upbeat numbers have a sense of sorrow and heartache in them. "Going Nowhere Fast" is a great example. While up-tempo, the song reveals a man who is at his wit's end and has nowhere else to go.

Stuart also displays more of the

fine musicianship he is well known for in Nashville on the album. Featuring more acoustic instruments, the album is a call to a return to country's history and honesty in the music. Stuart's mandolin playing is more superb than ever on "The Pilgrim." The album showcases some of Stuart's bluegrass roots more frequently than any previous release. The guitars on the album are tastier than catfish fried down in the Mississippi Delta. The only downfall of the album is that sometimes Stuart seems to want to let loose, but the rhythm just doesn't seem to want to go with him.

While, lyrically, the album focuses *continued page 11*

by Kevin McNulty  
Staff Writer

## The boys are back in town

The Guy Smiley Blues Exchange [GSBE] has been referred to as "A wicked cayenne-spicy mix of brassy salsa ... cocktail exotica" [The Nashville Scene], "Gen-X Jazz" [The Tennessean] and they call themselves "psychafunkadoobalicious." I'm thinking, that's not enough! It's more like "funkagroovadelic" or maybe "syncogroovafunky-jammomatic" ... whatever, I give up - there is no word. No wait, here it is, "indescribable."

The band and their unique sound is like a great dish you've tasted, but you can't describe. Let's see ... they're a dash of jazz, a dash of funk [make that a large dose], add some more funk and lots of groove, then throw in some alternative rock, and then a little more funkadelic groove, now throw in some sophistication and musical education, mix in a ton of originality, and now throw in seven incredibly talented musicians and there you have it! Nope ... still not enough.

This band rocks the house! I had the chance to see and hear them several weeks ago. I actually went to see the opening rock band and then intended to leave, but as I watched this young group of musicians set up [GSBE], I became quite intrigued with what was unfolding. Now bear in mind, I had just seen an alternative rock band with a killer rock guitar player, and the next thing I see is a set of vibraphones being set up by a sort of unassuming fellow. Now I see a set of congas and other percussion going up. I'm asking myself, "what's going on here?" Then a set of keyboards, drums, bass, guitar ... etc, etc.

But now I see three guys step on stage with an alto, tenor and bari sax, and I'm getting this weird sensation that something crazy is about to happen. I'm totally "geeked-up" with anticipation.

Now the moment of truth ... when they final-

ly kick off, the place just starts jammin'. A rhythm and energy comes over the club, and I see no end in sight for the rest of the night. It is pure unadulterated funkyjazzgroovomatic fun! The "Tower of Power" of the new millennium!

However, in a really weird way, with as much fun and the sort of loose demeanor the band members have, there is a structured, most serious level of musicianship and performance taking place on stage. Look a little closer, it doesn't take a rocket scientist, or musician, to see that they are very accomplished and educated musicians. All play multi-instruments and come from a variety of backgrounds and musical styles.

Back to the stage, I see Graham Spice on keyboards and guitar, founding member, who sort of plays off to the side, but is having a blast. I swear the look on his face is like "I can't believe I'm getting paid for all this fun!" Then there's bassist Frank Reynolds, who if I weren't looking at him I would swear "Jaco" has been reincarnated [never mind if you don't know Jaco-he was arguably the greatest!]. Drummer Pete Meriwether holds the band together with a serious back-beat and Andrew Swift is on stage left adding a truly unique flavor with the vibes, latin

percussion, including an "electric guiro" [don't ask, go see for yourself].

Then you have the horn section. To use an old jazz term, these cats are in a world of their own. I think the action verb they use on stage is "stretch" - musically that is. Stretch the notes, the instrument, the breathing, the incidentals, the body, the scales and the musical performance solo as absolutely hard and original as you can! It's about expression. Bill Schulz takes the baritone sax to its limit and then pushes

harder, Patrick Dolan on alto sax and flute seems quite reserved and organized with his demeanor, but lets it rip when it's time to solo. Chris West literally throws his whole body into his solos. He seems to be the one that enjoys the challenge of stretching the most. Somehow he goes off into this musical flight, and the only limits are the boundaries of space itself.

A point that should not go unnoticed is they sound good, too. The sound system seems rather basic - it might have been the club's setup - nevertheless, they have a young lady running

However, in a really weird way, with as much fun and the sort of loose demeanor the band members have, there is a structured, most serious level of musicianship and performance taking place on stage.

sound who is very attentive and does a great job of keeping each member of the seven-piece band heard.

If you want to see a band that is totally engrossed in their music, yet is ever aware of the audience and the need to groove them, the Guy Smiley Blues Exchange is the band to see.

P.S. They were nominated for Best R&B Album of the Year for their debut, self-titled 1999 release by the Nashville Music Awards. Prediction: Soon to be Band of the Year.

You can catch the GSBE live at the The Boro tonight and at the Rite of Spring event at Vanderbilt Saturday or check out all of their dates at [www.gsbe.com](http://www.gsbe.com).







#### Lysistrata 24th AD

Which is mightier - the vagina or the sword? There's no contest in Dale Calandra and Donald Coates' musical update of Aristophanes' antiwar comedy, in which the women of the world force the men to choose between making war or making love. Performed 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday in MTSU's Tucker Theater. For tickets, call 898-2103. \$5 adults, \$2.50 MTSU faculty, staff and students. For information call [615] 898-2640.

#### The School For Scandal

Lady Sneerwell and her malicious friends in London's smart set make blood-pot of go-sip, but when they malign the reputation of good hearted Sir Oliver Surface, his brother Joseph contrives to expose their hypocrisy. Performed 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday in the Neely Auditorium, Vanderbilt University. For information call [615] 322-2404.



"Metalwoven Metaphors," by Murfreesboro artist, Pidge Cash, is a stunning exhibition of woven metal and fibers that are a "metaphor for the intertwining of thought and feeling, the tension between body, mind and heart," as described by Cash. It will be on display at the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Center for the Arts Gallery through April 29, Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend a free reception on Saturday, April 15, from 6-8 p.m., in the Center Gallery. Refreshments will be served, and the artist will be present. Call: [615] 904-2787.

"I Was Born Less Than Perfect," by R. Ellis Orrall will be on display at Jackson's Coffee & Tea through April during business hours. Call: [615] 385-9894.

## A surprising hit of 'Horrors'

After seeing the performance of "Little House of Horrors" at the Sumner County Playhouse in Hendersonville, I find it incredible that the movie version was so popular.

According to Pauline Bell, who accompanied me to the play, the movie developed a cult following. For years, they attended the movie repeatedly, dressed as the characters. Bell admits to attending a showing. She said that the audience sang the music, and spoke the dialog along with the actors.

The Sumner County Playhouse version of this play takes place entirely in Mushnik's Flower Shop. Because the shop is located on skid row, it is not very prosperous.

Joe Triplitt's portrayal of Mr. Mushnik gives the audience a sympathetic view of the character. Judging by the plot line and the actual dialog, this was not the intention of the author of the play.

Mushnik has two employees, Seymour and Audrey. Seymour is a nerdy little guy who grew up in the shop and whose only friend is a plant that he found mysteriously. The fact that he named the plant Audrey II gives an indication of where his heart really lies. Gary Clemmer plays the role of Seymour.

Keely Williams is Audrey [the first]. She dis-

plays the emotional range of a Barbie doll, which is what the part requires.

Rodney Pickel plays Audrey's boyfriend, an abusive motorcycle-riding dentist. When he meets his tragic death early in the play, everyone is relieved, especially the audience.

When Seymour places his strange plant in the flower shop window, the world begins to flood into the flower shop. This development thrills everyone and Seymour's life changes dramatically.

However, only Seymour knows that the plant requires human blood to survive.

To sustain her life, Seymour begins to feed her various cast members.

By the end of the play, we recognize that Audrey II is part of an alien conspiracy to take over the world.

Ric White is the director of this play. He has an extensive background in theater work both here and in Maryland.

The Sumner County Playhouse, at 260 W. Main St. in Hendersonville, opened in October 1998. It seats between 120 and 160 people, depending on the configuration of the stage.

The lobby of the theater displays art by local artists. According to Linda Thornton, office manag-

er for the group, she attempts to show art that fits the theme of the show they are presenting at the time.

There is a sculpture of Audrey II on display now, along with several creepy paintings.

In addition to theatrical performances, the playhouse also hosts drama workshops for children and teens. It is the home of a Boy Scout Explorer Post devoted to drama training.

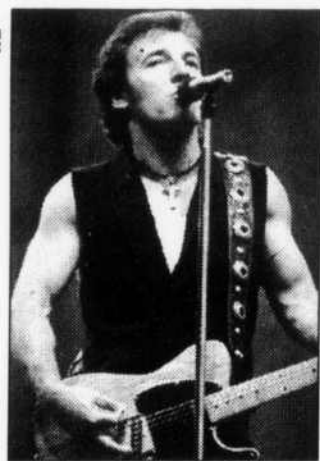
White and Thornton, who own the theater jointly, collaborate on other projects as well. They are just finishing a 20-minute video about suicide prevention that will be distributed nationally. They filmed most of the drama at Hendersonville High School, and it featured 40 students from the school.

White is the author of a play about the Bell Witch. He is now meeting with potential investors to discuss making a movie about the same topic.

"With the recent success of 'The Blair Witch Project,'" he observed, "I think some doors are opening."

Sumner County Playhouse will present "Little Shop of Horrors" April 18 through 16. Performances will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors.

## Tickets - who, when, where and how much?



April 12  
Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band will be playing at the Gaylord Entertainment Center April 12 at 7:30 p.m.. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at all Ticketmaster locations. Or call 615-255-9600.



April 28  
Kiss is holding its farewell tour, featuring special guests Ted Nugent and Skid Row, Friday, Apr. 28, in the AmSouth Amphitheatre. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at all Ticketmaster locations. Or call 615-255-9600.



April 21  
Christian artists are getting together to form the Habitat House Party. The event will feature Michael W. Smith, Six Pence None the Richer, Third Day, Jennifer Knapp, Trinity 5:7 and more. Hosted by Toby McKeean, the event will be held Friday, Apr. 21 in the AmSouth Amphitheatre. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at all Ticketmaster locations. Or call 615-255-9600.



May 14  
'N Sync will be playing May 14 in the Adelphia Coliseum. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at all Ticketmaster locations. Or call 615-255-9600.

June 3  
The Volunteer Jam 2000, featuring The Charlie Daniels Band, Marshall



Tucker Band, Little Feat, Pure Prairie League and Edgar Winter, will be held Saturday, June 3. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at all Ticketmaster locations. Or call 615-255-9600.

June 10  
The Judds present "The Power to Change Tour" Saturday, June 10. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at all Ticketmaster locations. Or call 615-255-9600.



June 12  
The Red Hot Chili Peppers will be playing with the Foo Fighters and Kool Keith June 12. Tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased at all Ticketmaster locations. Or call 615-255-9600.

by Michael Edwards  
Staff Writer

# 'Skulls' a guaranteed laugh Something so good went so very wrong



When you leave the theater after watching "The Skulls," ask for your money back. After watching the previews of this movie since around the beginning of January, I was excited about it. The previews were great, unfortunately they were the best part of the movie.

The "secret society" that Luke McNamara [Joshua Jackson] was invited to join was a group of elite college students at Yale University. In the movie the society is called The Skulls. At Yale the society is actually called "The Skulls and Bones," but due to a copyright on the name, the movie could not use it.

Most everything seen in the movie is true. The Society did spawn what is known today as the Central Intelligence Agency. Writer John Pogue could have turned this intriguing story into a great movie, but instead managed to botch the story. How he did it, I will never know.

McNamara was invited to join this society that could make all his dreams come true and make his life easier. Once, when out on the town with his girlfriend Chloe [Leslie Bibb], McNamara was about to withdraw money from a money machine, but when he saw his balance, he was surprised that he had over \$20,000 dollars to his name. Later in the movie, McNamara

received a letter of acceptance to the law school of his choice. Everything was great, right? Not so fast. McNamara's best friend Will Beckford [Hill Harper] was a college journalist who tried to break into the headquarters of "The Skulls." That, of course, was a forbidden action.

After taking pictures and recording notes on a tape recorder, Beckford was caught by Caleb Mandrake [Paul Walker], who was McNamara's "soulmate" in the society. Beckford was chased around the room by Mandrake, and finally Beckford fell off a ledge about ten feet off the floor, and his neck snapped. Of course The Skulls covered up the accident, but when McNamara found his best friend's body in a particularly bad position, he had an idea of who might have killed his friend.

Eventually, he found out who killed him and threatened The Skulls to go to the authorities. Senator Ames Levritt [William Petersen], who was a life long member of the society, was a secret advocate of McNamara and permitted him to go tell the police.

Unfortunately, an inside job by The Skulls did not permit a surveillance tape to be viewed. The tape recorded the accident and all the details. The contact within the police department switched tapes and nothing was found on the new surveillance tape.

One of the problems I had with the movie is that the chairman of The Skulls was a man named Litten Mandrake. The name is not the problem. The actor was, of all people, Craig T.

Nelson. That's right, "Coach." He may have done a good job acting, but I kept having flash backs of his television sit-com and was waiting for Luther and Dobber to pop up somewhere in the movie. Another thing that really bugged me was when McNamara was being chased by people from "The Skulls" who were trying to kill him. So when he was trapped in an alley, some of his friends, mentioned briefly at the beginning of the film, rappelled off the roof of a two story building and hit the attackers right on the arms that were holding their pistols aimed at their friend, McNamara.

Without going into too much detail on the action of the movie, I'll explain the part that sealed its fate of this movie. At the end, Caleb Mandrake and McNamara were in a dispute, and in the society, disputes are settled one way. Hold on to your seats. They settled their disagreement with a duel. When they said they were having a duel, the entire theater audience laughed at the movie, which was not intended to be funny.

Overall, I was thoroughly disappointed. After being so excited prior to viewing it, I was bummed afterwards. However, There was one thing about the movie that I still haven't figured out. How do you screw up a movie with these kind of capabilities? It's like making a bad movie about the mafia.

If the manager of the Wynnsong 16 is reading this, you can bring my refund by the "Sidelines" office.



## the screening

### Where The Money Is

Shows what can happen when a renowned bank robber cons his way out of prison and into someplace more comfortable: a nursing home. The caper that eventually ensues revolves around an unusual trio of characters: bank robber [Newman], larceny-minded nurse [Linda Fiorentino], and the nurse's husband [Dermet Mulroney].

Opens: April 14  
Starring: Paul Newman  
Running Time: 83 minutes



### 28 Days

Gwen Cummings [Bullock] is a successful New York writer living life in the fast lane, and is everyone's favorite party girl—until Gwen's ungraceful display at her sister Lily's [Elizabeth Perkins] wedding, when she gets drunk, commandeers the limo and earns a DUI and 28 days in court-ordered rehab.

Opens: April 14  
Starring: Sandra Bullock  
Running Time: 103 minutes



### Love & Basketball

From producers Spike Lee and Sam Kitt comes a love story told in four quarters. A story of friendship, rivalry and ultimately the give and take of a one-on-one relationship, [Epps] and Monica Wright [Lathan] are childhood adversaries and talented athletes who have a love for the game of basketball and each other. As each pursues their dream of competing professionally, they must face their own respective hurdles.



### Where The Heart Is

When her boyfriend ditches her, a pregnant 17-year-old [Portman] finds herself stranded at a Wal-Mart in a small Oklahoma town. After staking out a secret "home" in a corner of the store, the jobless and broke young lady finds the strength to overcome adversity and begin a new life for herself and her child. Based on the best-selling novel by Billie Letts.

Opens: April 28  
Starring: Natalie Portman, Ashley Judd, Seydard Channing, and Jan Cusack





by Marty Spears  
Staff Writer

# Not just another chic-flic - 'Heaven On Earth' actually likeable



Let me begin by saying that I am a huge sucker for movies that could incorporate the description "young, likable cast." Knowing this now, you will see why I felt that "Here On Earth" is a little better than your average chick flick.

Hot-headed local Jasper [Josh Hartnett] doesn't like it when the wealthy prep Kelley [Chris Klein] comes to eat at their local Mable's Table diner. Jasper especially doesn't like it when Kelley begins hitting on the diner's waitress, which is also Jasper's long-time girlfriend Samantha [Leelee Sobieski]. The two boys end up getting into a drag race trying to out-prove the other's masculinity. The race ends when the two nearly hit another car and instead run into Mable's Table, burning it to the ground. As a result, both of the boys are forced to do community service and to help rebuild the diner

that they destroyed. While the diner is under construction, Samantha shortly begins to become intrigued by the different lifestyle and philosophies that Kelley lives by, and the two begin to fall in love, causing Samantha to reconsider her life in the small town and her relationship with Jasper.

Surprisingly, for this being director Mark Piznarski's first big-screen movie, he didn't do a bad job. Although he has had experience in the teen drama category, having directed episodes of "NYPD Blue," "My So Called Life," and "Reality," as well as directing "The '60s" miniseries.

Piznarski was also assisted in being able to work with a very talented up-and-coming young cast, all of which have been in some noticeable roles in the past year.

Chris Klein has been a steadily rising star,

with his first role in "Election," followed by last year's summer hit "American Pie." Leelee Sobieski can carry some bragging rites after her small but memorable role with Tom Cruise in "Eyes Wide Shut," although she was only 14 when those scenes were actually shot. Most recently she had the lead role in the Joan of Arc movie.

Anyone who has been into watching the '90s teen horror genre may remember Josh Hartnett's roles in "Halloween H20" and "The Faculty."

Overall, "Earth" was an entertaining movie. While the story was somewhat predictable to begin with, a few nice twists were thrown in at the right time to keep it from becoming just another cookie-cutter love story with an easy-to-guess ending. The best scenes tend to come

when both Klein and Sobieski are sharing time on the screen without anyone else. But it was the predictability in some scenes where I found my mind wondering, causing this movie to lose a letter grade.

Ladies, trust me, bring a tissue - you'll like this one. Fellas, although in all aspects this is still considered a chick flick, this movie comes with a recommendation to take your female friends to see and score some bonus "nice points."

My Grade: B-

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- Advertising Production & Design
- Delivery / Distribution Staff

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- Must have a car
- Must be a high energy, outgoing, organized achiever

### Production

- Must work 15 - 20 hours/week, Afternoons and nights on deadline days
- Must have knowledge of QuarkXPress and/or PhotoShop
- Must be creative, attentive to detail, and work well under pressure

### Distribution

- Must deliver papers on/off campus 6 - 8 am on publication days
- Must have reliable car or truck
- Must be dependable, work independently and have a good attitude

listen up class of 2000!

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- Forbes Magazine



continued from page 6

on the pilgrim's journey, it is some of the finest work Stuart has ever written. Perhaps the best example is the line, "Seems like the fire of trouble/ claims you like next of kin," from "Truckstop." "The Observations of a Crow" is another example of Stuart's brilliant lyricisms. Of course, there are the standard love ballads filled with crying steel guitars. However, even these don't seem contrived like much of Nashville's work.

Just when country seems to be dead, along

comes someone like Marty Stuart to save its soul. Stuart appears to be drawing a line in the dirt signifying what is real country and what is merely pop music sold to a country audience. While a generation of country stars like Merle Haggard, George Jones and Johnny Cash still put out great music, the fact remains that they are in the twilight of their careers. The torch has been passed to a new generation, and Marty Stuart is leading the charge.

My Grade: A+++

continued from page 5

Slaughter says her best days consist of "getting a story done that I think is worthy of being in the newspaper, or maybe I've met someone that I think is deserving of a story."

Her worst days: "I sit up here and didn't do a damn thing."

"When you go into print media, you'll find there are days when you think, 'I cannot write another sentence that anybody would read.'"

But Slaughter says, as her arched fingers

lightly graze the keys on the keyboard, "There are days when I come in and I can't wait to sit down and just hopscotch across this keyboard."

The screen saver glides across Slaughter's computer screen.

"Who is Sylvia?" it reads in green lettering.

"Shakespeare," she says with a laugh.



Jackie Esworthy was killed by a drunk driver one week after her high school graduation.

What should you do to stop a friend from driving drunk?  
Whatever you have to.  
Friends don't let friends drive drunk.



U.S. Department of Transportation



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## Advising for Summer, Fall 2000 Classes

### How Advising Helps

One of the most important people you'll need to know at MTSU is your academic advisor. Your academic advisor can help you:

- choose the right classes
- sort out your options and the possible consequences of your choices
- find ways to determine your interests
- find out majors and minors
- understand MTSU's policies and procedures and how they affect you
- plan a schedule to fit your work, family and out-of-class activities
- head in the right direction for things like counseling, financial aid, and career planning

It's important for you to see your advisor on a regular basis. You may have already met your advisor either at orientation or in their office. **If you haven't spoken with them yet, it's a good idea to meet them:**

- **30+ hours** - see advisors in Counseling & Testing Center  
Walk in April 7, 10 - 14, 17 - 21, 2000  
KUC 329 - 898-2670

- **0-29 hours** - see Horace Stogner - KUC325 - 898-5197  
or Rachel Duncan - Cummings Hall 898-



# HOROSCOPES | APRIL 12-19

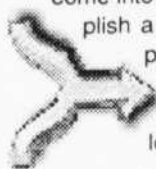
## Aries (March 21-April 19)

You're lucky through the middle of the week, so don't procrastinate. Take care of a personal matter with a partner or attorney on Monday and Tuesday. Pay a big bill on Tuesday or Wednesday but save enough to buy food. Definitely go someplace fun this weekend.



## Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Take care of old business Monday and Tuesday and clean up everything you possibly can. Around Wednesday the sun will come into your sign, and you and a partner can accomplish a lot if you can keep from squabbling over petty jealousies. Friday and Saturday should be good for shopping, especially if you want to buy expensive items that have to last a long time. Hang out with relatives on Sunday.



## Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Friends need your support on Monday and Tuesday. Help them figure out what to do next. Get practical Wednesday and Thursday and get as much work done as possible. By Friday you'll lose interest in being serious, and you'll only want to play. This condition lasts through most of Saturday. It may be Sunday before you can be trusted to make wise financial decisions again, so take care!



## Cancer (June 22-July 22)

You could get slightly frazzled on Monday and Tuesday. You should calm down on Wednesday, and Thursday looks good for romance. You may be in the mood to work on Friday and Saturday, so set it up. On Sunday let your partner make all major decisions and do the driving, too. You should just lean back and enjoy the scenery.



## Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

You may be in a good mood the first part of this week. Getting studying done will be hard but worthwhile. You could have some good opportunities during the next few weeks, starting about Wednesday. The harder you work, the luckier you'll get. Schedule romantic and sports activities for Friday and Saturday and do household projects on Sunday.



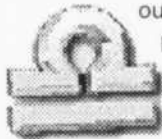
## Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

By now your money matters should be pretty well figured out. Wrap up any loose ends so you can take a vacation after Wednesday. Travel conditions get much better then. Do planning and errands on Thursday. Tidy up your place on Friday and Saturday so you can have company over on Sunday.



## Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

If you have partnerships or legal matters that need attention, do them Monday and Tuesday. Don't wait any longer. Figure out your budget on Wednesday and Thursday and put as much as you possibly can into savings. This is important! Cram the most interesting activities you can think of into Friday and Saturday but keep Sunday quiet.



## Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Monday and Tuesday could be slightly stressful. Check as many items as you can off your list so you'll be free to do other things. After about Wednesday you'll become more interested in partnerships. Any you make during the next few weeks will last, so think about your options carefully. Wednesday and Thursday will be good for serious discussions. You could discover a real treasure on Friday or Saturday.



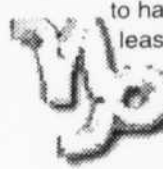
## Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Monday and Tuesday should be lots of fun. Be careful, though, because reality may rear its ugly head around Wednesday. You'll have lots of work, through the end of the month, so be prepared. Finish old business on Wednesday and Thursday. Keep a notebook around on Friday and Saturday; you'll come up with brilliant ideas then.



## Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your home and family are important to you on Monday and Tuesday, so you can entertain around Wednesday. You'll want to have loved ones around for the next four weeks, at least. Fall in love on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday and Saturday work needs to be done, so scurry around and do it. Have people over again on Sunday.



## Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Study on Monday and Tuesday, as quickly as you can. So many interesting things going on, so little time! You may decide to fix a few things around the house during the next few weeks. Make a big decision or two on Wednesday and Thursday. These will stick, so be careful. Get together with friends on Friday and Saturday.



## Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

You have probably thought a lot about money for the past few weeks. Put as much as you can into savings on Monday and Tuesday. Your focus will shift to education for the next few weeks. You'll absorb new material well over the next few weeks. Tackle the most difficult subjects you can think of, especially Wednesday and Thursday. Learn from your elders on Friday and Saturday and goof off with friends.



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- submit three to five samples of your work, six copies of each (short tapes of broadcasts are accepted. Clips must be professionally presented.)

*Applications will be available in JUB Room 306. Three finalists will be selected from the field of applicants and will be interviewed. Interviews will be held May 12, at 2:30 p.m. You will be notified if you are to be interviewed.*