

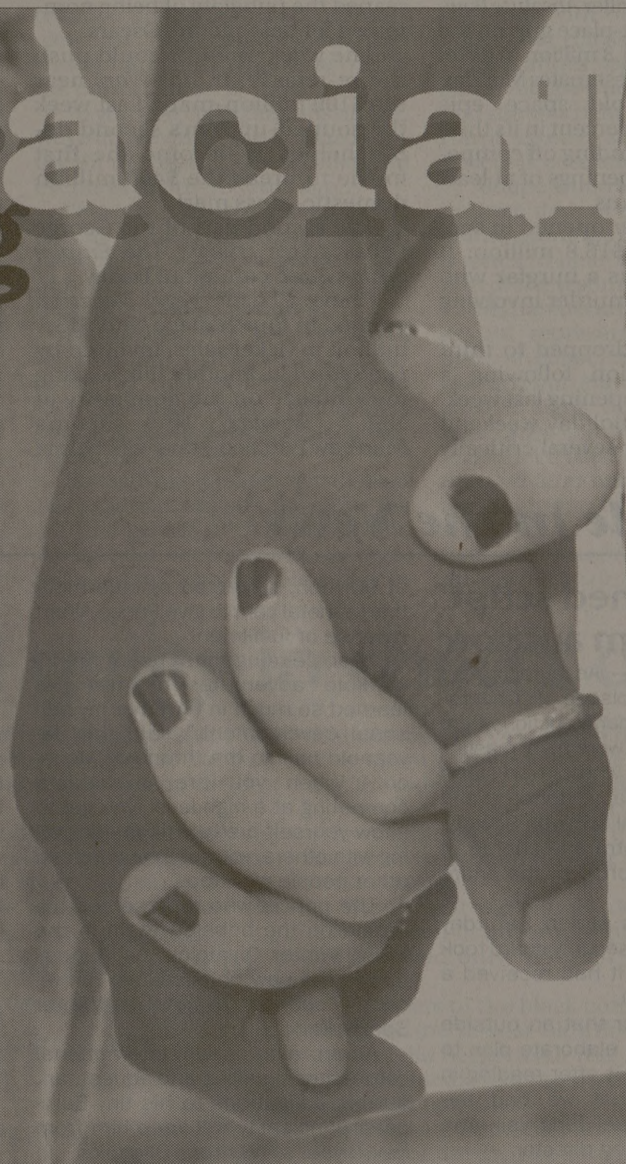
# Interracial Dating

**"The key is not to care what other people think. You have to be able not to notice the stares, because you will get some."**

Kerry Meade  
 Junior English major

**"When parents forbid interracial dating but say it is OK to be friends with people of another race, they are just masking their prejudice."**

Annette Ferguson  
 Junior international studies major



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

## Mixed-race couples look beyond skin color

By MELISSA PRICE  
 THE BATTALION

accept the relationship or do not have the courage to say anything to her. She said the hardest part of dating interracial is dealing with the reactions of others.

"The key is not to care what other people think," Meade said. "You have to be able not to notice the stares, because you will get some."

Meade said she has found that people have a more difficult time accepting a black and white couple than other interracial couples. She said she does not think she would encounter as much prejudice if she was dating an Hispanic man.

Some couples are not considered interracial because it is not obvious one of them is of a different race.

Jonathan Purifoy, a senior chemical engineering major whose ancestors are from Spain and Mexico, married his wife Christie two months ago. He said people do not consider he and his wife, whose ancestors are from Greece, an interracial couple because he does not have dark skin.

"I think it would be very different if I looked more Hispanic," Jonathan Purifoy said. "People tend to let their guard down around me because they don't see me as a minority."

Purifoy said they must overcome differences like any other couple, many people do not consider them an interracial couple. He said learning and experiencing different cultural traditions and customs is the best thing about dating interracial.

Christie Purifoy said although all couples experience some problems, interracial couples must overcome added obstacles.

"People have a hard enough time getting to know one another and growing closer every day," she said. "It would make it a million times harder than normal if your

friends and parents were telling you you shouldn't be together. It would put a lot of unnecessary strain and pressure on your relationship."

Annette Ferguson, a junior international studies major, recently broke up with her Hispanic boyfriend. She said she never really thought about the fact that her boyfriend was of a different race.

"It was never like I thought, 'Wow! I'm interracial dating!' It was just, 'I'm dating this cool guy that I like a lot,'" Ferguson said.

Although some parents do not support their children dating interracial, Ferguson said her parents have supported her dating outside of her race.

She said they agree with her that race does not make a difference. She has never discussed her personal experiences in interracial dating with her parents because the issue has

never come up.

Ferguson said although some parents allow their children to be friends with people of other races, they forbid interracial dating. She said this is usually a sign of the parents' ignorance about other races.

"When parents forbid interracial dating but say it is OK to be friends with people of another race, they are just masking their prejudice," Ferguson said. "If they have a problem with their child dating someone of a different race, then they really have a problem with the race itself."

Meade is concerned about the possibility of interracial couples having biracial children. She said some people who say they do not have a problem with interracial dating will get upset when there is talk about having a biracial child.

Meade said she does not consider this a problem.

"I think that by the time I am ready to have children, there will be

a lot of 'mixed' children everywhere," she said. "I think my boyfriend and I are strong enough to deal with that if it were to happen."

Meade said she does not understand why people view her and her boyfriend differently than a same-race couple.

She said they were able to enrich each other's lives because they are from different races.

"I feel sorry for the ignorant people who feel there is something wrong with interracial dating," Meade said. "You can learn a lot from someone who is so different from you, and it is sad that people are going to cheat themselves of this experience just because someone has a different skin color."

Jonathan Purifoy agrees.

"You can't rely on what people's appearances are because so much can come from someone who is not your color," Purifoy said. "If that person is someone you love and they communicate that love back to you, that is what is important."

### music review

## Widespread Panic's latest effort proves disastrous

By BRANDON TRUITT  
 THE BATTALION

Widespread Panic's latest album, *bombs & butterflies*, is really nothing more than a compilation of bad celebrity imitations.

Each member of the band has a sound that seems to be a tribute to those who came before; therefore, the album as a whole fails to say anything new.

The guitarists are a couple of Carlos Santana sound-alikes, but the guitar lines lack both the Latin flare and rhythmic diversity that Santana had and end up sounding like dueling banjos.

John Hermann plays keyboards for the band. His organ playing is reminiscent of 'The Doors', but none of the organ parts are as catchy as *Light My Fire*. For the most part, the organ lines do not take advantage of the eerie discord the instrument has to offer. Instead of a worthwhile organ line, it sounds like a three-year-old

**Widespread Panic**  
*bombs & butterflies*  
 Capricorn Records

★★1/2



plunking on the same three keys over and over again throughout the album.

Judging from the organ, it is no surprise Hermann's piano skills are a little bland as well. The piano parts have catchy rhythms, but the lack of variety and soul keep them from approaching anything beautiful. Even worse, the piano makes the entire album sound just a little too much like the theme song to *Charlie Brown*.

The drumming in the band is so simple it could be a tribute to the great one-

armed drummer of Def Leppard. All the drum beats lack are enough spice to actually require two hands.

The percussionist Domingo Ortiz also imitates Santana and provides no new sound.

The largest problems with the album center around John Bell's vocals. He sounds a little like his Athens, Ga., predecessor Michael Stipe, but Bell's lyrics lack Stipe's conviction and emotion.

The problem with Bell's singing is not that it sounds a little like Stipe's, or possibly Meatloaf's, but that it is hard to hear on the album.

Bell sounds as if he is singing on the other side of town from his band. His words are inaudible. His notes go unheard. Worst of all, no one can sing along.

Widespread Panic sounds a lot like Phish, and neither can recreate their live sound on recording.

What begins as a seven-minute rock and roll free-for-all at a concert ends



Widespread Panic

up being a seven-minute annoyance when recorded.

Some of this has to do with the lack of true dynamics on the album. Breaks in the music often occur to create slower parts, but the instruments never play

louder or softer.

This blandness of sound makes the album a bad imitation. The band sounds similar to everything else. The worst part is their sound is a soulless version of everything else.

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