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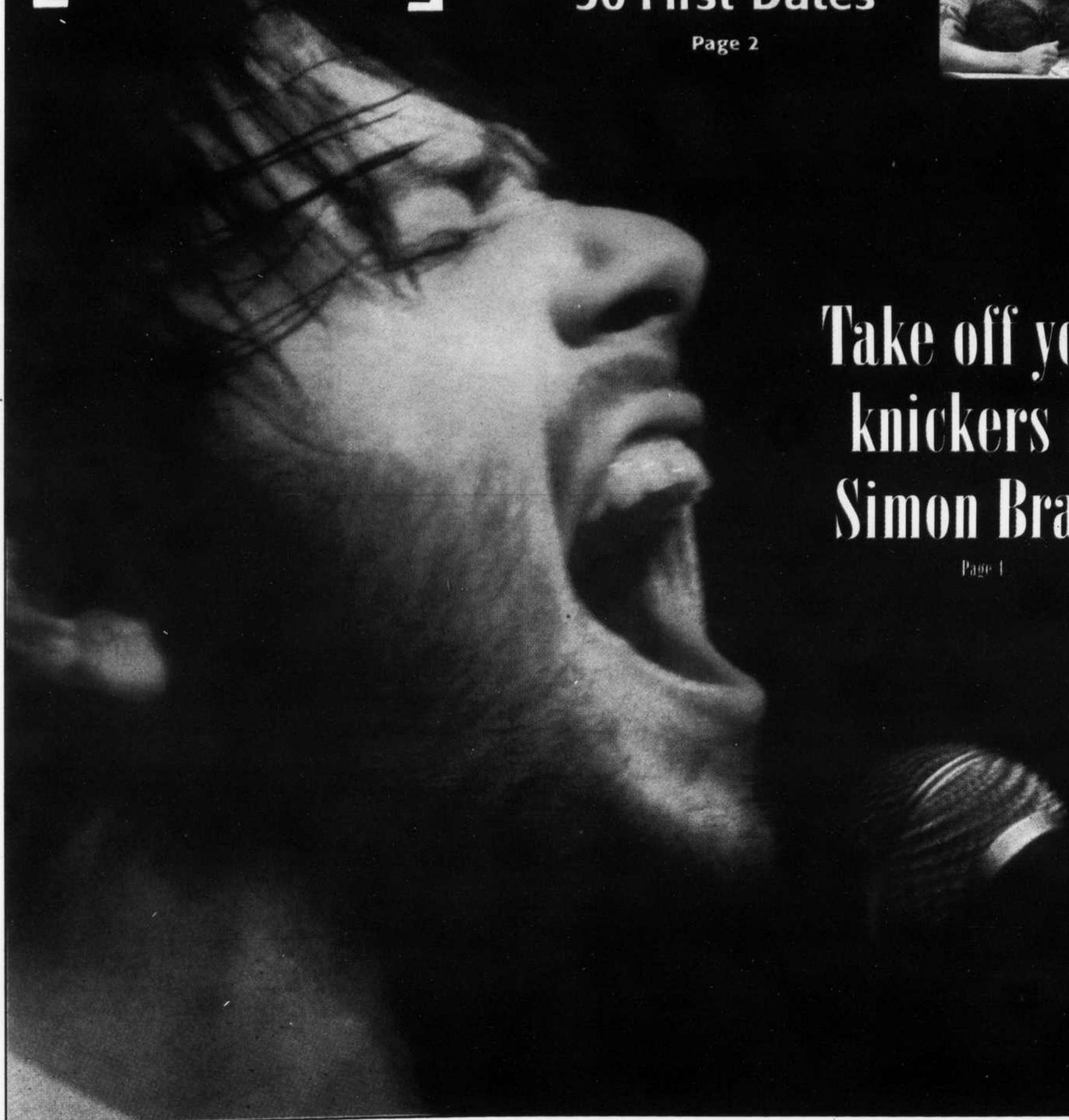
Adam Sandler
tones down for
'50 First Dates'

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Take off your
knickers for
Simon Brawl

Page 1



Adam Sandler tones down for '50 First Dates'

By Forrest Sanders

Adam Sandler's character Henry Roth has a problem with commitment. He is a veterinarian at a Hawaiian marine park who frequently engages in short-term relationships with tourists on the prowl for romance.

When we first meet Henry, he's breaking off one such relationship. The couple said their parting good-byes and before long, Henry has jumped onto a speedboat, pretending to be a secret agent with a mission in Peru. Henry's perspective on love is changed one morning when he enters a little Hawaiian breakfast nook and finds Drew Barrymore's character Lucy.

Lucy is cute, has a winning personality and possesses a knack for building miniature forts out of her waffles.

There is only one hitch:

'50 First Dates'

Starring Adam Sandler,
Drew Barrymore,
Sean Astin, Rob Schneider
Rated PG-13
Columbia Pictures

Rating ★★
(out of four stars)

As a result of a car accident, Lucy has suffered a defect in the temporal lobe that wipes away her short term memory every night as she sleeps.

She retains her long-term memory, which allows her to remember her father and brother, but Henry is faced with the unimaginably difficult task of winning over Lucy's heart every single day.

50 First Dates marks a reuniting of the two leads, Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler, who made 1998's *The Wedding Singer* a surprise box office success.

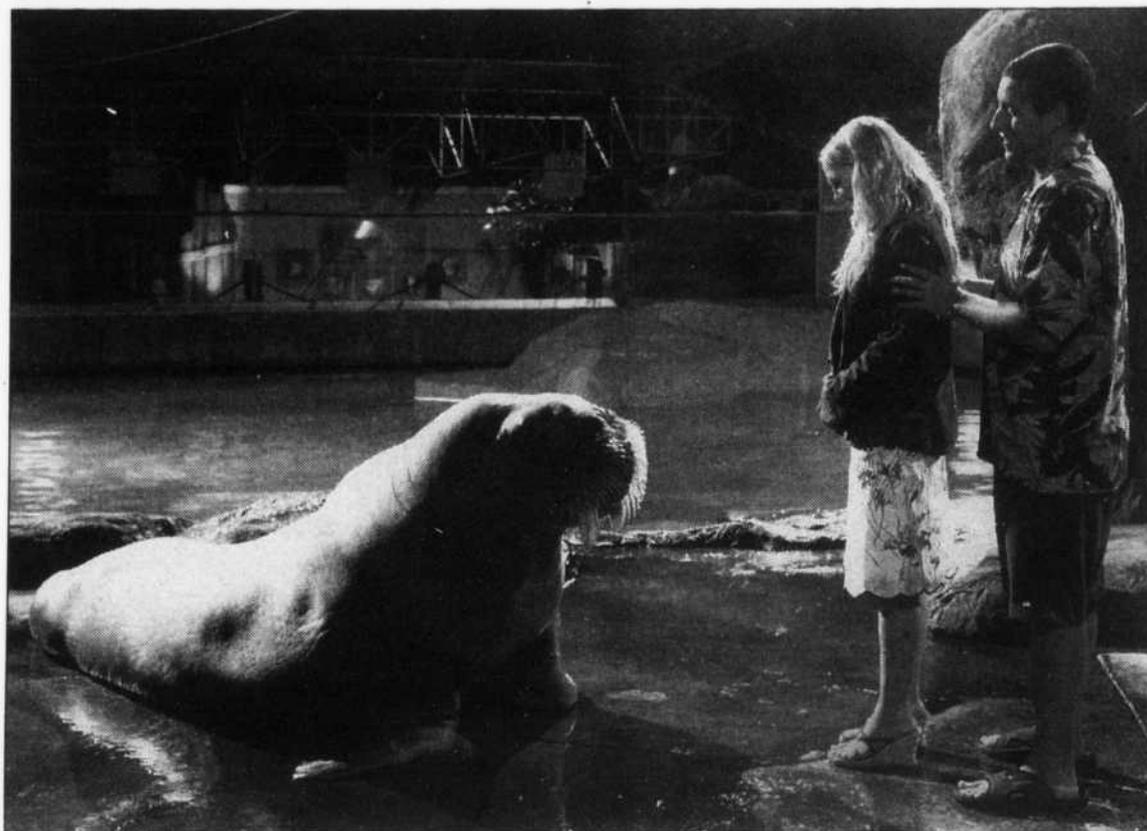


Photo by Darren Michaels | Columbia Pictures

Jacko the walrus co-stars with Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler in Columbia Pictures' romantic comedy *50 First Dates*.

Like in *The Wedding Singer*, Drew Barrymore radiates charm in an infectiously ebullient performance.

On the flip side, Adam Sandler seems to be cashing in a paycheck this time out, playing one of his least demanding roles to date. The rest of the cast is filled with the usual assortment of oddball characters that populate Sandler's films. There is a Russian veterinary assistant whose gender is left up to interpretation, and Rob Schneider turns up yet again showing more skin than necessary.

However, it's Sean Astin's performance as Lucy's muscle-headed brother that brings in the big laughs. Astin's steroid-addicted body builder with a lisp character is easily the funniest in the film, and because of his oafish over-

protection of his little sister, he is the most likable too.

Also worth mentioning are a cast of extras comprised of penguins, dolphins, walruses and other such creatures that you might find in a tank at Sea World.

If you find Animal Planet-esque antics to be amusing, this film has enough bizarre animal tricks to fill up a full day of programming for the channel.

While the premise seems ripe for the Farrelly Brothers treatment, it's actually Peter Segal who has taken the directional duties for *50 First Dates*.

With a body of work including *The Nutty Professor 2*, *Tommy Boy* and *Naked Gun 33 1/3*, Segal is no stranger to the comedy genre. However, I can't help but feel that *50 First Dates* is a rather mis-

guided project.

Being released just in time for Valentines Day, *50 First Dates* is being touted as a sweet romantic comedy with a light dose of Sandler's trademark sophomoric humor.

The end product won't leave anyone feeling very entertained. The humor is simply too tame to satisfy Sandler's core fan base.

50 First Dates is not a bad film, and somewhere buried beneath the lower-than-low brow humor, there's a very cute movie. However, you may want to think twice before you take your date to see Adam Sandler's latest on Valentines night. After all, no matter how hard you try, you won't be able to wipe the memory of *50 First Dates* from your mind by the next morning. ★

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CARENET

Walt Wilkins' fiery sound corrals listeners

By Glory A. Rogers

Walt Wilkins is one of the most prolific songwriters to ever grace Nashville with his presence.

His uncanny ability to paint a picture with words and put you right in the midst of the song demonstrates his genius.

His current release, *Fire, Honey and Angels*, has garnered acclaim from country artists like bluegrass icon Ricky Skaggs and mainstream country singer Ty Herndon.

Fire, Angels and Honey's standout song is "Mechanicsville," a rambling ode to white plastic Christmas trees and the loneliness of a broken heart on Christmas Eve.

Wilkins delivers witticisms about the boring town of Mechanicsville with lines like, "Stonewall Jackson marched in but then he marched right back out."

Another track penned by Wilkins and co-writer "Little Nicky" Pellegrino is "Our Lady of the Avenue," which features a sweet, understanding bar maid.

The lyrics are strikingly insightful.

Look no further than the line "with all the treasures in heaven ... how the hell did she wind up here?"

"She" is equated with an angel, and the melody is hauntingly beautiful while intensely poetic.

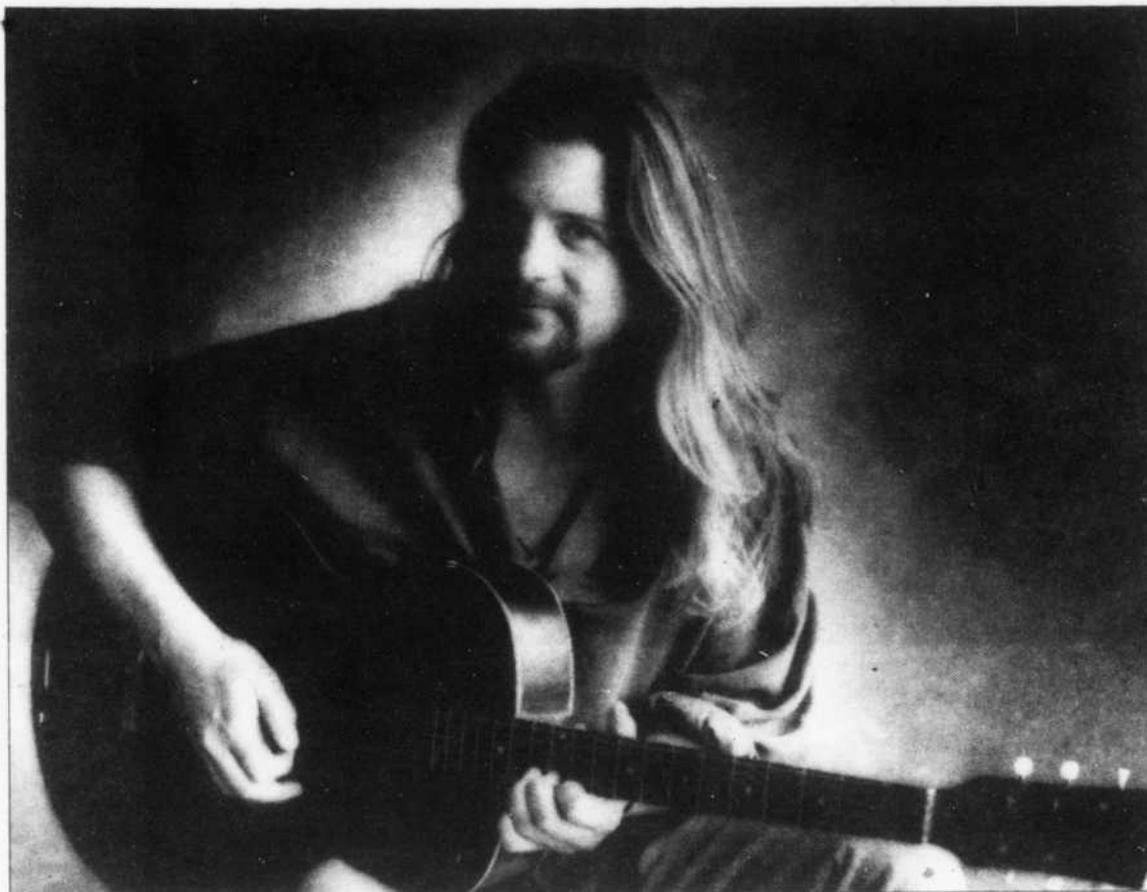


Photo provided by Walt Wilkins

You can catch Walt Wilkins' songwriting poweress at Judge Bean's Bar-B-Que tonight at 7 p.m. He plays the legendary Bluebird Cafe Feb. 18 at 9 p.m.

Another *Fire, Angels and Honey's* track is "Lessons Never Learned."

Here, Wilkins features beautifully constructed chordal changes alongside an archetypal tale of failed relationships.

Wilkins sings the line "Time to be movin' on and when I return, stories of rivers and bridges I've burned," in his lazy drawl.

In the song "I Would Not Make it Through," Wilkins describes man's feelings of loneliness and isolation with heartbreaking lyrics like "more like a shadow

than a man" and "I say my name twice into the bricks just to hear it bounce back again."

Ty Herndon recorded Wilkins' "Bid Hopes," which became the title cut of Herndon's compact disc.

"Bid Hopes" is a gorgeously written tune with a lilting melody and sumptuous wordplay.

These self-deprecating lyrics are particularly winsome and one hopes that the main character wins the admiration of the girl he's so fixedly enamored with.

"A Little Farther West"

has some poetic descriptions such as "clear crystal pools lying in the desert sun." The imagery is brilliant in this song; Wilkins' command of language surpasses the typical geographic clichés.

"Walnut Street" paints a picture with its words, and it seems you observe the scenes as if you're watching a movie.

I like "Rainy Night City"

as it tells of a town that's lost some of its shine and luster, not to mention some of its occupants.

"How did heaven get so far from this night rain city?" is a somber, sobering line.

"Hillsides" is my personal favorite on this CD. This song describes a preacher's feelings of inadequacy, self-doubt and fear. Called to preach at age 17, he grapples with what to say to seven families at the burial of their seven sons. He also ponders what he will tell his flock.

"Some Men Fall" is a tribute to those who have passed on.

It's a thought-provoking tune that touches upon themes of death and birth. Several famous people are mentioned in the song.

If you never buy another album, you must get *Fire, Honey and Angels*.

Wilkins is indeed, as another writer put it, the heir apparent of the Texas songwriter's crown.

Walt Wilkins plays the Bluebird Cafe Feb. 18 at 9 p.m. The cover charge is \$7.

For more information about this amazing artist, visit www.westernbeat.com. ★

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Sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll

Lose your knickers to Simon Brawl

By Leslie Carol Boehms
Photos by Micah Miller

They've got a reputation around town for their sleazy, drunken, nipple-baring rock shows. They are three guys with a nonchalant attitude about life and a no holds barred mantra for rock 'n' roll. They are Simon Brawl. And they encourage you to use protection.

Simon Brawl is Garson Combs (guitar, vocals), Brian Byrd (bass, vocals) and Todd Sherwood (drums). Oh, and for the most part, when these guys play locally they have the wistful and callused hands of Tyler McDaniel on a second guitar.

McDaniel was also a member of Von Garson, the band that Combs and Sherwood originally played in. Sherwood doesn't, however, remember exactly how Byrd came to be in the band.

"I think that I was drunk when I first met Byrd since I don't remember ever meeting him," Sherwood said. "He just showed up and never went away."

So my favorite thing about these guys is that they're not afraid to say what's on their mind.

**"Yeah, that's right little
hardcore emo kids, stop
whining and grow some balls"**

— Todd Sherwood
Simon Brawl drummer

They don't take guff from anyone, but it's important to note that this roughness is just on the outside. A little known fact is that they are really nice guys.

With that in mind, here is the mantra of Simon Brawl as seen via Sherwood's eyes.

"We want to form a new style of rock that will end all the sappy, whiny pop-punk by kids with emotional hair cuts and lame tattoos claiming they like hardcore while crying about their girl friends," Sherwood said. "Yeah, that's right little hardcore emo kids, stop whining and grow some balls."

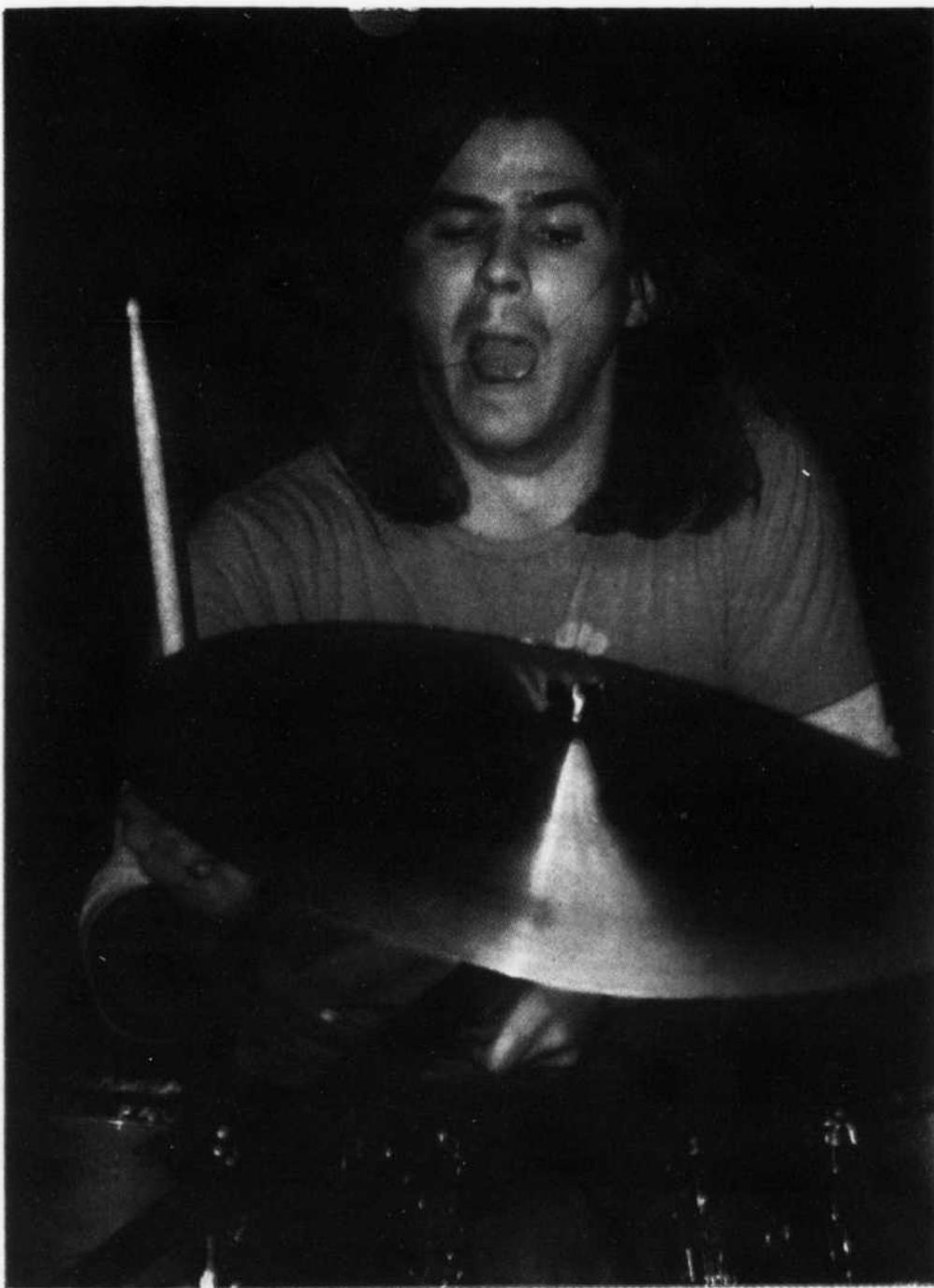
Sometimes the truth hurts.

Simon Brawl isn't for everyone and they're not afraid to admit that. It's refreshing to meet a band that doesn't care if you like them or not, doesn't put up any false pretenses or try to say fancy words. This says a lot about them as people and consequently about their music.

It is important to note that the music of Simon Brawl is good hearted, straightforward, bang your head rock 'n' roll. No double-decked guitars or excessive accessories, just three guys playing their drunken hearts out.

Their new album, *The Tennessee EP*, is the brainchild of over two years of work for the band. Its recording spans the Eastern coastline having been partly recorded here in Murfreesboro and partly in Ocean City, Md.

The inception of *The Tennessee EP* involved a lot more than just laying down drum tracks or mixing the guitar just right. This album has a bevy of stories that are almost too bizarre (or too hazily drunk) to imagine. Let's put it this way: When I ask the guys to tell me about recording



(Upper Left) Simon Brawl's Todd Sherwood bangs on his electric blue drumset. (Bottom Left) Bassist Brian Byrd caterwauls over hard driving, granola rock. (Above) Byrd and lead singer Garson Combs

“I think that I was drunk when I first met Byrd since I don't remember ever meeting him. He just showed up and never went away.”

— Todd Sherwood
Simon Brawl drummer



the album, I instead get a debate which, without giving too much away, involves a 40-year-old woman, her supposed daughter, a bet and Garson dancing alone.

Anyway, the record is complete. It's five tracks and is being released this Saturday at Gentleman Jim's.

Track five, “Rock & Roll Pussy” is quite exciting, if for nothing else than that it's about a cat (wink, wink). Oh, and to help you get laid on that special Valentine's Day, there will be free condoms at the door.

Bottom line is that Simon Brawl will not only rock your knickers off, they'll make sure the sex is safe too.

Simon Brawl is scheduled to perform this Saturday, Feb. 14 at Gentleman Jim's located at 1325 Greenland Drive. Opening up the evening will be The Cycle and The Whole Fantastic World. Cover charge is \$5; music starts at 9:30 p.m., and the show is for ages 18 and up. For more information on Simon Brawl, click your pointy finger on www.simonbrawl.com. ★

Yayo Records unearths Murfreesboro's raw talent

By Brittany Gearheart

Small town competitive bands often receive minuscule exposure and remain unknown, unappreciated and profoundly underestimated.

The creation of *Murfreesboro in the Mix Volume One* is intended to create exposure for not only bands in the area, but for the city itself as a center for innovation.

Asheley Jameson and Brad White of Yayo Records, the label for the

compilation, compare Murfreesboro's burgeoning musical pool to Seattle's sub pop culture.

"We are basically looking to for the next Nirvana," White said in a recent interview with [flash]. "Hopefully, we can direct major label attention to Murfreesboro's diverse musical talent."

When taking into consideration the bands per capita, Murfreesboro's music scene is overwhelming, and there may be too many bands worth recognizing

that sit on the bench waiting for their turn to play.

Yayo Records wants to supply Murfreesboro's bands with a voice and the recognition they have long deserved.

Each of the artists submitted a somewhat marketable song that embodied their vocal and writing talents.

In his belief of home-grown music, Jameson says that Yayo Records aspires to sell enough copies of the compilation to spark major label interest

and a possible distribution deal. With this financial backing, they would immediately begin signing local artists.

As a result of the recording industry program at MTSU, artists have come from across America to make Murfreesboro their home and expand the area into a budding music scene.

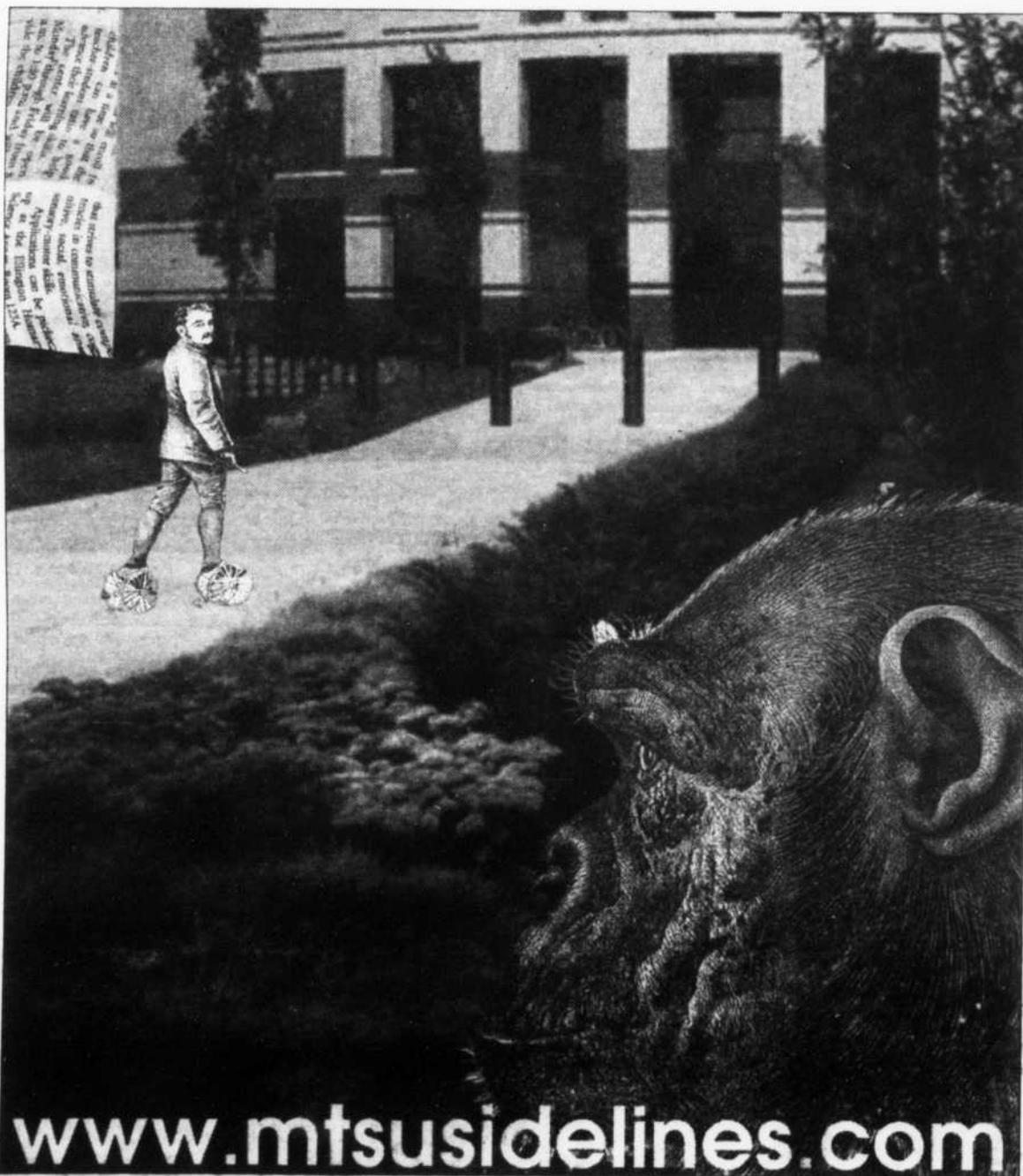
Yayo Records also hopes to increase audience attendance and inspire the average listener to appreciate the impassioned music exhibition that

Murfreesboro has to offer.

The artists on the compilation include Grammy Showcase recipient Big Fella; [flash] Best of the Boro winner, Intrinsic and Nashville Rage's Best Band in Nashville winner, Spout.

The compilation is now available at Cat's Music, Hastings and Phillips Bookstore.

For more information on Yayo Records, check out their Web site at www.yayorecords.com. ★



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[flash]

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[flash] is the weekly entertainment tabloid produced by *Sidelines*, MTSU's editorially independent student newspaper. [flash] is published each Thursday and seeks to highlight local arts and entertainment. For information regarding [flash], call 615-898-2917 or e-mail sflash@mtsu.edu. For advertising information call 615-898-2533.

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[Club Listings]

Thursday, February 12

3rd & Lindsley: Roger Creager, Hilljack, 9:30 p.m.

12th & Porter: Wheat, Hey Mercedes, 9:30 p.m.

★**Boro Bar & Grill:** WMTS Benefit featuring DJ Matt Jay & DJ Emerald, 9:30 p.m., \$5-7.

The End: Riding a Gimmick, 9 p.m., \$5.

Exit/In: Dillinger Escape Plan, Locust, Your Enemies' Friends, 9 p.m., \$10.

The Five Spot: Jeff Martin, 9 p.m.

Gentleman Jim's: The 2 Broke Bluegrass Boys, 9 p.m., \$5.

The Muse: Annaliece, The Gents, The Vervyle Turnstyle, 9 p.m.

Springwater: Your Cut of the Trust, 10:30 p.m.

The Sutler: BMI Acoustic Roundup, 8 p.m., \$5.

Wall Street: The Legendary Shack Shakers, 9 p.m., \$5.

Friday, February 13

3rd & Lindsley: Mile 8, 10 p.m., \$7.

All American Sports Grill: Built for Comfort, 10 p.m., \$3.

Boro Bar & Grill: Boo Boo Bunny, 9:30 p.m., \$5-7.

The End: Danny C & Jesse, 9 p.m., \$5.

Exit/In: Graham Colton, Charlie Mars, 10 p.m., \$10.

The Five Spot: Remember the Dead, 9 p.m.

Gentleman Jim's: John Bonham's Drinking Problem, Victor Furious & the Murder of Men, Z28, 10 p.m., \$5.

The Mercy Lounge: Kiss Army, The Jones, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

Red Rose: Ghostfinger, The Cry Room, Bells for Aida, Andrew Bryant, 9 p.m., \$5.

Springwater: Fistful of Crows, The Cheat, Dave Cloud's Gospel of

Power, 10:30 p.m., \$5.

★**The Sutler:** De Novo Dahl, The Privates, The Mattoid, 9 p.m., \$5.

Wall Street: Luna Halo, Ervin Stellar, 9 p.m., \$5.

Saturday, February 14

12th & Porter: David Mead, Carey Kotsionis, 9:30 p.m.

All American Sports Grill: Built for Comfort, 9 p.m.

Boro Bar & Grill: The Rounders, 9:30 p.m., \$5-7.

★**The End:** Forget Cassettes, Apollo Up, Sincerity Guild, 9 p.m., \$5.

Exit/In: Flickerstick, Blue Epic, 10 p.m., \$10.

The Five Spot: Seed N Soil, 10 p.m.

Gentleman Jim's: Simon Brawl, The Cycle, The Whole Fantastic World, 9 p.m., \$3.

Springwater: The Chromatics, The Arcades, Deerhunter, Taiwan Death, 10:30 p.m., \$5.

Wall Street: Lane Lester & Duncan, 9 p.m.

Sunday, February 15

3rd & Lindsley: Monte Montgomery, 9 p.m.

Boro Bar & Grill: Craig Murphy Experience, 9:30 p.m., \$3.

The End: An Invisible W, Mack the Knife, Today's Tomorrow, 7 p.m., \$5.

★**Exit/In:** Super Furry Animals, 9 p.m., \$12.

The Five Spot: Jeff Klein, 9 p.m.

Springwater: Daughter, Baguettes, The Mattoid, 10 p.m., \$6. ★

A ★ denotes the official [flash] pick of the night.

WMTS Playlist

- 1 **Light Wires** *The Light Wires*
- 2 **Aireline** *Winter Song EP*
- 3 **Various Artists** *Vacant Cage Compilation 1.0*
- 4 **Bens** *The Bens EP*
- 5 **Denali** *The Instinct*
- 6 **Wheat** *Per Second, Per Second, Per Second ... Every Second*
- 7 **Death Comes to Matteson** *If I'm Going Down, You're Coming With Me*
- 8 **Lume** *EP2*
- 9 **Azure Ray** *New Resolution*
- 10 **Ani Difranco** *Educated Guess*

Compiled by Jozeph Ash, WMTS 88.3 music director. WMTS is MTSU's student run radio station.

Grimey's Top Sellers

- 1 **Air** *Talkie Walkie*
- 2 **Stereolab** *Margarine Eclipse*
- 3 **Sufjan Stevens** *Michigan*
- 4 **Mindy Smith** *One Moment More*
- 5 **The Fiery Furnaces** *Gallowsbird's Park*
- 6 **Swan Dive** *William & Marlys*
- 7 **Sun Kil Moon** *Ghosts of the Great Highway*
- 8 **The Unicorns** *Who Will Cut Our Hair When We're Gone*
- 9 **Various Artists** *Lost in Translation*
- 10 **OutKast** *Speakerboxxx / The Love Below*

Compiled by Grimey's Record Shop owner, Doyle Davis. Grimey's is located at 2825 Bransford Avenue in Nashville.

Music Jams' Top Sellers

- 1 **Tuck** *Same Shit, Different Day*
- 2 **Twista** *Kamikazee*
- 3 **Juvenile** *Juve the Great*
- 4 **T.I.** *In Da Streets 3*
- 5 **Beyonce** *Dangerously in Love*
- 6 **50 Cent** *Good Die Young*
- 7 **Ruben Studdard** *Soulful*
- 8 **Benzino** *Redemption*
- 9 **Three 6 Mafia** *Da Unbreakables*
- 10 **C-Murder** *Behind the Walls*

Compiled by the Music Jams staff. Music Jams is located at 1610 Memorial Boulevard.

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