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Hurricane hits with softer touch

Weathered from Frances, campus 'looking good'

Important contact numbers

- General Emergency Management
  - 1-800-672-4683
- Office of Emergency Management
  - 1-800-672-4683
- Student Volunteer and Donation Hotline
  - 1-800-354-3571
- Salvation Army Disaster Services Hotline
  - 1-800-727-7766
- American Red Cross
  - 1-800-227-1867
- Orange County Office of Emergency Management
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Special hurricane edition

Because of cancellations due to Hurricane Frances, the Student Publishing Academic Media Department will publish Thursday's campus edition for the first time in more than 20 years, according to Student Publishing Academic Media Chair Dante Sampang.

"We are going to move to a bi-weekly publication beginning with the Oct. 6 issue," Sampang said of the Thursday publication schedule that will be discussed at the Thursday afternoon Student Publishing Academic Media Board meeting.

"This is just the start of the process," Sampang said. "We will have a meeting with the board and then we will discuss the plan for the next few issues."
Critical questions, critical roles, gender roles on primetime TV

When auditions for the reality show Bring It On: Prime-Time Battle take place Sept. 1, students all over UCF were talking about the show they would like to be fitted into this fall. Others wondered just how the university would be represented with this reputation.

The show — to be aired on the WB network in the spring — takes 12 eligible UCF females and pairs them up for one of eight eligible UCF in a series of dates. The "Big Man" will then hoist the winner out of the bunch. The series has a strict timetable with the WB for prime-time next spring.

"I think we're having a connection with the WB,"FINnec said. "I think we're being watched." But others wondered just how good their experiences would be.

"It's a kind of locale opportunity," said an anthropology professor against it. "It's all about appearances, money and money." Pat Simmons, who is a student at UCF, agreed.

"I don't have to be the reality show," she said. "I'm a student in the entertainment business. I want to see on a show aired on MTV and FOX. That's what I'm here for." Pat Simmons, who is a student at UCF, agreed.

"I want to be in the first time a reality show is going to take place in college," said Simmons. "It's the first time a reality show will be aired on cable." Pat Simmons, who is a student at UCF, agreed.

"I'm worried about what's going to be revealed," she said. "I'm a human being. If I have an event and want it to be smooth with girls and girls have to like." Pat Simmons, who is a student at UCF, agreed.

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Arizona went up 19 percent in campus crime totals in late campus crime totals in Iowa City, Iowa. Students taking the ACT test dropped 5 percent, College Board officials at Washington, D.C., said. Tech college system faced an unprecedented leadership overhaul at all its schools. In the next five years, 5 presidents, nearly 30 vice presidents and more than 120 program directors will retire, including James Hudgins, the system’s executive director, who will give up his post next year.

Hudgins says the system has laid the groundwork for new leaders to take the helm and the technical college system faces a period of institutional knowledge and oversight changes.

Campus thefts increase as high-tech gadget thefts abound

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Campus police once spent most of their time dealing with stolen bicycles or car stereos. Those are still popular items to steal. But campus police say rising theft rates are mostly attributed to increased popularity in stealing computers and other technology equipment like expensive plasma screen or projection TVs — sometimes found in libraries and classrooms.

Some examples from U.S. Department of Education statistics comparing 2000 to 2002: property crime at the University of Arizona went up 19 percent, Florida A&M saw a 6 percent jump, and Cor nell went up 12 percent.

But the Education Department doesn’t tabu­late campus crime total in the country to measure if there’s an overall increase.

Arkansas saw slight decline in campus crime

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — From 2000 to 2002, the number of Arkansas students taking the ACT test dropped 2.5 percent, according to the ACT in Iowa City, Iowa. Over the same period, the number taking the SAT dropped 3 percent, College Board officials at Wash­ing ton reported.

More than 70 percent of Arkansans’ graduating high school seniors take the ACT, said registrants list in Arkansas take the SAT. About 26 percent of Arkansas students took the SAT.

Hudgins says campus police more focused on Internet crime, whereas students did better on the state college entrance exam than the national average. This year’s average score for Arkansas students who took the ACT college entrance exam was a half-point above the national average.

Week in Science

Katharine M. Hayhoe

New energy source coming soon

Australian scientists predict they will be able to harness the power of the sun to extract unlimited energy from water.

This will be the cheapest, cleanest and most abundant source of energy ever developed. The Australian scientists will harvest sunlight and split water to produce hydrogen.

A clean energy source, hydrogen is expected to be a major part of the energy mix in 2030, as it is expected to displace natural gas, coal and nuclear.

The scientists believe the new energy source will have a market of its own.

Transplants more available

As a result of a program recently implemented at Organ Recovery Systems of Chicago, it is now possible to chill body parts down before storage, without forming ice crystals, a procedure that will help preserve transplant organs and tissues more effectively and for a longer period of time.

Organ and tissue donors are presently stored for short periods at standard temperature before transplantation and freezing has not been possible due to formation of ice crystals, which damage delicate cells and reduces the viability of the tissue.

Doctors conducted more than 5,000 organ transplants in 2002, yet somethings are added to the donor waiting list every 12 minutes, and 10 people die each day waiting for an organ transplant.

Profound discovery of new matter

Two physicists from Penn State University have uncovered experimental evidence for the existence of a new state of matter — a “solid” form of helium-4 with the extraordinary superfluid flow properties of a superfluid. Solid helium-4 appears to behave like a superfluid when it is cold that the laws of quantum mechanics govern its behavior. This behavior is one of the predictions of the quantum mechanics theory which states the possibility of superfluid behavior in ice.

Scientists believe they now have strong evidence to prove this theory.

Psychotic mice and schizophrenia

Genetically modified mice that have mutations in two key genes that make them schizophrenic may offer insights into dis­orders such as schizophrenia, according to researchers.

Normally, aged mice will climb over and under one another, but the mutant psychiatric mice failed to socialize. More than 1 million Americans suffer from schizophrenia.

This study might lead to pinpointing the genetic origin of this disease and eventually finding a cure for it.

For more information, go to www.times.com/inspire.

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About 1000 take shelter at UCF Arena

By KIRK IKIBAN

About their spaces.

 spreading thick blan-

ti were very
during their two-day stay at

evacuees in the Orange Coun-

expect," said Renzy

Hanspaw, executive director of Orange

County Utility, if

needed, said Renzy Hanshre, executive director of Orange County Office of Emergency

Management.

Preface caused the largest evacuation in the state's histo-
y, with 2.8 million residents from 47 counties ordered
to evacuate, said Michael Weiss of Central Florida, Orange

County's largest county utility. Weiss said the number

could be higher because it included residents

of counties

affected by the hurricane.

Without their air conditioning, students had already

gathered and watching football, as

the Arena's hallways Friday along

the building Saturday morning.

Standing at the building's

entrance, the director of Orange

County's Office of Emergency

Management, Weiss said, "You

probably won't get a hotel room

this weekend, and we hope

they won't need one."

In the Arena the thick
teams rioted the hallways tail-

tail by the rooms. A few families

were in their Boardwalk apart-

ments, did not have
during the storm. Many report

that their utilities are still new-

work.

You have any issues with

your apartment, speak with

the apartment manager or

without power in the more

than 70 affected counties. The
damage from Frances is esti-

ted to be between $1 billion

and $4 billion dollars.

Some local apartment com-

plexes, including Pegasus

Leasing and Pegasus Point

apartments, did not have Internet or telephone services

during the storm. Many report that these utilities are now

working.

If you have any issues with

your apartment, speak with

the apartment manager or

boarded up his apartment in

Waterford Lakes and spent

Friday night at work. As soon

as the hurricane was announced to

be a Category 4, the hotel

filled up with tenants who

needed a place to stay."

Hoffman said.

"You can't get

this storm."

Hoffman said. He and Ivey

provided first-hand reports

of the broadcast was interrupt-

ing to e-mail boxes through

the Internet or telephone services

hurricane information.

Charley, Frances proved to be

a row of tables piled high with

hot dogs and sandwiches in

the Classroom 1 building.

Use the station's
during the hurricane.

Without their air conditioning, students had already
gathered and watching football, as the Arena's hallways Friday along the building Saturday morning.

Standing at the building's entrance, the director of Orange County's Office of Emergency Management, Weiss said, "You probably won't get a hotel room this weekend, and we hope they won't need one."

In the Arena the thick blankets spread thick through

the hallways tail-by-tail by the rooms. A few families were in their Boardwalk apartments, did not have Internet or telephone services during the storm. Many report that their utilities are still not working.

You have any issues with your apartment, speak with the apartment manager or boarded up his apartment in Waterford Lakes and spent Friday night at work. As soon as the hurricane was announced to be a Category 4, the hotel filled up with tenants who needed a place to stay."

Hoffman said. He and Ivey provided first-hand reports of the broadcast was interrupting to e-mail boxes through the Internet or telephone services.
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On those few UCF fans who say they should be big a bad impression

Dating show creates a bad impression

The administration has done very little work in promotion of UCF football and Coach O'Leary is the face of the program. The prominence that the dating show will bring is not the attention that the football program needs. The university can do much better than spending $10,000 on a dating show to look for a quarterback by the campus by the producers. The administration should prove itself with positive attention that isn’t for a place of moody of the students at UCF.

Even if Big Match On Campus is a better reality show than most, the university can still maintain the reputation of a major university. UCF isn’t so well-known at the college level. The shirts of other universities than Florida Marlins - but the story here choose to don hats and not the name of the location fee paid to the campus by the producers. Let’s face it, in the world of television mongers. The production company will not be interested in scoring a chance to cheapen them.

People who watch the show may be amazed and that America was under attack. Bush chose not to act for more than 15 minutes. In fact, he down. Florida as a state is noted for its football program that is being hurt; programs? It’s not just the football programs. Timed to coincide with the U.S. Census this year, you can’t find too many UCF students who are interested in the dating show. The administration has done very little work in promotion of UCF football and Coach O'Leary is the face of the program. The prominence that the dating show will bring is not the attention that the football program needs. The university can do much better than spending $10,000 on a dating show to look for a quarterback by the campus by the producers. The administration should prove itself with positive attention that isn’t for a place of moody of the students at UCF.

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- Free summer course in research methodology
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- Teaching classes to prepare you for being a GTA (Graduate Teaching Assistant)
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- Graduate admission fee waivers from participating institutions

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Sept. 8th @ Noon in front of the Student Union

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**Mental errors cloud opener**

Saturday’s game against the Wisconsin Badgers should have marked a milestone moment in UCF football history. It should have been the first game in the George O’Leary era. But O’Leary couldn’t make the trip due to his mother’s funeral.

Instead, the game marked a historic moment for Badger Coach Barry Alvarez. Wisconsin, 7-4 victory over the Golden Knights won the 900th win of Alvarez’s career in 2003.

But on the Badger 0-3 were celebrating their season opening victory in front of 33,089 fans at Camp Randall Stadium, the Knights 0-3 took their losing streak to a new low in a rebuilding process. Despite being only at the 21-20 loss, the first stop was as perfect as a career-long 47-yard field goal by tailback Mike Singley.

The Badgers were marching down the field on a field goal attempt with 5:19 left on the clock, and they played hard to get the Scholarship position with 21-20, but the ball off, and a 3rd and 4th down, on a 1-yard run by tailback Mike Singley.

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Missed the sophomore quart­ erback Steve Monet’s one interception of the game, a hurried pass that fell directly into the hands of defensive lineman Amory Batterman, gutsy move by head coach George O’Leary.

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In the first career start at inside line backer, Stephens made his presence known as Wisconsin expanded its lead in the first half. The Badgers marched 68 yards in nine plays, with four sacks. It was the 13th first quarter that will get the Knights some much-needed breathing room on that drive. However, the drive stalled at the 24-yard line after a John Stocco pass to Jonathan Hawthorne in the end zone. The Badgers commanded the line of scrimmage from scrimmage from scrimmage from scrimmage.

Drive of the game: Wisconsin's opening possession. 1st quarter

Play of the game: Shaun's 16-yard TD pass to Jonathon Hawthorne in the second quarter resulted in a touchdown, but ended in a 49-yard field goal. The Badgers had marched 68 yards in nine plays, with four sacks. It was the 13th first quarter that will get the Knights some much-needed breathing room on that drive. However, the drive stalled at the 24-yard line after a John Stocco pass to Jonathan Hawthorne in the end zone. The Badgers commanded the line of scrimmage from scrimmage from scrimmage from scrimmage.

Inside The Game Numbers

78 Rushing yards by Wisconsin running back Anthony Davis.

164 Passing yards by Wisconsin quarterback John Stocco.

2 Turnovers committed by the UCF offense.

1 Turnover committed by the Wisconsin offense.

OFFENSIVE LINE

The Knights did not match up in the offensive line, gaining 230 yards and holding a gain of 80 yards. Wisconsin контроль

WEST

## Teams

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Davis leaves game in second quarter after rushing for 78 yards

Watts leads volleyball despite loss to LSU

Rockets blown out by No. 23 Gophers

Sanford Stadium

which more than often turned into incomparable passes.

Along with the young line-

men, the Knights were undoubt-

edly affected by the absence of

O’Brian. “Of course we want to win the football game,” Huxtable said. “But it was our first time going into the battle as a family, our first head football coach. I think we started a little bit more about each other and what we have to do from here.”

Despite his two turnovers, McDonald did make a difference in his passing game from the three games he started last season. The true sophomore had a day in the air with 13-of-24 passing finishing the game with 173 yards and a 50 percent completion rate.

On that side of the ball, Wisconsin running back Albert Young rushed for 82 yards and a score on 22 carries. Quarterback Bruce Gradkowski was 19-of-33 passing for 254 yards and a score in his first career start.

The Falcon defense held the Rocket attack in check. Running back Tracy Dassow scored a touchdown to get Wisconsin on the scoreboard, but he was contained for the rest of the game.

The afternoon didn’t get any better for the Knights after scoring the game’s final points against Rice. Game one saw the Knights drop 17 attack yards and the first Wisconsin score of the game. While Dante’s first-quarter touchdown was the only score the Knights needed, Wisconsin quarterback John Stocco added two more in the air and took one in the end zone himself.

UCF kicker Matt Peeler provided the only scores of the game for the Knights, as he connected on 36- and 49-yard field goals. Senior linebacker Alex Haynes, who needed 50 yards to set the UCF career rushing record, reached 56 yards on 32 carries. Luther Bragg led UCF and Wisconsin receivers with 18 receptions and 177 receiving yards.

Despite the turnovers and mismatches on the lines, the Knights did manage to keep pace with the Badgers for most of the first and second quarters. UCF trailed Wisconsin by only a touchdown until the final two minutes of the second quarter, when Wisconsin reeled off 33 points in less than a minute-and-a-half.

 Said Huxtable. “We’re a young football team. We’ve got a lot of things to learn yet, and those are the things that we’ve got to work with these kids and show them on film and make those corrections, and we need to look at small wins. Small wins before we look for the big ones. And there were some small wins today.”

The Knights hope to return to the field at 6 p.m. Saturday for O’Brian’s return to college football and the UCF home opener against NIU (ranked West Virginia 0-0), but the threat of a third hurricane in as many weeks still lingers.

“I was surprised at the way we handled it.”

University of Central Florida Area

SAGA Medieval March to Penn State

UCF Football vs. Penn State Sept. 18th 2004

YOU CAN BE A WINNER

For More Information Log On To...

SGA Medieval March to Penn State
"We've gotten better running the ball, sustaining blocks and finishing blocks. And obviously when you get better offensively running the ball, we get better defensively, because you get to see it every day."

— COACH GEORGE O'LEARY

"They're exciting. You can put the ball in their hands, hold your breath, and they can make some things happen."

— OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR TIM SALERI

ON UCF'S RECEIVERS

The wait is finally over.

UCF football is back.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB – #1 Steven Moffett
Moffett arrived out of West Park. He is a big body who belongs to Moffett for now. It will be his year. His size and athleticism combined with his potential promise, but he has the talent to be used as a dual-threat quarterback for Moffett. Moffett enters the season highly motivated and has shown great potential. He will be key to the success of UCF football.

WR – #3 Orlando Capers
Capers emerged as a pleasant surprise during summer practices. During the season, he will be used in a dual-threat role. Capers will be joined by fellow receiver Brandon Marshall, who emerged as a pleasant surprise. During summer practices, Capers and Marshall will lead UCF's receivers.

RB – #4 Alex Haynes
Haynes enters the 2003 season as a top returning player. He is a big player who needs to take advantage of his talent and work ethic. Haynes is expected to be a key player in UCF football.

WR – #8 Louis Huggins
Huggins emerged as a top returning player. He is a big receiver who has shown great potential. Huggins is expected to be a key player in UCF's offense.

SR – #22 Gerren Bray
Bray is a top returning player who is expected to be a key player in UCF's defense.

KR – #36 Matt Prater
Prater is expected to be a key player in UCF's special teams.

OL – #56 Matt Prater
Prater is expected to be a key player in UCF's offensive line.

In 2003, UCF football will be led by their talented receivers and a deep backfield. The Knights have a chance to show the potential that they believe they have due to a solid roster. The choice is up to the players if they want to showcase their talent and ability.

UCF football is back. O'Leary's time is now.
"We've got a couple of kids that haven't started shaving yet, and they're playing on the offensive line." - TIM SALEM

"We're gonna have to really count on guys like Carrington, Nelson and Jordan to provide some depth, make some plays for us, and hopefully provide some leadership."

- DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR LANCE THOMPSON ON THE DEFENSIVE LINE

“I think that we'll get better with each week, and we have to continue to recruit the right players. I think that coaching is a part of the game, and I think that good players win big games. We have to get more big time players here to get that to happen.”

-COACH GEORGE O'LEYAR

SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>36-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>Akron</td>
<td>42-3</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Kent State</td>
<td>38-24</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
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LAST SEASON RESULTS

3-9 OVERALL
2-6 MAC

GAME BY GAME

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2003 LEADERS

OFFENSE

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<td>Alex Haynes</td>
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DEFENSE

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FINAL 2003 NCAA RANKINGS

(out of 117 teams)

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DEPTH CHART

OFFICE

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<tr>
<td>Head Coach</td>
<td>Bobby Petrino</td>
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RUNNING BACK

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WIDE RECEIVER

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DEFENSE

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TACKLING CHART

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<tr>
<td>tackles</td>
<td>Mike Cribbs</td>
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"People knew that I was a target out there. Maybe some people said they were going to try and take the running game away and make us throw the ball to win." - DEFENSIVE BACK MIKE HENRY ON THE OPPONENTS

"Stanford's really been a pleasant surprise for us. Ever since we've been here he's really done everything we've asked him to do; on the field, in the classroom and in the weight room." - LANCE THOMPSON ON STANFORD "RINO"
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Jet Li storms into theaters with a thoughtful action flick. What?! — PAGE 6

Weird Al’s coming to freak us out — PAGE 2
Heather Friedman rocks our socks — PAGE 9
Alcohol without liquid really sucks — PAGE 11

Vol. V, No. 2, Sept. 2 - Sept. 8, 2004
Break out the accordions, here comes Al

The parody and polka king brings mirth to Orlando

JOE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

You know him, you've heard his songs, you might possibly think he's the most annoying entertainer on the planet. But like it or not, Weird Al Yankovic is coming Sunday to Orlando for a concert at the House of Blues.

With 11 albums and 3 Grammy awards to his name, Weird Al has been putting out parody albums for more than 20 years. From his first album, 1983's Weird Al Yankovic, featuring "Ricky," "My Bologna," and "Another One Rides the Bus," to his newest release, a 2003 venture titled Poodle Hat, Weird Al has always been the man with his finger on the pulse of pop culture Americana. On his latest album, Weird Al parodies several artists, including Eminem, Nelly, The Backstreet Boys and even Billy Joel in a song called "Ode to a Super Hero." The song is about the plight of superheroes.

Not only does Weird Al write his own songs, he also plays accordion on virtually all his tracks. Forced to take accordion lessons by his parents at about age 7, Weird Al has become very proficient on the odd-sounding and increasingly rare instrument. For proof, check out the accordion solo on "Syndicated, Inc." from the 1996 release Bad Hair Day. The song is a parody of Soul Asylum's hit "Misery."

Backed by very competent musicians Steve Jay, Ruben Valtierra, Jim West and Jon "Bermuda" Schwartz, Weird Al is able to recreate any song from any genre with almost scary precision.

A Weird Al concert is like no other concert you have ever seen. For starters, his opening act is usually a comedian or some sort of vaudevillian act. Something along the lines of a fire-eater or a sword swallower.

Secondly, there is a longer-than-normal break between songs because Al has to leave the stage to change costumes. The last thing that's different about a Weird Al concert is the audience. From old timer Pac-Man Atari geeks to less-than-sober college students to prepubescent teenagers who have never seen a concert before, everyone in the audience of a Weird Al show looks like they belong in the audience of a Weird Al show.

So for all of you out there looking for something to do on Sunday night, head out to the House of Blues and check out the funniest concert you will ever see.

WEIRD AL
Poodle Hat Tour

When: 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Where: House of Blues
Price: $27.50 to $29.50

PHOTO COURTESY VOLCANO
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

CAMPUS
Secretary Hood election discussion
Sept. 2, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., free
Student Union, Key West Room 216C
407-823-4395

How to be a Working Actor
Sept. 2, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., free
UCF Theatre
407-823-0871

Free Trade in the America
Sept. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., free
Student Union, Cape Florida Room 316
407-823-0935

Legacy of the Spirit lecture
Sept. 3, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., free
UCF Library
407-823-2576

I love the '90s Shabbat
Sept. 3, 7 p.m., free
UCF Academic Village Hercules Activity Center
407-362-3317

SGA football viewing party
Sept. 4, 10 a.m., free cover with UCF ID
Pounder's
10028 University Blvd.
407-823-6356

Football viewing & box lunch party
Sept. 4, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., $15 reservations required
Trucking academy
407-823-2465

James Weldon Johnson Lecture Series
Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., free
Student Union, Key West Room 218
407-823-0026

Comedian Megan Mooney
Sept. 7, 8 p.m., free
Student Union - Wackadoo's
407-823-6471

Film and Forum
Sept. 8, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., free
Student Union, Cape Florida Room 316CD
407-823-6471

SHOWS
Hanson, Ingram Hill, Michael Tolcher (pop)
Sept. 2, 6:30 p.m., $19.50-$22.50
House of Blues, Downtown Disney West Side
407-914-2483

Casiopeia, Vip Vip, Another Hindenburg (electronic)
Sept. 2, 7 p.m., $5
Will's Pub, 1850 N. M. Ave.
407-896-5070

Down to Earth Approach, The New Transit Direction (rock)
Sept. 2, 5:30 p.m., $8
Scaremonger, 360 State Line
407-264-0299

Staring Contest, Music Versus the Heart, Second Track, The Finals (rock)
Sept. 2, 7 p.m., free
Scaremonger, 360 State Line
407-264-0299

Pop Suicide (rock)
Sept. 2, 7 p.m., free
Alpha Bar, 102 N. Orange Ave.
407-841-6544

OZZfest (Black Sabbath, Judas Priest, Slayer, Slipknot, Hatebreed, etc)
Sept. 2, 9 a.m., $49.75-$75.75
Ford Amphitheater at the Florida Fairgrounds
813-740-2446

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**HAPPENINGS**

**CALENDAR**

**From 13**

**Distance:** Firefight, Julington, Capital Speedway (rock)

**Date:** Sept 2, 9 p.m., $5

**Venue:** Back 37, 35 W. P. Frey St.

**Contact:** 407-999-0970

**Chingy (hip-hop)**

**Date:** Sept 2, 9 p.m., $13

**Venue:** Hard Rock Live, CityWalk at Universal Orlando

**Contact:** 407-351-5480

**Terri Binion and the Longhaulers, Skinny McGee and his Mayhem Makers (Americana)**

**Date:** Sept 3, 9 p.m., $5-$7

**Venue:** Whit's Pub, 1550 N. Mills Ave.

**Contact:** 407-896-5070

**Darkest Hour, Hoorus Breakdown, Hearts Over Rome, I Don’t Die Young (hard rock)**

**Date:** Sept 3, 5:30 p.m., $8

**Venue:** Screamin’ 306 State Lane

**Contact:** 407-244-1772

**Blood Moon, Dead Spot, Divine in Nature, Paper Street Soap Co. (metal)**

**Date:** Sept 3, 9 p.m., $5

**Venue:** The Foxes, 6700 Arena Ave.

**Contact:** 407-673-2712

**Doug E. Fresh, Slick Rick (hip-hop)**

**Date:** Sept 4, 9 p.m., $26-$25

**Venue:** House of Blues, Downtown Disney West Side

**Contact:** 407-994-2483

**Josh Marteliner, Sleep Are the Chicarones, Thereaone, Cratcher Jackson, Escher, Science Non-fiction (hip-hop)**

**Date:** Sept 4, 9 p.m., $7

**Venue:** Will’s Pub, 1510 N. Mills Ave.

**Contact:** 407-896-5070

**Alicia Keys, Anita Baker, Chingy, O’Ryan, Omarion, Twista, Big Boi, New Edition, Monica, Hammer (various)**

**Date:** Sept 4, 9 p.m., $60

**Venue:** Disney IMAX Studios, Walt Disney World Resort

**Contact:** 407-341-4357

**Finned Pilot, Cider (rock)**

**Date:** Sept 4, 8 p.m., $25

**Venue:** Rock and Roll Beach Bar, Downtown Disney Pleasure Island

**Contact:** 407-834-4321

**Indorphine (metal)**

**Date:** Sept 4, 9 p.m., $5

**Venue:** A1A Lounge, 68 E. P. Frey St.

**Contact:** 407-819-3309

**Franchise, Detective Sandy Vagina (rock)**

**Date:** Sept 4, 9 p.m., $5

**Venue:** The Cameo, 1842 E. Winter Park Blvd.

**Contact:** 407-623-3399

**Weird Al Yankovic, Gary Monke (pop)**

**Date:** Sept 5, 6:30 p.m., $77.50-$529.50

**Venue:** House of Blues, Downtown Disney West Side

**Contact:** 407-994-2483

**MU330 (ska)**

**Date:** Sept 5, 8 p.m., $17

**Venue:** The Social, 541 N. Orange Ave.

**Contact:** 407-244-1772

**Lil Wayne (hip-hop)**

**Date:** Sept 6, 10 p.m., $25

**Venue:** The Club at Pleasure, 578 N. Orange Ave.

**Contact:** 407-831-0066

**Alter Bridge, Submersed (rock)**

**Date:** Sept 8, 6:30 p.m., $25

**Venue:** House of Blues, Downtown Disney West Side

**Contact:** 407-994-2483

**Nebula, Messinian, Asphalt, Deadspot (hard rock)**

**Date:** Sept 8, 9 p.m., $7

**Venue:** Will’s Pub, 1510 N. Mills Ave.

**Contact:** 407-896-5070

**Crushed Shadows, Butterfly Messiah, DJ Erk (industrial)**

**Date:** Sept 8, 10 p.m., $15

**Venue:** Screamin’ 306 State Lane

**Contact:** 407-244-0299

**ART**

**First Thursday**

**Date:** Sept 2, 9 p.m. to 5 p.m., $5 to $8

**Venue:** Orlando Museum of Art

**Contact:** 407-896-2431

**Transitions (opening reception)**

**Date:** Sept 3, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., free

**Venue:** 35 S. Magnolia Ave.

**Contact:** 407-592-1200

**Structural Realities (opening reception)**

**Date:** Sept 4, 9 p.m. to 7 p.m., free

**Venue:** Arms on Douglas

**Contact:** 407-592-1200

**Fleet Foxes, Odando, Longhaulers, (metal)**

**Date:** Sept 4, 9 p.m., free

**Venue:** The Haven

**Contact:** 407-896-4231

**UPCOMING**

**30 Years of Grateful Dead**

**Date:** Sept 9, 6:30 p.m., $149.95

**Venue:** Hard Rock Live

**Contact:** 407-994-2483

**Kerry-oke**

**Date:** Sept 9, 7:30 p.m., $15

**Venue:** 37 S. Magnolia Ave.

**Contact:** 407-592-1200

**Finding Nemo on ice**

**Date:** Sept 10 to Sept 12, various times, $15.50 to $33

**Venue:** Waterplace Centre

**Contact:** 407-896-2483

**Popcorn Flicks: King Kong**

**Date:** Sept 16, 8 p.m., free

**Venue:** Central Park, Winter Park

**Contact:** 407-623-3399

**Options:**

- **SUNDAY SEPT. 5TH**
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  - Live Taping of "Living it Up" A Beer Muscle
  - Blind Contest, 2nd Prize, $150

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MOVIES

FILM REVIEW

Maria Full of Grace is a film full of brilliance

Harrowing drama does a lot more than shed light on seedy drug transport

JOHN THOMASON

Overtly, immigration and drug smuggling can make for pretty compelling cinema, but they can also be turned into sentimental melodrama. If for nothing else, Maria Full of Grace deserves credit for never lapsing into the obvious and the overdone.

Even in the film's first reel, which sets up Maria's numerous trials and tribulations, the naturalism of the performances and the authenticity of the dialogue keep the drama aloft. After the first half-hour, the picture really soars, as writer/director Josh Marston turns an ordinary sob story into one of the year's most emotionally exhausting and unforgettable films.

Maria's life isn't about to be easy. She's just quit her dead-end job, her boyfriend is a dick, her family is dirt-poor and she has to spend all her money to support her sister's baby while carrying one of her own.

In a lesser movie, such perpetual suffering could be seen as laying it on too thick, but Maria's multitude of predicaments are necessary to provide the gravity of her possibly life-saving decision: to smuggle drugs inside her stomach in return for more money than she could dream of.

A tagline for Maria Full of Grace reads, "based on 1,000 true stories," a quote that serves two purposes. It confirms the film's universality (this movie may happen to be one of the many other teenage girls bound for the States with drugs in their tummies, in it for the same reasons) and makes known the tragic reality of the situation.

In addition to the compelling drama, Marston's film is an indictment of poverty-stricken Latin America, shedding provocative light on Colombia's repressive working conditions, and, of course, the seedy underground culture that allows such drug runs.

With its authentic location shooting and use of nonprofessional actors, Maria Full of Grace sheds a naturalistic to shed light on the characters' plight.

A better comparison is to Jean-Luc Godard's My Life to Live, another heart-rending film that sets up a woman's predicament, then reduces her to an object. When the object is used up, so is the woman, and nothing remains.

With the same clinical stoicism that introduces Nura into the world of prostitution in My Life to Live, here Maria is treated with no humanity by the drug lords. To them, she is simply a data point, a set of numbers, an inhuman statistic.

Unfortunately, everyone reading this already has the Miramax Collector's Edition version of the DVD, so you better hit up your local CD Warehouse and get what you can for it before they stop taking them (Walk into any vendor of used DVDs and count the copies of the original Great Escape since the reissue came out; it's pretty sad).

Released 10 years ago, Clerks, Jersey Girl may be the sound of a once-promising upstart descending into mediocre genre banalities, but Smith has nonetheless loaded the DVD with extras. While many can debate the film's merit, few can debate the natural chemistry between Smith and Ben Affleck, who show up here on a commentary track and a "conversation with Smith and Affleck" feature. Affleck rarely seems more at home than when working with a Smith script; their collaborations may not be up to the level of Scorsese/De Niro or Kurosawa/Mifune yet, but give it time.

SPRING, SUMMER, AUTUMN, WINTER... AND SPRING

This masterful visual poem from Korea is one of the year's best films by a longshot. Gorgeous, heartbreaking and filled to the brim with wisdom and spirituality, the film lyrically examines a boy's ascent into adulthood and the tumultuous relationship with his monk father. Told in five vignettes signified by the different seasons of the title, the film is a universal parable about the overwhelming power of life and love. With symbolism in nearly every frame, this is an example of grand themes shared in the simplest of ways. If you didn't get to catch this during its impressively long AlamoDrafthouse run, now is the time.

COMING TO DVD — SEPT 7

Kevin Smith returns to Clerks

Also, masterpiece from Korea comes to DVD

JOHN THOMASON

JERSEY GIRL AND CLERKS: 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Kevin Smith's die-hard fans and ardent haters will both have more fuel to debate the director's credibility come Tuesday, which sees the reissue of his 2004 bomb Jersey Girl and an expanded three-disc reissue of his seminal indie hit Clerks.

As for the reissue, this set has more special features than you can knock over a corpse at a waking, The theatrical cut, the 103-minute first cut with new commentary, a new feature-length documentary about the film, old Jay and Silent Bob shorts from MTV, Smith's "Flying Car" short from The Tonight Show and Smith and Scott Mosier's Vancouver Film School documentary Mae Day are just a portion of what you'll get.

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Hero is a brainy action movie

Film is surprisingly not a remake of Dustin Hoffman flick

BRET RYAN BONOWER Staff Writer

A
fter an opening-weekend gross of $18 million and an initial theater presence on more than 2,000 screens, Jet Li's movie Hero proves itself to be the exception and not the rule to both action and foreign films.

Hero begins with the introduction of Nameless, played by Jet Li. Nameless is on his way to meet the King of Qin. Nameless walks amongst thousands of citizens of Qin on his way to see the king, and in the process it is felt the magnitude of what must have transpired. Nameless has killed three assassins and is granted unprecedented access to the king, who is the frequent recipient of death threats. But what are his motivations to get close to the king?

Hero is about the role of the individual in society. Nameless's quest is juxtaposed against the King's plan for pre-unified China. Hero raises many intelligent questions throughout its rather brisk running time of 96 minutes. Is one man's revenge worth the destruction of unity? Can one man impact the outcome of history? What is the cost of freedom?

Heavily influenced by Rashomon and Memento alike, Hero is an action film with a brain firmly attached to its skeletal structure. Hero deals with a very small chamber of characters, each intelligent and sympathetic to the price of their lives and the cost of the plan at hand. Rarely does a puzzle structure work, but in Hero it causes the viewer to think like Nameless, to measure the weight in thoughts. Many of the fights take place seemingly in the minds of the fighters, with much of the fight already transcribed in the mind like a well thought out chess match. The choreography in the film will surprise many, especially those who have been programmed by interminably boring Matrix Revolutions-type fighting. Hero is fresh and fun; coupled with good storytelling the film is leaps and bounds ahead of many Hollywood films.

Hero is brought to an even higher plane thanks to Tiengxiao Huo and Zhouzhou Yi's lavish production design that is one of the finest three-way collaborations in recent memory between the cinematographer, director and production designer. Cinematographer Christopher Doyle has done some beautiful work in Asian cinema previously (Chungking Express, In the Mood for Love) but never has he done something with the breathtaking scope of Hero. Director Yimou Zhang has done what any good director should do, bring the best out of his cast and crew.

Jet Li gives a strong performance as Nameless, a quiet, resourceful warrior who relies heavily on his skills rather than his words. Li's performance exemplifies this, and his scenes with the King are played with the simple, real feel of a ping pong match played out in slow motion.

Released in 2002 in other countries, Miramax left Hero on the shelf for almost two years before releasing it with a "Quentin Tarantino Presents" card. Very good.
Thrill-less thriller

Suspect Zero is no Seven

The only thing suspect is film's derivative storyline

JENNIFER GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

B lame Seven. It's the only explanation for Suspect Zero and all the countless other cop/serial killer/psychological thriller-type movies that have followed. You know the kind, with its checklist recipe of ingredients: there's the eerie pacing (check), the dusty lone back roads and interstates (check), the rain-drenched alleyways (check) and yes, there's that scene in which the brilliant young cop has pictures of victims and crime scenes collaged onto a wall and is desperate to find the whereabouts of a highly disturbed killer (check). That checklist alone has probably led your mind to recount half a dozen movies.

The latest edition to the genre is Suspect Zero, directed by E. Elias Merhige (Shadow of a Vampire), who should have known better. His attempt to create a mood-driven film with disjointed shots and extreme close-ups is admirable for such a stylistically predictable genre but doesn't hold up under the heavy-handed plot.

Written by Zak Penn (Behind Enemy Lines) and Billy Ray (Shattered Glass), the film begins with Agent Thomas Mackelway (played by Aaron Eckhart, who was so likable in Erin Brockovich but is stuck in serious FBI agent mode here) being transferred to an office in Albuquerque, N.M.

Mackelway is predictably fresh off a six-month suspension for loose canon behavior, in which he bypassed procedure in order to catch a serial rapist. Bodies soon start appearing with lidless eyeballs, and faxes personally addressed to Mackelway indicate the killer has taken a personal interest in him.

One thing leads to another and along with his ex-lover of a partner (Carrie-Anne Moss, trapped in a thankless role of love interest), Mackelway discovers Benjamin O'Ryan (played by Sir Ben Kingsley). O'Ryan is an ex-FBI secret agent who used to work for a now-defunct program in which compatible agents were trained to see and draw crimes scenes using nothing but their minds.

Kingsley is a killer of killers, tracking down a mythic entity he has created called suspect zero, based on the idea of the perfect serial killer. The only problem is that he can't 'turn off' the ability to see and is haunted by the victims he couldn't save.

While not unbearable, Suspect Zero is simply tired and ineffective. Whereas in previous successful thrillers like Silence of the Lambs or Seven, the tension within them is a palpable force, established early on and increased with every scene. Zero fails to build and as a result teeters on dullness.

Some action in the third act seems promising but leads to a familiar ending instead. Similarities like this to other films prevent the film from distinguishing itself as anything besides a clone, and with a cast of actors who have proven they can do better, that's unfortunate.
MOVIES

While still being a decent adaptation of the 900-page novel, *Vanity Fair* is still marred by fast introductions and unmotivated character actions.

**FILM REVIEW** ★★★★ ½

Indeed, new period piece is fair

**GENO MEHALIK**
Staff Writer

Period pieces like Mira Nair's *Vanity Fair* (an adaptation of the William Makepeace Thackeray 900-page novel) are seldom a total disappointment. For instance, Cher's Bullock's quiet and sub-rosa role in *Tea With Mussolini* or Sandra Bullock's quiet and sub-rosa role in *In Love and War* were both picturesque and accurate portrayals of a historical climate.

And because although you may encounter fast-paced introductions, unmotivated character actions and that one lovesick creature that mimics the romantic architecture of the time nearly perfectly, you still almost have to try to hate a period piece after the barrage of imagery you are presented with. Broken castles, ageless battles, faraway places, teas, spices, feathers and cloudless weather are among some of the culprits.

In *Vanity Fair*, Reese Witherspoon is a stone-broke artist's daughter in 1850s London. After one of the film's first scenes, where Witherspoon's Becky boggles with well-heeled Gabriel Byrne over a portrait of her mother, the protagonist's age accelerates quickly and dizzyly. Along the way the audience is introduced to a lot of relatively torn but well-meaning characters like Bend It Like Beckham's Jonathan Rhys Meyers (steely, but off) and Romola Garai (Becky's light-headed best friend).

However, characters such as Eileen Atkins' elder benefactor and Moulin Rouge's proud Jim Broadbent make heavy-handed hypocrisy and dime-store malevolence look as choreographed as afternoon tea. And, in retrospect, their portrayals help tremendously in solidifying one of the film's principle themes: social elevation.

In addition, the film wanders off with some of the more minor characters into some extraordinary visual locations. For example, one or two 30-second cameos in an Indian desert are a poignant and jarring release from the ethereal and chirpily noisy that permeate the anemic and clammy English streets during the Napoleonic wars of the time. Some of the film's most impacting moments take place within the externalities of the Kingdom's foreground, however. For instance, the initial outdoor cistern where Becky tries for a wealthy suitor is vibrant in pale greens, lacey whites and perfectly plastic-looking water lilies. But despite the illusory beauty of the moist and dim natural backdrop, like condensation on a mirror, character motivation is still very apparent.

Becky is definitely a climber, however, apologies to her character may appear on screen. And her penchant for showmanship is personified in her almost formulaic pairing with the silver-tongued gambler, charitably played by James Purefoy. Purefoy's Rawdon is, at first, tolerant of Becky's wit and backdoor barging-ins, but when Byrne's character resurfaces to offer Becky a chance at a new life, however, nature resurfaces to offer Becky a chance at a new level of social scholarship, Rawdon's pride interferes.

But Becky, intent on defying the caste system of 19th century England — littered with lords, ladies, duchesses and street rats — ultimately overlooks the one thing that made her feel high, bringing a shocking amount of honesty to her character that might have been tragically omitted. However, it is this honesty, amidst the deep purples and bright gold-encrusted costume jewelry, that makes *Vanity Fair* not just another period piece but something worthwhile.

And yes, she keeps the accent the whole way through.

**MOVIE TIMES**

From 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movie</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Napoleon Dynamite</em></td>
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<td><em>LOEWS UNIVERSAL CINEPLEX</em> 6000 UNIVERSAL BLVD., 407-354-3374</td>
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**Open Water** (R) 1:25 3:10 5:20 7:20 9:20 11:20
**Collateral** (R) 1:25 3:25 5:25 7:25 9:25 11:25
**Spider-Man 2** (PG-13) 9:30

**BENZIN CINEMA CAFE**
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**Maria Full of Grace** (R) Friday: 6:20 8:20 10:20 Saturday and Sunday: 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:20 10:00
**D.MAC**
355 MAGNOLIA AVE. 407-992-1200
**The Blonds** (R) Friday: 7:00 9:00 Saturday: 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

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Park Ave CDs: Top 25 for the week of Aug. 15-21

1. SOUNDTRACK — Garden State
2. YOUNG BUCK — Straight Outta Cashville
3. FURTHER SEEMS FOREVER — Hide Nothing
4. VARIOUS ARTISTS — Rock Against Bush 2
5. Saves the Day — Ups and Downs: Early Recordings and B-sides
6. RISE AGAINST — Siren Song of the Counterculture
7. R. KELLY — Happy People/U Saved Me
8. JASON MRAZ — Tonight, Not Again: Live
9. HOT ROD CIRCUIT — Reality’s Coming Through
10. COPELAND — Know Nothing Stays the Same
11. TAKING BACK SUNDAY — Where You Want to Be
12. HEAD AUTOMATICA — Decadence
13. MASE — Welcome Back
14. LESS THAN JAKE — B Is for B-Sides
15. KILLERS — Hot Fuss
16. FRANZ FERDINAND — Franz Ferdinand
17. VARIOUS — Rock Against Bush 1
18. MODEST MOUSE — Good News for People Who Like Bad News
19. R.I.O. KILEY — More Adventurous
20. SHYNE — Godfather Buried Alive
21. DANE COOK — Harmful If Swallowed
22. HIVES — Tyrannosaurus Hives
23. POLYPHONIC SPREE — Together We’re Heavy
24. KITTIE — Until the End
25. VARIOUS ARTISTS — Por Vida: A Tribute to the Songs of Alejandro Escovedo

MUSIC

LOCAL BAND SPOTLIGHT

Capturing the Friedman band

EMILY JANE SCOTT
Staff Writer

I think I was probably born singing,” Heather Friedman makes this statement laughingly, but as sincerely as can be. This statement does not come as a surprise, either, for anyone who has ever heard her sing. She is an all-around performer — the 20-year-old junior is a Bachelor of Arts music major, sings classically in the music department here, is in musical theatre and has her own band, aptly named the Friedman band. While this seems like a lot on her plate, she feels like she’s prepared for any opportunity that may come her way. And between talent like hers and a vehicle like her band, it’s hard to imagine that she would be denied any opportunity to perform.

Her forays into popular music come from a combination of her love for expressive writings, poetry, journals, etc., and her natural love for music. She says she didn’t start writing songs until her sophomore year of college. Heather formed her band this past January, which was comprised of guitarist Phil Swasey, bassist John Friskies and percussionists Ramon Lopez on drums and Justin Steger on congas, vibraphone and other auxiliary percussion. Together, they create an ensemble sound with a jazzy feel that goes down easy but grabs a listener’s attention. She says that she didn’t go on a huge search for these musicians, but that they all just sort of ended up playing together. “I don’t think we’d organically come together and be five friends — it’s the music that brings us together.” It doesn’t hurt to be in classes that are clock-a-block full of music students, either.

“I just asked people in my music classes if they knew anyone who played certain instruments. Phil was in my music theory class. He said he played guitar, but he said ‘I’m not gonna play in your band or anything,’ at first.”

Heather started booking shows around town, fully prepared to play solo, hoping that a band would come along. Lopez was the first to come on board after he heard a demo that Heather had done. John came on after he heard the original ensemble play. “I was so thankful that I had four other people interested in my music other than my best friends,” says Friedman.

The lineup of the band is in fluctuation, however. This summer they lost Steger to grad school in Pennsylvania. Heather says that he still records tracks on vibes and continues to collaborate with the rest of the band this way. Unfortunately, Lopez is also on the way out — he will be spending the next year making big bucks playing full time at Disneyworld Tokyo. Free ride over and room included. While the band will miss him, Heather insists that they will only seek a replacement for the time that Lopez is gone.

This lineup is so important, again, as anyone who has seen them live knows, because one would be hard pressed to find a better ensemble of young musicians playing “rock” music in Orlando. Lopez has been described as being the best thing to hit Japan since technology. Heather also describes all of her fellow bandmembers as artists who will be willing to go out on a limb when it comes to creating each song.

While the technical capabilities of the band’s players are a huge draw for fans, Heather says that creating these tremendous arrangements is a special sort of process. Even through spectacular instrumental solos, you can hear a very personal meaning in all of Heather’s songs. “It all started with writing in journals when I was young. The dichotomy between her personal songs and the flourishing performance arrangements, however, doesn’t seem to phase her. “I will write text, a rough song, a chorus, verses and then I’ll have an idea of the world in which it should be.”

Once she and the band create these “worlds,” Heather’s personal stories are then expressed in a multitude of ways. She says about using music expressively versus using words expressively, “What I really love about a lot of what we do is that it appeals to people who think very textually, and then we can appeal to people who think creatively and express the words in a completely different way.”

Great musicianship aside, she feels that her music relates to people on a very personal level. “Some guy at Back Booth once said to me, ‘I really needed your music tonight.’ I was having a rough day too, so I guess I really needed him.” She says that this is the reason she performs music with her band as such — “If it’s not to touch other people, then it’s just for artists’ validation.” Said validation is, as many will agree, a pretty lame reason to be making music.

While the drummer situation is less than ideal for Heather and her band, their future looks bright.
Censorship killed the awards star
With no host or theatrics, Video Music Awards hit new nadir

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

Years from now the 2004 MTV Video Music Awards will be seen as the historic event that it was, three hours of television that set an alarming precedent. The days of the sporadic, exciting awards show are dead. And in its place we are left with a neutered, sterilized production that offers nothing remotely stimulating or entertaining. Viacom, wary of the Nipplegate scandal, has taken no chances, expanding the length of the on-air audio delay and adding a video delay as well. No notorious lesbian kisses or Farman costumes this time. The biggest surprise of any kind was Stevie Wonder appearing as the special guest slated to perform with Alicia Keys, and even that moment was utterly predictable.

Much has changed since the awards first began airing in 1984. Moving from Thursday to the more family-friendly Sunday, the awards took place in Miami, in an arena of all places, which does not fit awards shows well. Fans filled the floor of the arena, while celebrities sat in upper sections. And there was no host this year either, a presence sorely missed. The lack of a host and the logistics of sweating fans made the awards disjointed and uncomfortable to watch. Maybe it's the traditionalist in me, but I don't think these changes bode well.

Even the nominees and winners were unbelievably safe. I can't complain about Outkast winning, but with the frantic nature of MTV's programming and how quickly one star is processed and consumed after another, the video seems like it aired eons ago, not the actual 10 months. Other winners included Usher for "Best Male Video," Beyonce with "Best Female Video" and Linkin Park for "Viewer's Choice," making me lose even more faith in democracy. God was thanked many times, but was unavailable to appear due to his current litigation battles with the producers of Exorcist: The Beginning for using his name without permission.

Perhaps the best part of the night was watching the audience royally piss on the daughters of John Kerry and George Bush with a shower of harsh boos. The charismatic-less daughters were there in support of Rock the Vote, telling viewers to get politically involved. Other celebrities preached this message as well, but to keep in tow with the banality of the night, they remained non-partisan and made no opinionated comments.

Jay-Z was also there to announce his retirement, much to the sadness of three white kids in Des Moines. Perhaps MTV should follow suit, and resign from having award shows if they continue in this PG, corporate-controlled fashion.

SHOW REVIEW
The Libertines
The Libertines' self-titled release as Franz Ferdinand minus the personality may be a bit short-sighted, as the album plays on, you can't help but feel it's missing something. The first pair of tracks start the album off strong, with catchy, upbeat melodies that'll inspire you to bounce around your room. Unfortunately that energy seems to waver throughout the rest of the record, starting with the monotonous droneing of "Don't Be Shy." The punk blasting "Arbeit Macht Frei" and the surprisingly dour-warp "What Katie Did" provide highlights and strong contrast to the rest of the album, but unfortunately are not enough to make the album stand out from a sea of similar bands.

There are several good songs on this album — unfortunately, there are no great ones. The Libertines need to begin taking risks with their music if they want to start turning heads.

MUSIC

CD REVIEWS
BLACK KEYS
Rubber Factory
Genre: blues/rock
Label: Epitaph
Release date: Sept. 7

Rubber Factory, the Black Keys' studio/home, is actually an old General Tire factory in the industrial district of Sleepy Akron, Ohio. Rubber Factory is also the band's third studio album in just 2 years. Made up of singer/guitarist Dan Auerbach and drummer Patrick Carney, the Black Keys are a power duo that invites immediate comparisons to the White Stripes. With driving backbeats and a lot of slide guitar work, The Black Keys lean more toward the delta blues side of rock. However, they distance themselves from the likes of the White Stripes with Auerbach's powerful, gritty vocals, which sound a lot like Chris Robinson of The Black Crowes, only fuzzier.

The Black Keys have progressed since the last album, Thickfreakness, which was recorded in one marathon 14-hour session. On Rubber Factory, Auerbach shows some creative use of open tunings, but the slide playing could use some work, along with the lead breaks and fills, which don't always fit. The drums are a little hurried and don't always match the best of the music, but it seems to work. For all of the flaws, the album, of which there are several, the album moves along smoothly, with an interesting dichotomy. From the first track, the driving semi-acoustic number "When The Lights Go Out," to the last track, the head-bopping "Until I Get My Way," the boys of The Black Keys keep you guessing. Fans of hip-hop moods: The Keys will recognize the group's style on "The Desperate Man," with Carney's smooth backbeat. Two tracks later, listeners are treated to "The Lengths," a slow groove with a Rolling Stones "Angie"-type feel.

After being fired by their landlord/employer in 2002, (the were landscapers for low rent apartment buildings in and around Akron), The Black Keys have been touring around U.S. and have since moved into the aforementioned factory. The Black Keys start their new tour Sept. 4 in Seattle and move around the west and Midwest until October, then they do a northeast swing before heading across the pond to Europe in November. Unfortunately, if you are a local fan here in central Florida, you are going to have to wait a while to see the boys from the factory, unless you plan on being in Boston in October or Europe in November. In which case, enjoy the show.

JOE ANDERSON

LANDING
Sphere
Genre: slo-core
Label: K
Release date: Sept. 7

Slo-core minimalist Landings are four people who, at least this time around, listened to Yo La Tengo's And Nothing Turned Itself Inside Out too many times (Actually, you can't listen to a Yo La Tengo record too many times). Crafting intricate and pensive mood pieces driven by the drone, Landings landed on K last year, and Sphere is their second album for the label. The hazy loops and aquatic atmosphere are somewhat of a shock given the label's reputation for cute and bouncy love rock.

JOHN THOMASON

LABELING
The Libertines' self-titled release as Franz Ferdinand minus the personality may be a bit short-sighted, but as the album plays on, you can't help but feel it's missing something. The first pair of tracks start the album off strong, with catchy, upbeat melodies that'll inspire you to bounce around your room. Unfortunately that energy seems to waver throughout the rest of the record, starting with the monotonous droneing of "Don't Be Shy." The punk blasting "Arbeit Macht Frei" and the surprisingly dour-warp "What Katie Did" provide highlights and strong contrast to the rest of the album, but unfortunately are not enough to make the album stand out from a sea of similar bands.

There are several good songs on this album — unfortunately, there are no great ones. The Libertines need to begin taking risks with their music if they want to start turning heads.

NAN VELEZ
Alcohol now sucks thanks to invention

New Alcohol Without Liquid device provides hangover-free consumption

SHARON PARE
Staff Writer

What would you do if you knew you could ingest alcohol without experiencing the effects of hangovers the next morning? Believe it or not, this is not in reference to the infamous hangover-cure pill Pharb, but the Alcohol Without Liquid machine, also known as AWOL. Think of it as an alcohol bong.

The simplest way to describe how this machine works is that it vaporizes any bottle of your favorite liquor poured into it. The vaporized alcohol then mixes with pressurized oxygen, hence the name Alcohol Without Liquid. Aside from decreasing the effects of hangovers the next day, AWOL also claims to have no calories and no carbohydrates. If you know what an oxygen bar is, you can think of this machine as being like that. Or an emphysema patient’s oxygen tank. Or a hookah. Anyhow, you and your friends basically suck the living hell out of a tube (or two or four) hooked up to a machine with the now-vaporized mixture of alcohol and oxygen.

According to AWOL, you must only breathe normally when using the AWOL machine. The primary reason AWOL consumers skip hangover effects because the vaporized form of alcohol absorbs directly into the bloodstream, instead of heading straight to the stomach as the liquid would. You also get a quicker “high” since the oxygen is mixed with the alcohol and goes straight to the brain. The effects will also supposedly hit you 10 times quicker.

“I think there are pros and cons,” graduate student Audra Campagna said. “No-carbs, no hangovers! And I usually don’t prefer the taste of alcohol. The bad thing is that the oxygen kills brain cells and it would probably be easier to become an alcoholic.”

Each session lasts about 20 minutes, and it is advised that you do not exceed a one-hour session in one day. The average pricing is $10 for every 20-minute session. Now, if the average shot (let’s say Sauza tequila) costs you $4 dollars, how does it make sense when the equivalency of a session is

**MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

**I am vengeance, I am the night!**

The best comic book adaptation is finally out on DVD

After the huge success of Tim Burton’s Batman, Warner Bros. Animation decided to create an animated series with the same moodiness and atmosphere that won audiences over with the movie. Not only did they capture it, they surpassed it. It’s often frustrating to see millions of dollars of studio money wasted on movies and TV series that just don’t get comic adaptations right. Either the characters aren’t the same, the themes are missing or the casting is bad.

The harsh truth is, all comic-book movies and TV shows should be held up to the same standards as Batman: The Animated Series; the show that did get it right, on every single level.

And instead of releasing episodes on DVD at a paltry four or five at a time, Warner is getting it right too, collecting the first twenty-eight episodes on Batman: The Animated Series Volume I.

The great thing about the first episodes was that they were more psychological and generally more story-driven than later episodes, with the sole emphasis being on Batman and his rogue’s gallery, easily the best group of villains in all of comicdom. No Batgirl here, and only two episodes with Robin. This was the writers at their best, capturing the core of the character and what makes him great, combining the grittiness of Frank Miller and Dennis O’Neil’s interpretations with some of the zaniness from the Bill Finger/Bob Kane/Dick Sprang era where the Batman mythos was first molded. The Joker is creepy, Two-Face is well

**DANA DELAPI
Staff Writer

I wish everyone could have the weekend I just had. It was fabulous. The drinks were flowing. The guys were hot and willing to buy me any drink I wanted, just a few great nights with friends and friendly prospects.

And I was truly in rare form. My friend Christine told me I was in total “Dana Mode.” Now I ask you, what the hell is that? Apparently I created my very own mode of operation that has captivated people far and wide. I guess that can’t be all that bad.

While I prefer to believe that Dana Mode is one of supreme sex appeal complete with rock-star qualities and charismatic charm, I still wonder what exactly makes a person sexy? Everyone is sexy in her own right — short, tall, blonde or brunette. But what is that one essential bit that separates the sex kittens from the ordinary housecats?

Scientists always speak about the emission of pheromones, which attract potential mates around crucial periods when reproduction will be successful. Blah, blah, blah. This science mumbo jumbo means nothing to me. There has to be something in the character of a perpetually sexy person that can be pointed to help all the lonely housecats yearning to unleash their inner tigers.

Well after extensive research of these uber-sexy creatures in their natural habitats — namely bars, clubs and parties — I have come up with a few universal truths about sexiness. Here it goes.

First, sexiness is defined by confidence. You could be wearing a burlap sack and still be sexy as long as you have the confidence and self-assurance to do it. Guys and girls who express confidence also exude sexiness. It doesn’t matter what you’re wearing or how your hair looks, because confidence comes from within. If you don’t have that, you won’t pull off the sexy approach even on your best night.

Confidence allows you to do things that normally may sound extreme.

For example, being able to hop on the bar in your jeans next to girls in teeny mini-skirts screams confidence. This tells the world that you are hot, and that is sexy.

Then there is also a comfort level

**NOT JUST SEX**

Psychology of sexuality

With these tips, anyone can emanate sexuality
Her secret weapon: a black tank top

Associated with feeling sexy, if you are comfortable with your surroundings and outfit, then you will almost always feel sexy. While trying hard to present yourself the best way possible is great, be resolved to the fact that your hair may not always stay straight, curly or otherwise. The best way to feel comfortable, especially in a new place with new people, is to formulate a secret weapon. Over the years I have gathered a number of secret weapons. My current weapon of choice is a skinny black tank top that gets the puppies drooling every time. For my old roommate it was a pair of low-rise jeans. Combining the jeans and the top, we tended to be unstoppable. Not only did we feel sexier in our appearance, we had the confidence to go out there and flaunt it. It's gonna suck when that shirt tears out.

Getting out there and expanding your comfort level is important. Remember that as a newbie, you are mysterious. Anonymity brings a sexy air with it. Trust me, everyone in the room will be wondering about the new girl or guy. Just don't stand in the corner, otherwise people will wonder why the heck you're even there.

The last thing I have noticed about sexy people is that they are nice to everyone. No matter who walks up to them, they smile and indulge for a few seconds. Being friendly and approachable allows everyone to see your sexiness. And after all, what is good is it being sexy if the only person who sees it is your neighbor the study nerd. Broadening your horizons is sexy.

Ultimately, if you can pull off these three attributes then no one can touch you. Girls in low-cut tops with stick-thin bodies ain't got nothing on you. It is all about being comfortable, confident and having an amazing attitude. It's enough to make any cool cat purr.

Heather rocks

They'll have an EP out in the next few months, and their MIA members have already laid down their tracks for it. She says the band is looking for a new temporary drummer, but that they're still booking shows well into the future. In Heather's future, she looks toward performing in schools and universities. "Songwriting is like a box, once you catch it, you can't stop. There are so many new experiences, so many new things to come," she reflects. She looks to continue being an artist out of the box, and says the courage to do so has always come from the encouragement of her family. "They stay up late and come to our rock shows all the time."

One show in particular is sure to stay up for is the band's final show with Lopez for the next year at Back Booth on Wednesday. Cover is $5.00 and doors open at 9 p.m.

BLEEPS & BLOOPS

Antidotes to sequels

Two games a fresh respite from summer sequels

IVAN VELEZ
Staff Writer

Check out a release schedule for video games this month and you may find a lot of familiar names. After years of teasing gamers, id Software finally unleashed the newest chapter of the Doom series to rabid fans earlier this month. Even with an above-average retail price of $55, nothing seems to be able to stop the sales of John Carmack's monster franchise.

Local developer EA Tiburon studios also recently released the latest installment in their perennial money train, the Madden series. While not accompanied by nearly as much fanfare as Doom 3, more than 15 past Madden games seem to be enough credentials for most gamers to pick up the latest update to their favorite NFL video game series. With guaranteed blockbuster money-makers like these, what incentive do game developers have to take risks with pushing new, untested franchises?

Then again, not all gamers share the same enthusiasm developers have for sequels. For those craving something drastically different, a few new releases may satiate your hunger for something new.

Viewtiful Joe (PS2)
Developer: Capcom

Viewtiful Joe looks like one of those trendy Japanese cartoons that use 3D animation to depict folks with oddly compact proportions kicking the crap out of each other. Joe, however, is no cartoon but a fast-paced side-scrolling beat-'em-up offering a challenge more reminiscent of the old days of remorseless 8-bit NES games rather than the namby-pamby hand-holding of today's games.

Players take the reigns as the main character Joe, who fights an army using abilities such as slowing down and speeding up time while pummeling bad guys with crazy martial arts moves. Oh, and he's a superhero. With a pink cape.

Originally released for the GameCube nearly a year ago, Joe received much critical acclaim, including Editor's Choice awards by both Gamespot.com and IGN.com. Unfortunately, Joe suffers the curse of being a game that may be just too off-the-wall...
Bartender: Be like Clinton, don’t inhale

From 111

less than half a shot? You pay more, but get less.

So, what is the catch in terms of what they are promoting about this product? How can vaporized alcohol be more beneficial to your body when alcohol is not advised in plentiful servings? To the health-conscious, the no-carb and no-calorie tactic alcohol addiction.

Perhaps it was too good to be true. Even when calling the main number more than once to get in contact with the head honcho, no calls were ever returned. Twice. Thrice. Nothing.

The observation here, and this is certainly no crap Sherlock, is that everyone builds a certain tolerance to alcohol. But, putting those memories aside, how high are the risks of alcohol poisoning? This goes back to the catch: Legislation is in fact trying to ban the use and sale of any machine that vaporizes alcohol for fear that alcohol abuse will increase.

Some students, bar managers and club managers believe that the AWOL machine can take away many of the good aspects of the typical happy hour.

“I would be very skeptical, as it would seem like a nonsocial way to get a buzz,” senior and early childhood major Andrea Matlin said.

“Options like this may lead to further problems with alcohol addiction. Personally am not keen on the idea of sucking in air from a tube full of germs. I’d rather sip a margarita.”

The majority of people interviewed were interested in hearing more about this new product, but had many opinions as to why this may not be the best idea.

“This is a liability issue, and there is certainly an insurance risk,” said Liquid Cellar manager Brian Pearson. “On the business side, no, it wouldn’t be a good idea. On the fun side, it could be a great idea.”

Some, however, were much more direct in their opinion on the product.

“It’s retarded! Dangerous!” For homeless guys on the street,” said Jodi G., a manager at The Social. “I wouldn’t put it in my bar,” said Uno’s manager John Kain. “It eliminates the personal aspect of a bartender. I want people to enjoy the atmosphere. It would hurt sales since there is no personal side to it at all. I’d rather have people sit at my bar for two, three hours and socialize, not stagger out 15-20 minutes later.”

The concern continues: “We’re not selling just alcohol. We’re selling drinks. Recipe drinks!” Bennigan’s bar manager Kevin Ruscitti said. “People aren’t coming here to buy ground beef; they’re here to buy the whole hamburger. The enjoyment of drinking alcohol is the flavor. Inhaling it through some machine is the same thing as putting it through a hypodermic needle and injecting it through the bloodstream.”

Since the AWOL machine is currently still legal, you can get one with two tubes for $2,995 and one with four tubes $3,695. For more information, see http://www.awol-machine.com.

Ruscitti advises, “Just don’t inhale. I’m sticking with Bill Clinton.”

Fun extra features in Batman box set

From 112

developed and former third-stringers like Clayface and Clock King are vastly improved upon from the comics.

Yes, they changed things, but it actually works. Not every episode has supervillains in it, such as “POW” and “Appointment in Crime Alley”, but most of these work, because these stories show who Batman is and what he means to the people around him. The only two exceptions are the awful “Underdwellers” and forgettable “Forgotten”, but even these clunkers are better and more accurate than crap like The Punisher.

As far as special features go, you get a “making of” featurette, creator commentaries for two episodes and the original animated sequence used to pitch the show. It’s in fullscreen, which is acceptable being it was originally aired as such on television, and has French and Spanish audio options, which are actually really interesting. In fact, the scene of Mr. Freeze’s solemn soliloquy in French in the episode “Heart of Ice” is worth the price alone.

Fable a smart, realistic RPG

Player characters in *Fable* will develop in ways far more tangible than earning experience and finding items. Depending on the actions you take, your character can grow fatter or into a muscular hulk. Close battles can leave you with permanent scars. Stay out in the sun and your character will sport a spiffy tan. Or you can represent yourself a bit more accurately by becoming a skinny, frail wizard whose most loathsome foe is sunlight.

With no traditional RPGs under his belt, Molyneux’s focus on character development rather than epic storytelling guarantees that *Fable* will not be just another RPG when it’s released next month.

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**GEEK LIFE**

**Beam me up, Jesus**

Exploring the curious similarities between Christians and Trekkies

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ

Staff Writer

I must admit — I've had discussions over who the better Star Trek captain is. I stand by my choices. I think Jean-Luc Picard wins in the all-around category. He combines cunning with that damn sophistication I love so much. He is a gentleman's captain, pure of heart and intention. He always thinks about things very deeply, and he is so sweet to Data, which always wins him points with me.

However, there is always the adorably intense, passionate Commander Benjamin Sisko. For gods' sake, he was the emissary to the gods! That always blew my mind. Plus, he was so much more of a badass. And he always had all those wars to deal with. Sure, Picard had the Borg, but he never got kicked off his ship by an invading force of conquerors or transported away from this universal plane to a nether region created by the gods of a wormhole. All in all, I think Sisko had a much more interesting life, though he lacked the raw charm of Picard.

Of course, this discussion goes on and on in forums and chat rooms and the never-ending parade of conventions. This is because Star Trek is a religion, and it may one day overtake the dreaded Christianity as the religion of the western masses. Not that there is anything wrong with Christianity, of course. It's just that worshiping a show set in the future where people fly through the stars and practice a fascist ideology with a severe communist bent and a tendency towards collectivism seems so much more logical. That was sarcasm, for those who didn't get it.

While it is true that the philosophy surrounding both Star Trek and Christianity seems to involve obedience and loyalty, in one universe, devotees follow a strict code of rational thought and bordering atheism, while the other involves faith and an acceptance of the unexplainable whims of a great <br>eternity. And I think everything is supposed to be made of gold, I'm not sure. I haven't read the book of Revelations in a few years. I remember something about streets paved with gold and oceans of diamonds. Or was that the ideal of the United States in the minds of immigrants? Either way, heaven sounds like a cool place.

But does it really compare to flying through the stars on a faster-than-light spacecraft? I mean, I know most of your food comes from replicators and you have to live in close quarters and obey your captain in a military-style organization called the Federation. And let me tell you, that name has always chilled me to the bone. It's very Orwellian. Plus, there's no money at all for the filthy humans. No wonder the Ferengis, with their love of gold-pressed latinum, view them through the eyes of Picard's, with their love of filthy humans. No wonder the Ferengis, with their love of gold-pressed latinum, view them through the eyes of Picard.

On the pro side for the Christians, God will carry them through times of sorrow as that Footsteps poem. Plus there's heaven, with all the constant hymns and worship for our money needs a pop-cultural revamp

DIANA ZISMAN

Staff Writer

There's been a lot of talk about how to properly honor the former president. By "raged" I mean, of course, that a few people have casually discussed it on C-SPAN, but that's neither here nor there. The point is, this situation got me thinking of other important Americans who aren't currently on any currency:

John Adams, Eugene Debs, Theodore Roosevelt, James Madison, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Frederick Douglass, Harry S. Truman, Eleanor Roosevelt, Douglas Macarthur and Martin Luther King, Jr., to name a few.

You couldn't suggest any of these people without argument. All of them have their detractors, especially the Socialists I threw in there to see if you were paying attention. They had strong points of view, and anyone with a strong point of view is going to upset someone who doesn't agree with him. Because, as we all know, having an opposing viewpoint means that you're criminal, unpatriotic, mentally incompetent or a combination of the three.

So, how do you honor important Americans without pissing off half of the country? I humbly offer you a couple of potential solutions.

The first possibility is to change it up. I know, I know. The thought of changing our money causes many Americans to develop a sudden case of irritable bowel syndrome, but calm down, take a Tums, and give it a listen. Every five or six years, we can change the faces on our money, ensuring that all great Americans get a turn. Even the ones we don't like. Take a gander at the above list once more. Is it fair that Truman is left out? Is it fair to
Spoofs on the loose: more trick domains

Domains that Make it more difficult not to find pornography on the Internet

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

Domain squatting has so many examples that I just couldn’t fit them into one week. In addition to last week’s porn-filled http://whitehouse.com, http://hotmale.com, and http://gogle.com, enjoy more of my favorite misleading domains intended to mess with unsuspecting users.

Ya-hooken
http://www.ya-hooken.com

This slight Yahoo variation brings you a search engine: "The Guide to Marijuana on the Internet." It even bears quite a similarity to Yahoo’s original layout. Still, Yahoo does own the trademark to "ya-hooken," and it’s not going to be a common typo. Ya-Hooken lives on courtesy of one line at the bottom in tiny text that says, "Ya-Hooken is in no way associated with Yahoo." You can even get your own @yahooken.com e-mail address. What are you waiting for?

Craigslist
http://www.craigslist.com/

The real Craigslist.com is one of the Internet’s most popular destinations for classified ads and finding out what’s going on in major cities. Forget the $ and you’ll find THE ONE AND ONLY WORLD OF 100% FREE SEX ON THE NET. In addition to links to other porn sites, this one has a personal message signed by its founder “Bob” arguing for the value of pornography.

One part reads, “Human beings are animals, and animals possess a natural urge for procreation and, yes, even auto-eroticism. Who are we to impose our own puritanical hang-ups on nature? Are our morals really so rooted in truth? To be ashamed of sex is to be ashamed of being human, indeed, to be ashamed of being yourself.”

How his arguments justify giving porn to people who get there by accident remains a mystery.

DownloadOrgasm
http://www.download.orgasm

If you fail to realize that download.com is not a non-profit organization, you’ll land instead at Download.orgasm. It’s yet another site of links to pornography! For all the porn on the Internet, there’s twice as many links to it. It’s crazy how many of these porn sites do not have porn, but only links to other porn sites, which probably are more links to more links to porn sites. Given the creativity of the site name, there should have been something more unique here, though the ads for movies of girls sleeping at “sleepy girlz” come close.

Ebay.com
http://www.ebay.com

Looking for eBay? Trying http://www.ebay.com brings you to “nowhere” with only the text “this domain is not in use.” Another variation, eabys.com brings you to a disclaimer that the site may contain porno and you must be 18 to enter. Clicking to enter brings you not to hardcore pornography (surprise!) but to a few banner ads and links to sites where you can buy saunas and hardwood floors. It’s definitely not the type of “hard” that people were looking for. How often does the Internet fail to deliver pornography? It must be slipping in its old age. Disgusting!

Just slip ’em a Janet Jackson boob and you’ll be set

From 114

have that cherry-tree-chopping, wooden-teeth-wearing freak Washington hogging not one but two valuable slots on American money? He’s had the monopoly on the quarter and dollar for, like, a million years now.

Seriously. Early Neanderthals had his face on their bills and had no idea why. So please, George, give up at least the quarter and let Debts have a shot. Andrew Jackson in this scenario would quickly be replaced by Ronald Reagan, but don’t worry, he’ll be on the quarter once Governor Schwarzenegger’s turn is up.

Some people, at this point, may well be thinking, “this gives everyone a chance at currency glory, sure, but changing the bills around every few years is madness, madness I say!” All right, all right. I’ll admit that plan’s a bit risky. The other option may be easier to handle. Instead of putting important Americans with great accomplishments on our money, let’s use the likenesses of beloved figures that offend no one:

Penny: The Fonz
Nickel: Kermit the Frog
Quarter: The thimble from Monopoly
Half-dollar: Barbie
One-dollar bill: Shaggy and Scooby-Doo
Two-dollar bill: A bowl of vanilla ice cream with chocolate sprinkles
Ten-dollar bill: A penguin
Twenty-dollar bill: President Josiah Bartlett
Fifty-dollar bill: Janet Jackson’s left breast
Hundred-dollar bill: The Wal-Mart smiley face.

Who, in their right mind, could dispute the power of this currency? No need to learn any exchange rates, because American money would be accepted the world over. Planning a trip to the frozen Siberian tundra? Slip the tour guide a Shaggy and everything in that land is yours for the taking. No questions asked, no problems.

Granted, this would give Americans the blandest currency in the world, but what does that matter? Who wants to see great, albeit somewhat controversial Americans when they can have a bowl of vanilla ice cream? Mmm, it’s delicious, they can buy you a latte AND it lacks strong opinions of any kind. Say goodbye to your stuffy old currency and welcome in a new era. Show me the money.

Urkel can’t save Step by Step

From 114

4. Urkel on Step by Step

Who can’t forget some of the great TV crossover moments: The Jetsons meeting the Flintstones, Homicide joining in on a case with Law and Order, Urkel hanging out with the Lambert clan and touching their lives! After appearing in an episode of Full House, America’s favorite black nerd decided to crash in on another T.G.I.F. show to boost its ratings. Urkel helps Mark out with his science project, councils Frank and Carol through a marital problem, takes Al to her dance and teaches everyone to do the dance sensation of 1991, "The Urkel."

3. Marvel vs. DC

Neither company wants to have its characters lose credibility by losing a fight, so Marvel and DC placed the fights contested in this mini-series in the hands of voting readers. We got great bouts like: Spider-Man vs. Superboy!! Wolverine Vs. Loboff! Gee, I wonder who won that one. The storyline centered on some mucly muck cosmic plot that served no other purpose than to set up the lame fights in the first place. And how does it all end? By throwing the heroes together to form the Amalgam Universe.

2. Natalie and Nat King Cole

Unforgettable! More like unforgivable. This was a crossover in the crossing over sense. Less-talented daughter digitally creates duet with her much-talented and much-dead father to record a track, proving how desperate some people are to get a hit. Luckily, neither Nat King Cole nor Natalie Cole’s careers have been resurrected since.

1. Archie meets The Punisher

Before you complain that I focused too much on comics, look at most of my reviews! No, really, please do — I’m not sure anyone does. Anywho, this right here is the Maltese Falcon of the bargain bins, a crossover so awful in its basic idea and even worse in its execution that it makes one want to go back in time and assassinate everyone involved in this project. I mean, who thought the bitter crock-killin’ Frank Castle should stumble into Riverdale High chasing after a drug dealer who looks just like Archie?
MATRIX NIGHTCLUB PRESENTS

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