

Afroman pays Smooth Rapids a visit

BY **JAMES CLARK**
 Editor for the Southern Standard
 (McMinnville, Tennessee)

So Afroman, have you gotten around to cleaning your room?

The Grammy-nominated musician known for rapping, "I was gonna clean my room ... until I got high" was in McMinnville on Sunday night to headline the fourth annual Reggae at Smooth Rapids.

Afroman didn't hold back in a malt liquor-fueled concert that repeatedly addressed his thoughts on sex, drugs and heavy alcohol consumption.

"The more you drink, the better I sound," said Afroman, 44, to the frenzied crowd gathered in front of the stage.

His songs were uncensored tales of chasing women and nonstop partying. Some verses were clearly a product of his imagination, while others were blunt looks at real-life events.

Afroman wasn't all talk. He led by example, chugging 40-ounce bottles of malt liquor throughout the show. It offered an intoxicating glimpse at a man whose persona is the same on and off the stage.

In an interview with the *Standard*, Afroman talked about getting alcohol at all costs.

"Back when I lived in

South Central L.A., it was a good day when you could run to the store to get a 40-ounce and make it back safe," said Afroman. "A 10-minute trip would literally be life or death."

When asked about his clever, but raunchy, song lyrics like rapping about the girl he met from Hawaii, Afroman let out a laugh.

"I'm happy it brought some smiles," said Afroman. "It's just silly stuff really."

Afroman closed his show with an extended version of his smash "Colt 45," ending the song with a biting guitar solo. But the crowd wasn't about to let him go, cheering him on for a two-song encore where he rapped, "I don't know what you've been told, I've been drinking since 12 years old."

So what about that room that needed cleaning back in 2001? That was the year "Because I Got High" soared in popularity, reaching No. 1 on the charts in some countries and climbing to No. 6 in the United States. The song was featured in three films during the decade.

"I'm in the process of uncluttering my life," Afroman told the *Standard*.

The Cincinnati, Ohio resident says he's releas-



James Clark photo
With his ever-present bottle of Colt 45, Afroman performs Sunday night during the fourth annual Reggae at Smooth Rapids. He invigorated the crowd with his party fro-losophy.

ing another album and he's also on the verge of launching his own brand of malt liquor.

"It's called Colt Fro T5," said Afroman before starting an impromptu rap and making his way to pose for a picture with fans.

Amy Hewitt could be new Finance Director

BY **LISA HOBBS**
 Reporter for the Southern Standard
 (McMinnville, Tennessee)

Amy Hewitt has been given the initial nod to be named Warren County government's next Finance Department director.

The decision, made by members of the county Financial Management Committee, will require approval by the full Warren County Commission on Aug. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

"The other applicants may be qualified enough to do it," said Road Superintendent Levie Glenn. "I feel like she's way overqualified and more than the other candidates. This is an important time for the whole county. She's got leadership. She's got education. She's got training. She's going to be supervising nine employees. I think hiring her is in the best interest of the county."

Hewitt is currently employed as a state auditor. During the interview process, she expressed her beginning salary as \$80,000 firm in order to compensate for the difference in pay and benefits offered by the state in comparison to the county's pay and benefits.

Director of Schools Bobby Cox agreed with hiring Hewitt.

"I think Amy has the qualifications," said Cox. "She has the degree. She's got the licensures that go along with it. She's been county auditor over 15 counties. Any of the four that we have are good candidates, but looking at the credentials and the big picture she would be my choice."

The decision, made by anonymous ballot, wasn't unanimous. Of the seven-member committee, four voted for Hewitt.

The remaining three were united in their decision to hire a different

candidate.

Jimmy Haley, who will be sworn in as county executive in September, voiced a desire to have Hewitt fill the vacancy and expressed appreciation to the committee for being allowed a voice his opinion prior to the selection.

"I appreciate Terry (Bell) allowing me to give my input for the finance director position," said Haley. "I know, originally, that wasn't going to be allowed. Then, it was. That will be the person I will be working with closely and I appreciate the opportunity to give my input on that."

On Aug. 20, the commission will be considering a resolution to name Hewitt as Finance Department director and set her beginning salary at \$80,000.

If it does not pass, it will be back to the drawing board for Financial Management Committee members.

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Speaker: Bill Boyd

Diner on the grounds followed by worship at 1 p.m.

Lost wedding ring washes up in Panama

PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLA. (AP) — A Tennessee man's plan to propose to his girlfriend on a Florida beach almost failed when he lost the ring in the Gulf of Mexico.

For 45 minutes last Friday, Taylor Farrar of Sevierville, Tennessee, and his friends frantically searched for the plastic bag that held the ring, a bank card and a driver's license. The News Herald reports it washed up under the feet of Sandy Osborn who was visiting Panama City Beach from Florence, Alabama.

Osborn held onto the bag and happily handed it over when Farrar's friends asked if she'd seen it.

Farrar says he appreciates Osborn's honesty. He immediately proposed to girlfriend Cassandra Am, who said yes.

Osborn says she cried during the proposal. And Am invited her to the wedding.



Thank You

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