

Greyhounds

A&M student finds homes for canine racers

By Margaret Claughton

THE BATTALION

In 1990, David Mosier adopted Grey Lady, a 14-month-old Greyhound, from a local breeder. Grey Lady was the runt of her litter and when tried on the track, did not run nearly as fast as her siblings.

Raising dogs is a business, and businesses must cut their losses. So what is the breeder to do when a dog does not perform? Grey Lady was lucky — she was adopted. Many greyhounds are not as fortunate. If a dog does not make it to the track, or even if it does but begins to slow down, the breeders cannot afford to keep it. This leaves two choices: try to get the dog adopted or have it euthanized.

According to National Geographic, greyhound racing is a billion dollar business. There are approximately 59 tracks in the U.S. with over 45,000 dogs racing on them. In Florida alone, 1 billion dollars are wagered on greyhounds yearly. With such high numbers at stake, breeders cannot afford to support losing dogs.

Mosier estimates that approximately 10 percent of all greyhounds born make it to the track and only half of those stay there.

"About every 2 years, there is almost a 100 percent turnover," Mosier said. "This means 45,000 unwanted dogs."

Mosier is currently a junior electrical engineering major at Texas A&M. He said his interest in greyhounds began while he was a Marine in Florida.

"I watched the races at the dog tracks and wanted a greyhound ever since," Mosier said. "I met Grey Lady's breeder while working in a local bike shop. We somehow began discussing dogs and the rest is history."

Having discovered the position the breeders are in, and realizing what wonderful dogs greyhounds are, Mosier began adopting retired greyhounds from area breeders and placing them in suitable homes.

Tommy Skaggs, former breeder and superintendent of the Washington on the Brazos State Park, said, "Mosier has the dogs' best interests at heart."

There are many others like Mosier including na-

tional organizations such as Greyhound Pets of America and Racers Recycled.

"These organizations don't just give dogs to anyone," Skaggs said.

They, like Mosier, carefully screen prospective owners in order to guarantee the dogs a safe and happy home.

Not all of the greyhounds are adopted or euthanized, however. Many are killed by unlicensed breeders using other methods. The National Geographic special "Greyhounds; running for their lives," shows authorities discovering many greyhounds shot and buried in large mound graves. In addition, several dogs were discovered starving to death in their kennels.

In an effort to reduce the number of greyhounds killed, the Texas Racing Commission mandated that any greyhound breeder must have filled out a form for each dog removed from the track. The forms must include where the dog will be living. This way, every dog is logged and cannot just disappear.

Jim Frey, executive director of the Texas Greyhound Association, said, "For example, each track in Texas has its own adoption service. Here in Texas, we have taken several steps to get in line with the humane aspects of the industry."

According to Frey, many track adoption services experience a 100 percent adoption rate of their retired dogs.

"At some tracks, there is actually a waiting list of adopters," Frey said.

Greyhounds are reportedly very agreeable animals. Mosier said their sweet disposition and mild manner make them wonderful house pets. And since greyhounds are raised in kennels, they prefer small spaces.

All three dogs currently living with Mosier have their favorite niche around the house. Three-year-old Pretty Girl prefers to lie under the kitchen table. Akeishian, 2 years old, enjoys curling up on the corner of Mosier's bed. Of course Grey Lady, being Mosier's permanent pet, has staked her claim on Mosier's lap.

Although the problem of protecting retired greyhounds is not completely solved, the efforts of people like David Mosier as well as the work of national adoption services are helping to lessen its intensity.



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

Junior electrical engineering major David Mosier (right) is finding decent homes for some retired greyhounds. These canines are bred to race, but only five percent ever make it to the race track. Many breeders are left with dogs like Silverback (foreground) and are unable to provide them with a home.

REVIEWS

MUSIC

Shelton's album is solid country



Ricky Van Shelton's new release "A Bridge I Didn't Burn" is a good mixture of pure country and brings a refreshing sound to country radio.

Lesla Ann King

THE BATTALION

"A Bridge I Didn't Burn"
Ricky Van Shelton
Country
Columbia

While it may not be the biggest release in September or the album of the year, Ricky Van Shelton's latest release, "A Bridge I Didn't Burn," is a good, solid mixture of pure country music.

Shelton's music talks about love, heartache and life in an honest and wholesome way. His music has a refreshing sound compared to much of the over-synthesized music and meaningless lyrics found on the ra-

dio today.

The opening cut, "If They Turn Out the Lights," takes an optimistic look at getting through hard times. Similar to Shelton's earlier release, "Life's Little Ups and Downs," this new song is much more upbeat and fun to listen to.

The classic Shelton sound comes out in the title cut, "A Bridge I Didn't Burn." Written by rising country star Tracy Byrd, along with Billy Yates and Frank Dycus, "A Bridge" tells about a man still controlled by his feeling toward an old love.

Shelton's genuine country music often takes a special look at the simple things in everyday life. One

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Paying homage... A Dylan tribute

By Joe Leih

THE BATTALION

"Bob Dylan: The 30th Anniversary Concert Celebration"
Various Artists
Tribute Album
Columbia

"Bob Dylan: The 30th Anniversary Concert Celebration" double disc set leaves no doubt the great singer/songwriter has truly touched the musical world since 1962, when he first began his career.

Since then, Dylan has tirelessly cranked out 38 albums, toyed with musical genres on over 500 songs and worked with or influenced countless artists.

This new release, highlighting last year's Madison Square Garden concert presents a throng of those influenced musicians (young and old) paying homage to Dylan with their own renditions of his visionary tunes.

Stevie Wonder, one of these artists, was only a teenager in 1966 when he first recorded Dylan's classic gem "Blowin' in the Wind." Three years later, folk trio Peter, Paul & Mary turned it into a mainstream hit. On this album, Wonder again performs the time honored song of peace with powerful R&B force. A truly soulful keyboard king, Wonder proves with his heartfelt crooning that Dylan's songs do indeed know no boundaries, time or generation.

MUSIC



Neil Young (middle) and Eric Clapton (right) pay tribute to Bob Dylan for his 30 years of contribution to music.

Johnny Cash, the famous man in black, is yet another of Dylan's friends that lends his talent for the concert. Dylan and Cash first encountered each other at the 1964 New Port Folk Festival and have since formed a working relationship.

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FILM

'90210' plus two pseudo-actors... 'Calendar Girl' stinks

By Jacqueline Ayotte

THE BATTALION

"Calendar Girl"
Starring Jason Priestley and Jerry O'Connell
Directed by John Whitesell
Rated PG-13
Playing at Cinema III



Jerry O'Connell (left), Gabriel Olds and Jason Priestley make bad acting an art form in "Calendar Girl."

Take Jason Priestley who plays Brandon on "90210," add two more almost 30-year-old pseudo-actors to a cheesy, predictable script and low budget production, and what do you have?

Like omigod, all the ingredients to the sorriest film released this fall — "Calendar Girl."

If you've seen the previews for this

film, that's about how far the plot extends. It's as predictable as Shannen Dougherty hate mail.

It's 1962 and three teenage boys from Nevada are practically drowning in a puddle of their own hormones. The reason? Like every other male human being, they're head over heels infatuated with Marilyn Monroe.

But, unlike most males, it's the bull-headed, conceited Roy (Priestley) who believes Marilyn Monroe would go out with him if he asked her. Stubbornly, he drags his best friends Ned (Gabriel Olds) and Scott (Jerry O'Connell) to his uncle's Hollywood mansion in hopes of finding the film goddess.

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