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THE MIX

ETHEL BARRYMORE: "For an actress to be a success, she must have the face of a Venus, the brains of a Minerva, the grace of Terpsichore, the memory of a Macaulay, the figure of Juno, and the height of a rhinoceros."

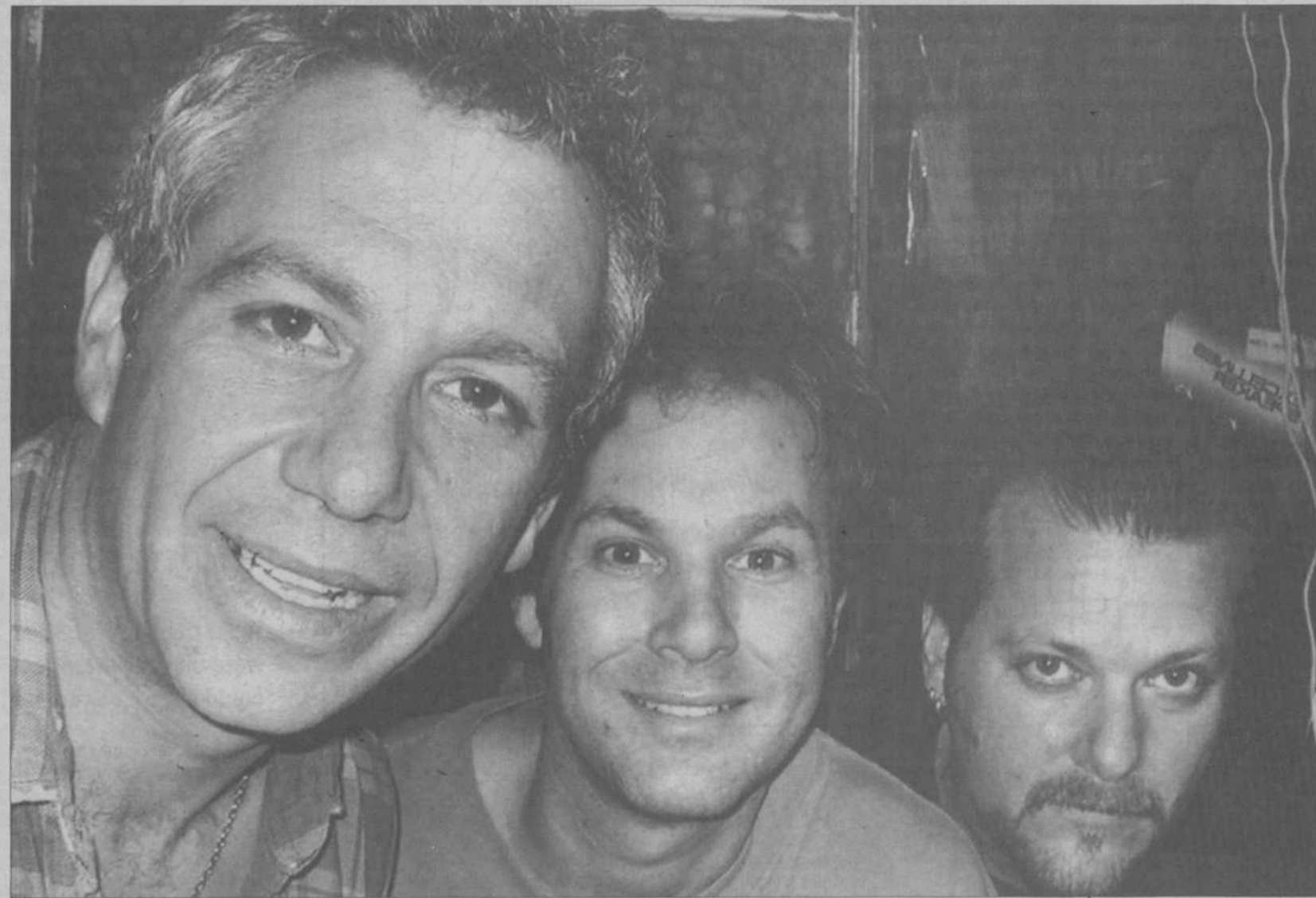


PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Mike Watt, far left, with his band The Secondmen, comes to Columbia tonight on the "our oars became wings" tour.

Watt keeps the power in punk rock

Mike Watt, former bassist for the Minutemen, brings his solo project to Columbia

If you're going ...

WHAT: Mike Watt with Spot and Fling (pictured below)
WHERE: New Brookland Tavern
WHEN: Tonight

BY TUG BAKER
THE GAMECOCK

When thinking about the true innovators of punk rock, a few names come to mind: Joey Ramone, Sid Vicious and Mike Watt. The inherent problem here is that the first two people are dead.

Watt, on the other hand, is alive and well and continuing to create amazing music, which he's bringing to Columbia tonight at New Brookland Tavern.

Watt will be playing his 15th gig on the new "our oars became wings" tour. The tour marks the 49th time out on the road for Watt, the punk veteran

responsible for one of the greatest and most influential punk bands ever: the Minutemen.

Watt and his high school friend D. Boone formed the Minutemen in 1980. Within a few months, they found drummer George Hurley and recorded their first EP, "Paranoid Time." A punk legend was born.

Even though they came out of the same California hardcore scene as SST labelmates Black Flag, the Minutemen's music was remarkably different. In fact, it was different from just about any other band in America at the time. While the hardcore desire for speed was present, their music had complex rhythms, off-kilter melodies, and lyrics that were as poetic as they were political.

After recording 11 albums and spending six years together on the road with the quintessential do-it-yourself band, D. Boone died tragically in a van accident. Watt and Hurley were

convinced by a fan named Ed Crawford to form another band, FIREHOSE, and they recorded and toured together for the next seven years.

As though nothing could keep him away from making great music, Watt headed straight for the studios to release 1995's star-studded "Ball-Hog or Tugboat?," an album that enlisted 48 musicians, including Dave Grohl, Frank Black, Eddie Vedder, J. Mascis, Flea and Mike D. As fun as "Ball-Hog or Tugboat?" was, it was so crowded with guest artists that a listener was hard-pressed to find Watt's true voice in the album.

For that, they would have to wait until 1997 and the release of Watt's punk opera "Contemplating the Engine Room" — a concept album about three seamen in a ship's engine room. The metaphorical masterpiece was adored by fans and lauded by critics across the country.

Around this time, Watt also began touring with Perry Farrell's Porno for Pyros and working with J. Mascis on his new solo project.

Watt began working on an album about his pet cat, but after the cat's death, he decided to look for a more metaphorical subject. It was then that he came down with a life-threatening fever that would serve as the catalyst for Watt's new project "The Secondmen's Middle Stand."

The album is based on Dante's "Divine Comedy." Dante's levels of Hell, Purgatory and Heaven become mirrors to Watt's fever, recovery and personal bliss. While this description alone would send Watt's fans running to their computers to try to download some unreleased tracks, they shouldn't even bother. Going back to his punk roots, Watt decided to take some of the album's new songs out on the road

♦ WATT, SEE PAGE 9

The essential Mike Watt

with the Minutemen

The Punch Line (1981)

Buzz or Howl Under the Influence of Heat (1983) ①

3-Way Tie for Last (1985) ②

solo

Ball-Hog or Tugboat? (1995) ③

Contemplating the Engine Room (1997) ④



MOVIE REVIEW

'Jason X' delivers what's expected

'JASON X'
Starring Kane Hodder
★★ out of ★★★★★

BY ADAM MCALLISTER
THE GAMECOCK

In New Line Cinema's latest release, "Jason X," it's good to see that improvements are being made to our daily lives even four centuries in the future.

Gone are the necessary surgical garments that bogged down doctors for years. In their place are the much more visually appealing, midriff-baring, cleavage-enhancing T-shirts that should have always been in use. Gone are the studious medical students of today — the hard-working, hard-studying kids destined for a bright future. In their place, we find that kids are more eager to undress each other than to work on the discovery of a lifetime.

This might not be our future, but it's the future laid out for the latest installment of the Friday the 13th series.

For those not up to speed on one of the more iconic examples of horror movies from the past two decades, the Friday the 13th series features hockey mask-wearing Jason Voorhees, who has come from Camp Crystal Lake to what most thought would be his end at the gates of hell. Now, almost 10 years since



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

Kane Hodder stars as Jason, who slashes through another cast in "Jason X," this time in the 25th century.

his last adventure, Jason is back, and this time, he's heading to the future.

After Jason was captured and cryogenically frozen in the year 2008, something went horribly

wrong. A chain of events left not only Jason, but also young scientist Rowan, trapped in the chamber to meet their fate.

♦ 'JASON X', SEE PAGE 9

TLC's 'Left Eye' dies in car wreck

BY FREDDY CUEVAS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA CEIBA, HONDURAS — As friends back home mourned Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, whose squeaky rhymes helped make TLC the world's best-selling female pop group in history, authorities in Honduras investigated the automobile accident that killed her and prepared to send her body home.

Lopes was trying to pass a car on a Honduran highway near Jutiapa when a truck approached from the other lane Thursday night, forcing her to veer sharply to the left, said police inspector John Cole of the resort town of La Ceiba. The Mitsubishi Montero she was driving struck two trees and flipped over several times.

Cole said the seriousness of the accident indicated that Lopes was speeding, but he could not say exactly how fast she was driving.

She was killed instantly, but eight other people in the vehicle survived.

Lopes had been visiting a Caribbean spa in La Ceiba and was working on several projects there: a clothing line, a new solo project and a book of journal entries and poetry.

Her body was taken to the nearby city of San Pedro Sula and was to be flown to her hometown of Atlanta on Saturday.

Lopes' fast-paced rhymes helped propel TLC to the No. 1 slot in all-time album sales for a



Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, died Thursday during an automobile accident in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Police said she was trying to pass a car on a highway when a truck approached from the other lane. Lopes was one-third of TLC, the world's best-selling female pop group in history.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

female group, with 21 million sold. The Supremes are the top all-female group in terms of No. 1 hits, garnering 12 compared to TLC's four.

TLC members Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins and Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas, said they were devastated by the death. The group had been working on the follow-up to their Grammy-winning, triple-platinum album, "Fanmail," released in 1999.

"We are sisters; we had been together for more than 10 years," Watkins said Friday in a tearful phone interview with MTV's "Total Request Live."

TLC's hits included the No. 1 smashes "Waterfalls," "No Scrubs" and "Creep." Their songs delivered a message of female empowerment, with sassy, sexy lyrics. She is survived by her mother, her daughter, and a younger brother and sister.