Kerry storms back into Florida

Candidate accuses
Bush of living in denial

STEVEN SOTLOFF
Staff Writer

The TD Waterhouse Centre erupted with a passionate response from the crowd when Sen. John Kerry and John Edwards took center stage at their first major rally in Florida Thursday night. The event was part of the campaign's two-day, five-state tour of the state.

With his voice boisterous from continuous speaking, Democratic presidential candidate quoted Theodore Roosevelt: "Tonight I'm going to talk soft - but I carry a big stick." Kerry said, "These guys have got a thing a-coming down ... The Bush administration is denying America and Americans its future."

Kerry arrived in Orlando after criticizing President George W. Bush in Jacksonville for his lackluster presentation of the war in Iraq and then he revises his enthiastic response for this go around for re-election. Remember the old saying, "Don't shoot the messenger, shame on you. Feel the shame on me."

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UCF works out gym options

Pegasus Landing steps up to fill rec center void

MADELYN SCHENK

Hurricane Charley’s destruction of the Recreation and Wellness Center left UCF students without an outlet for their energetic needs.

To fill that void, UCF-registered Pegasus Landing exercise rooms partnered with the rec center to offer students a welcome gym in any of one of Pegasus Landing’s six workout rooms.

According to the center’s website, the experience includes “various equipment is commonly used in physical fitness centers, including computers and equipment in various weight classes, as well as a new elliptical heart machine”.

Pegasus Landing is UCF-affiliated, and all students are encouraged to use the gym, which has free weights, cardio machines, and fitness equipment.

Fit students feel the burn — in their wallets

BRIDGET RYAN

Loudning around and drinking beer at this summit isn’t the best way to avoid “the flu.”

But even the more PC student can’t help but succumb to a different kind of sick since Hurricane Charley ripped off the roof of the Recreation and Wellness Center last month, flooding most of the interior.

Although the rec center won’t fully reopen soon, spring official are moving now to various locations on and off campus. Even some off-campus athletes are trying to help out students.

Group exercise classes have relocated to the Live Oak Annex, behind the Marketplace gym, and spinning classes are in the Arena Room, located next to the Student Resource Center. The center and weight equipment are now available in the Rec Center.

Junior Matthew Wall was one of many students who said they were completely out of options this past week. Wall has been pretty compromising about his fitness level.

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The rec center was also lackluster in the amount of space for its needs, so students are expected to use the gym equipment at the same location.

Peaches security procedures were not released open space for the gym.

So, keep your eyes on us, and watch the situation under the new lighting conditions.

Charles F. Garone, O.D.

UCF Students…

Do you miss your eye doctor back home?

While on campus, you may now provide eye care at affordable prices. Let us know if you have any questions.

Polaris is now a resident of Pegasus on the South Campus.

Polaris offers students a wide variety of items, such as contact lenses, drug paraphernalia, contact lenses, and 24/7 service.

Polaris Rep. Samuel Gonzalez noted a “great around-the-clock service department” according to students.

He notified fellow offices that students would not be able to go to the rec center to make sure the residence had no problem.

As a result, that time, Polaris received numerous inquiries about the lack of alcohol with alcohol.

“Polaris is the only place on campus where the residents, the two offices are located on campus, and there was a very bad odor of burnt rubber,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez also spotted several individuals of the age of 15, 16, and 17.

After speaking with the residence manager, Gonzalez, a student at a computer desk, said:

“Polaris has been under a tremendous strain of work, and I am working with the help of the county sheriff’s department.”

We provide quality eye care at affordable prices.

Exams

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Central Florida State Student Newspaper UCF Since 1976

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The Central Florida State newspaper publishes on Sundays and Thursdays with fall, spring, and summer during the year.

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Birders Can Control the Outcome of the 2004 Presidential Election

ELECTION 2004


Florida Voters: Remember that October 4 is the last date to register for the presidential election.

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Education, health care top agenda

“Is he serious?” Kerry asked the crowd. “He would make the same mistakes. They put on body armor, without the mines...”

David Robinson, a spectator who visited Air Force service right before Vietnam, agreed with Kerry’s criticism of Bush’s actions in Iraq.

He should not “have attacked Iraq the way he did,” Robinson said. “We’ve lost 1,000 veteran soldiers so far. They should have gone through the UN.”

Robinson also expressed concerns about the treatment of veterans and their benefits and said he believes “is much more empathetic to veterans” because of his “courageous” military experience.

Kerry also emphasized health care and the economy.

According to Kerry, 22 million people in Florida, about 20 percent, live without health care. Eight out of every 10 have a family member who works full time and still can’t afford coverage. With the onslaught of severe storms the last two months and the possibility of more on the way, Kerry convinced the need for better health coverage, while praising the plight of Florida.

“Florida has shown America that health care is a right,” he said.

With health care, gasoline, mortgage and prescription drug prices rising, Kerry attacked Bush’s record, saying Bush sided with the powerful Halliburton and pharmaceutical companies over the middle class.

“We’re going to make this country fair again,” he said. “We’re going to make things worth working people.”

Kerry said he will go back to Congress and develop a prescription drug program that will work for the average American. Kerry also expressed problems with Bush’s tax reform and the national debt.

“It doesn’t make sense to be giving tax breaks to companies that are taking jobs overseas...” he said. “We’re going to reward the companies that create jobs in America,” he promised.

On Bush’s middle-class tax relief measures, Kerry said, “If you gave you more tax relief, then the average worker when someone comes into your home and relieves you the TV set...”

Edward Edwards bomber Bush’s promise to lead the country after Bush had said that the Clinton administration failed.

They have not led, we will,” Edwards said. “Bush led us to more jobs...”

Health care, “cleaner air and water,” he said. “That we made sure.”

Bush led us from the edge of greatness to the edge of a cliff and the time for us to lead him out of town.”

After tremendous applause, Edwards continued, “For the last 75 years...”

Kerry also worked on the idea of universal health care for Americans. He also said he believes “that Bush is not making a distinction between military people.”

According to Kerry, 2.8 million veterans have gone through the VA. Kerry said that he believes “that Kerry is much more empathetic to veterans” because of his “courageous” military experience.

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Auditions set to raise Rukus

Hip-hop troupe needs 30 dancers

FAITH MAGINLEY Contributing Writer

UCF’s only hip-hop dance team is back this fall with a new vision, new leadership and a search for new members. Auditions for this year’s Rukus squad will be held Sunday in the Education Building’s gym. 

"This is not a professional team, so we don’t want people to be intimidated by not having professional experience," said co-choreographer Nakia Hunter, a 19-year-old junior. Team president and sophomore Michelle Vega, 21, added, "We want a diverse group of people who are dedicated." Last year, more than 150 people auditioned. This year, even more are expected. The two-day auditions begin at 10 a.m. Sunday, with check-in starting at 8:30 a.m. Dancers will be interviewed and learn choreography throughout the afternoon. By the end of the day, two rounds of dancers will be eliminated, with a final cut on Tuesday.

Along with sneakers and comfortable clothing, prospective dancers must bring a photo at least 4-by-6 inches in size. "At first we were scared because it was [for] older people," team Vice President Erika Hallback, 19, said. "But by the end of the night we had a soul train line going!" Known for motivating the crowd with its energetic routines and over-the-top flair, Rukus was paid $500 to perform at a corporate event in Tampa in December. "We call ourselves a performance team, not just a hip-hop team," Hunter said. Dedication is no doubt the key to getting down with this dance team. Learning the choreography for routines requires practicing three times a week for at least two hours — the equivalent of adding six credit hours to your class schedule. Hunter and co-choreographer Narada Owens, a junior, have a combined dancing experience of more than 10 years.

For more information, e-mail ruckusentertainment@yahoo.com.
Despite three losses in a row, MAC title hopes high

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

Things haven't been going so well for Mid-American Conference football teams lately.

But that's not a bad thing for UCF. In less than two weeks, the Knights will kick off their 2004 and final season of MAC play and most of the MAC teams are barely treating water.

At 0-3, the Knights are certainly in a hole, but with the upcoming game against Buffalo UCF faces a clean slate in capturing its first and only MAC championship.

UCF Coach George O'Leary still thinks his Knights have a shot.

"I think exactly that's what the whole thing is about is your conference," O'Leary said during Monday's MAC teleconference.

With MAC competition in mind, O'Leary just put an end to three weeks of speculation after naming sophomore Steven Muller the Knights' permanent starting quarterback. Muller started against Wisconsin, was benched against West Virginia and saw limited action against Penn State.

"Obviously you look at the progress that your team has made in the first three games," O'Leary said of conference play.

"But I think that you literally play one game-seasons that you have to move on. Buffalo is the fourth season, and let's see what that brings.

"We move from there."

By O'Leary's standards, the Knights' first three "seasons" have been far less than successful.

UCF has lost its first three games by a combined 61 points, while putting up only 39 points. The Knights have allowed an average of 293 rushing yards so far and are only slightly better against the pass, surrendering 214 yards per game in 2004.

"I think we've progressed each game," O'Leary said. "I think the big thing now is that we've played against three pretty good football teams."

O'Leary thinks the Knights' 2004 schedule is certainly good. As of this week, West Virginia had moved up to No. 7 in the country, while the Knights still remain the No. 20 team.

"I think this team is particularly talented and has received no votes, but the Mid-American Conference has more teams that will win over Wisconsin this weekend."

Looking past the bye week, the Knights are trying to build momentum against USF.

Volleyball aims to build momentum against USF

Knights coming off sweep of BCC after team's losing start

MATT RUNAYKA
Senior Staff Writer

Last season the UCF volleyball team did something it had never done before.

The Knights went down the Mickey Mouse expressway and defeated USF in the Conference USA for the first time in school history in an epic five-game match.

Since 1983, the two teams have played every season with the school to the west leading the all-time series 30-21.

Friday evening will mark another chapter in the rivalry, but both teams enter this meeting having come upon hard times.

UCF (9-7) has gotten off to its worst start since 1996 while USF (6-3) enters losses of five straight.

The Knights are trying to build on a three-game sweep over conference rival Bethune-Cookman on Saturday that saw three players pull off double-digit kills.

"I was glad that we were able to get that first win under our belt with all of the schedule changes that had to go on," UCF volleyball coach Meg Colado said. "The timing is getting better between our setters and our middle."
MAC hopes remain despite losing star

Falcons, Huskies hit the airwaves for MAC

MAC play gets heavier as conference rivals begin aiming for division titles

Casey Soff 11/12

At this time last season, the MAC was left with a distinct three marquee upsets in one week:

1. Akron 48, Northern Illinois 41
2. Iowa State 34, Kansas State 31

This season has been quite different for the MAC. Each of those marquee victories has since been followed by conference dominance.

What is a difference a year makes, you ask? Iowa State and Marshall have each shown a marked improvement. One Northern Illinois game will be talked about for years to come, and let’s face it, the MAC’s conference dominance is beginning to show. But honestly, it is not surprising.

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Judino scores fourth goal of the season to lead men's soccer over Mastodons

Ryan McIntosh for the Mastadons' first goal of the afternoon.

The score remained 1-0 until late in the second half and it looked as if the Knights would again be the victims of their inability to capitalize on their offensive opportunities. However in the 90th minute, forward John Imran broke through with a goal in the 90th minute, giving the Knights the victory.

Friday's game was a high-scoring battle with the Bulls winning 5-1. The final score was 7-0, the Knights out-shot Howard 25-1, and had numerous scoring chances, but couldn't capitalize when a goal seemed certain.

Their only goal came from sophomore midfielder Rafael Teixeira in the 65th minute. Teixeira gathered the ball about 30 yards from Howard's net, and scored on a long shot over the keepers outstretched hands.

UCF continued to control the game and had two good chances to score goals. Watts also stated that with as many goal-scoring opportunities that the Knights have had, eventually the shots will start going in. Watts added that he was looking for Jon Imran, last year's leading goal-scorer, to perhaps play in becoming that true goal-scorer.

Imran began to answer Watts calls on Sunday as he netted the game winner over IPFW.

The Knights dominated the game from start to finish, and had numerous scoring chances, but couldn't capitalize when a goal seemed certain.

The final game of the tournament was against Howard. The Knights were down 9-3 at halftime, but saw his team successfully bring the game back into the match at the 69th minute, Howard was able to reverse the field, and freshman forward Michael Okoh beat Mcintosh from close range.

The game went two overtime periods with neither team scoring in the overtime periods. The Knights out-shot Howard 7-0 in overtime.

UCF's final non-conference game is at 1 p.m. Sunday as it takes on New Jersey Tech in Miami.

Bulls hold all-time advantage in series against UCF volleyball despite losing at home in 2003

 Even though the UCF offense hit a season-high .303 hitting percentage with 99 kills and seven blocks, it was no match for the Bulls. The Kent State offense was efficient with 142 kills and 99 diggs. The Bulls had a great game against Kent State.

"There is a lot that we need to improve," Colado said. "We made a key point of the game, a decision to keep the ball in play on heading into conference play."

At the top of the list is the team fielder. Opposite was connecting at 60.28 percent while no one on the front row was averaging over the plate. No matter what the situation, a block brings out the best. Even though HSF has six of the last seven meet-ings, the last two installments have gone the game distance.

The Knights were down 9-3 in games five and six, when outside hitter Emily Watts came up with two huge service aces on back-to-back points to spark the Bulls. Watts would finish with seven service aces along with her game-high 10 kills and 19 digs.

Watts leads the offense into this season's match, ripping 82 kills at an average of 1.68 per game. The Kent State native was named to the All-Independent team for the first time this week, and is just as solid on the back row with 70 digs. She has had enough good second on the team while libero Michelle Spaleta anchors the back line with 96 digs.

Sister Kimberly Colado then scored a goal in the 65th minute, giving the Knights an 8-3 advantage. Colado was able to execute the offense at 14.50 per game clip.

The match is slated to start at 7 p.m. UCF will continue on its homestand as it enters state rival Miami next stop on the Kansas City this season.

Scouting UCF

After a tough loss on Sunday, the Bears look to rebound against two Atlantic Sun Conference and in-state opponents this week. UCF matched up with red-hot Florida Atlantic University last night, but results were not available at press time.

The Bulls have yet to play a match at the Central Florida this season and won't have their home opener until October 1.

USF is paced by outside hitter Fibre Silviera with a team-high 103 kills and 4.46 average per game. The Brazilian has led the team in kills department in all but one match this season. Head Coach Silviera has struggled with late not hitting over 0.22 hitting percentage in her last five matches.

McIntosh named to the all-tournament team at the Northern Iowa Classic.

Men's soccer junior goalkeeper Jon Imran lines up at the penalty spot as he kicks the ball into Howard's net for a goal.

Bulls to host men's soccer over Miami, take on New Jersey Tech in Miami.
Sick of politics is sick of democracy

Central Florida has been simmering with politics at all levels during this year's election season. Secretary of State Peter Canaday is expected to be a major figure in this year's elections. The Secretary of State is responsible for overseeing elections in the state and managing the voting process. The Secretary of State is also a member of the Florida Electoral College, which votes for the President of the United States. The Secretary of State is a key player in the political landscape of Florida, and is closely watched by political analysts and the media. With the upcoming elections, the Secretary of State is likely to be a focal point of political activity in Florida.

The recent political events in the United States have created a climate of uncertainty and fear, with many people feeling disillusioned and frustrated with the political system. In the past few months, there have been several high-profile political events, including the appointment of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the impeachment of President Donald Trump, and the shutdown of the government. These events have led to increased interest in politics, with many people expressing a desire for change in the political system.

As the election season progresses, the Secretary of State will play a crucial role in ensuring that the voting process is fair and transparent. With the increasing importance of voter turnout, the Secretary of State will be a key figure in ensuring that all eligible voters have the opportunity to cast their ballots. The Secretary of State will also be responsible for overseeing the distribution of election materials, such as ballots and voting machines, and ensuring that they are available to all eligible voters.

In addition to these responsibilities, the Secretary of State will also be responsible for ensuring that the election results are accurate and that they are reported in a timely manner. With the increasing use of technology in the election process, the Secretary of State will be a key figure in ensuring that the voting process is secure and that the results are not subject to manipulation.

Overall, the Secretary of State will play a crucial role in the political events of the next few months, and will be a key figure in ensuring that the election process is fair and transparent. With the increasing importance of the election process, the Secretary of State will be a key figure in ensuring that the election results are accurate and that they are reported in a timely manner. With the increasing use of technology in the election process, the Secretary of State will be a key figure in ensuring that the voting process is secure and that the results are not subject to manipulation.

READER VIEWS

U.S. a terrorist, too

Nathan Poekert's letter ("No terrorists support Bush," Sept. 25) is not a terrorist because the United States only attacks rebel leaders in Iraq or uses force to defend itself.

Since the aim of the United States in the Middle East is, according to Poekert, to meet our enemies, then current American actions are justified.

If we look more carefully, however, we find that Poekert's claims are incorrect. American policy describes terrorism as "the calculated use of violence or threats of violence to attain goals that are political, religious, or ideological," according to the U.S. Army Operations Concept for Terrorism, "Terrorism: Quad/Plan," page 525. If, in this context, we accept that the terrorists are of course trying to attack the United States, Poekert does not do a terrorist because the United States only attacks rebel leaders in Iraq or uses force to defend itself.

Terrorism is tangible

Terrorism is tangible ("Terrorism is real," Business/Features, Sept. 25). We sow it here on Sept. 11, 2001, and one day we may see it here in the United States.

Terrorism has affected us since the first World Trade Center bombings in 1993, but instead of confronting it, we chose to deny its existence. We now have a president who recognizes "a few people" (al-Qaeda) as evil and fights against them. He, however, is prosecuting this war on terror, I would like to see our right you have been promised.

You say the terrorists attacked us because they were evil and their cause was evil. I would say that to ensue or murder innocent "innocent" Terrorism "right" like conscripts. To claim that we are losing the war on terror is complete nonsense, as many of al-Qaeda's leadership has been killed or captured, and the murderous terrorist-supporting regime of Saddam Hussein has been toppled.

You can see we are losing? Would you rather negotiate with the terrorists here as head desk?

Your way to win the war on terror is to wipe out our world poverty and arrange with a global redistribution of wealth? Please note how well socialism is working in Europe. You express after the declaring we should return to the values this country was founded on, such as responsibility for one's self, without meaningful government handouts or welfare. If you recall, our country grew to be a world power before there was socialism and the "war on poverty," which, in 90 years, has only created a new "dependent government" class.

We live in a country where anyone can aspire to greatness without the help of the government. Even men, in this country great and follow the letter and understand is that it is a good and follow the letter and

Bush blew change chance for U.N. help

On Tuesday President Bush accused Saddam Hussein of the United States in the United States to recognize Iraq in the United States, has been accused of crimes against humanity. Bush has accused Saddam Hussein of being responsible for the assassination of former opposition leader, Ahmed al-Majid, in 1993.

Bush's accusations have been made in response to a United Nations inspection team that was recently in Iraq. The team was looking for evidence of the country's weapons of mass destruction, but no such evidence was found.

Bush has been a vocal supporter of the United Nations and has long been an advocate for U.N. involvement in Iraq. However, he has also been critical of the United Nations in the past, saying that it is not doing enough to address the global crisis.

Bush's accusations have been met with mixed reactions. Some have praised his stance, while others have criticized him for not doing enough to address the crisis. The United Nations has also been criticized for its lack of action in the face of the crisis.

In the end, Bush's decision to accuse Saddam Hussein of the United States is a uphill struggle, as the United Nations has been criticized for its lack of action in the face of the crisis.

READER VIEWS

leadership. Let us return to what made this country great and follow the letter and
Bush's environmental record

I was intrigued by the financial dependences of one thousand U.S. car manufacturers and those who are "too big to fail" companies. I was interested in a new study that compared the environmental record of George W. Bush, the worst of any president in history. The corporation's financial dependence is, perhaps, the best way to define the corporate takeover of our democracy. Read Robert Reich's book, "The Work of Nations: Preparing Ourselves for 21st Century Capitalism," for his further insights into the Bush administration's environmental policies and how they are aligned with corporate profits and the financial industry.

The biggest threat to democracy is not terrorism but corporate takeover. Read Robert Kennedy's new book, "Cicero Against Nature," especially chapter 10. And hurry. It's getting late. Then, please tell others and vote.

- JASON OXFORD

1,000 reasons to vote

What do J-Lo and Jim Morrison have in common? What do they both donate plasma at DCI Biologicals Orlando!)

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Q: What do Jennifer Lopez and Jim Morrison have in common?

A: They both donate plasma at DCI Biologicals Orlando!

* Of course, J-Lo doesn't live in Orlando and Jim Morrison is dead, but we really do have donors with these names.

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LIVE SCORPIONS!
PIG FETUSES
AND SHOTS!
THAT'S A SHOW!

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UCF is all (mouse) ears: Disney’s sphere of influence

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Marc with a “C” = rock incarnate

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THE INDIE

Happenings ... 2 | Movies ... 6 | Music ... 11 | Life ... 14 | Ramblings ... 18
HAPPENINGS
One-third of
The Bens plays
Waterhouse

Ben Kweller likely to put
headlining band to shame

JOE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

At just 22, singer/songwriter Ben
Kweller has already had more of a
career in music than most other
people twice his age. Kweller was signed
to Mercury Records at 15 as the frontman
of his band, a trio
called Radish.
Hailed as the next
Nirvana, Radish
released Lightning
Bolt in 1997. The
album received all
sorts of praise from
the music industry,
but, predictably,
Radish broke up
about a year later.
Kweller's latest
solo album On My
Way shows why
his career as a musician will continue for
years to come. On My Way was recorded in
just three short weeks with producer
Ethan Johns, son of Glyn Johns, who pro­
duced practically everything in the 1960s
and 70s, including Led Zeppelin and The
Who. Kweller, who was recently married
to his longtime girlfriend, only had a
short time to record the album because
he is in the middle of a tour. In fact,
Kweller has been on tour for the better
part of the last two years, both headlining
as well as opening for The Strokes, Dave
Matthews Band and Adam Green.

On My Way is an eclectic collection
of Kweller's oeuvre, from the hard-driven,
upbeat tempo of the opening track "I
Need You Back" to "Living Life,"
Kweller's modern day "Let it Be," which
begins with a solo piano intro and
includes the melodic guitar solo. Phil
Spector would love to get a hold of this
guy, if only Spector could get out of that
whole murder trial thing.

Kweller and producer Johns took a
minimalist approach to the album's pro­
duction. Every song was recorded with
the entire band in one room, all facing
each other, with no headphones and very
little overdubbing. An interesting ele­
ment to this album is the use of hard pan­
ing, which is separating each guitar to a
separate channel, with Kweller on the left
and lead guitarist Mike Stroud (formerly
of Dashboard Confessional) on the right.
For those of you who have never
heard Kweller, Time magazine has com­
pared his voice to that of Violent Femmes' Gordon Gano, and rightly so. If
you want to hear a mix between Beck and
John Mayer, run out and pick up On My
Way. Kweller will be performing at 7:30
p.m. Wednesday at the TD Waterhouse
Center, where he will open up for
Incubus.

Ben Kweller
With Incubus

When:
7:30 p.m. Wed.
Where:
TD Waterhouse
Price:
$32.50

When:
7:30 p.m. Wed.
Where:
TD Waterhouse
Price:
$32.50
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

CAMPUS

A Problem from Hell lecture
Sept. 23, 10-30 a.m. to 12 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-823-0935

Gallery Talk with
Jason Burrell
Sept. 23, 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., free
Visual Arts Building
Room 101A
407-823-3161

Pegasus Wind Quintet
Sept. 23, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Rehearsal Hall
407-823-2869

Bassoon recital
Sept. 26, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., free
Rehearsal Hall
407-823-5116

Jeff Rupert Quartet
Sept. 28, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
with student ID
Rehearsal Hall
407-823-2869

FLORIDA CD AND RECORD SHOW
Better not buy that DVD box set or video game you’ve been eyeing. Hide, don’t even walk in a thrift store for the next few days. Times are tough in this quasi-recession (though if you listen to some people, the economy is doing great), and you’re going to need all the cash you can get to shore up your sympathetic for the record industry.

SUNDANCE FILM SERIES:
TANNER ON TANNER
One can always count on an über-liberal, maverick director Robert Altman to make mincemeat out of the American political system, and he does so again in Tanner on Tanner, playing at Enaxon Tuesday as part of the Sundance Film Series. A three-part miniseries of hour-long episodes detailing a fictitious presidential hopeful campaign and butting heads with real-life political figures, Tanner on Tanner is a modern spin-off of Altman’s successful satire, The Candidate. This time around Senator Tanner (Michael Murphy) encounters celebrities like Madeleine Albright, Ron Reagan, Al Sharpton and Robert Redford (Redford in a Sundance-affiliated film? Naaaw ... ).

POLITIC
Prize-winning cartoonist Gary Trudeau wrote Tanner on Tanner; Altman’s radical, freewheeling direction is sure to be in full force. While most of the Sundance Film Series has been crap, this is a film not to miss.

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HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

FROM K3

Casiopeia (electronic)
Sept. 24, 10 p.m., $5
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-738-0048

In Memory of Winter, The Lush, Modern Day Arcade, Thread of Hope (punk)
Sept. 24, 9 p.m., $5
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-738-0048

The Greater Grey, Marc with a C (indie)
Sept. 24, 9 p.m., $5
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-738-0048

Pain Principle, Lunatic Candy Kreep, 3rd Limb (metal)
Sept. 24, 9 p.m., $5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-444-0299

Brand Nubian (hip-hop)
Sept. 25, 10 p.m., $13-$15
This Nightmare, Blinded
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Racin' for Pinks, Green Goblin Project, Wisenheimer (punk)
Sept. 25, 9 p.m., $5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Plain Jane Automobile, Sky Light Mile, Daylight District (rock)
Sept. 25, 9 p.m., $5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

The GrQter Grey, Marc with a C (indie)
Sept. 24, 9 p.m., $5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

George Clinton and Parliament, Funkadelic
Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m., $27.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-351-5483

Mortician, Akercocke, Vehemence, Organic Infest, Neorniment (metal)
Sept. 26, 7 p.m., $10
The Haven, 6700 Aloma Ave.
407-673-2712

Take These Eyes, 8 Ball, Across This Nightmare, Blinded Upon Revival, Nervous Breakdown, Beauty in Chaos, Arma, Another Broken Promise (punk)
Sept. 25, 9 p.m., $8
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Gargamel, Indorphine, In This Day, 5 Billion Dead (metal)
Sept. 26, 6 p.m., $8
Screammers
360 State Lane
407-344-0199

Love is Red, A Perfect Murder, Deconstructionists, Cut the Cord (punk)
Sept. 25, 9 p.m., $9
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Tony Furtado Band, Matt Mackelson (Americana)
Sept. 27, 8 p.m., $8
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

The Format, Steel Train, Limbech, Hello Goodbye, Reznor's Accomplice (indie)
Sept. 27, 8 p.m., $9
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Please see CALENDAR on 15

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HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

FROM 14

Phil Collins (pop)
Sept. 28, 8 p.m., $45-$85
TD Waterhouse Center
600 W. Amelia St.
407-849-2020

Jordan Knight, C-Note, Sean Vanderwilt, Nine 13 (pop)
Sept. 29, 8 p.m., $20
The Social
54 W. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Igu, Yip Yip, A Scissors (electronic)
Sept. 29, 9 p.m., $5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Incubus, Ben Kweller (rock)
Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m., $32.50
TD Waterhouse Center
600 W. Amelia St.
407-849-2020

ART

Transitions
Sept. 23 to Sept. 30, 8 p.m. to midnight, free
D.MAC
31 S. Magnolia Ave.
407-992-1200

Art of the Imagination
(opening reception)
Sept. 26, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Casselberry City Hall
95 N. Triplet Lake Drive
407-262-7720

Girl Culture
Sept. 29 to Dec. 4, various times, free
Southwest Museum of Photography
Daytona Beach Community College
1200 W. International Speedway Blvd.
386-254-3080

UPCOMING

Knightstock
Oct. 1, 4 p.m., free-$5
University of Central Florida
Between C11 and HPA
407-823-2000

Unkle Kracker (pop)
Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m., $12-$14
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

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Soup or

Choice of ONE ENTREE:

SOUP OR

Wonton Soup
Golden brown wontons filled with pork, shrimp, and vegetables.

or

Chicken Spring Roll
Stuffed with chicken and mushrooms.

or

Small Mixed Salad
Choice of one:

or

Triplet Flavor Salmon
Chicken Spring Roll
Fish fillet served with a spicy ginger-mint sauce.

or

Beef Stewed Noodles
or

Pork Ginger
Stir-fried fresh pork with snow peas, ginger, and mushrooms.

or

Simple Noodles
Home style beef stewed in egg sauce.

Thai Restaurant

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Waterford Lakes Town Center
407-382-8201

Critic's Choice
BEST THAI RESTAURANT
- Scott Joseph, Orlando Sentinel

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GARDEN STATE

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FEATURING HITS FROM
THE SUNS AND TROY DIRECT

THE SEMINAL FILM FOR
THIS GENERATION.

Claudia Puig, USA TODAY

Natalie Portman is
A FRESH, FUNNY
HEROINE WITH AN
EMOTIONAL RANGE...
BEAUTY AT THE SURFACE,
BUT A REAL GLOW FROM
DEEP WITHIN.

Thelma Adams, US WEEKLY

ZACh BRAFF NATALIE PORTMAN PETER SARSGAARD IAN HOLM

"Zach Braff is the
writer, director, and star
of 'GARDEN STATE'
and in all three ways
he's a FRESH,
UNCONVENTIONAL TALENT.

Roger Ebert, EBERT & ROBERT

"A WONDERFUL
SURPRISE.
A film of such warmth
and wit, subtlety
and sweetness...
disarmingly poignant.

Garden State" illuminates a young
man's coming of age
with UNEXPECTED
DEPTH AND GRACE.

Kevin Thomas,
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Natalie Portman
is genuine and
completely in her
element here...
"Garden State" is
a beautiful movie.

Allison Hammond,
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Zach Braff is a
force to be
reckoned with.

Clay Smith,
ACCESS HOLLYWOOD

Peter Sarsgaard is
CONSISTENTLY
EXCELLENT.

Variety,
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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Variety,
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Zombie parody Shaun of the Dead short of life

Brit film provides more nods of amusement than genuine laughs

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ  Staff Writer

Clever and cute are two words not the usualJane critical buzzwords associated with a movie that prominently features zombies. However, Shaun of the Dead perfectly encapsulates those adjectives, Shaun of the Dead is an import to America much in the same way that Trainspotting was. Touted as a huge hit in its homeland, it’s now coming to America to do what all films try to do — make more money.

The film opens fast and over-directed, with Shaun doing menial tasks and going to work. One of the most humorous points in the film is the repetition of Shaun’s daily tasks. He doesn’t even notice a world of zombies around him since he’s so locked into his routine.

A lot of the jokes weren’t humorless but laugh-less, leading you to not so much laugh at things that were, in theory, “funny,” but instead nodding to yourself in affirmation that the last quip was indeed humorous.

Writer-director Edgar Wright and co-writer/star Simon Pegg have created something that is original in its point of view of a normal guy fighting zombies, though the film needs more of the normal guy. The movie cycles through all of the motions that most zombie pictures go through, and that hurts the humor of the film and ceases to be as interesting as its promising beginning.

On the performance flipside, the burger, Simon Pegg and his cohorts Kate Ashfield, Nick Frost and Lucy Davis all are on the same page of this comic book. Their performances are heightened but real — as real as a film with flesh-eating zombies can be.

The film is filled with humorous characters, but it was disappointing to see that the filmmakers decided to make Shaun the main character, and not someone as acerbic or surly as Shaun’s roommate Ed. Shaun of the Dead is being advertised with a quote from filmmaker George A. Romero calling the film “an absolute blast,” and perhaps that’s true. Perhaps this is a film for the filmmakers; after all, there are many cheeky references to other zombie flicks (including Romero’s own Dawn of the Dead), but even with that aside, Shaun of the Dead feels flat in areas that its inventiveness was living the “of the dead” of its title.

A better film than Danny Boyle’s terri­bly trite 28 Days Later and below the mark of Romero’s Dawn of the Dead, Shaun of the Dead is an entry in the zombie movie book filed under B for Boisterous, but ultimately broken.

COMING TO DVD — SEPT. 28

Angry cars and fat filmmakers

Also, groundbreaking cult film rides onto shelves

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ  Staff Writer

CHRISTINE

Everybody knows this one. Whether you saw it on TV as a kid or you’re so old you saw it in the drive-in for the sole sake of irony, John Carpenter and Stephen King’s car movie Christine is taking it to the streets in an all-new special edition.

Though not a great movie by any stretch of the imagination (and the imagination stretches a lot in this flick), it’s still a fun movie with a young Keith Gordon, who really digs his car.

The DVD includes John Carpenter and Keith Gordon talking over all of the dialogue from the movie and a couple of features probably about the making of the car or the makeup Christine demanded.

SUPER SIZE ME

The movie that taught McDonald’s is bad to eat, Super Size Me is one of the better “I wish I was Michael Moore” movies to come out in recent memory.

Following a gimmicky 30-day diet on McDonald’s, filmmaker Morgan Spurlock keeps the pace brisk and the laughs plentiful as he tries to solve the mystery of fat America. And the movie worked.

THE BIG ONE

Just Laurene to cash in on the success of Fahrenheit 9/11, Minimax (the company that was refused the right to distribute Moore’s temperature opus) will release the DVD of Moore’s least appreciated and lowest grossing documentary, The Big One.

After getting over the shock that the film’s title is not in reference to Moore’s ever-increasing waistline (the man has put new meaning into “putting another notch in the belt”), the film is actually a very enjoyable yet slightly less polished doc about big business in America. The disc allegedly includes Moore commentary.

EASY RIDER 35TH ANNIVERSARY DELUXE EDITION

The film that opened the doors to filmmakers everywhere in the 1970s, Easy Rider is coming out in a brand new 35th anniversary edition. The 30th anniversary edition was pretty great, so just imagine all of the possibilities that five more years brings. Think back to 1999. Where were you? Maybe you didn’t even own a DVD player yet, maybe you weren’t aware of a biker cocaine movie with Jack Nicholson playing an alcoholic yet. Well, now is the time. Don’t wait for the 40th anniversary edition, by then there will probably be another format altogether. Remember VHS tapes? Me neither.
We implore to adore The Door in the Floor

Unique adaptation is much better than that awful rhyming headline

JENNIFER GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

The complexity of a family slowly and irreversibly falling apart is what Ted Williams’ (The Adventures of Sebastian Cole) The Door in the Floor is all about. Based on the first half of John Irving’s 1998 novel A Widow for One Year, Floor captivates with its simmering pace, hauntingly beautiful New England landscapes and effective performances. Using window panes and arch doorways to produce artificial frames within his shots, Williams builds an overall sensation of audience participation. It’s as if we are eavesdropping or spying on intimate moments from these characters’ lives. And yet, the film doesn’t limit itself to one genre. It also integrates a touching coming-of-age story and a surprisingly enjoyable comedy.

The strong performances are led by Jeff Bridges and Kim Basinger, who play Ted and Marion Cole, a long-married couple unable to rebuild their lives since the deaths of their two teenage sons in a car accident many years before and are now separated. The couple have a 4-year-old daughter named Ruth (played by Elle Fanning, ubiquitous Dakota’s little sister, cementing the fact that the Fannings are the new Culkins), born after their sons death. Little Ruth lives in a house that’s a shrine to those two brothers she never met and can’t get to sleep without looking at every picture before bedtime.

When Ted, a famous artist and children’s book writer, including one entitled “The Door in the Floor”, seeks an assistant, he hires Eddie O’Hare (Jon Foster) a young, eager boy with aspirations of becoming a writer. Once he arrives, however, he is quickly thrown into the shambles of the Cole family. The ultimate disillusionment Eddie feels when he realizes his mentor is a boozey egoist coincides with his continual seduction by Marion. The fact that Eddie bears a strikingly similar resemblance to one of her deceased sons allows Marion to work through her grief over their death. Their relationship is provocative and humorous as Marion teaches the inexperienced Eddie how to have sex, displaying her simultaneous role of mother and lover.

The only problem is the extent to which Foster stoically greets every situation his character is thrown with. As for Bridges, his performance is successful on many levels. On the surface, he plays Cole as a self-important man whose false attempts at modesty are belied by his insensitive treatment to his nude models and the way he walks around naked in front of strangers. It is not until a drunken Cole recounts to Eddie the accident that killed his sons and left his wife empty inside that Bridges reveals a man plagued with guilt.

Part melodrama, part dark comedy, the intricate details that tie all the themes within The Door in the Floor together allow Williams to create compelling characters dealing with the complexities of life.

Dvd Review ★★★★★

Re-issue of THX-1138 adds CGI but loses none of its impact

In the tradition of Brave New World, THX-1138 is an early gem from Lucas

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

Before the world hated George Lucas for spawning Jar-Jar Binks and making Greedo shoot first, the world loved him for telling stories. It loved him for making the unbelievable believable — for crafting worlds that had previously existed only in the imagination.

It is time to recapture those glory days.

Yes, the original Star Wars trilogy is on DVD, but this review isn’t about that. This is about a film that came before Star Wars — a film that revealed just what a visionary Lucas really was THX-1138.

If Star Wars is Buck Rogers, then THX-1138 is Brave New World. People are nothing more than pieces in a large industrial society that places emphasis on efficiency rather than emotions. Robert Duvall stars as the titular character, THX-1138, who falls in love with his roommate. When the state discovers the illegal emotion, they imprison THX until he decides to escape and leave the entire society behind.

The film is a fascinating examination of a fictional society, as well as a reflection of our own. Humans exist solely to work, consume and sleep. Emotions are regulated with a steady diet of sedatives, a concept more relevant today thanks to the advent of antidepressants like Prozac. Religion has been co-opted by the state — workers now confess their sins to a giant glowing television with an image of Jesus that implores them to “buy more and be happy.”

All of this takes place in a stark environment that is shot so well that many scenes are absolutely hypnotic in their blankness.
**MOVIES**

**MOBILE TIMES**

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Charming actors, weak script**

Wimbledon serves up a few aces, but won't win any tournaments

**NICOLE SCHAUB**

Wimbledon, although a predictable and often clichéd romantic comedy, is both entertaining and pleasant if you don't take it too seriously. Leading couple Paul Bettany and Kirsten Dunst have charming chemistry, even if you're not interested in tennis.

Peter Colt (Bettany) is a washed-up British professional tennis player who once ranked 11th in the world but has dropped to 101st. After being invited to play at Wimbledon in a wild card slot, Colt barely stands the chance of making it through the first round. He is married and has an even more abhorrent family, including his brother who bets against him with a bookie. Colt's career is over, but Colton makes plans of retiring and becoming the tennis director at a posh country club that is until fate steps in.

While, tennis personality is fictitious, Wimbledon is infinitely funnier than watching an episode of Match.

**CINESCENE**

**Latest Cinescenes is “allegedly” good**

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ

Staff Writer

Recently I was reading the “Police Beat” section of the Future, looking to see who was beat by the police in Orlando this week. When I realized what I was reading was nothing but a cheap summation of “alleged” things that happened in and around the UCF area. Somehow, “Police Beat” triggered a thought in my mind: No one at the paper had seen them at all... he had just heard about them from police. I had done the same with movies time and again, movies that were “allegedly” bad that I would never go and see based off of someone else’s report. Now these weren’t bad movies in my opinion, they couldn’t be; I had never seen them. But they were on my list of “allegedly” bad movies.

A friend recently said to me that he wanted to borrow The Blair Witch Project from me. I was amazed; this friend is a true cineaste and to think that he had never seen this staple (love it or hate it) in film history was a true shock. I asked him why.

“I heard it was [expletive].” I asked him if he had ever told other people that the movie was bad. He replied, “Yeah, it’s an [expletive] movie. Of course I’ve told people it was [expletive]. What do you think?”

But this is the problem. If this was the consensus among his friends, then he wouldn’t even bother to see it. If this was the consensus among his friends, then he wouldn’t even bother to see it. If this was the consensus among his friends, then he wouldn’t even bother to see it.

If this is the case, then what should you do when you are faced with the choice of seeing a movie or not? Do you listen to your friends, or do you go off of your own opinions or what you read on the message boards of Ain’t It Cool News?

If you decide to go off of your friends’ recommendations, you are going to waste your time. If you decide to go off of your own opinions, you are going to waste your time.

If you decide to go off of the message boards of Ain’t It Cool News, then you are going to waste your time.

In the end, it all boils down to what makes you both tick. Love it or hate it, Wimbledon is a movie that you will enjoy watching. While, tennis personality is fictitious, Wimbledon is infinitely funnier than watching an episode of Match.

My friend finally realized it was true he was spreading rumors about film he had never seen, about people’s work he had never glanced upon. He felt shamed.

The next day I was surfing at the local beach when my friend came running up to me. He had brought my DVD back, saying “I saw the movie, dude. Now I know it’s a piece of [expletive]!”

So the next time you skip a movie because someone else says it’s bad, don’t tell other people that the movie was bad. You weren’t there, you don’t know that. That movie was “allegedly” bad, until you see it. Then it could be whatever your heart desires.

**Trivia:** I am a man, a man with a robotic arm. A man with a robotic arm.
Enjoy the pretty scenery while riding romantic Zhou Yu’s Train

Muddled plot doesn’t live up to breathtaking visuals, but Chinese film is worth a look

ASHLEIGH EISINGER
Staff Writer

In Zhou Yu’s Train, a woman realizes that as long as you feel love in your heart it is real to you — even if it is unreturned.

Zhou Yu is a porcelain painter who falls in love with a poet, Chen Ching. Twice a week she takes a train to Chongyang to see him. She tries to help him get his name out and publish his poems, but he is too afraid of failure and refuses.

Ching ends up moving away after taking a job as a teacher in a remote village. Zhou Yu still takes the train twice a week to his house in Chongyang. On one of her visits she meets a veterinarian named Zhang Jiang after he breaks a vase that she made.

After some drama, she takes him on a mad excursion to see the Xian Hu, a lake that Chen Ching compared her to in a poem. They search and search and cannot find the Xian Hu, because the spot where it is supposed to be is empty.

Zhang Jiang then tells her, “If it is in your heart, then it is real. If it’s not then it never will be.”

It is unclear what type of relationship Zhou Yu and Zhang Jiang have afterwards, but it is implied that they are intimate at least once despite a few dramatic occasions of Zhou Yu fighting off his advances. Unfortunately, Zhang Jiang and Zhou Yu’s romance never has a chance, because Zhou Yu realizes that Zhang Jiang is not in her heart and leaves him to get on a train to see Chen Ching.

This movie is full of beautiful images, including pictures of the Chinese countryside. But the narration and the sequencing makes it a bit hard to understand. One could mistake the narrator for an older Zhou Yu looking back on her life, but we find out in the end that it is a friend who conveys the story of Zhou Yu’s love.

Also, we can’t be quite sure whether or not the actual flashback story is in the correct order, seeing how the present-day narration is so confusing.

The plot is a little slow and the way the movie is put together is questionable, but the overall story is enjoyable and the images are enchanting.

Wait until this one comes out on DVD, that way you can pay once and watch as many times as you need to figure out just what is going on.

Stellar bonus features for THX-1138

FROM 17

The most fascinating aspect of the movie is the lack of any sort of main villain. All of the society’s oppressive elements are hyper-friendly, such as a medicine cabinet that spouts “What’s wrong?” in a jovial manner whenever opened, or silver-skulled police droids that are more child-like than threatening. There are no walls. The only real obstacle to an individual escaping is their willingness to leave, which can often prove to be a greater restraint than any man-made prison.

The film, which was poorly received when released in 1977, gets the post treatment on DVD. The film looks and sounds astounding, thanks to the involvement of Mr. Lucas, who personally oversaw the transfer.

Also included in the package is an audio commentary by Lucas and Walter Murch, the sound mixer for the film. Sound is such an important aspect of the film that they also included an all-audio track, which is pretty neat and provides cool ambient noise.

There are also two excellent documentaries, one on the making of the film and the other on American Zoetrope, the studio that produced the film.

Another important inclusion is Lucas’ original short film THX-1138: 4EB, upon which the theatrical release was based. It’s a good little film, as far as student films go, and really shows that Lucas has always been a very creative individual. Trailers and a strange featurette about the decision to shave the cast’s heads for the film complete the package.

It should also be noted that this version is not technically the original theatrical version. Lucas, being a somewhat obsessive perfectionist, has gone back in and updated some of the old special effects and backgrounds. The changes are fairly obvious and inoffensive, except for a few silly-looking CGI sewer-apes. While the alterations aren’t bad, the DVD makes no mention of them at all, which is unfortunate since most people have probably never seen the original and would be curious as to what is new.

THX-1138 is an absolutely fascinating movie, one that is likely to stick with a person long after they have seen it. Substantive extras help to push this DVD into the “must-buy” category. It’s a weird, wild trip, but one you won’t regret taking. THX-1138 may be the best science-fiction film you’ve never seen.
Bernie Mac strikes out in Mr. 3000

ESPN celebrities provide the only humor in trite, by-the-numbers flick

Once he returns to the game, Ross clashes with new-school players, like Brewers stud T-Rex Pennebaker (Brian White), as well as the media — all over again.

Smart Scott makes fun of him on SportsCenter. Tony Kornheiser and Michael Wilbon actually agree on something as they rip him on Pardon the Interruption. And baseball guru Peter Gammons explains that sportswriters hated him then and hate him now because “he’s a jerk.”

Both ESPN and the film’s distributor are part of The Walt Disney Co., so it’s easy to see ulterior motives here. But the ESPN bits are the funniest parts of the movie, since the script from Eric Champnella, Keith Mitchell and Howard Michael Gould essentially relegates Mac to a one-note, unlikable role.

The comedian has made his name with an acerbic style on The Bernie Mac Show and in movies like Ocean’s II, but there’s a playfulness beneath it, a sense that he’s just teasing with all that intimidation. Here, his character is purely selfish — until he has an abrupt change of heart.

The impetus for his transformation is an answer. Ross becomes a decent guy, for the first time in his life, at just the right moment — when the team has a shot at making the playoffs with 11 games remaining in the season. And the guys in the clubhouse start to embrace him, too. He’s even offered a gig serving as a pitchman for Viagra (which Rafael Palmeiro of the Baltimore Orioles does in real life).

So when Ross asks in a voiceover at the movie’s conclusion, “Corny enough for you?” he probably doesn’t want to know the answer.
Marc with a “C” makes pop-culture references fashionable again

JOHN THOMASON
Indie Editor

Perhaps it’s the too-cool-for-school mentality of the indie rock scene that suppresses the inner geek in all of us. Or maybe the kids these days just haven’t brushed up enough on their b-movies or obscure Pixies lyrics. Whatever the reason, somewhere down the line of indie scene history, playing acoustic pop songs that reference a cornucopia of pop-culture mainstays, has-beens and never-weres became decidedly un-cool.

The art of the reference, the simile and the analogy is one of pop-culture “C”-ness indicative of Marc’s performances, and is now given away for free on his Web site (www.marcwithac.com).

“I couldn’t very well sell it at my shows,” said Marc. “Because anybody who heard the Marc with a “C” show and bought this as their souvenir would be so mad and so disappointed. If you’re going to buy a Marc with a “C” album, that’s probably not the one to pay money for. There’s a 50/50 chance you’re going to hate it. So I don’t want to charge people for it.”

But his latest effort and second full-length Bubblegum Romance (out now on Celestial Bison) is a largely hilarious and musically diverse collection of endlessly listenable ditties about nerdy girls, vinyl records and Hot Topic kids. While his freshman effort Human Slushy was recorded with a full band, Bubblegum Romance strips down the sound to just Marc’s reliable acoustic guitar, with sparse drums and bass only when necessary.

The result is a record more focused and eclectic than the already clever Human Slushy. With every song a highlight, the album includes the Smoking Popes-by-way-of-John Linnell pop of “No London in Brazil,” the by-the-books ‘n’ hooks alt-country of “Freezing in Florida,” the surprisingly Nirvana-esque “The Real Story” and “Just a Few Words,” in which Marc admits being more than a little influenced by Jonathan Richman.

Overall, the Winter Park resident has made one of the year’s best albums. You’d have to have your feet nailed to the floor not to dance to it, though even Marc’s most ardent fans probably aren’t having as good a time as Marc is on stage.

“I have to lose a lot of my inhibitions to get on stage,” said Marc. “It’s not like I’m wearing my heart on my sleeve, but you have to drop inhibitions to enter­tain people, and in return I would like to see that me doing that makes people lose their inhibitions and have a good time, just have some real innocent fun.”

The process to achieve said fun took Marc much longer than anticipated, as the original, over-produced version of Bubblegum Romance had to be scrapped entirely; the songs were re-recorded to meet Marc’s lo-fi standards, causing drama between him and Bubblegum’s original producer.

“The production just wasn’t me,” said Marc. “It was very big and rock and polished, and it’s just very misleading. It’s not representa­tive of me in the least. It would be like if you bought a Foo Fighters record that was very polished and produced, then you went and saw them and it was just Dave Grohl with an acoustic guitar.”

The more microphones and expensive equipment you use, the more you’re just trying to sound like everyone else, he added. “You can just sound like you, and it’s cheap and easy.”

What’s perhaps most impres­sive about Bubblegum Romance is the amount of soul-bearing put into each passionate song. There are still enough grim moments on this largely optimistic record to compare to a good middle sec­tion of any Behind the Music, including “I Need a Hug,” which details Marc’s battle with drug addiction.

Though there is one line in Bubblegum Romance that isn’t 100% true.

“I’m not really a pterodactyl,” said Marc, in reference to a lyric in the record’s opening track “I’m In Love With Everyone I Know.”

“But I had a dream that I was a pterodactyl, so it’s just my phrasing.”

Marc with a “C” will be performing tomorrow at Back Booth with The Greater Grey. Doors at 9 p.m., $5 cover. To purchase his CD for $10, visit www.marcwithac.com.
**MUSIC**

**LOCAL BAND SPOTLIGHT**

**John Frank courts stardom like “hot girl”**

The musician from New Jersey seeks to make it in the biz

**TYLER KING**

Staff Writer

On Sept. 11, solo artist John Frank performed at the Social in a show benefitting a fund for the Sept. 11 attacks Pentagon victims’ families with a portion of the proceeds from the door.

On stage Frank was expressive and spunky.

“That was the most comfortable I have felt on stage,” he said.

“That was my favorite and best performance.”

Engaging the audience, Frank took advantage of the intimate Social setting. His music and energy carried the audience away on a musical interlude. By the end of the set the audience migrated to the stage to sing and dance along with the man and his guitar. Not one person was on their cell phone while Frank was at the mic.

John Frank is 31, transplanted from New Jersey and now residing in the UCF area. He began performing in July 2003, taking things one step at a time. He recently headlined at the Hard Rock Live. If he was unknown to many before that night, he certainly made an impression on that Social audience.

Frank’s style of music is acoustic rock, but influenced by Guns & Roses, Zeppelin, Pearl Jam and Counting Crows. Ani DiFranco “opened the door of perception” for him, and influenced his lyrical style. Yet Frank doesn’t want to be pigeonholed in to one particular sound.

“It is an evolution of changing influences, but I like to think I have a good sense of myself and my own sound,” he said. “I like to observe different performing and study their styles. I steal little things but don’t seek to be just like them.”

Like most artists, Frank dreams of getting signed and recording an album for a major label. Yet he is realistic about the process and the road ahead of him. “I’ve got to build a good foundation around my music, create a buzz and gain experience.”

Right now, Frank is a one-man marketing and advertising army. He distributes 400 flyers by himself and seeks out attention to gather an audience alone.

“At times the business does take away from the art,” Frank said. “Competing in this town with so much to do is difficult. But Frank is diligent and is taking his career one step at a time. Frank admits that he is not yet at the level he wants to be, but he has confidence in his talent. “I believe that if you put me in front of a crowd anywhere, they will like it.”

Frank’s steps to success: Create a polished CD, build a solid product and a refined sound, find a producer and studio and shop around for management. “I am trying to get somewhere slow rather than nowhere fast,” he said.

He plans to travel to other cities, write new material and build up a fan base. He explains he does not want to stick in Orlando for too long and exhaust the audience with his music.

“It is like a hot girl,” Frank said. “You don’t want to keep bothering her or she will just be annoyed with you. You have to give her some space and just work on making yourself better. That is when you will get her attention.”

Nevertheless, Frank is gaining a loyal fan base in Orlando.

In October Frank will be appearing with Cowboy Mouth in Gainesville. Plans to return to Orlando are up in the air, but he anticipates a show in November with new material. “I am constantly perfecting my talents and changing my show. It is important to grow with a good foundation in your hometown.”

**SHOW REVIEW**

**Boyz II Men and Backstreet Boys**

Somehow, this recent HOB bill did not totally suck

**SHARON PARE**

Staff Writer

Backstreet’s back, all right! And so are Boyz II Men along with the newest jellibait since Hilary Duff, Brooke Hogan.

Last Friday, these performers put on a sold-out show at the House of Blues with a surprisingly long line of demographic-age 12-20 girls (plus the additional boyfriends who were dragged to the show) that stretched from the front-to-back of HOB, around the lake and past Bongo’s in Downtown Disney. The line was certainly not worth the wait, most especially since I was dragged there (honestly). It can be proven; I bought a $60 ticket from a quasi-scalper. Turned out the ticket was real. Damn, he wasn’t lying that it was a legitimate ticket.

To avoid the dreadful wait in line with the seemingly overdressed teeny boppers who had been there since midnight the night before, I decided to wait out with the company who had dragged me there and fill up on drinks.

Luckily, it was a success and we got in just in time for Hulk Hogan. Oh yes, he was there to introduce his daughter in the pleather/mesh outfit with long blonde extensions who looks as if she surpasses the teenage idol image and fits the S&M stereotype. Oh, did I mention she sings? Oddly enough for this type of venue, *NSync’s Joey Fatone came out to thank all the BSB and B*J*M fans for coming out to support the Hurricane Relief show. Since all the girls were screaming for absolutely anything he said, he decided to also introduce his left toe. I’m NOT kidding.

But as soon as Boyz II Men came out, they put on a great show of reminiscent memories of middle school days. They sang those slow jams from back in the day such as “On Bended Knee” and “End of the Road,” as well as some oldies they remade for their most recent album Throwback. It was also a great excuse for all the boys, or men, to have the chance to redeem themselves, given the main act.

The Backstreet Boys did put on a pretty decent show. What caught my attention were their newfound skills of synchronized dancing. White boys can dance! For a 22-year-old, I’m long overdue my teeny-bopper days, for this was my first boy band concert (honest again, I promise). I suppose if I wasn’t singing along to all their songs, I would have had a bad time.

The Boys were also drawing attention to the fact that they have expanded their musical talents; Nick Carter (Paris Hilton’s ex) was playing acoustic guitar for one song. On another, Carter and Af McLean were rapping, which actually sounded really good until the pop chorus “popped” in. I couldn’t tell what genre of music BSB was trying to stick to, so it was something like “experimental pop/rock/rap.” Regardless, they will always be that poptastic boy band from O-Town.
MUSIC
CD REVIEWS

DEVEN DRA BANHART
Nino Rojo
Genre: Singer/songwriter
Label: Young God
Release date: Sept. 21

The story behind Devendra Banhart is nothing new to music fans. It’s your typical indie rock story — an artist turned musician, groomed on by friends to turn his one-minute-long, highly personal songs into full-length arrangements accessible to a wider audience than just himself. However, Banhart, still in his very early 20s, crafts songs with a depth and effect. Aside from the music fans.

However, Banhart, in terms of his songs into full-length album, especially genre-softened. His voice is sweet and stylized, but with more vocal presence than the soft-spoken Elliott Smith. Banhart’s singing style makes for an easier, less gravitating listening experience than hearing Jeff Tweedy or Rufus Wainwright croon over a 45-minute duration. His highly inventive lyrics, some of the most interesting address animals as if they were people (“Hey there little sexy pig / you made it with a man / and now you’ve got a little kid / with hooves instead of hands”), simply float along as Banhart gently sings.

However, the song’s themes and moods also mark the closest inconsistency of the album. Rather than creating a haunting mood throughout the album, as the first two tracks set up later, songs brighten things up a little. The final song on the album, “Electric Heart,” sounds more like a pleasant farewell sing-along that might be played at closing time at your local bar.

Some critics choose to employ the “sleep/drive” test on an album to determine its worth. This rubric denotes whether an album is upbeat enough to drive to (without speeding), as well as soothing enough to fall asleep to. Nino Rojo passes the sleep test with flying colors, but the drive portion of the exam might prove more challenging. However, for those who wish to be both calmed and challenged by music, this album is worth a first, second and third listening, and possibly more.

— EMMY JANE SCOTT

TOM McRAE
Just Like Blood
Genre: singer/songwriter
Label: Netwerk
Release date: Sept. 21

“Tom McRae’s Just Like Blood — with its story of a bus ride down Coldplay — may appear childlike and quiet, but it’s beauty and clever wordplay is impossible to miss.”

The intro into the first song, “The Light That Blinds,” sets you up for what looks like a joyous metal ride, but it all goes downhill when the monotonous screams of Brian Fair break through the wailing guitar and pounding double bass. Aside from “What Drives the Weak” and “In Reversal,” the album simply lacks intensity if you aren’t already a fan of Shadows Fall. You might want to sit this one out.

— ASHLEIGH EDINGER

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**LIFE**

**UCF/Disney: an unlikely bond**

Disney strengthens growth at university level

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

In 1539, Hernando de Soto began his trek from Tampa Bay into Central Florida, searching for fabled Indian cities laden with golden treasures. All he found were mosquito-infested swamps. De Soto's quest, like all Spanish expeditions into Florida, was a commercial failure. There was no gold in Florida.

That changed on Oct. 1, 1971, when a new breed of conquistadors working under the name of the late, great Walter Disney began mining operations southwest of Orlando. Not earth mining. Pocket mining. There was more gold in the jeans of 10 tourists than there was in 10,000 square miles of Florida earth. Walt Disney World was here.

As Disney has permanently shaped Orlando, so has it shaped UCF. The history and future of the two entities are interrelated, with that relationship likely to grow as UCF adds more students every year.

The most tangible link between UCF and the Mouse House is the Rosen College of Hospitality Management, conveniently located on International Drive, just a stone's throw away from major attractions.

With its quiet, luxuriously carpeted hallways and marble-floor lobbies, the college feels more like a resort hotel than a school. Its physical resemblance is fitting, since the building was constructed partially by donations from Disney and other Orlando-area theme parks.

And just in case the relationship remains unapparent, the school cafeteria is decorated with pictures of various Disney mascots.

**'Canes rock Arboretum**
But Charley and Frances damage is under control

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

Anyone who's tried to visit the Arboretum lately may have noticed a problem:

There are about five entrances and none of them work.

Construction of Engineering Building III created a gaping hole in the ground, blocking the main route.

Going around to the others, one finds debris blocking the trails every few feet. Unsurprisingly, the trees there suffered the same problems as those elsewhere on campus: Hurricanes Charley and Frances.

We caught up with Arboretum director Martin Quigley to find out just how extensive the damages are and what's being done about it.

The damage from a gardening and display perspective is extensive. Although the planted specimens throughout the area have mostly survived, several hundred large pines are down.

Luckily, the Physical Plant has offered to help with the cleanup efforts, which move into full swing in the near future. With the

Please see **STATS** on 17

**Becoming a girly girl**
Women going ga-ga over guys? God help us

DANA DELAPI
Staff Writer

Girly girls crack me up. They are so crazed about guys sometimes that they don't even realize how stupid they sound. It can be quite annoying. And I just realized I am becoming one.

Such a ridiculous thought, really. Not to mention scary. Me, the ever-cynical relationship guru. I have become piddly with excitement, smiling to myself as I stare off into space. And it makes me want to hurt.

I guess it is just a fact of nature that girls will be girls — annoying, giggly and stoked about anything a guy may say or do. Not to mention they suddenly take a masochistic interest in traditionally male-oriented subjects. But the kicker is the disbelief that a guy actually likes them.

The latter has to be the most annoying part about girly girls. If I hear one more time "I'm not sure he likes me," I might have to lethally inject myself. Look at the facts, ladies. Does he call? Does he take you out? Have you met his friends? Is he planning events at least two weeks in advance? If you answered yes to any of these, please grow a brain! He likes you — move on to something more challenging.

While I don't fall into that category, I have found myself becoming a little sports-crazed. Now, don't get me wrong, I love baseball. I will cheer on my Yanks until the day I die. Sorry to all you Red Sox fans that thought you stood a chance last weekend. Ha, it makes me laugh.

But for as much as I love baseball, I can't stand football. I just can't deny it any longer. I have never gotten into the sport, nor do I understand it. I go to the games for the vibe, not for the love. If a game is on TV, I usually do homework instead, that's how bad it gets.

My father was the first to notice it. The weird references to the game, the intense need to know certain scores. He looked me straight in the eye and said "So what's his name?" I almost choked on my cake. I never realized how much my interest in sports sways when I like a guy. Apparently it was obvious, because my sister does the same thing with basketball. Who knew?

But it is the analysis of every little minute thing that a guy does that drives
LIFE

Stats compare Mouse and Knight

The Rosen College.

"The reason they [donated money] is because it's industry-related," he said. "What we teach here is valuable to them."

Indeed, in a city that receives an average of 42 million visitors every year, those with experience in the field of customer service are sure to be in high demand. After all, people aren't born knowing what to do when Pirates of the Caribbean breaks down.

Students of the Rosen College indicate that they do intend to stay and work in Orlando once their schooling is completed.

"Yeah, I'll definitely [stay in Orlando] to start out," John Axford, 24, said. "I don't know where I'll venture out to then."

However, job diversity at Disney extends far beyond just the realm of customer relations and hospitality. Walt Disney World employs more than 52,000 people in more than 3,000 different job classifications. It is the largest single site employer in the United States. There are certainly more advanced positions than the guy who mops up the puke outside of the Big Thunder Mountain Railway.

"A great place for technical brilliance is the theme park business," Logan said. "You need the people to drive the industry from the technology that's created."

This means that UCF students who are not even studying hospitality have a good chance of working for Disney. Mechanical Engineering? Those robots in the Hall of Presidents can't maintain themselves. Journalism? Walt Disney World has its own bi-weekly newspaper called Eyes and Ears. Anthropology? You're on your own. But who knows? They may be opening an Aztec theme park next year.

It is entirely possible that UCF owes its success as a university to Walt Disney World. Though Florida was already a major tourist destination by the time WDW opened in 1971, the population of Orlando was only about 50,000. In 2003, it was 1.8 million.

"If you add all the tourist industry together, the influence that it has, UCF might be a great school, but it certainly wouldn't have the notoriety that it has, or the interest that it has," Logan said.

The growth of UCF and the Rosen College tends to mirror the region's growth. When UCF opened as Florida Technological University in 1968, there were 1,948 students. Today there are 41,685. According to Logan, in 1997, the Rosen School had about 75 students. Today there are about 1,400.

Perhaps it's no coincidence that the histories of UCF and WDW are so related. The two are very similar in some respects — parking is often terrible, admission is expensive and lots of walking is required. However, Disney World almost always trumps UCF in terms of scope and size.

The UCF Main Campus is 2.2 square miles. WDW is 47 square miles. UCF was opened in 1968, Walt Disney World opened in 1971. The Rosen School had a total of 2.3 million students as of 2003. Today there are over 3,000,000.WDW has awarded more than 600 million people with entertainment. UCF has 2 costumed characters, Knightron and Glycerine. Disney World has 131 costumed characters, including 175 different costumes for Mickey and 200 different outfits for Minnie. Knightron only wishes he could be so well-dressed.

Of course, there are differences. Disney World has 86 rides and attractions between the four theme parks. UCF has none — unless one includes the elevators in Colbourn, which can be time-consuming. Disney World has 131 costumed characters, including 175 different costumes for Mickey and 200 different outfits for Minnie. Knighuron only wishes he could be so well-dressed.

There are those, however, who resent the influence that Disney wields over Florida, and even the world. The company's image as "family friendly" has somewhat unraveled over the past decade due to its ownership of the film studio Miramax, which produces many violent and controversial films, and what is seen as a stronger interest in money rather than people. Logan rebuked the idea that Disney's community influence has been entirely negative.

"It brought everything else with it," Logan said. "If you don't like Disney, then you don't like Universal ... SeaWorld ... the symphony ... the ballet ... downtown. It all goes hand in hand. UCF too."

So because of Disney, there is gold in Central Florida. Gold on the UCF football helmets. Gold on the windows of Millican Hall. And lots and lots of gold in the office of Student Accounts.
New fall TV shows

ABC, NBC, WB unveil new series

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again: Things are falling off of trees, freshmen are lining up for their first hazing and networks are airing their prime-time offerings. Shows that have been in development for years and have survived the test screenings, the critics and, worst of all, the executives are ready for the small screen. Here are a few shows from each of the network line-ups, highlighting shows that are worth watching and shows that either will be cancelled or should be. In the grand tradition of that auteur (or jackass, depending on your taste) Quentin Tarentino, this is split up into two installments.

But hey, don't worry, you won't have to have begun airing new shows - ABC, NBC, and the WB. Next week check out UPN, FOX, and CBS.

ABC

This Disney network is tanking in theatings, often losing to (gasp!) Fox. That's bad. They need a hit, and they need one now. But do they have one?

Cream of the crop: There's nothing here that screams "huge hit," but Lost, a show about 48 people stranded on an island, Desperate Housewives, a critically acclaimed soap opera with dark comedy elements and a solid ensemble, and Boston Legal, a spinoff from The Practice with James Spader's character, may develop strong enough followings to keep viewers. The network will never be No. 1, and it knows it, but as long as they keep up the critical ratings, often losing to (gasp!) Fox. That's bad. They need a hit, and they need one now. But do they have one?

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**LIFE**

**Arboretum not good for golfing**

From i14

assistance, it's hoped that everything will be cleaned up in time for CAB's yearly Haunted Arboretum event.

The good news is that all the less-visible parts of the Arboretum are relatively untouched.

The southeast side near Biology, CREOL, and the remains of the greenhouse are in fact the hardest-hit area.

The downside is: It's the only part that people know about in the first place.

The arboretum also includes a newer section with a far more extensive network of nature trails.

Beginning across Gemini Boulevard directly east of the East Parking Garage, it parallels the north side of a 9-acre lake before turning to cover the unspoiled wilderness of UCF's north-eastern segment. The trails are unmarked, but they're visible and mostly unobstructed, leaving plenty of room for nature fans to get away from the bustle of campus life despite the destruction of the older area.

Visitors to the new section can also check out the burned area from last spring's lightning-started brush fires.

**Girls are a 'creepy little sorority'**

From i14

Remember when girls were a 'creepy little sorority'?

me up the wall.

The fact that I find myself doing it simply pisses me off. It really is a waste of time when you think about it. Agonizing over the way he hugged you, the time it took him to call or the way he kisses you is pointless when you could just ask.

Of course you shouldn't walk up to him and say, "You hugged me from the side, is that a sign you don't like me?"

That is going beyond girly to straight-up psycho. But being honest is much easier, and it will keep you saner.

Sadly, I have entered this freaky little world of reading into things and watching unending games of sports.

There are thousands of girls out there like this. It's a creepy little sorority.

And the worst part is they all feed into one another's wacky notions.

"God help us all."

**Kill Bill game steals from others**

From i16

The anonymous author of Kill Bill didn't have to create the game from scratch. The existing BOR code was modified to better fit weapon-wielding characters. The Bride is actually a collection of sprites from a King of Fighters game. To make them appear more like Uma Thurman's character, the original sprites were recolored to have blonde hair and a yellow suit. And a sword had to be added in as well.

Since Kill Bill is freely downloadable from the Internet, gamers need to have some understanding of how to get it playable on their TV. They need to be able to uncompress a .RAR file, have software that can burn a CD image to blank CD and they need a Sega Dreamcast. If this sounds familiar, it'll take about five minutes to get the game working. If any of this sounds foreign, gamers may find themselves stumbling around the Web for a few hours.

It's low-budget, extremely short, and a chore to get working — but it's a playable Kill Bill.

**FUTURE FUNNIES**

The indie now has full access to the Future's archives, so each week we're bringing you an old editorial cartoon. We have no idea what this one, published Jan. 23, 1996, means. And what on earth is the clown on the far right doing to that parking meter?
"THE GEEK LIFE"

**Dating is overrated**

We could learn a thing or two from romance manga and anime

**ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ**
Staff Writer

Ah, love... What could be more romantic? There's the handholding, the kissing, the cuddling, the long walks and all-night soulful conversations. It's enough to make a girl all flutter. I personally think love is the best emotion ever, and I've found soulful conversations. It's enough to make a girl all aflutter. Dating sucks, but you quite nicely.

Controlling the music airwaves our way

**DIANNA ZISMAN**
Staff Writer

I was riding with friends yesterday, listening to The Jam, and it occurred to me how much cooler the world would be if I were solely responsible for deciding which songs, artists and albums became popular. My collection is a literally figurative cornucopia of variety, and furthermore, my taste in music is awesome. If you don't agree with me on that point, I'd sentence you to listen to nothing but The Shags all day, every day, until you get to the point where you shuffled around in a zombified daze, muttering the words "foot-foot" to yourself constantly.

It'd be great, though. We could say "so long" to The Strokes, The Vines and The Hives. Adieu, Madonnal But check your extensive catalogue of 80s songs at the door. We still like that stuff. I'd start confiscating copies of Pink Floyd's The Wall just because, well, it sucks. What from different clans or social backgrounds, one of them is part demon, maybe, who knows. It happens. It's rarely anything as mundane as "That bastard never calls when he says he will." That would be far too normal. It's much more fun when the odds seem insurmountable and their hatred extreme.

Yet pretty soon their feelings for each other become hard to ignore, they start staring at each other in the hallways, their barbs become less acidic. Pretty soon they find out they just have sooo much in common and then their paths are set. Love is in the cards.

This can happen on distant planets between two gorgeous guys like in Ai no Kusabi or between high school freshmen like in Kare Kano, and, of course, there is always the young Japanese school girls all day, every day, until you get to the point where you shuffled around in a zombified daze, muttering the words "foot-foot" to yourself constantly.

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A bled, pretentious piece of crap that album is. Don't like my decision? You can still listen to Animals, which is a good Pink Floyd album. Still don't like my decision? You get The Shags!

While we're on the subject of The Wall, here's a little theory that you can blow off completely if you so choose: There's rarely a need for a double album in rock 'n' roll. Aside from a band's live sets or greatest-hit collections, it's not necessary, especially when you can now fit 80 minutes of music on one CD. There are rare cases where a band had the talent and, of completely equal importance, the material to pull it off (Exile on Main St. by The Stones springs to mind immediately), but they seem to be double-albums of circumstance rather than intention. Double albums are almost always a sure sign of self-indulgence; a narcissistic personal vision masquerading as a larger world viewpoint.

At the risk of being labeled eternally unpopular and uncool, I'll take this stance: The
Ramblings

Rate My newspaper column: Vol. 2.0

Rate My Poo sinks to new low, even for Internet

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

Following the runaway success of hotornot.com, rating sites are the dime a dozen as everyone tries to cash in on the trend of rating everything. Last week's column brought you ratemykitten.com, ricecomotricecop.com, meetme.hotornot.com and the original hotornot.com. This week, check out more favorites that didn't quite make the first 500 words.


Welcome to the site that asks you a simple question when presented with two objects: What's better? Do you prefer sex or genital gangrene? OK, that one is easy, but how about Hal Sparks or Kim Possible? The feeling of consternation or the album Thriller? The band Erasure or shaving the number "70" into your hair? Battles between completely random pairings of unrelated objects get harder and harder as net addicts enter their favorites into the ultimate battle to find the best "thing" ever. Currently, "Love" is No. 1, while AIDS heads up the bottom at #26555. I just voted that Mapquest.com is better than Elian Gonzales' raft. Since I know you're wondering, Gigi ranks just three people away from suicide!

Click your way to whatsbetter.com sometime if you want to kill a few hours voting for random stuff. It matters about as much as voting for the president, but unlike Election Day, it's actually fun!

Rate My Poo http://www.ratemypoo.com

At Rate My Poo, you can rate people's poops on a scale of 1-10. I have no idea what rubric you're supposed to use for this determination, but does it really matter?

Unlike ratemykitten.com, this is not a link to send to your grandma — unless she has a cat fetish.

AgeGuess http://www.ageguess.com

Here's something that's set up like a rating site, but actually serves a slightly different purpose. AgeGuess shows you a photo of someone between the ages of 13 and 99, asking you to click on what age you think they are. Making your choice reveals the person's actual age and the average of what other people guessed for them.

Of course, you can submit your own picture to find out how old people think you look.

PoemRanker http://www.poemranker.com

Need your daily dose of poetry about blood, sadness and love, but can't get enough from reading Livejournal?

Try PoemRanker instead for all your emo in one convenient place, complete with a handy anonymous way to tell people if it sucks. Shakespeare or Sadness? You decide.

Goth or Not http://gothornot.com/

Those of you with names like "xGrAvEy ArD.sLuTx" and "Five_days_bleeding" are hotcomers. It's the game that nobody wins.

ASCiI Hot or Not http://asci.hotornot.com/

Yet another part of hotornot.com itself, asciihotornot presents the same photos converted into ASCII art for the uninitiated, that's a bunch of letters, numbers, and symbols arranged to vaguely look like a photo. Even users of text-only terminals are not exempt from the reach of the mighty hotornot. Is this good or bad? That's an answer best left to modern science — or whatsbetter.com. Whichever.

Absolute power, idiocy

From 118

backs and feel better about themselves. Which is fine if that's what you're looking for, though it doesn't make it any more truthful. They're just as pompous and self-righteous as the right, and they insulate themselves just the same.

The fact is this: Both sides want the same exact thing — absolute power and the support you can give them to attain it. They will manipulate facts and bury the other side to get it. Both sides have fought dirty. If Kerry wins this year, which Franken is crossing his fingers for, he'll have the same, "we're better cause we won" mentality he condemns the right for flaunting.

Air America may have succeeded in making people feel like they're listening to "the truth," but they've failed in actually providing it. It's a different side of the same coin, no matter how you toss it.

P.S. I know I promised last week that I'd stop writing about politics and that it was only a phase, but it's too damn fun. Carrying about the country is in vogue right now, and who knows how long that will last? We might as well enjoy it while we can. I'm sure that in a couple of weeks it'll be lame again, and I'll revert back to the fluffy stuff that I still enjoy covering. And hey, if that's all you want from me, that's cool too. Check out my fall TV preview in the Life section. Same great Near-Life taste with less filling and more Joey-bashing than you can stomach.

No rogues or robots

From 118

girl transported to a mysterious land like in Escalofrme and Fushigi Yugi. However, be it love rivals, triangles, squares or cubes, something always gets in the way. This happens in real life, too, of course.

Things often seem perfect at first, and love can strike when you least expect it, but in a real relationship there are normally problems. Conflicts can be external or internal, but they aren't going nowhere.

That is life.

In a good relationship it is worth it. The problems mean nothing compared to the joy you feel with your significant other, and hopefully they make you laugh more often than they make you cry.

In real life the problems aren't as dramatic as our wise Japanese mentors make them out to be.

For example, rarely do you have to choose between a gorgeous emperor and a roguish mercenary while trying to keep both of them away from a lusty transvestite, and rarely do you have to do battle with giant dragon mechs for your love.

Sometimes, however, I think I would prefer those problems to the ones we mortals have to face when we give in to love.

Let the robot be world's DJ

White Album? Good grief, what an unpleasant album. Yeah, there are some fantastic songs on there, enough for one solid, hell, brilliant album's worth. But I'm expected to fork over 30 bucks for an album — half of which is abject crap — that music lovers have declared immaculate just because it's The Beatles. Here's a newsflash: Immaculate crap is still going to taste like crap. "But, Dianna," some of you might say, "a double album's true greatness lies in its vast sprawl." No. "Sprawl" is just a code word for not wanting to edit. Albums don't need sprawl. They need a producer willing to say to a band, "All right, cut the crap boys, and give me only the good stuff."

Getting back to my musical plans, I'd like to enforce a rule that says J-Lo is prohibited from ever making an attempt at "music" again, and should limit herself to film roles. And, although this would be slightly outside of my jurisdiction, she should never, ever be romantic comedies. Actually, she should only be allowed to make Out of Sight and Anaconda. Yeah, now that I think about it, she's done. Thank you, J-Lo.

Imagine: a world where artists wouldn't be allowed to have more than one "farewell" tour. Where Celine Dion would retire and actually go away. A world where radio would play songs by bands that actually kick ass. To hear XTC's "Summer Cauldron," Nilsson's "The Puppy Song," The Jam's "Dreams of Children," Joy Division's "Passover," The Cure's "Friday I'm In Love," and The Bouncing Souls' "Whip Me Good" (You Can Go To Hell)" all in regular rotation. That's the life for me. Not the life for you, say The Shaggs.
FAIRY TALES CAN COME TRUE!

Live the Disney magic as a Disney Animated Character "look-alike" at the Walt Disney World Resort. Strong candidates should have a positive attitude, good speaking voice and resemble the characters in look and height. Additional consideration will be given to those candidates who can demonstrate the proper personality, elegance, style and grace. Selected candidates will also be required to perform as costumed characters.

Height ranges are 5'0" to 5'2" and 5'5" to 6'4" for males. Height ranges are 5'0" to 6'1" for females.

Audition Date:
October 6, 2004
9:00am - 12:00pm or 4:00pm - 7:00pm
at Disney's Animal Kingdom Wardrobe Building

Directions:
From I-4, take exit 65 (Osceola Parkway). Follow signs toward Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge. Turn left at the stoplight onto Sherberth Road. The Wardrobe Building is about 1/4 mile on the left. From 192, travel west to Sherberth Road. At Sherberth Road, turn right. The Wardrobe Building is 1/4 mile on the right.

YOUR MOMMA...
never made soup like this.

At Crispers, gourmet soups are a specialty. Since you’re taking so many credits and going to so many classes, we want you to try it for FREE. Just show us your valid UCF student ID card.

We’ve got 12 varieties of soups, gumbo, chowders, and Oriental soups made fresh, every day. Purchase any garden-fresh gourmet salad or hearty stacked sandwich priced over $4, and get a 12-ounce cup of our incredible soup, FREE.

Got a UCF ID card?
Then, there’s FREE SOUP waiting for you at Crispers!

Free soup with main dish purchase and valid student ID Card offer good Sept. 23 - Oct. 7.

We’re sorry, but this free offer does not include gumbo, chowders, or Oriental specialty soups.

Food! The hot new campus craze!
Eating is okay, but eating gourmet is great. That’s why Crispers has been a sensation for over 16 years. Today, we’re expanding throughout Florida as the quick, delicious alternative to fast food. All our gourmet salads, sensational soups, and stacked sandwiches are made fresh, every single day.

If you’re a sweet freak, our desserts will make your eyes open wide. Creamy cheesecakes, mile-high layer cakes, cookies, brownies, etc. go on forever. Then there are the real milkshakes and gooey sundaes made with rich, delicious Publix Premium Ice Cream.

No bad burgers, no pitiful pizza. Just great gourmet food, made fresh. And free soup, too.

To see all our menu selections, click on www.crispers.com.