

*The verdict is in...*

# 'Last Juror' disappoints

*Grisham's latest book may sentence readers to 355 pages of hard labor*  
★★★

BY KYLE MONCELLE

John Grisham has defined his writing career through legal thrillers such as "A Time to Kill," "The Firm," and "The Pelican Brief." He returns from the football field, the setting of his last book "Bleachers," to the courtroom in "The Last Juror," falling back into the style of writing that is expected of a Grisham book.

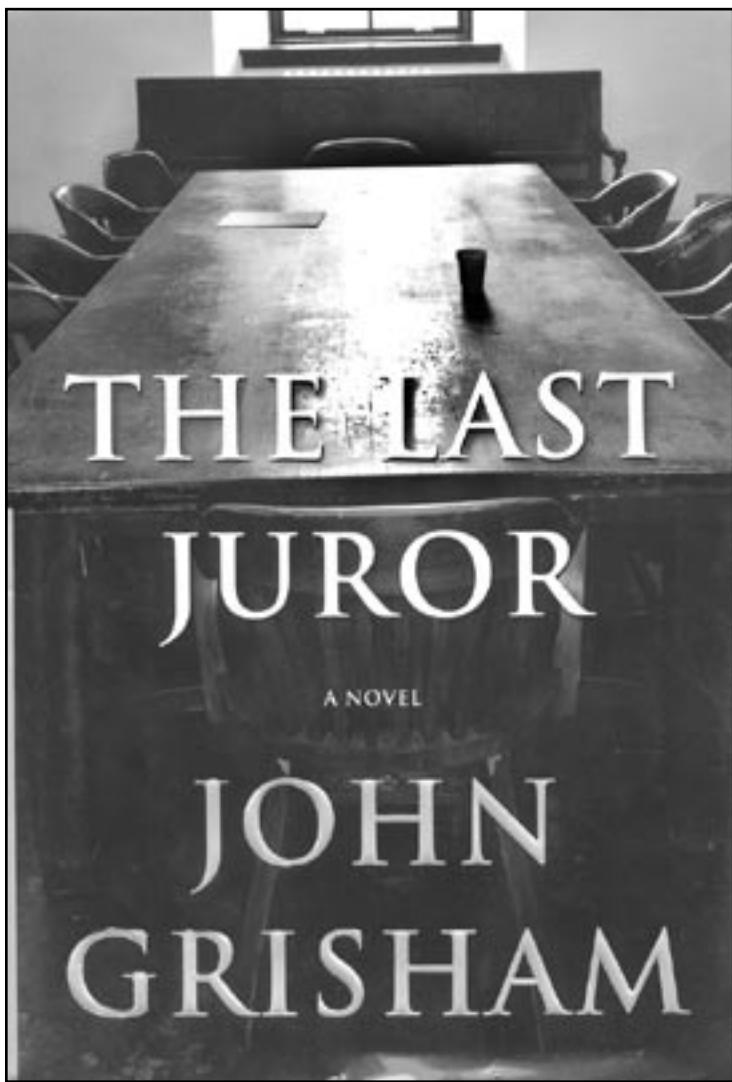
"The Last Juror" has all the makings of a Grisham classic. It takes place in Ford County, Mississippi, the setting of Grisham's breakthrough novel, "A Time to Kill," revolves around a highly controversial trial, and contains pages upon pages of details.

Unlike many of Grisham's other courtroom thrillers, "The Last Juror" is not about a lawyer, or even a defendant. Grisham tells the story through the eyes of Willie Traynor, the local newspaper's editor.

"I owned the paper for ten years, from 1970 to 1980, and we reported very few murders in Ford County. None was as brutal as Rhoda Kassellaw's; none was as premeditated. Thirty years later, I think about it every day," wrote Grisham.

Although Grisham fans become accustomed to the excruciating detail he includes, perhaps in an attempt to make his fiction sound like history. "The Last Juror" is no different from any other Grisham book in that sense. The 355-page book has so many details that one would expect the book to ooze words if it was squeezed.

The detail of "The Last Juror" can, at times, be one of its greatest setbacks. Grisham depicts the



the crime.

murder with disturbing accuracy, fairly quickly after the start of the story. The trial, which the rest of the story is based on, doesn't make its appearance until about halfway through the book. By the time you reach the truly suspenseful moments, you are just so tired of reading that nothing is really suspenseful.

"The Last Juror" is by no means a terrible read. It is very interesting, unique, and keeps the reader guessing at all times, and the ending has one of greatest twist that leaves the reader very satisfied.

However, if you are looking for a quick read, or something that doesn't make you think, "The Last Juror" is the first book on the list of literature that you should skip.

# Local band gets radio airtime

BY JEFF BOUSSON

Many local bands find success through playing a couple of local shows here and there, making a little demo, and having a few fans. The Softest Sound, on the other hand, is on the uprise for success. Anyone can say that the Antioch local band, The Softest Sound, has had a successful resume for having been around for such a short period of time. This "melodic, shoe-gazing rock" band consists of Drew Curtis on drums and programming, Jesse Gass on bass, Charles Huston on keyboards and guitar, and Mike Cline on guitar, keyboards and vocals. Gass and Huston are still Antioch students and Curtis and cline are Antioch graduates.

Their debut performance was on Sept. 20, 2003 at Milwaukee's "The Rave". As many bands could only dream to play at "The Rave", the Softest Sound introduced their three-song set to an unsuspecting audience. After that show, they recorded their three-song demo which includes the tracks Ohne Etwas, Tinea Versicolour, and Eleven/Four.

Many of their influences, such as

the Flaming Lips, Applesseed Cast, and Pink Floyd, shine through their music. They have played shows at the Venetian Village Hall with bands like Ammi, 1908, and Digital Kill.

"We really like the support and we hope to play for a very long time," said Curtis. Their recent breakthrough was their performance at Chicago's Bottom Lounge. This put their name into the Chicago rock scene.

"Although our set at the Bottom Lounge set wasn't the tightest, we were asked back by MP shows to play at Fireside Bowl February 26th," said Curtis.

Along with their success, they also recently released their first single, Ohne Etwas, onto the radio airwaves. 93.1 FM XRT introduced The Softest Sound on the local band show called Local Anesthetic a few weeks ago.

DJ Richard Milne introduced their song by saying, "I absolutely

loved it when I heard the CD."

"I had the turn off the TV in front of my family so I could turn on the radio and listen in," said ACHS senior, Pia Opulencia.

"It was pretty mind-boggling for me to hear an Antioch local band on the radio show that exposes their song to hundreds of new listeners,"

**"We really like the support and we hope to play for a very long time."**

-Drew Curtis  
The Softest Sound drummer

dedication and hard work do lead to success. The softest sound next show is at the Beat Kitchen April 7 at 9 pm, for more information log to the softestsound.org

"I'm not ecstatic or anything but I'm having fun and it's a real cool experience, replied guitarist Michael Cline. "I want to keep writing and I hope someday we will be playing in Europe".

## Doggie Diamonds

Full Service Boarding and Grooming



2106 E. Grand Ave.  
Lindenhurst, IL 60046  
(847) 356-2283

# diemer

Plumbing & Excavating

395-1004

-Commercial-Industrial-Residential-

24 Hour Service

Serving Lake County since 1975

Phillip A. Delany

## Delany Insurance

Home \* Auto \* Life \* Health

(847)838-5595

(847)838-5724 fax

549 Lake Street

Antioch, IL 60002

## COUNTDOWN TO...

SPRING BREAK - 29 DAYS

GRADUATION - 97 DAYS

SUMMER - 99 DAYS

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner **Chain Lakes Restaurant**

Sun-Thurs: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Fri, Sat: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

25489 Route 173  
Antioch, IL 60002

**847-838-6900**

## Linden Barber Shop

Linden Plaza Grand Ave.

Lindenhurst, IL 60046

Hours: Daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sat. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

CLOSED WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS

PHONE: 847- 356-0679

Barbers: John, Charlie, Mike, Ted, Harold

Students Receive 10% Discount

## Paradise Salon

Crossings Plaza

300 N. Rte. 83

Lake Villa, IL

(847) 356-6530

Purchase 10 tans and get 5 for free!  
Must bring in ad to redeem special!