

Troy Moon: It's a Southern thang, y'all

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I almost spit out my grits reading Kim Blair's Tuesday column breaking the news that Pensacola might be the site for CMT's hot new reality show "Party Down South," about good ole' boys and girls swigging whiskey and swappin' spit with redneck abandon.

If you don't like it, just remember, it's a Southern thang and you just wouldn't understand. And long as you're in a 'membering mode, don't forget the South will rise again!

Don't ask us what we're going to do once we rise. We don't have a clue. It will probably involve whittling, though. And an all-you-can eat buffet. We won't be rising too quickly after all the fried chicken and cornbread and bread pudding. Maybe we'll nap first, then rise. Wait, there's a NASCAR race on after the nap? OK, maybe we'll have to put off risin'. But we'll get to it. Probably after hunting season.

See, stereotypes all around: And that's what the producers of this trash want. Backwards ballcaps on redneck Eminems who are equally adept at fightin', lovin', par-taying and — did we say fighting? They want redneck trash, not the New South. Not the New Pensacola.

And Pensacola has been born anew in recent years, ain't it? One only has to drive through Pensacola on a Saturday afternoon to see the difference, from the aesthetic beauty that permeates the area to the bounty of cultural and artistic outlets to the bevy of high-end restaurants that serve exotic offerings like "tapas" and "arugula" and other words not included in the Redneck Dictionary.

Yes, we do have our stereotypical Southern stories and incidents every once in a while. My wife saw a discarded casket sitting on the side of the road near Old Corry the other day. We've got more than our share of three-legged dogs roaming around the west side. And when we hear a loud explosion, we know not to fret. It's probably just gunshots from yonder down the road.

But what about the other side of the South? The other young Pensacolians who don't fit the stereotype?

What about Mike Ensley, the bearded prophet who led thousands of fun-lovers to Pensacola for a three-day convention featuring some of the top names and faces from the world of comics and sci-fi?

What about Steve McMillan, the 24-year-old filmmaker who has already made a handful of thoughtful, relationship-based films here in Pensacola. His latest film, "The Downtime," debuts Friday and Saturday at Movies 4 Gulf Breeze. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/thedowntimemovie> for more details.

What about Robin Reshard, who has chronicled Pensacola's most celebrated historic black neighborhood in her film "Belmont-DeVilliers: The Making of a Neighborhood"?

Will these folks be included in any "Party Down South" representation of Pensacola? Or will it be all mooks and tough-guys in wife beaters?

P.S.: I'm Southern, but what exactly does 'It's a Southern thing, y'all wouldn't understand' even

mean?)