



photo by Cassie Smith

"I can't believe we've missed this place," said Randy Travis. After sixteen years of touring, he finally visited Renfro Valley.

Travis "Rocks" Renfro

BY CASSIE SMITH

Young and old alike gathered to witness Randy Travis grace the stage of Renfro Valley's New Barn on Sunday, October 28.

Travis' wide ranged voice soared over the auditorium and hushed the mouth of every avid country listener. Well, except for the annoying guy behind me who insisted on singing along to every song.

From "Deeper than the Holler" to "Rock and Roll," Travis "Dug" up songs to interest every fan from all extremities of his music.

Though listening to full length versions of Randy's songs was great, my favorite portion of the entire con-

cert was the mix of his older songs he performed near the end of the concert. The collage of melodies received the second biggest applause of the show.

The biggest applause was awarded to the finale of the concert: a tribute to America. A huge American flag dropped behind the band as they played a recently written song about the strength of America.

Randy Travis is an excellent stage performer, if I do say so myself. Now that I have seen him in concert, I can mark one more thing off of my list of things to do while I'm still alive.

'A Solitary Blue' brings private pain to surface

BY ASHLEY MCCLURE

Author Cynthia Voigt doesn't shy from the truth in her novel, *A Solitary Blue*. A book everyone can relate to, it tells of the pain of Jeff, a second grader whose mother gets a wild hair and one day just leaves.

Jeff's mother just leaves a note with directions for dinner--no hug, no kiss, no "I love you." A young boy that was once consumed by love becomes full of loneliness.

His father's response to this situation is a simple one: "Is there anything for dinner?"

Jeff's father is a professor and works constantly, so he really has no time for Jeff and doesn't notice that there is something wrong with him.

After four years, one day at dinner his father informs Jeff that his mother would like him to spend the

summer with her. Jeff is happy, despite the fact that it is the first time he has heard from her at all.

Jeff doesn't talk to her about running out on him, because there is an unwritten rule in his household: don't cry and don't do anything to upset someone. The emotional pain she causes him is unbelievable. She just rips his heart out and doesn't care.

This book tells and explains why people don't deal with the heartache and the overwhelming pain. We just throw it to the curb and go on, until one day we are an emotionless ghost of a person.

Read this book and get lost



among its pages. You'll be consumed by the words Voigt writes, and feel just as Jeff does.

MEST isn't just *Wasting Time*; here's the Dillio

BY TARA THOMPSON

If you've been blatin' to the punk rock sounds of Blink 182, or SUM41 lately, then maybe you need to start jivin' to the unique sounds of MEST.

Their debut album *Wasting Time* hits the punk rock scene hard. "What's the Dillio?" their first major song released off the album, expresses their unique style of song writing and sound. It lets the listener acknowledge that there's more to this wild group than midgits and hot pink leopard skimpys that the cover may reflect.

The cd begins with "Lonely Days, Lonely Nights" and is about exactly what the title suggests - person maimed by love, and all that



he has left is lonely day and nights. These songs aren't all for the broken hearted. The sensitive band MEST has music for the lucky in love, too. "What's the Dillio?" a song about the crushin' vibes a boy is feelin' for a girl, explains it all.

There's this little girl and I think she's so fine and I'm not giving up

until she is mine. See I wanna be her boy and I want her to be my girl, because since I've seen her I've been in another world.

Most of the songs are truly bona fide, but there are a couple, like "Electric Baby", and "Lonely Days" that the cd would have been much better without. Although explicit content to some of the songs has deemed a parental advisory on the cover, the language won't make you cringe.

If this doesn't make buying MEST seem irresistible. I don't blame you, but if you seek the erratic, yet superficial sounds of something wild quit *Wasting Time*, and buy MEST.

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