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Trev Echoes

The Student Newspaper of Trevecca Nazarene University

"Esse Quam Videri"

facebook MONITORING

Amy Taylor
Contributor

Troy Trevecca is not stalking students on Facebook, and neither is the rest of the Trevecca faculty.

But, that doesn't mean that news of pictures of students breaking Trevecca rules doesn't make its way to administrators now and then.

Faculty members don't have time to search students' pictures on Facebook and no administrator expects them to, Steve Harris, Associate Provost and Dean of Student Development, said.

"To me, it's so stupid that [students] actually think that," Harris said. "I don't even have a Facebook."

While faculty members and RAs are not asked to actively monitor social networking sites that students may be part of, there is an expectation that they would report any evidence of a student breaking a rule.

Harris did not provide exact numbers, but said "only a handful" of students have been punished because of something they posted on Facebook.

The handbook is clear that pictures, statements, etc. on Facebook or other sites are fair

game for discipline.

"Students will also be held accountable for statements and publications that they make in printed or any electronic form that violate the University behavioral expectations," the Trevecca Student Handbook states.

Whether this conduct is performed on or off campus, students are responsible for their actions.

This is a cause for concern for some Trevecca students.

"The rules on the campus are very strict. I am constantly worrying about what

I am posting and if it could be taken in the wrong way at all," Alisa Inman, a Trevecca student, said.

Knowing that they can be disciplined for being in the presence of alcohol, even if they themselves are not drinking, students are wary of posting pictures because they are afraid of who might see them.

"It makes me mad sometimes that I have had to untag myself from pictures with some of my friends just because one of them was smoking or drinking in the picture," one Trevecca student said.

Some students set

their profiles to private or hide specific information from certain friends on Facebook to prevent punishment.

Harris, however, is more concerned with how much time students are spending on Facebook than what they are posting on the Web site.

Time spent on Facebook can impact students' relationships, grades, and involvement on campus, Harris said.

In a study released in August, Gordon College professors found that more than

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TROJAN IDOL 2009

Background: This year's Trojan Idol contestants (left to right): Johanna Williams, Amanda Daughtry, Ashley Cauthen, Parker Guthrie, Lillian Stewart, Lauren Boyer, Jake Hagood, Lauren Pulley, Orien Henry, T.J. Adams.

Foreground: Hosts Cassie Hamilton and Austin Johnson.

Photo courtesy of Darren Bryant

Hank Spaulding
Staff Writer

The stage is set and the band is ready, it's that time of year when the very best and talented of

Trevecca's vocalists compete for the coveted title of Trojan Idol.

The event is separated into two separate evenings, and is in its seventh season this year. The first round took place on

Thursday, November 19th and showcased an assortment of ten vocalists from all types of musical backgrounds as well as the awkward humor of hosts Austin Johnson and Cassie Hamilton.

The night was an exciting one with the judges consisting of very talented artists such as Joy Williams, Kathleen Dunn (winner of last year's Trojan Idol), and J.T. Daly. The first night began with Kathleen Dunn's performance of Kelly Clarkson's "My Life Would Suck Without You." The night's performances consisted of many electric performances, such as Lauren Boyer's rendition of "Heartbreaker" and Parker Guthrie wowing the crowd with John Mayer's version of the old Tom Petty song "Free Fallin'." Among some of the other performances were senior Lily Stewart singing "Livin' on a Prayer," Johanna Williams

taking on the great Freddie Mercury in "Somebody to Love," and Orien Henry singing "Ain't Too Proud to Beg."

At the end of a night filled with top performances by all, there were only five that moved on to the semifinals: Lauren Pulley, T.J. Adams, Jake Hagood, Lauren Boyer, and Parker Guthrie.

The second night began with a tribute to the late Michael Jackson featuring the top five Idol contestants. Once the night began, it was clear that the voting would not be easy for the crowd. All those in the semifinals gave stellar performances. In the end there were two:

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CONCERNED NAZARENES - SMALL GROUP, BIG SPLASH

Allison Whetstone
Staff Writer

Trevecca has come under some criticism recently. It has been said Trevecca teaches "emerging theology" and that we promote pagan and Catholic practices. University president Dr. Dan Boone states adamantly, "It's not a fair branding for us, but it's a fair conversation to have. I just look at the movement and say 'there are good things and there are bad things' about the emergent church movement."

The criticism is mainly coming from one group. This group calls themselves Concerned Nazarenes and has been around for about a year. Its aim is to call attention to activities, spiritual practices, and teachings in Nazarene churches and universities that they say are either "not biblical" or not congruent with the beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene.

Tim Wirth, one of the founders of Concerned Nazarenes and operators of the website, originally agreed to an email interview. However, after being sent questions, he decided an interview would be "unproductive." Therefore

the quotes from Concerned Nazarenes are taken from the website.

When I asked Rev. Jon Middendorf of OKC First Church of the Nazarene what "emerging theology" means for those in the Nazarene circle, he said, "It asks, 'How can we reach the culture around us for Christ and his kingdom while staying faithful to the will of God as we understand it in our Sacred Text?'" This can mean things such as living as a community, welcoming the stranger, and using ancient spiritual practices in our modern-day worship. There has been much criticism toward Rev. Middendorf and his church, but there have also been concerns raised about things taking place here at Trevecca.

One of the campus's events has been named pagan and mystical by the Concerned Nazarenes. The group states that the prayer labyrinth Trevecca offers is completely foreign to Christianity. Rev. Brent Tallman, Director of Campus Spiritual Formation, points out that the word "labyrinth" does have a mythological connotation, but what Trevecca calls a labyrinth

is not actually so in the way it is used. He describes it as prayer stations. It is open as to mimic a walk and not a maze. Dr. Boone says that he has only received one call from a concerned parent about this event. After explaining to the parent what the stations were and what they represented, the parent said it was great that Trevecca was doing something like that.

Another activity the Concerned Nazarenes have contention with is the silence retreat that is offered in the spring. They deemed it as Catholic. They state that these silence retreats are not based in Wesleyan tradition but that they are "experiential works-based techniques for prayer." Rev. Tallman gave some detail on why Trevecca started having these retreats. Originally, he was looking for a traditional retreat location. He later realized that students might desire a time of literal retreat and a place which is designed around silence, such as the Abbey of Gethsemane, might better achieve that goal. None of the prayer services held by the monks are mandatory. Rev. Tallman said with a glimmer

in his eyes that he has seen the monks reading over the materials Trevecca has given them - books about the Church of the Nazarene and our beliefs - and he has heard them conversing about the things they read in them.

So why are the Concerned Nazarenes and their criticism of emerging theology not talked about on campus? Dr. Boone believes it is because most students do not have a problem with the ancient practices. "Many kinds of expression that a post-modern generation finds meaningful frighten the Concerned Nazarenes." Students are not afraid of the use of the word "Eucharist" over "communion" because it is the closest word we have to the Greek used in the Bible. Rev.

Tallman says, "We lost practices that we associated with Catholics during the Reformation. But they predate Catholics. The Protestant movement is beginning to rediscover its roots in the early church, and that maybe we lost some things with the reformation that weren't necessarily Catholic."

Toward the end of our interview, Dr. Boone looked me in the eyes and stated boldly: "I love these people. I'm not angry with them, and I don't want to hurt them." But then a look of sadness followed as he said, "They are a frightened group who don't fully understand the richness of the Christian story and the traditions of Christianity and they are lashing out against things that are not doing harm."

Check it out for yourself:

Concerned Nazarenes
www.concernednazarenes.org

Church of the Nazarene
www.nazarene.org

TNU Spiritual Formation
www.trevecca.edu/spiritualformation

TNU
Gospel Choir

Trevecca's
Campus Wide
Choir

Spring Semester 2010
Register for MCM 1800

Questions?
Dr. John Ray, Director
ext. 1571

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Associated Press

WARWICK, R.I.

Police say a 17-year-old Warwick boy who skipped school to rob a bank has been arrested after leaving fingerprints on the threatening note he passed to the teller. Warwick police Capt. Sean Collins said the boy handed a note riddled with misspellings to a teller Thursday, demanding money or "everyone will be shot."

The teller at Coastway Community Bank gave the teen money, but he didn't have much time to spend it.

Police said his image was captured on surveillance cameras, and his fingerprints were found on the note.

Police said the teen was arrested six hours after the

alleged theft and faces a first degree robbery charge. The teen, whom police declined to identify because he's a juvenile, was being held at the Rhode Island Training School.

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Facebook from pg. 1

one-third of the Christian college students they surveyed reported using Facebook between one and two hours a day.

In the study, which surveyed 1,342 students from four evangelical Christian colleges, more than half of the students reported that they were "neglecting important areas in their life" because they were spending too much time on Facebook.

"What is clear from our study is that a surprisingly high percentage of Christian students who frequently engage in electronic activities report several troubling negative consequences," Bryan Auday, a psychology professor at Gordon College and one of the conductors of the study, said.

Amanda Daly, Director

of Counseling Services at Trevecca, has seen some of these consequences in the students who come to her for help.

Her main concern is that sites like Facebook or Twitter create a false sense of community or intimacy. Not having face-to-face contact with people can cause students to have less of a filter and be more vulnerable with others, she said.

"I have worked with many individuals who eventually feel lonely because the only way they can feel close to people is through the internet or social networking sites," she said. "Because they do not have friends to literally hang out with, they feel isolated and alone."

It's not all bad though, according to the study.

"Ironically [students] also mention many positive outcomes related to the time that is spent on Facebook," Auday,

said in a news release.

Facebook helps students stay connected to their family and friends, especially the ones who live far away, some of the students reported.

Harris said a healthy dose of moderation is good for Facebook users, but ultimately he wants students to take the short time they are in college to build relationships with the people around them.

"Interaction is so important at college. I almost want [students] to be out building face-to-face relationships rather than Facebook relationships," Dean Harris said.

For more information on the Gordon College study go to <http://www.gordon.edu/article.cfm?iArticleID=829&iReferrerPageID=5&iPrevCatID=30&bLive=1>

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THE BATTLE FOR HEALTH REFORM

Tyler Carpenter Staff Writer

An historical time in our nation's history has occurred in the past month. For nearly 100 years Presidents have attempted to expand health care to all, only to end in failure. America is closer now more than ever to passing legislation which will overhaul the health care system. November 21 marked the latest advance for reform with the Senate voting 60-39 to open debate, only by convincing moderate democrats and independents.

The bill started in the House of Representatives and after several hours of debate over the bill and two amendments, the House passed the Affordable Health Care for America Act by only two votes. One of the amendments happened to be on the issue of abortion and with its passage the votes of many 'pro-life' and self proclaimed 'blue dog' Democrats were secured. The final vote in the House was 220 ayes, 115 nos. Thirty-nine democrats voted against this bill while there was one Republican,

Joseph Cao, who voted along with Democrats to pass legislation.

In order for a health care reform bill to make it to the Presidents desk several more events must take place. Senate Democrats have secured enough votes to open debate but they will need another vote of 60 to move the bill to a final senate vote. That will be the most challenging hurdle this administration will face. If the bill passes the Senate it will then go into Conference Committee where the two houses will merge the different bills in hopes of creating a single bill with enough support for a majority vote. The bill then must be passed by both houses before the President has a chance to either sign or veto.

The epic fight for health reform and a health care system that reaches nearly every American has been around since the days of Theodore Roosevelt. There have been many since Roosevelt to push for reform, the latest being former President Bill Clinton. His efforts died quickly after his administration brought the bill before Congress. Many whom were against reform in 1994 have shifted in support. The

American Medical Association and AARP are among that group. The largest groups in opposition to the Democrats proposal for reform have been the Tea Party group, Conservatives for Patients Rights, and many others.

Leading politicians from both sides of the aisle have voiced their support or concern for reform. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has stated that the Senate bill "saves lives, saves money and protects Medicare. Not only do we make health insurance affordable for every American, we certainly do it in a fiscally responsible way." In response to the Senate vote to begin debate Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has said, "Republicans will now provide what the closed-door sessions did not. We will continue to offer the commonsense, step-by-step cost-saving reform that Americans really want."

This is the farthest our country has progressed towards a universal health care system. Before recent events no attempt has even made it past a committee vote. Now only time will tell and thanks to C-Span everyone can be a part of the debate.

STUDENT CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Todd Osborne
Staff Writer

This may sound silly, but I don't think I have ever bought any pajamas for myself (unless you count the Scrubs scrubs I bought in New York senior year of high school, but let's just say we won't for now).

Every year for Christmas, my mother lets my sister and me open one present on Christmas Eve. This prevents me and my sister from getting too excited about Christmas morning presents, but at the same time doesn't ruin the fun of guessing if I got everything on



my Christmas list. You see, every Christmas my mother marks a specific present for each family member, and every year we each get a new pair of pajamas that we promptly put on before going to bed. I can go through my dresser drawer at home and find pajama pants that I've worn, and each and every one of them was given to me on Christmas Eve. It's kind of a goofy tradition, but it always feels good to know that I can open up at least one present on

Christmas Eve, and even though I know what will be inside, I still cherish the moment each year.

And besides, who doesn't love never having to buy his own pajamas?

Heather Millington
Contributor

For Christmas last year, all of my cousins, my sister, and myself, decided to hand make the gifts we would give to our family. Most of us are either in college or fresh out of it, which pretty much means kind of broke as well.

On Christmas afternoon when my family gathered together, we began to exchange our gifts. We sat in excitement and waited to experience the reaction of our loved ones when they unwrapped the colored paper. My madre even got in on the crafting trend, by whipping up a dress for my cousin's daughter's new Barbie. The excited squeals and bouncing feet of an almost three-year old as she picked out the fabric is still my favorite memory from last year.

There was a different atmosphere last year that I cannot quite explain. Maybe it



was the fact that even though we, the cousins, did not have money but we had a lot of love that we put into the creation of each gift. Perhaps it was because we did not just "pick something up" but rather intentionally hand crafted each gift for a particular person. I think that the biggest reason why our homemade presents were so well given and received

was that last Christmas we realized that gifts were not about how much we spend or where we got them from but another way to show our appreciation to each other for being family. I guess that a tradition is not so unless it happens more than just one year, but I am sure that this is something that we all will want to continue for years to come.

MYTHBUSTERS: GAINING THE HOLIDAY HUNDRED

Jacob Perry
Staff Writer

(Note: Some of the comments in the following article may be found humorous, but for some people, weight related issues are serious. Therefore, for this issue of 'Mythbusters' I have added an italicized section at the end which is meant to be taken seriously.)

In the past, Mythbusters has explored the unsettled, deep-seated issues at the core of Trevecca's being. We have covered everything from haunted places on campus to the very psychologically damaging effects of Trevecca relationships on members of both sexes. It would seem that most obviously, before we plunged into those unexplored depths, that we would have considered tackling the most important of surface level issues pertinent to college students: gaining weight. To be

honest, the thought never even crossed our minds, and it is to you, o reader, that we apologize. Fear not, because in this issue, all of the questions surrounding thunder thighs and love handles will be answered.

Obesity is a national epidemic. It is a hard, fattening truth to swallow that the United States is the most pleasantly plump nation on the globe. Astronauts report that in looking at Earth from space there is an evident lean in the Western hemisphere. So, what did Trevecca do, as a small Nazarene university, to ensure the health of its students? I'll tell you. They have physically and electronically altered all measuring devices on campus (including the scale you brought from home and keep under your bed so you can weigh in every morning and tell your friends all about how you wish you had never gone to Taco Bell so late last night because now you feel all bloated and like you ate a brick but it's okay because

you are going to starve yourself all day for the next two days and only drink water so you can cancel it out and still look good for that date that you have on Friday) to over-weight objects by twenty pounds. That's right, the scales, in fact, are lying. It is not true what your friends have been telling you; the bipolar weather in Tennessee does not make you weigh more.

One should not feel taken advantage of by TNU in this situation. As always, the student's best interests are being secured for the future. After all, if congress wants to tax farm animal flatulence in the overproduction of methane gas, you can bet they want to penalize you for your late night burrito runs. So far this school year, independent student exercise on campus is up thirty-seven percent. This testifies to the overall success of TNU's fat-busting plan. Rumor has it that there will be several workshops next semester on the subject of health and wellness with the

following guest speakers: Hank Spaulding, Joe Montana, Amy Winehouse, and more.

As the Holidays approach, students are continually growing more and more fearful of gaining extra blubber between the entire month that takes place between Thanksgiving and Christmas (and technically New Year's for those of you who say, "I'll eat like a pig up until the ball falls in Times Square, and then I'm going on a strict diet."). Trevecca will not abandon students as they go home for the break. For Christmas, the office of Student Development is giving each student a compact disc entitled "Student Development: Your Body is Ours" as a gift. This CD will have nearly a month's worth of inspirational voice recordings of encouragement for your weight loss process. You will hear everyone from President Boone to Tarsha spouting out phrases like "You can do it!" and "Somebody poisoned the water-

hole!" As a bonus track Alan Thicke will read "'Twas The Night Before Christmas."

**I know that there are some people who are legitimately worried about gaining weight. The overall thing to remember is that you need to exercise, eat right (for the majority of the time), and most importantly you need to love and accept yourself for who you are. If there is something that you don't like about yourself (say a few extra pounds around the midsection), then change it. However, you don't need to stress yourself out about every calorie. It's okay to consume the occasional gingerbread house. It's just not okay to have one after breakfast, lunch, and dinner everyday. Here's another thing, don't eat late at night, period. You metabolism slows down and anything you consume pretty much goes 'straight to them hips.' The secret to not gaining the 'Holiday Hundred' is no secret at all. It's just common sense.*



One Christmas tradition we have done ever since I was little is to get a picture with Santa no matter how old we are.
- Cassie Hamilton



Every Christmas Eve my father reads "An Angel's Story" by John Maxwell to my family. We sit together by the fire and tree while he reads it and does voices for all the characters. During certain parts we cry, some we laugh, but by the end we always remember why Christ came and celebrate it together.
- Parker Hughes

Every Christmas my two sisters and I travel with my mother to pick out customized fabric from the store. We then spend the days prior sewing our own custom pajama pants. We wear them on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Morning.
- Kevin Wilkerson

All-School Christmas Party

When: Saturday, December 5th

Where: Jernigan

Time: 8 PM

Come enjoy a night full of Christmas fun with your friends and fellow classmates.

A SIBLING CHRISTMAS RECOLLECTION

Diane Zilinski
Contributor

When I hear a particular song come on the radio, my mind flies back to a very special memory. I close my eyes and all of a sudden I am back in my old room, in my childhood house at 5005 Timber Place.

I am only seven or eight perhaps, with an older sister and a younger squirt I call my brother. We are bouncing on the beds, throwing around pillows, and laughing out loud. Nothing

could break us from the fun we're having, except one thing: the sultry notes of a beloved Christmas carol, Feliz Navidad, as they fill our small house. Stopping like dogs listening for danger, we exchange quick glances between each other and we bound out of the room, down the stairs, and into the kitchen. Mom smiles and points to the silverware drawers and the plate cabinet; we must set the table - a chore so odious that throughout the rest of the year we fight over

who has to do it. However, for tonight we form a harmonious band as we dance to the music and arrange the table for dinner, joyous in the awareness that Christmas was soon coming, only a few days away.

The song ends and I open my eyes. I am back in my dorm room and there is still a stack of assignments left to be done and finals to prepare for, but for now I want to wish you a Merry Christmas from the bottom of my heart.

HOW TO: DON GAY APPAREL

Lauren Boyer
Writer

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Or so we've sung every December since we were tiny tots. And, for the most part, I'd say it has proven to be true. The air is crisp and chilly and holiday festivities flowing with apple cider and hot chocolate make us feel warm and fuzzy. Everything smells wonderful: the scents of fir, pumpkin spice, gingerbread, and wrapping paper stimulate the most glorious sensations in our nostrils. And who doesn't love to curl up next to the fire with the person who will--more than likely--soon become your spouse? (Come to think of it, though, Terrace apartments don't have fireplaces.) The point is, everyone loves Christmastime! In the month to come, each and every one of us will wander the hallowed halls of Trevecca singing Christmas carols with abandon, belting cherished lyrics like, "Don we now our gay apparel!" We sing this line every year, yet do any of us really know what it means? Luckily for you, I have taken it upon myself to find out what this so-called gay apparel is and how one should go about donning it!

Wrap yourself in wrapping paper and pour eggnog on your head. - Stephen Puckett

Very Carefully. - Todd Osborne.

Wear happy clothes? - Kylie Westmoreland

You can always do what I do and deck the halls wearing a loincloth. - CJ Bradley

Go to Clifton's closet. - Parker Hughes

Wear red footsie pajamas with grizzly bears on them and your hair in pigtails. - Amsy Miller

Those plastic wreaths? They're not for doors. They're for wearing on your head like Swedish people and Ghosts of Christmas Present. Wear wreaths. - Kelly Tillson

Step in and jump up and down until your pants are all the way on. - Emily Archer

Ask Jon Sharpes. He's pretty good at it. - Grant Hodges

Wrap yourself in tinsel and multicolored Christmas lights. - Abby Petrunak

I'm like the rest of you, I put my gay apparel on one leg at a time, except once my gay apparel is on I make gold records. - Austin Johnson

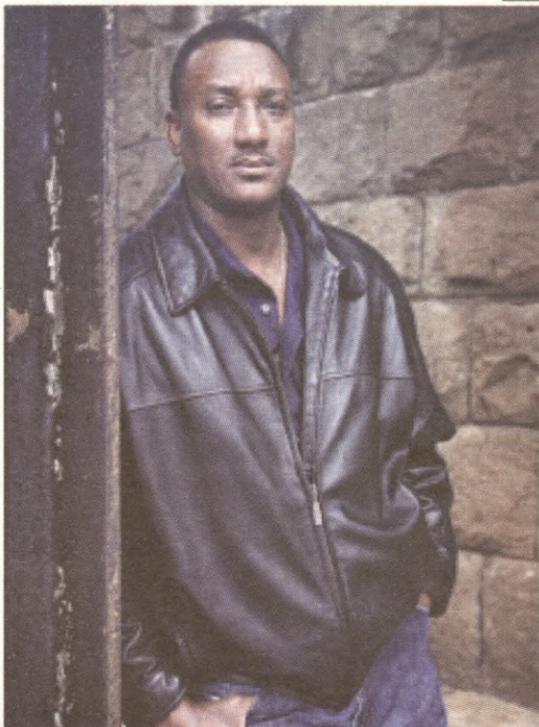
I hate Christmas. - Jeremy Ellison

Wear a festive Christmas vest that lights up or jingles, preferably both. - Cassie Hamilton

Happily wear a shirt that says, "don" on it. - Nicole Sexton

Go to Express for men. - Jesse Page

... That's offensive. - Michael Louderback



Ronald Cotton and Jennifer Thomson-Cannino, authors of the memoir *Picking Cotton*.

PICKING COTTON

Trevecca Office
of Communications

Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton, authors of *Picking Cotton*, shared their story at Trevecca Nazarene University on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

A crowd gathered in Trevecca's Benson Auditorium to hear firsthand accounts from the authors. Their story began in 1984 when Thompson-Cannino, a 23-year-old college student in North Carolina, was brutally raped. Convinced that she had memorized every detail of her attacker's face, she picked Ronald Cotton, a 23-year-old African-American, from a lineup. Cotton was subsequently found guilty and sentenced to

life in prison. Eleven years later DNA evidence exonerated him.

Thompson-Cannino and Cotton went on to tell the amazing part of their story. Cotton forgave Thompson-Cannino and they became friends.

Picking Cotton, their emotional memoir, was named a New York Times "best seller" following its publication earlier this year. Its themes of mistaken eye-witness identification, the miscarriage of justice, restorative justice, and the healing power of forgiveness resonate with readers.

Their appearance at Trevecca was made possible by a partnership of Trevecca and Vanderbilt University.

Idol from pg. 1

T.J. Adams (star of the recent Trevecca production of *Seussical*) and freshman Parker Guthrie. After the two performed their songs, Parker was the one left standing as the 2009-2010 Trojan Idol.

The day after, I had a chance to sit down and talk with Parker about his experiences and thoughts from the contest:

Hank: "So, day after, what are your first thoughts/reactions on this side of it?"

Parker: "Well it's very surreal, because I remember talking to my sister about doing this while she was here and never winning and thinking that this was going to be very hard to do well as a freshman. I worked so hard and it's very humbling to have won and have people tell me how good they thought I did. It is just very humbling."

H: "You mentioned the freshman aspect coming in and how intimidating that is, what were your thoughts backstage listening to the other contestants?"

P: "Well the first night I was very worried about my song selection [Free Fallin'] because there were so many that just came out and rocked the stage, and I went seventh out of ten the first night, and had to listen to six people and actually sang the third verse twice but they seemed to like it so it was cool."

H: "We all know you come from a very musical family. What was it like growing up in that environment?"

P: "My whole life has been music, and I am a carbon copy of my dad. All my family plays instruments and we would play with my dad growing up; that is just what we did. Coming into Trevecca Nazarene University, everyone knows everyone so it was expected that I would be a good musician because I am a Guthrie, and it has been my goal to live up to my last name."

H: "What made you decide to do this as a freshman? What was it like coming in as a freshman and going up against those upper classmen who have paved their way a little bit?"

P: "Well it started because my mom and my sister were telling me I should do this. I actually was the last person to audition on the last day; I didn't really want to do this. I have never been so nervous, and my sister told me about how good these people are and then getting to see how good they were with the band really made me more nervous. I don't usually get that nervous, but I did at every Trojan Idol event. I will say that it meant the most when the people that I competed against congratulated me after I won, and it was so humbling as well."

H: "What do you listen to or what are your influences?"

P: "Probably number one Shane and Shane the most.

In fact, I have an unhealthy obsession with them. Besides that I would say John Mayer, Jason Maraz, Andy Davis, and anyone who plays guitar."

H: "What went in to your song choices?"

P: "My brother and my sister helped me a lot. My brother actually suggested that I sing "Free Fallin'" and I actually was going to sing "Everything" by Michael Buble because T.J. was just so good at that and I didn't think I could hang with that so I switched to "Use Somebody" because everyone loves that song and "Falling Slowly" is my favorite song of all time so that was an easy pick.

H: "Looking back, would you want to have done anything different?"

P: "I think the main thing is rehearse stage movement more. I have not sung without a guitar in my hand since I was little so it felt a little weird and just practice more, but that is all I guess."

H: "Talk about having your brother singing backup for you."

P: "It was awesome and we have such a tight family harmony, but I felt like I had a little edge. And I mean he is so supportive and very sentimental for me. It was like having someone right there with me."

H: "For anyone who is thinking about doing Idol next year, what is your advice? Especially to an incoming freshman."



Parker Guthrie, the 2009-2010 Trojan Idol, performs the song *Falling Slowly* by the Swell Season on night two.

P: "Completely do it. It seems like a lot at the beginning but it's really not that much, and you become so close to the people who you compete with. They are so supportive. Be comfortable with who you are and your song choices. Just do it."

H: "Final Thoughts?"
P: "It has been crazy and was so much fun. There was a lot of time put in by a lot of people and I am so grateful for that. It is very humbling as a

freshman to get picked by people I respect so much, and I really have enjoyed the whole process."

H: "Any song selections for next year's performance?"

P: "No, not yet. I wish I did."

H: "Thanks for sitting down with me, and congrats on an amazing job."

Parker Guthrie, what a classy guy. This certainly will be an Idol to remember. See you next year.

COLLEGE DEMOCRATS AT BONGO JAVA

Joel Lain
Writer

In East Nashville sits Bongo Java, a hip place for people to go work on their laptops and enjoy coffee or tea with their finely crafted and well made sandwiches. Friday night, November 20th, saw Bongo Java staying open much later than normal hours. Inside were eager bodies waiting for the music to start. There was standing room only for the majority of the performances. A man running for Congress for District 58 shook hands and kissed babies (if there had been any babies). The temperature inside steadily rose from the mass of bodies shuffling past each other with coffees in hand, scouring the room for empty seats. I sat and just absorbed the warm electric current buzzing from the performers and audience, absorbing sound and color and voice with a cup of Chai. Ashley Williams and Mark Sloan began the night with mellow tones interweaving a healthy stream of



The Trevecca crowd at Bongo Java for the College Democrats' fundraiser.

bluegrass and blues with Ashley's rich alto melodies. The Jordan Hull Experience kicked up the mood a bit with their indie pop soaked in Bob Dylan and Billy Holiday nostalgia. Ben Wheat ended the evening the only way it could have ended and the only

way Ben Wheat could, with his mixture of both comical and sentimental songs that remained tasteful throughout. It was a night that was enjoyable, whether you are a democrat or republican or green party or libertarian or socialist or vegetarian.

BENSON HOT WATER ISSUES

Adam Wadding
Writer

Plant Operations has been constantly working trying to fix the Benson Hall hot water problems this semester.

Various times throughout the semester, residents of Benson Hall have been experiencing days without any hot water to take a shower with. At first, the issue was unknown as to why the hot water would stop working since the problem was thought to have been resolved many times before.

With many attempts by Plant Operations to resolve the issue, the problems persisted and different action needed to take place.

Unlike most residential homes, Benson Hall's hot water

system does not utilize the general water pressure to move water throughout the building.

"With the length and height of the building, this pressure alone is not adequate to respond to the demands of the building," said Glen Linthicum, Director of Plant Operations.

With only two recirculation pumps installed in Benson that help move hot water through the system, it was discovered that on these occasions the pumps had shut down due to different causes. The boiler was reset, and the system was returned to normal, providing hot water back into the dorm.

Yet again another problem surfaced, when hot water was restored everywhere except to the northern end of the building.

With no option to take a warm shower in their own suites, students were forced to either take cold showers, or find another facility. Options provided to students without hot water included: showering in another suite that has hot water, using the male apartments, or using the locker room across from the workout room in Moore Gymnasium.

After some adjusting of valves, adding a third jockey pump, and adding a pressure regulator to the system, all hot water was restored throughout the dorm.

"We have since resolved the issue and currently all suites have hot water," said Linthicum.

For more information or help on this issue, and those related, call the Plant Operations office at 615-248-1333.

WISE KITCHEN RULE CHANGE

Tyler Carpenter
Staff Writer

After several complaints from Wise residents about women not being allowed in the kitchen area of their apartments, the Office of Student Development has decided to reverse this policy. Previously, women were not allowed to be in the kitchen area of the apartment because, more often than not, this is also the bedroom area. It is campus wide apartment policy that the opposite sex may not cross the threshold of the bedroom. Now guests will be allowed to step foot into the kitchen, but only the cooking area of the kitchen.

Tedious rules are often followed out of habit or procedure until someone has the nerve to say enough is enough. The problem is that small issues like this are very rarely taken seriously and often are simply pushed to the side in lieu of more pressing issues. This decision came out of a compromise to a bigger issue. The idea of allowing open apartments (co-ed hours) to expand beyond the weekend and one day during the week was brought to the administration initially. The adjustment in Wise seemed to be sufficient enough

for student development and the group pushing for change in general apartment policy.

The change is only a minor shift in policy according to the men's apartment RD Tommy Byler. Tommy claims, "The residents asked if we would consider allowing girls in the kitchen. We thought it was a reasonable request. So it got approved." The idea of girls in the kitchen area of Wise has oddly been an issue in the past and, as previously stated, has potentially been the cause of a policy change.

Of course, with this relaxation of rules, more work falls upon the RAs. When asked if this policy change would have any real affect on his job, RA Hank Spalding said, "Because it's isolated to Wise I don't think it's a big difference." He went on to say that if the original proposition would have gone through it could have potentially made the job of RA more demanding and time consuming.

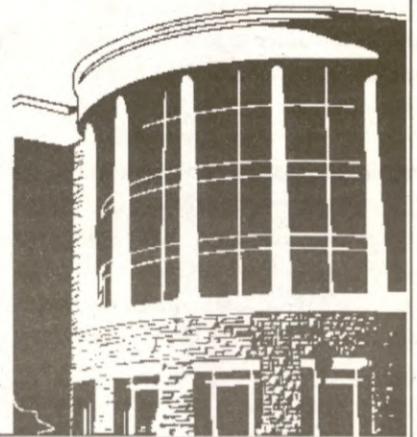
Whether allowing women in the kitchen of Wise apartments was the goal of the proposal to Student Development or not, this is the outcome. A minor area of policy has been reversed. Women can now cook for Wise men.

Research made easy @Waggoner Library

Christmas Break Hours

Dec. 15-17	8am-midnight
Dec. 18	10am-4pm
Dec. 19-20	Closed
Dec. 21-23	noon-4pm
Dec. 24-Jan.3	closed
Jan. 4-8	10am-6pm
Jan. 9	10am-5pm
Jan. 10	closed
Jan. 11-12	8am-6pm
Jan. 13	resume regular hours

Merry Christmast



PRAYER, WORSHIP, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Christina Lafferty
Contributor

Trevecca's new Center for Social Justice and Center for Worship Arts collaborated for the first time this fall for what was their first of many conferences concerning local and global social justice issues.

The conference was a two-day event involving esteemed speakers Bethany Hoang, the director of the International Justice Mission (IJM) institute, Andrew Briggs, the founder of Freedom in Creation, and Alex Mejias, a singer-songwriter from Virginia that travels with both IJM and Freedom in Creation.

With around 50 to 60 people in attendance the first night, director of the Social Justice program, Jamie Casler, was pleased with the response they got.

"I was very pleased, it's a good awareness in our community," he said. "Having speakers like Andrew, Bethany and Alex at our conference is

very significant in my eyes."

The conference began on Friday evening, November the 13th, with senior founding consultant of the Center for Social Justice, Amy Sherman, offering devotion and a call to attention for the issues going on in the world.

"I want you to have your ears tuned as well to the message of hope," Sherman said. "I want to encourage you to let your heart go through the range of emotions it's going to feel."

The theme for the weekend was that the Trevecca community can partner in prayer for justice with people around the world.

Director of IJM, Bethany Hoang, led the evening with a session on "prayer and social justice," filling in Trevecca students and staff on the work IJM is doing around the world regarding the issues of sex trafficking and slavery, and how prayer is the beginning of change.

Also at the core of IJM's

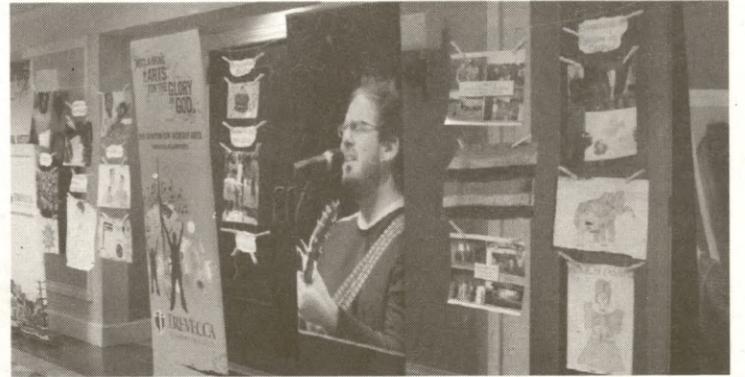
work to bring about change is their Isaiah 1:17 mandate of learning to do right and seeking justice, said Hoang. Each person was encouraged to be in prayer about their role in justice, but also to hear and respond to the cry of the oppressed.

Saturday morning included worship by Alex Mejias, more devotion time with Amy Sherman, a film screening of IJM's newest documentary on slavery, "At the End of Slavery," social justice in the arts workshops with Andrew Briggs and Mejias, and prayer room walk-throughs.

Of the many alarming numbers the new documentary gave on social justice issues taking place in the world, the biggest was the number of slaves in the world that they can account for.

More than 27 million people are living in modern-day slavery - the biggest prayer need drawn to people's attention.

IJM operates in 18 cities around the world to end slavery



Courtesy of Elizabeth Streight.

through responding to the heart of the problem: not getting caught up in the vast number but remembering each victim as an individual, Hoang said.

"The prayer rooms were led by the Trevecca chapter of IJM and the student leaders involved," said Jamie Casler, director of the Social Justice program. "The actual content and themes for the rooms were provided by IJM."

The themes encouraged people to be in prayer for children and families in bonded labor, victims in sex trafficking, aftercare programs for trafficked victims, and for prosecutors, law

enforcement and public justice reform.

"One of the cool things about the prayer rooms was faculty and students being able to pray together," Casler said. "We don't get to actually do that often."

Both Sherman and Casler plan to collaborate with the Center for Worship Arts again in the future, hoping to hold one to two conferences per year. There are possible plans to hold another conference in the spring that will extend to the community outside of Trevecca's campus as well.

DEVOTION: I BELIEVE IN GOD

Brent Tallman
Contributor

Adrienne was her name. She sat in front of me in Mr. Super's high school Geography class, a class in which the teacher did not live up to his name! I do not remember how we got on the topic of religion, but since I was a "good" Christian kid, at least in outward behavior, most kids wanted to know the reason why I didn't do what they thought was "fun," and so as a result, I had the opportunity to talk about my relationship with God to people like Adrienne.

My conversation with Adrienne was much different than the usual fare; I was used to people agreeing with me about my belief in God. They may call God something else or God may not have much relevance in their lives, but nevertheless they knew God existed. Adrienne, on the other hand, did not even acknowledge

the possibility of God—as a naive church kid this threw me for a loop, especially when she questioned the existence of God and my apparent foolishness for believing in Him. I was caught completely off guard. God was a given for me, like air or water; we don't question things like these; they just were and always had been. But I didn't know how to explain this to Adrienne, and that bothered me!

These conversations led me on a quest to prove the existence of God; I wanted to set Adrienne straight. My quest seemed short lived. I was quickly discouraged because she had rationalized her arguments out a long time ago and she could see my God facts coming a mile away. The Bible obviously was not relevant to her; it was not her basis for truth. Science wasn't much help to me. All I seemed to have was this thing called faith, which by the middle of the year

was pretty weak after Adrienne's onslaught. But I kept coming back to my relationship with God. Regardless of how foolish this sounded to Adrienne, I knew that I believed in God and not just as my "eternal safety net," but as my personal Savior. I knew my life was different and not just because of what I did not do, but because of what I did do—my life's purpose was different. Of course Adrienne didn't get any of this. I must confess that Adrienne's questions did much more to me than my answers were able to do for her.

That year I found out that I could not prove God's existence, at least in finite means. I could not point him out and describe him like I could Josh who sat next to us in that same class. I saw Him working in everything around me; Adrienne preferred to chalk it all up to chance. I knew what His presence felt like; Adrienne called it all superstition

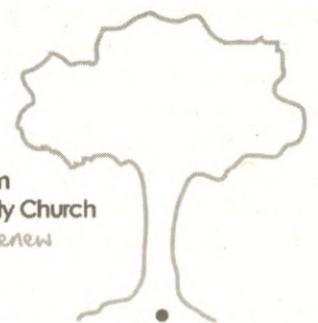
and mind games. He spoke to me through His Word; she thought it was only an interesting book. God had made Himself known to me and His existence was so obvious, but I couldn't explain it. I wish I could say that fifteen years later I have it all figured out, but I really don't have much better answers for the Adriennes of the world. The weird thing is that I am okay with not having all the right answers. I believe in God, and I'm okay with

unanswered questions. Maybe what made the biggest impact on Adrienne was not that I had the best answers to her questions, but that I had something that she didn't have—I had faith in something much bigger than myself and that profoundly affected how I lived, and she could not argue that away.

Do you believe in God? I am thankful to Adrienne for making my answer mean something.

Sunday Nights 6pm
Trevecca Community Church
Worship+Rest+Renew

the
gathering



THE TITANS: TURN AROUND OR FALSE OPTIMISM?

David Tigabu
Writer

No! Was this really the team that went 13-3 just a year ago? What has gotten into these Tennessee Titans? These were common utterances that arose during the team's calamitous 0-6 start. Included in the loss column was a downright ruthless barrage put on by the New England Patriots, a game that saw Tom Brady walk on water, turn water to wine, and give sight to three blind men. Throw in the fact that the laughingstock of the league, the Detroit Lions (a team coming off a winless year), had

the superior record, and you had the makings of a pretty desolate fan base.

That was four weeks ago. Since then, the Titans have amassed 4 consecutive wins, including a very emotional victory against a tough Houston Texans team on Monday Night Football. Now, new questions begin to arise, questions such as "Is this the makings of a team turning it around or merely another case of false optimism?"

A careful look at the offense's season stats simply confirms what Titans fans have come to accept as truth. Quarterback Kerry Collins has flat out stunk. During the

forgettable Patriots game, Collins accrued an unbelievably horrendous 4.9 passer rating. For those of you wondering how low that actually is, a perfect passer rating is 150, with the lowest rating being zero. Just imagine this scenario with me for a second; you take a pretty big [insert subject] test worth 150 points. You get your score back and find that you scored a whopping 5 on it. Now imagine receiving millions of dollars for it. Got the picture? The defense, a unit ranked in the top ten in almost every major statistical category just a year ago, has not stepped up their game. Given all these factors, not to mention the

loss of all-world defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth, key injuries in the secondary, and youth at the wide receiver position, the 2009-2010 season has proved to be a difficult one for this team.

With all these things said, there are plenty of things for Titans fans to be optimistic about. For starters, look no further than the offensive backfield. With Vince Young back in the lineup, this team has gone 4-0 and we are seeing improved game management and key third down conversions. There is no doubt the brightest spot of the year has been the play of tailback Chris Johnson. The second year back has been

nothing short of electrifying this year and is leading the league in rushing yards. By how much, you would ask. Well, Steven Jackson, the league's second leading rusher is currently 200 yards behind Johnson. There is a belief among some football pundits that if the Titans were a 6 or 7 win team, Johnson would perhaps be the MVP frontrunner. Then there is rookie Kenny Britt, the team's first round draft pick who is starting to come into his own. Combine all of this with a defense that is starting to show signs of life, especially on the defensive line, and you have a team that may very well be on the ascent.

From the Communication Studies Department:

BREAKING NEWS

A career in radio, TV, film, or journalism allows you to be on top of the action in our world. The Mass Communication degree at Trevecca prepares students for these and many other exciting careers. Get real radio experience at WNAZ or TV experience at TNU Channel 33. You can get journalism experience reporting and writing for TrevEchoes. Visit the TNU website to explore more communication majors.

THE SEC CHAMPIONSHIP

Hank Spaulding
Staff Writer

Heading into the final weeks of the College Football season, we have a huge matchup in the SEC champion with the winner most likely heading to the national championship. This game is a rematch from last year's thrilling SEC championship with the Gators prevailing by holding the then unbeaten Crimson Tide to zero points in the fourth quarter while tacking on fourteen of their own. The Gators went on to win the National Championship.

This year looks to be an equally compelling matchup with both teams in the top ten and posting huge numbers all year long. Here is a brief preview of what to expect.

Alabama heads into this game with a chip on its shoulder having run the gauntlet to the SEC championship and losing a tough game in the fourth quarter, (plus the heartbreaking loss to Utah in a BSC Bowl). Alabama needs to win this game in order to reassert its dominance as the top team in college football today.

The Gators, on the

other hand, are also heading into this game with something to prove. With a win in the SEC championship game and then hopefully a national championship too, the Gators can cement their legacy as one of College football's greatest teams of all time having won three championships in four years. Another chip is to get that undefeated season that has eluded the team all four of these years.

Look for the key battle in this game to be the Alabama defense against Tim Tebow and

the Gator offense. Tebow is an offensive threat on multiple levels and seems to always find a way to score. The winner of this battle will most likely win the game.

On the other side of the coin look for Alabama to poke holes in the Florida defense with its offensive line making room for its all-star running back Mark Ingram.

This will most certainly be an exciting game to watch and will be a true battle between two highly ranked and talented SEC rivals.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

JOSH FIELDS 6'0"

Major: Math/Math Education

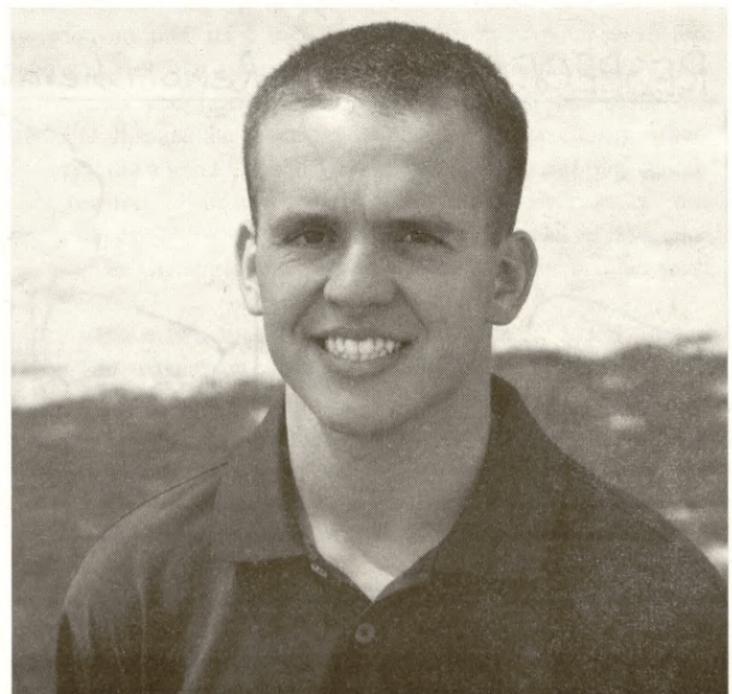
Hometown: Oak Ridge, TN

Campus activities/Clubs: Judicial Council, TIA Referee (3 years), Men's Service Society

Most inspirational person in your life: My dad would be the most inspirational person in my life. I have looked up to him and how he handles himself in all circumstances. He is truly a man of God. I strive to be like him.

Favorite Trevecca memory: Pulling a prank on security (can't say what).

Post-graduation plans: Well as of right now I am going to become an officer in the Marine Corp and be a high school Math teacher and golf coach.



FOOD: APPLE BARN IN OPRY MILLS

Joel Lain
Writer

I know I had passed this place so many times every time I went to the mall and thought nothing about it. It's an apple barn, awesome. That was what I said every time. Curiosity finally bested me one day. First of all, the place is massive. Second, there is food inside! Any product you can imagine that could possibly be even remotely related to apples is in there. Syrups of every flavor, Barbeque sauces

from Lynchburg and their own factory. I was overwhelmed and some primal instinct to seek food must have kicked in because before I knew it I was in line at their pastry counter. Some loud screaming voice inside me said GET THE FRIED APPLE PIE AND SOME PUMPKIN DONUTS AND SOME COLD CIDER. How could I refuse? I mean it was really loud.

I got my food and sat underneath an indoor pavilion and was so distracted by the sweet goodness in front of me

I couldn't make any ironic or sardonic comments about the superfluity of such a structure. The pie was like nothing I had ever had except out of my grandmothers frying pan, I am not even exaggerating a little. The pumpkin donuts drive me crazy even now as I am thinking about them. The apple cider is so good cold that you don't even miss it hot. So if you happen by this place in the mall and think nothing of it, shame on you. Seriously, go in there and get you some love.

SPOTLIGHT: TWINKLE AT GAYLORD'S OPRY HOTEL

Jacob Perry
Staff Writer

Every year, toward the middle of November, Gaylord's Opryland hotel transforms itself into a Winter Wonderland of sorts in stringing up strand after strand of Christmas lights. The transformation is visible from the outside in as the beautiful trees lining the main entrance glow brightly in the cold, airy

nights. The most exciting part about Gaylord's transformation during the holiday months is that it is entirely free to the public. Groups and couples are more than welcome to enter into the hotel and walk its perimeter to view every aspect of its Christmas wonder. Outside, one will find life sized ice sculptures in scenes recreating the nativity accompanied by music and narration. Inside, you can enjoy

all the amenities Opryland Hotel has to offer. There are restaurants, atriums, ice cream stands, boat rides, and much more decked out entirely for the Christmas season. Opryland Hotel during the Christmas season is an entirely unique experience. The hotel is located at 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, TN 37214. For more information, please call the hotel's main line at 615-889-1000 or visit www.gaylordhotels.com.

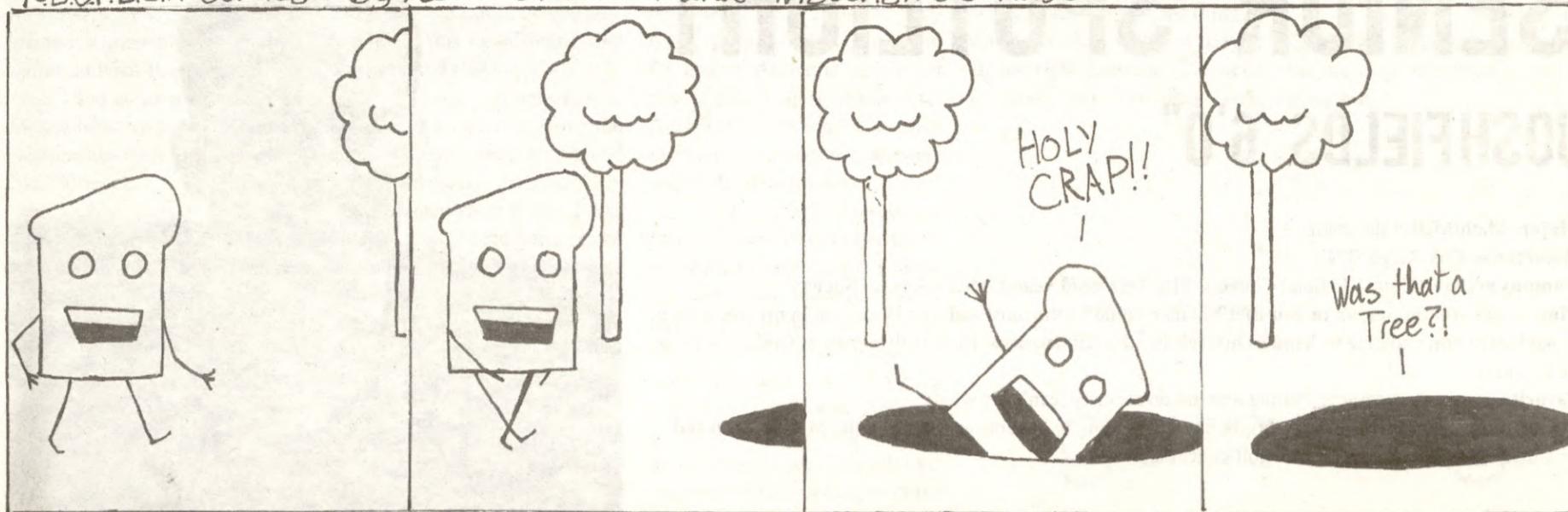
SHOWS

Todd Osborne
Staff Writer

- 12/3; Ryman Auditorium, Cheap Trick
12/3; The Mercy Lounge, Roman Candle, Madi Diaz
12/4; Sommet Center, David Phelps, Bill Gaither
12/5; Rocketown, Family Force 5, House of Heroes
12/7; The Basement, Amber Rubarth
12/7; Exit/In, Red Carpet Rats
12/7; The Rutledge, Good Shot Janson, Jill Sissel
12/9; Ryman Auditorium, Brian Setzer Orcherstra
12/9; Exit/In, Land of Talk
12/9; Rocketown, Ocean is Theory, Brian Bonz, Person L, John Nolan
12/10; First Baptist Hendersonville, Big Daddy Weave
12/10; The Cannery Ballroom, Ghostland Observatory
12/11; Exit/In, Sean Watkins, WPA
12/12; Rocketown, Derek Webb
12/12; 2nd Avenue Live, Elmwood
12/13; Exit/In, Andrew Belle, Andy Davis, K.S. Rhoads, Tyler James, Matthew Perryman Jones, Trent Dabbs, Butterfly Boucher, Jeremy Lister
12/13; 3rd & Lindsley, The Elms
12/13; Sommet Center, Star Wars in Concert
12/14; 3rd & Lindsley, Seabird
12/18; Rocketown, The Devil Wears Prada, All That Remains, Story of the Year, Haste the Day
12/18; The Cannery Ballroom, Red, Saving Abel
12/19; The Cannery Ballroom, Silversun Pickups, The Ettes
12/22; Ryman Auditorium, Ricky Skaggs
12/26; Exit/In, Anesthesia Blvd
12/26; The 5 Spot, Jacob Jones
12/27; The End, Jas Patrick
12/27; Ryman Auditorium, Zac Brown Band
12/31; 12th & Porter, Leslie, American Bang, Luna Halo, The Minor Kings
12/31; Ryman Auditorium, Old Crow Medicine Show, Chuck Mead
1/3; Sommet Center, Trans-Siberian Orchestra



RESPECT. comics By Reno Chevault and Wisconsin Johnson



CHRISTMAS FILM REVIEW: A RESTROSPECTIVE

Austin Johnson
Assistant Editor

Christmas entertainment gets schmaltzy. But since we are already overeating, there is no point hating on a favorite Christmas tradition: watching Santa-themed pablum.

Elf — Every foul-mouthed comedian has to spend a good chunk of his career offsetting the bawdiness by making family films. Eddie Murphy's certainly beaten his career to death with straight-to-DVD kids' movies. But Jon Favreau's *Elf* took the kinder of Will Ferrell's two modes (the other is his egotistical chauvinist mode, which he uses more in the

R rated ones) and made it kid-friendly without losing most of his college-age acolytes, a move that received a helping hand from the casting of Zooey Deschanel as his romantic opposite. The story gets a little ridiculous at the end, but that doesn't mar Ferrell's hyperchildlike performance of Buddy the Elf, a human who's convinced he was elf-born, or Bob Newhart's appearance as his elfin foster father, or Zooey Deschanel's duet with Leon Redbone. It's a wonderful mess, like jumping in a pile of laundry.

Home Alone — Whether your favorite is the first with the crazy old dude next door and "Buzz's girlfriend... Woof," or the second with its Susan Boyle-looking pigeon ladies

and supporting role for Rob Schneider, *Home Alone* is as much a Christmas tradition as honey-baked ham. I am a bigger fan of the first, mostly because the second's good parts are pale imitations of the original, just in Manhattan. We love the movie for its macaroni dinners, pellet guns, personal tape recorders, insane Wet Bandit trap plans, and bed-wetting cousins, but really I think we are all kind of intrigued with what we would actually do if our family disappeared. And the fake Christmas party. And the toothbrush shopping scene. Oh, Macaulay Culkin, what did you do to make us all hate you? Oh yeah, you made movies besides this one.

A Christmas Story —

Almost as many people love this movie as hate it. I know I hated it for the first decade of my existence, but something happened as I grew up and began to understand Christmas and family a little bit more. This is my favorite Christmas movie, and I am not entirely sure why. Maybe because it does not feel like any other movie put into heavy rotation in the holiday season: where you typically get nostalgic about movies from your 90s childhood, Jean Shepard's film makes you pine for a period you never experienced. What plot it has is loose. There aren't any stars in it. The daydream sequences feel like afterthoughts. But all these seemingly disparate elements

contribute to the unlikely success of the movie. The strangeness lasts all the way to the credits and it never feels like it fully finishes, it just starts again on another TV station and you flip to it and do something else for a while. That's what I think makes the perfect Christmas movie; it's familiar enough to warm you and requires no real commitment so that while it's playing you can go off and play Scrabble with the people that matter.

Honorable mentions: *Christmas Vacation*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Love Actually*, *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, and the not-necessarily-Christmassy but still great *Fargo*.

ALBUM REVIEW: SECRET SANTA EDITION

Austin Johnson
Assistant Editor

Album: *Paramore - Brand New Eyes*

Focus Tracks:
"Playing God"
"All I Wanted"
"Ignorance"

Todd and I each chose an album for the other to review. It is our Secret Santa Edition of the album review. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good record or two.

The recent tidal wave of teen vampires has brought us a lot more than Stephanie Meyer might have expected: just as many haters as there are lovers of the Twilight books (and there are a lot of lovers), blockbuster films, a spike in genre fiction sales, and let's not forget that whether or not Meyer is a champion of prose, she did get people excited about reading again with no new JK Rowling books headed our way anytime soon. Vampires aside, the most unexpected success belongs to Twilight fan Haley Williams, whose band Paramore landed two songs on the first movie's soundtrack, and subsequently her

band's albums are on every teenage girl's shelf right next to her well-worn paperback of *Breaking Dawn*.

Their first album, 2005's *All We Know is Falling*, with its crunchy guitars and basement production, seemed to reify a young, Southern hard rock spirit that did little to accentuate singer Williams' charisma but cemented the band as credible rock contenders, playing mostly to the chuggy metal sounds their core audience teathed on. Their 2007 album *Riot!*, however, brought a more radio-friendly pop-punk sound that felt decidedly more upbeat, fun, and through its unabashed youngness, lent a fledgling maturity to Williams' ridiculous vocal abilities. But this new one, *Brand New Eyes* is set to be an even greater commercial success than anything they have done besides vampire soundtracks. It feels like a more mature, Coldplay-informed brand of pop-punk; the singles have a darker edge to them, likely to bring in newcomers and keep the regulars happy, but there seems to be more



exploration into softer chords, the dexterity of Williams' voice, and a more adult contemporary direction that doesn't seem so much like a step back as it does a lurch forward into uncharted melodic territory. Paramore may be doing much more than making rock songs for little girls, they may be redefining radio rock's standards (see the effortlessly fun phrasing in the chorus of "Playing God"). Hopefully that note Williams pulls in the a capella chorus of "All I Wanted" will hit the pop music community as hard as it hit me: if you want to sell records you better show up with something awesome. Haley Williams and her band have set the bar for pop punk so insanely high, we're going to have to hold on to *Brand New Eyes* like a lifesaver if we're to survive the deluge of bands of lesser skill sets getting rich off of this Vampire movie thing.

Todd Osborne
Staff Writer

Album: *Wolfgang Amadeus - Phoenix*

Focus Tracks:
"Lisztomania"
"1901"
"Lasso"

Hailing all the way from France comes one of the year's best bands-you-should-have-heard-of-before-now-but-somehow-haven't: Phoenix. With a brilliant mix of dancy rock and soaring melodies, Phoenix's fourth album is nothing to scoff at. It will make you feel like getting up and moving around one moment and then it will make you feel like sitting in a comfy chair and just thinking about life. It spans the spectrum of everything a good CD should make you feel, all in just under forty minutes.

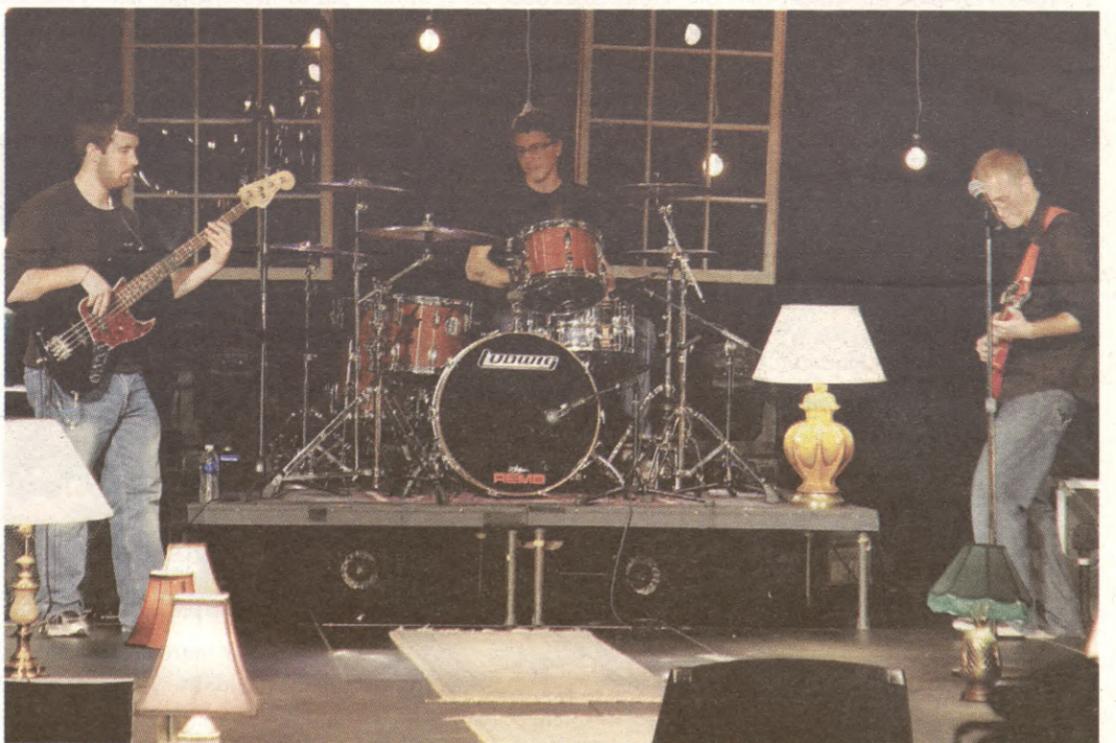
The CD starts out with "Lisztomania," a song with a good beat and a nice guitar groove that makes you want to shimmy. The band falls out for the chorus, leaving you alone with an electric piano and the sound of Thomas Mars singing into your ear. The song is a great example of the highs and lows that Phoenix can encapsulate so effortlessly.

If you have watched any

movie trailers, commercials, or television shows recently, you have probably heard Phoenix's track "1901" without even realizing it. It starts out with a nice synth intro before the rest of the band kicks in. By the time you get to the second chorus you'll be singing along without even realizing it. It's the kind of song that you sing, often without even knowing what you or the singer is singing. But that's okay, just let Phoenix take you on a ride, filled with pounding drums, pulsing guitars, and Mars' voice telling you over and over "Fold it, fold it, fold it."

"Lasso" starts out with some dissonant guitar solo before barreling into the verses. The song goes along and really hits its stride in the chorus, where Mars' melody and the guitars of Laurent Brancowitz and Christian Mazzalai meld together perfectly to create another sonic gem.

This is a CD that is beautiful from start to end. If you are feeling contemplative or just want a good album to jam out to, which I know may seem contradictory, this is the perfect one for you. You may not have heard of Phoenix before, but they know how to make a good CD. This one is definitely worth picking up.



Clockwise from above (left to right):
Trojan Idol contestant Lauren Boyer and Host Austin Johnson.
Emily Archer and Emily Smith pose with Troy Trevecca and Santa Claus.
Part of the Trojan Idol Band: Ted Gajda, Stephen Puckett, and Greg Baggett. *Courtesy of Darren Bryant.*
Homecoming King and Queen: Andrew Hall and Laura Freeman.
Dr. Cawthorne prepares to launch the student constructed helium balloon carrying scientific experiments.

