

FLASH

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Alls Fair in Love and RUSHMORE

- Profile of WMTS's Red Rambler Show
- Music News

SIDELINES

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Quotes of the week

THE RUMORS WILL NEVER DIE.
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Rushmore Academy 10th grader Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman is no academic ace, but he is nevertheless devoted to his school. Photos Provided

Jared Wilson
Flash writer

"Rushmore" is the kind of movie that stays with you. It has latched onto my brain, magnified itself through my memories every day since I've seen it, and I am not ashamed to say that I like it this way. "Rushmore" is a rare gem of a movie, and I only wish Nashville theaters had booked it sooner (it originally released last December). It would have made my 1998 Top Ten list for sure.

Written by Wes Anderson and Owen Wilson (and directed by Anderson), "Rushmore" tells the story of Max Fischer, a fifteen year-old student at Rushmore Academy. Max is too much an oddball to be popular and too much a goof-off to be a "nerd." The school's headmaster admits, "He's the worst student we've got." But Max has spirit, which he channels into innumerable clubs and organizations, including everything from the Bee Keepers Club to the Fencing Team. He writes and directs plays, casting his young schoolmates as gritty undercover cops and seedy criminals in his adaptation of "Serpico." Max, it seems, is a dreamer. This is putting it mildly, however.

Max hears Rushmore alumnus, and self-made millionaire, Herman Blume (played brilliantly by Bill Murray) speak at chapel and immediately places himself under the man's wing. Blume is very much an adult "Max," and willingly accepts the boy's friendship. The two are kindred spirits. Max sees in Blume the man he wants to be; Blume sees in Max the boy he once was.

When Max develops a crush on Miss Cross, Rushmore's first grade teacher, he decides to build an aquarium on the school's baseball diamond to impress her. Blume agrees to help his young protégé woo the lady. In the process, however, Blume falls in love with Miss Cross himself. The result is all-out war between the rival suitors and former friends. The outcome I'll not reveal.

What I will say is that "Rushmore" is a marvelous achievement. It represents everything that is great about risk-taking. "Film Comment" calls Anderson the anti-Solondz. I, for one, am glad there is such a person. Anderson and Wilson are the true nouveau "indie" auteurs.

"Rushmore" manages to both maintain the conventions of standard cinematic storytelling and create unique, quirky characters in delightfully inventive situations. Certain scenes still echo in my mind. Blume plummets into his swimming pool, sinks to the bottom, removing himself from the torturous banality of his twin sons' birthday party and

the sight of his wife flirting with another. A young, scrawny kid swims around him, gawking at Blume through goggled eyes. The man returns a helpless stare. Another scene involves a gaggle of youngsters dressed in Halloween costumes pelting Max with rocks. These are "moments out of time," and they fully reflect the film's omnipresent "otherworldliness."

Actor Jonathan Schwartzman finds all the right notes with Max, confidently asserting himself in a role that embodies this "otherworldliness." Though set in the commonest of places (the film was shot in areas around Houston, Texas), "Rushmore" firmly keeps one foot steeped in the absurd. Max, likewise, is a dreamer. He's determined to appear "with it" at all times.

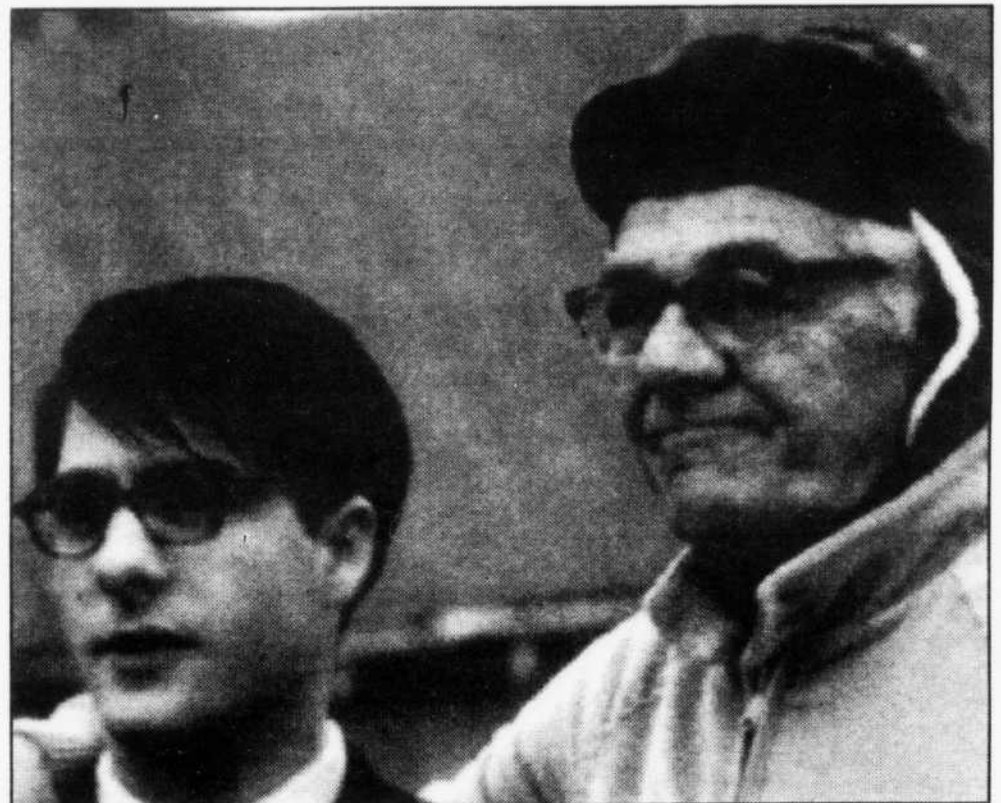
Ultimately, "Rushmore" can be seen as metaphorical. Its characters all fight an inevitable future. Like Anderson and Wilson's first film, "Bottle Rocket," the characters fight from the inside. (In "Bottle Rocket," one of the character's brothers is a country club brat eerily nicknamed Futureman.) "Rushmore"'s protagonists, Max and Blume, are fighting their own "future man." This can be evidenced in their bid for Miss Cross' affections. This struggle can almost be seen as cathartic, because, in viewing their duel with each other, I sensed that they were essentially fighting themselves.

"Rushmore" identifies with male middle-class angst. Its creators view their social class more as a caste than as a transitory place. They are still compelled to rebel, however. This manifests itself in "Bottle Rocket"'s aspiring gangsters (played by co-scripter Owen Wilson and his brother Luke), who are too sweet-natured (and dim-witted) to pursue a life of crime. In "Rushmore," Max and Blume represent the genesis and the outcome, respectively, of this rebellion.

The filmmakers even portray the refusal of their position's prescribed course of events in their choices for female objects of desire. In "Rushmore," Miss Cross is British. Margaret Yang, Max's female doppelganger, is an Asian-American. (In "Bottle Rocket," the leading lady is a Mexican immigrant who doesn't speak any English!)

My hope is that all of these analyses will not prevent one from enjoying "Rushmore." On a surface level, it is a remarkable story that is very, very funny. It does become a bit distracting during Max and Blume's "war." In those moments, it wades too deep in its own undercurrent of mean-spiritedness, but the film never loses its momentum. The movie is just too good to come close to stalling. Instead, "Rushmore" should be known for firmly establishing the immense talent of Wes Anderson and Owen Wilson, and for re-invigorating the movie-going experience. "Rushmore" is the rare example of how a movie could and should be made.

My grade: A



Max (Schwartzman) and his good-natured father, Bert (Seymour Cassel)



The "Staff" of Red Rambler Show gearing up for the revolution to come.

Photos provided

Rambled Eggs for Breakfast

David Robinson
Flash writer

What better way to start your day than with a spine-tingling holler from Rosco the Ranch Hand? That's how every weekday starts on WMTS at 8:00 a.m. If you tune in, you can catch the Red Rambler, his trusty sidekick Huevo, Rosco the Ranch Hand and Yukon Joe making a ruckus on the air waves.

All four hailing from New Mexico, they ride to the station every morning on their trusty steeds to bring joy and happiness to early risers on campus from 8-10 a.m.

Huevo complains, "The other guys get horses, but I have to ride a mule. Where's the justice in that?"

Make no mistake though, these cowboys have a purpose.

"Since we've taken the place of the Naked Cow show, we have some pretty big shoes to fill," says Huevo. "We want a show with serious topics so that people will call in, but to treat them in a light-hearted manner, which is where our western theme comes in."

When asked what the overall theme of the show is, Red Rambler replied, "We want to start a revolution to take over the radio and Canada."

Huevo has other plans.

"The theme is to change the show to Huevo's Morning Mariachi Madness. You aren't going to print that, are you?"

The foursome maintain a show which is primarily talk, but features the music of Johnny Cash, Link Wray, Old 97's and Ronnie Dawson, among others. If you are interested in the music rather than the talk, check out Ramblin' Rosco's Hillbilly Hoedown on Saturday afternoons from 12-2 p.m. for more.

Red Rambler's reasoning as to why people should listen to the show is simple.

"It's better than any of the other morning crap you hear. We aren't rednecks talking about Nascar, and we aren't alternative rockers playing 3rd Eye Blind every 30 minutes. It's just what people want to talk about. It's current."

Almost every show is done spontaneously.

"It's all improv," Huevo says. "Occasionally, we'll have one or two topics that we decided on beforehand, but more often than not we don't have a clue as

to what we'll be discussing. We leave that up to the listeners who call in."

Apparently, there is a film version of the Red Rambler show in the works, but Yukon Joe wouldn't release much information.

"We only want to do it if Stanley Kubrick can direct. We've had casting calls, and the lineup is almost set."

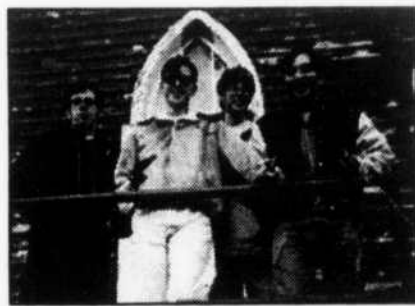
One thing that confuses me about the cast of "Red Dawn" is that they all swear they are from New Mexico. But when I look at them, I see the look of MTSU students.

"It doesn't matter where we're from," says Huevo. "All that matters is that we get up every morning to provide good music, energetic talk and a light mood to balance the stress of school. We encourage people to call in and get out whatever it is that has been on their minds lately, or just to start up a conversation with us."

So the next time you get up early and you're stressed about school, turn on the radio to 88.3 to get a good dose of humor and sarcasm. And the best thing about it is, if you don't like what the rambler's are ramblin' about, you can call 'em up and let 'em know.



When the Ramblers aren't ramblin', they're playing the likes of Johnny Cash (left), Old 97's (right) and Ronnie Dawson (far right).





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Music News

S.N.M. on the Rocks

Lamont Gholston
Special to Flash

Welcome to another edition of SNM on the Rocks. I just want all the hip-hop heads to know that the new Eminem and The Roots albums are bangin' and go pick them up at your favorite music store. Please don't buy from bootleggers or try to download it off the Internet (if they are available on the Net.) Getting music from these sources doesn't count towards gold and platinum certification. So next time you wonder why your favorite artist doesn't go gold or platinum and you have a bootleg of their album in your possession, get somebody to smack the taste out of your mouth and vow to never deal with bootleggers again. If you see the new Nas album around, remember it doesn't come out until March 31. Bootlegging is why his first album wasn't commercially successful, though it is considered a hip-hop classic. I have heard an advance copy of "I Am" and it is definitely worth waiting until March 31 to buy.

Foxy Brown's spokeswoman has announced that Firm representative Fox Boogie is looking to break away from her label and management firm, Violator Records, and sever all ties with its CEO, Chris Lighty. Chris Lighty, who was recently named number 12 in Source's Power 30, has managed a number of hip-hop's most prominent artists, including Busta Rhymes, Deep, A Tribe Called Quest, Missy Elliot, Cam'Ron, and Noreaga. "She's working with [Violator] at all, and that name will be removed from all videos and advertisements," Brown's publicist Marvette Britto told Billboard Bulletin, and summarized, "She does not want to be affiliated with Chris Lighty." With a hefty buy-out clause in his contract with Def Jam having come into effect at the top of this year, Chris Lighty and his partner, Mona Scott, are rumored to be making a move to Elektra Entertainment. Meanwhile, Brown is rumored to be talking with Poke and Tone about signing with their label, Trackmasters Entertainment.

On February 18, five-time Grammy winner Lauryn Hill will launch her first ever solo tour of the U.S., starting in Detroit. Joining Lauryn as her opening will be the five mic-rated, duo from Atlanta, Outkast. Their single, "Rosa Parks," was nominated for a Grammy as well. (They lost to Will Smith with "Gettin' Jiggy With It." When will the Grammy people start choosing real and creative hip-hop to win awards? Lauryn Hill aside.) Other stops on the tour include Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas, Denver, Arizona, California, Nevada, Texas, Atlanta, D.C., Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Boston, and Newark.

Something to look out for, a little further down the line, is the return of Ahmad. He's currently finishing up, 'Call it a Come Back,' a 16 track-deep LP on his own label, Look Alive Records. The production is all being done in-house this time around by a cat named K.P. and Ahmad himself. With fellow 4th Avenue Jones crew members Tena Jones and Senoj, Ahmad comes off with a fresh delivery, guest spots by artists like Aceyalone, a live band, and, of course, a DJ. Lyrically, he doesn't come with the underground sound you might've been expecting after "Come Widdit" and "Only If You Want It", but he's definitely matured.

Stacie Odeneal
Staff writer

I'm sorry to report the world of Country hasn't experienced any boot-shaking kicks in the past week.

In big news, "No Place That Far" by the fabulous Sara Evans has taken over Mark Chesnutt's ill-deserved number one spot on the charts. He stumbled to number two with "Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" and I think we all know how I feel about that. Number three goes to Diamond Rio with "Unbelievable".

Unless you're Amish, you probably had some idea that the Grammy's were held Wednesday and that Shania Twain did more for the leather industry in five minutes than Harley Davidson could dream of doing in a lifetime. Her 6-inches of cowhide apparel must have done something right because she took home awards for best female country vocal, and

Redneck Rock Review

country song of the year. My golfing hero, the Captain, Vince Gill also took home two with best male country vocal and best instrumental collaboration for his work with Randy Scruggs on "A Soldier's Joy". Former group-o-the-week, the Dixie Chicks won two as well with best country group vocal for "There's Your Trouble", and album of the year for "Wide Open Spaces."

This week's man-o-the-hour, (same thing as group-o-the-week), is Kenny Chesney. The 29-year-old singer from Luttrell, Tn

graduated from East Tennessee State University with a degree in advertising before moving to Nashville where he sang to whino's and prostitutes as well as parked cars before signing contracts as a singer and songwriter. His last cd, "I Will Stand" is pretty good overall, although "I Will Stand" is my favorite song on the album.

However, young Kenny will have a new

cd on shelves everywhere on March 2 that is absolutely fabulous. The new cd, "Everywhere We Go", has his latest cut, "How Forever Feels" and so much more including a slow duet with Randy Travis called "Baptism". Kenny's tribute to Tennessee Vols announcer John Ward, "Touchdown Tennessee", is currently on sale, a must for any true Vol fan. He also recently recorded a new Vol song entitled "Destiny Team" that can't be released for purchase because it contains the names of current players. Just a little tidbit to let you know just what you're not hearing.

Dear Kenny will be coming to our very own Murfreesboro Wal-Mart to sign copies of his album on March 13 at 11 am.

Well, that's all I have. Should you have fascinating country news, an awesome country band that everyone must hear about or perhaps would just like to shower me with gifts, feel free to email slo2b@frank.mtsu.edu or call the Sidelines office.



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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Aries (March 21-April 19). You're forced to be perfect on Monday and Tuesday. Just do it, don't argue. By Wednesday, your mind will be sharper, but don't hurt anyone with it. An argument Tuesday can lead to a new way by Wednesday. Ask a friend to pitch in on Thursday. The competition keeps you inspired on Friday. Invest in love over the weekend, with a commitment.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Build a structure to protect someone or something you love the first part of this week. It'll be easier then. Around Wednesday, other people's demands start dominating your day. You won't have much time off until Friday. A meeting that night ends in separation, but the bond you've been wanting should develop this weekend.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Stay on the sidelines. Don't get in the middle. Your team or committee should start communicating more but watch out. They may launch with their pet peeves about each other. Controversy rages through Friday, but don't you speak too freely. A thoughtless remark could cause jealousy or hurt feelings, especially over the weekend.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). On Wednesday, you'll start running into delays and difficulties, even if you're watching where you're going. Other people keep changing their minds, that's why. Friday starts with promise and ends up with a tough choice. Go toward the love and your weekend should be marvelous.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You could lose a windfall just as quickly as you gained it if you're not careful Monday. You'll be luckier at keeping your resources Tuesday, but Wednesday is tricky again. Learn as fast as you can on Thursday and Friday, so when conditions stabilize over the weekend you'll be where you want to stay.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're forceful and dynamic. Check to make sure you're right, too, by listening carefully to your competition. Count your money carefully Wednesday before you divvy it up. Watch for the chance to make more on Thursday. Your best buy is travel-related on Friday. Don't bother to take work home this weekend.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keep the secrets you hear Monday and Tuesday. Add new developments that come to light Wednesday, and you'll know which way to go Thursday. It's good to be generous, but don't give away the store on Friday. An extra job could bring much appreciated income over the weekend.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your crew should go along with whatever you suggest. You'll start getting resistance on Wednesday, from a person who deals with paperwork. You'll get nowhere. Same holds true Thursday and Friday. By Saturday, you should be back in control and rarin' to go. With a few minor snags, you'll power through to victory.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Confusion reigns on Monday and Tuesday. Those are your best days to propose a new idea. Your friends are on your side, especially Wednesday through Friday, so rely on their support. Get rid of old stuff over the weekend. You'll be in the mood to toss things out.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your practical common sense saves the day Monday. Lead others through the confusion Tuesday by keeping the goal in mind. The action is even more intense from Wednesday through Friday. A cautious friend helps you make good choices. Relax with friends over the weekend. Let somebody else set the agenda.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). On Wednesday, you're a little luckier, but it's with relationships. Even then, you might learn by almost losing something. Listen and learn on Thursday and Friday, even if you think you already know it all, and you'll do much better on the pop quiz that'll happen on the weekend. Just answer the tough questions honestly and you should do fine.

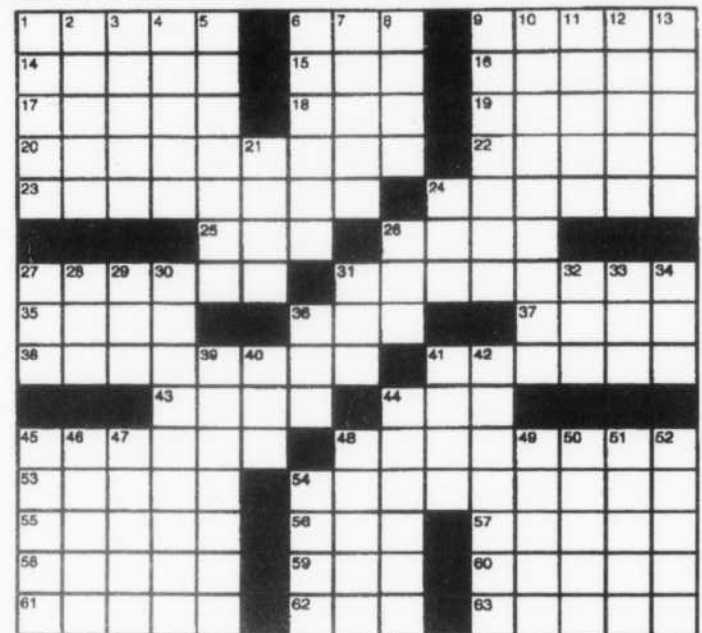
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). An adversarial relationship could develop between you and a neat freak the first part of this week. Don't try to argue with one who's always right. Just accept the coaching. It's cheaper. Speaking of money, stash away as much as possible Thursday and Friday, so you'll have enough to go for a jaunt over the weekend.

ACROSS

- 1 Two-footed animal
- 6 Poetry from Pindar
- 9 Change the alarm
- 14 Come up
- 15 Boggy lowland
- 16 Way in
- 17 ___ Cruz, CA
- 18 Partner of to
- 19 Imbided
- 20 British royal attendants
- 22 One Osmond
- 23 Oil-level checker
- 24 Conical dwellings
- 25 Tiller's tool
- 26 Miami team
- 27 Finally
- 31 Interruptions
- 35 Feast on Oahu
- 36 Puppy bark
- 37 Latvian capital
- 38 Outgoing flows
- 41 Priesthood
- 43 Washington bills
- 44 Regret
- 45 Hired killer
- 48 Nightclubs
- 53 Thai or Korean, e.g.
- 54 Florida cape
- 55 List of candidates
- 56 Javelin's path
- 57 Raise spirits
- 58 Jeopardy
- 59 Circle of flowers
- 60 Fireworks ingredient
- 61 "End of the Road" star
- 62 British Inc.
- 63 Summer ermine

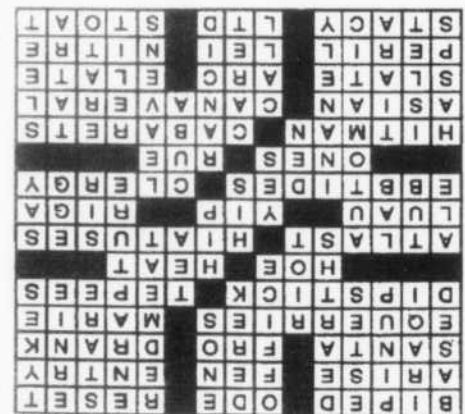
DOWN

- 1 Founded
- 2 Hussein, for one
- 3 Poster
- 4 Photorealist painter
- 5 Scarce supplies
- 6 Cork room
- 7 Beautiful Bo
- 8 Son of Seth
- 9 Beef or venison, e.g.
- 10 Fill with delight
- 11 Dazed look
- 12 Borgnine or Kovacs
- 13 Youngsters
- 21 Mob melee
- 24 Herbal drink
- 26 Part of a pelvis
- 27 Ginger
- 28 Vat
- 29 Sci. class
- 30 Self-regulating
- 31 That guy's
- 32 Military address
- 33 Easter item
- 34 For instance
- 36 Sure thing!
- 39 Senselessly
- 40 Hibernation chamber
- 41 Castro's country
- 42 Adds yeast
- 44 Repugnant



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3/5/99



- 45 Metal fasteners
- 46 Small land mass
- 47 Pope's triple crown
- 48 Proofreader's symbol
- 49 Started the fire again
- 50 Poetic muse
- 51 Carpathian range
- 52 Ice fall
- 54 Summon