Kerry storms back into Florida

Candidate accuses
Bush of living in denial

STEVEN SOTHELFF

The TD Waterhouse Centre erupted with a political roar Tuesday night when Sen. John Kerry and John Edwards took center stage at their first joint rally in Florida. Kerry’s event was part of the campaign’s two-day, five-state tour of the state.

With his voice boisterous from continuous speaking, Democratic presidential candidates quoted Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

"Tonight I’m going to talk soft and try to carry a big stick of my own," Kerry said. "These guys have got to be doing something wrong — to the Bush administration I say Americas and Americans first."

Kerry arrived in Orlando after criticizing President George W. Bush in Jacksonville, which lacked press release.

"The focus of Kerry’s rally was health care and Iraq," said Megan Crevier, a senior film student, who was inspired to run for Senate later in the day.

The two White House hopefuls were joined by Rep. Corrine Brown and Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. Kerry’s campaign spokesman Jack Sandholtz also spoke, as old Orlando Magic forward Grant Hill and ‘N Sync’s Chris Kirkpatrick.

"There is nothing more serious than what I’m about to say," Kerry said before he quoted Bush on why the CIA’s assessment of conditions in Iraq was at odds with the optimism he had expressed earlier in the day.

"The CIA laid out several scenarios that said life could be long, life could be OK. If asked to do better," Kerry said. "And they were just guessing as to what the conditions might be."

"Does that make you feel safe? Does that give you confidence in this presidential candidate? Kerry also criticized Bush for saying he would have invaded Iraq even if the administration knew there were no weapons of mass destruction or connections to the events of Sept. 11, 2001."

No one came to meet or greet SGA hopefuls

KATE HOWELL

The Student Government Association held its annual "Meet and Greet" for student candidates for the Student Government Association and the Student Government Administration.

SGA hopefuls "Meet and Greet" for SGA hopefuls. (KATIE HOWELL)

Megan Crevier is a senior

benefits the school as a whole, it should get passed through the Senate," he said. "It’s not a gun law given to a clinic, it’s money you have to present a reasonable cost to bring us a voice for all students, and we hope this is a very positive outcome on things."

"I believe Stellas is a computer engineering senior and candidate for seat six in Engineering and Computer Science," was mentioned to run by a positive experience in his school.

"It’s probably the senator’s job to make sure all the paperwork for all of the clubs gets turned in," Hunter told. "And that wasn’t getting done last year.

Hunter would also like to bring more businesses to UCF and boost the reputation of the College of Engineering.

Matt Kuhn is a junior running for Education seat one and especially fell in love with music festival embodied the concept of students coming together.

"The younger generations of the late 1930s and early 1940s were a more deeply personal connection between different policy and their own lives," said Terri Fine, a UCF political science professor.

Nearly 25 years later, the children of the Baby Boom generation seem to have put their back on the political process. According to the Center for Voter and Democracy, the highest voter turnout from the 18- to 25 age group was 50 percent in 1972. Since that time, young voter turnout has steadily declined, falling to 42 percent in 2000 compared with a 70 percent turnout of all registered citizens 21 and older.

"This generation is far less engaged politically and socially," Fine said. "Now I believe it’s much harder to feel that connection." Student Patrick Bohrer said he thinks voting hasn’t been too top priority for younger voters.

"People don’t believe that their vote influences anything in the political process," he said. "In the past it just didn’t seem as important. There wasn’t a war going on, and people were cynical about both candidates because they were so close-of-all of the issues, so they didn’t have to really make a decision.

But musicians and the media are now on the change that, hoping to inform and collaborate with young people to increase their voter turnout in November.

The vote for Change the Game and MTV-sponsored Rock the Vote are now calling voters among younger voters.

Celebrities aim to influence their young fans

CHRIS CONNELL

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Pegasus Landing steps up to fill rec center void

MEADEY SCHENK

Hurricane Charley's destruction of the Recreation Center in the Student Union left cen- tral administrators without an outlet for student recreation.

In its place, UCF-affiliated Pegasus Landing offers a more intimate setting for students to enjoy various activities. It is located in the Pegasus Ballroom of the Student Union, which features a 2,200-seat arena, a private entrance, and a state-of-the-art fitness center.

According to the center's manager, the space provides a more private and intimate setting for various activities. The center offers a variety of activities, including group exercise classes, yoga, and Pilates.

Pegasus Landing was designed for students seeking an alternative to the larger Student Union gym. It features a range of activities, including group exercise classes, yoga, and Pilates.

Some students are already taking advantage of the space, which is available after 12 p.m. on weekdays and 12 p.m. on weekends.

"I love coming here because it's more intimate," said one student.

The center is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

"I come here to get a good workout and relax," said another student.

The center also offers various exercise classes, including yoga, Pilates, and Zumba. It also features a variety of fitness equipment, including treadmills, stationary bikes, and elliptical machines.

"I like coming here because it's quiet and I can focus on my workout," said one student.

Pegasus Landing is open to all students and requires a valid UCF ID for entrance.

Because Pegasus Landing is UCF-affiliated, all on-campus students may use the gym, which offers weight and cardio fitness equipment.

Fit students feel the burn — in their wallets

BRIAN WAY

Lunging around and drinking beer at this center isn't the best way to avoid the "three-hour sprint." But for some students, it's the only way they can afford to participate in the center's activities.

Many students who want to stay in shape but can't afford membership fees at traditional gyms turn to Pegasus Landing for cheaper options. The center offers group exercise classes, yoga, and Pilates, all of which are designed to help students stay healthy and fit without breaking the bank.

"I'm a student and I can't afford to go to a gym," said one student. "But I can afford to come here for a class or two a week.

The center offers a variety of classes, including yoga, Pilates, and Zumba, all of which are offered at a lower cost than traditional gym memberships.

"I've been coming here for about a month now, and I've really enjoyed it," said another student.

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Police beat

Beer, bud and a woman in a closet

BRANDON HARDIN

Police arrested a resident of Pegasus Pointe on charges of possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and a .380-caliber handgun.

The resident, a 21-year-old male student, was found with a bag of marijuana, a small amount of cocaine, and a loaded handgun in his closet.

"I'm surprised this happened," said one student.

The resident was booked into the Orange County Jail on charges of possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and a firearm.

Police also arrested a 22-year-old male student for possession of a firearm.

"I'm surprised they caught him," said another student.

The student was booked into the Orange County Jail on charges of possession of a firearm.

The two students were charged with possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and a firearm.

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“So serious?” Kerry asked the crowd. “He would make the same mistakes, with the same body armor, without the sense of duty, with us out the borders secured — that’s doable.”

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

“He shouldn’t 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 that Kerry “is much more empathetic to veteran affairs” because of his “compassion and military experience.”

Kerry also emphasized health care and the economy. According to Kerry, 24 million people in Florida, about 20 percent, live without health care. Eight out of 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 convened the need for better health coverage, while praising the efforts of Florida.

“Florida has shown America how it’s done,” he said.

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

“We’re going to make this count a fair fight,” he said. “We’re going to make things work for the average 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 relief and the nation’s debt.

“It doesn’t make sense to be giving tax breaks to companies that are taking jobs overseas,” he said. “Let’s get that reversed and reward the companies that create jobs in America,” he promised.

On Bush’s middle-class tax relief initiatives, Kerry said, “I gave you the tax relief, and now the economy comes into your home and replaces you with a TV set.”

Edward said Bush’s promise to lead the country after Bush had said that the Clinton administration failed. They have not lifted us, he said. We’re going to lead the country and Bush led us to more jobs — fewer health care, cleaner air and water. Has he made us safer? He seems to be stepping from the edge of greatness to the edge of a cliff and it’s time for us to lead him out of town.”

After tremendous applause, Edwards continued, “For the last 27 years, if presidents had to lead through wars and all kinds of difficulties and recessions. Every one of these presidents created jobs, except for this president,” he said.

An animated Congresswoman Brown added, “These people practice what I call reverse Robin Hood. Stealing from the poor and working people to give tax breaks to the rich.”

Edwards also stressed the importance of energy independence.

“We’re going to make it clear that no young American is uniformed is ever held hostage for America’s dependence on foreign oil,” he said. “We’re going to set a goal. By the year 2020, 20 percent of America’s electricity is going to come from alternative energy sources.”

Members of the League of Conservation Voters, a non-partisan group that analyzes candidates based on their environmental voting records, were in attendance and praised the idea.

“For this election, the organization has endorsed John Kerry because he has a 100 percent pro-environmental voting record and earned the Green Eagle award (the first time),” said a young league volunteer identifying herself as Sarah.

Other young voters said they plan to vote for Kerry because of similarly important issues.

“I’m a sophomore, 20-year-old, and I’ve been supporting Bush because I think he has made a lot of bad decisions. I think that Bush is taking our rights away from American society,” Daryl Brown, 23, a political organizer for the Service Employees International Union, said at the rally.

David Robinson, a spectator who finished the crowd.

Body armor, without the borders secured — that’s denial.”

He made the trip down to support Kerry because he felt that “department of Veterans Affairs and said he believes that Kerry “made a lot of bad decisions” and “stole the election. We are manipulated by voting machines.”

Kerry’s take on the subject: “We’re not going to make every single vote count, we’re going to count every single vote.”

Kerry recently announced the Top Ten on Late Night with David Letterman regarding Bush’s tax reform. They included jokes that Bush should not himself as a dependent and that W-2 forms are to now be called “daddy-2” forms. Kerry began the rally Tuesday night with several jokes.

“John (Edwards) is so smart,” Kerry said. “He only has to read the news to be a genius.”

The students who attend the University of Florida are the first of three presidential debates at the University of Miami on Sept. 28.
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.

Annual auditions for this year’s Rukus squad will be held Sunday in the Education Building’s gymnasium.

“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.

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 — the equivalent of adding six credit hours to your class schedule.

For more information, e-mail ruckusentertainment@yahoo.com.

(Not valid with any other offer or Insurance. New patients only.)
Despite three losses in a row, MAC title hopes high

ASHLEY BURNS
Staff Writer

Things haven’t been going so well for Mid-American Conference football again 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 teams in the conference are barely breathing 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 what’s the whole thing is about is your conference.” O’Leary said during Monday’s MAC teleconference.

With MAC competition in mind, O’Leary set out to end three weeks of speculation after naming sophomore Steven Noflezak the Knights’ permanent starting quarterback. Maffett 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 on from that.”

By O’Leary’s standards, the Knights’ first three “seasons” have been far less than successful.

UCF has lost its last three games by a combined 126 points, while putting up only 39 points. The Knights have allowed an average of 392.3 rushing yards so far and are only slightly better against the pass, surrendering 234.5 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.”

The Knights’ season started with a 49-29 loss to the defending Atlantic Coast Conference champion Boston College

The Knights’ schedule for the rest of the season is possibly their toughest yet.

“Just think what we’ve played against the last three games. We’ve played against a series of teams this year that the Knights’ 2004 schedule is certainly good. So of this week, West Virginia had, untied up No. 18, if the Knights lose they’ll be 0-3. Buffalo is 2-0 and Wisconsin still remain the No. 20 team in the country. Those teams are undefeated and has received no votes, but the Knights have. I think that will be a challenge that will win over Wisconsin this weekend.”

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

MATT RUPPKEN
Sports Editor

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 for the first time in school history in an epic five-game match.

Since 1983, the two teams have never played each other in a regular-season contest that counted in the MAC.

Outside hitter Tanya Jarvis recorded 13 combined kills for the Knights and she was named the MAC Offensive Player of the Week while the team earned the MAC Setter of the Week award for the first time ever.

The Knights are 2-1 in MAC play and most of the MAC’s 14 teams are barely treading water.

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

MATT RUPPKEN
Sports Editor

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 for the first time in school history in an epic five-game match.

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Looking past the bye-week, the Knights are trying to build momentum against USF.
*Cane uses Houston for Lone Star rivalry*

HOUSTON — Coach Art Briles looks forward to playing in Houston when a visit from Miami is seen as much more than a recruiting trip because Houston stands to gain manifold from its recruiting pipeline into Texas.

“We’re going to have more kids than usual at this game,” Briles said. “What we’re trying to do is figure out how many of our outside recruiting efforts have been level (that Miami) is at.”

Medina High School in Graham (2-0) will roll into Houston on Thursday night for what Briles believes is a four-out-of-five favorite game and a many don’t expect to be even competitive as some of the usual intrasquad scrimmage.

“I think it’s going to be a war,” Briles said. “It’s going to be a battle between two teams that are very evenly matched and really good football teams.”

Briles has warned his team about the difficulty of playing in the Houston area:

“Where there are fans, you’ve got fans. They’re free and they’re loud. They’re free and they’re loud.”

Miami has played a game like this—a nationally televised showdown between a top-10 team and a top-20 team in some of the nation’s top recruiting territory. Houston has played a game like that last year against Louisiana State University.

This season, it was for a return trip to Houston for the Lone Star game. “That has been very good for us,” Miami coach Larry Coker said.

“Texas ranks very, very high because they’re recruiting Texas and they’re recruiting Texas players.”

Miami has dominated the Houston area to the extent that Miami State has given the Hurricanes star like linebacker Jesse Horvath to the states like as a star to the university of Florida.

“We haven’t had a player come from the Houston area in the last four years,” Miami coach Larry Coker said. “... we’ve had a lot of success with Miami players who have come from the Houston area.”

Miami players say their team is getting its team to believe it can hang in intrasquad scrimmages.

“Winston said. It’s just more than a chance for the Hurricanes,” Miami defensive tackle Damien Lewis, tight end Bubba Franks and center E.C. Jones over the years.

Miami currently has 10 players eligible for the roster, including three starters — left tackle Eric Winn (Miami), left guard T.J. Ellis (Houston) and tight end Kevin Everitt after Everitt (Miami) and Miami defensive tackle Matt Bellin, a senior at Tallaposta High School. Several assistants plan to stay below the Miami team when they leave school against The Crimson Tide.

“Texas will get a chance to see the guys” Briles said.

“— with 3-0 Alabama (4-0, 2-0 SEC) already having an idea of what Miami is about after Washington State. Everybody’s watching us, everyone’s wanting to see us do well,” Miami coach Larry Coker said.

We’re not just out there to play against Alabama, we’re not just out there to play against Miami, we’re not just out there to play against Texas, we’re all out there to play against a lot of schools that are going to have to have a MySQL.”

Not surprisingly, the Hurricanes will have a week to prepare themselves.

“Their defense is the type of defense that’s only been around seven to ten years as a chance to wow some of the kids and to get a sense of a team that has already has a commitment from the state of Texas,” Miami coach Larry Coker said.

But up to this point, none of the teams in the MAC are showing any signs of being too tight against Miami.

Miami is off to an average start — the fourth-ranked Hurricanes (2-0, 2-0 ACC) had a 14-7 win over Georgia Tech last weekend. Eastern Michigan (1-2, 1-2 MAC) is coming in with two straight losses.

While the conference slate is current—although two of the Hurricanes, there are areas UCF needs to improve before the game against

This was the same game that Ohio State beat the Buckeyes 27-17.

“People are going to want to see us go out there and do something special. They’re going to want to see us do something special,” Miami coach Larry Coker said.

“I think we need to learn to think more about the game,” Briles said. “There’s no question about that. There’s a happy-sadness between you have a couple of freshman and sophomore that’s just not good competition in the first three weeks. But we’re going to make them going. You’re not going to be up big, guys, you’re not going to be up big.

Defensive aside, the Knights’ running game has been a key part of their success this season.

The Falcons have used a running ground attack to go to 4-0.

The Falcons have used a running ground attack to go to 4-0.

At least one team of West Virginia’s or Eastern Michigan’s or even Penn State’s caliber for the rest of the season has some depth in the MAC.

There was Ohio and Northern Illinois proved last season that the MAC east rivalry is as close as the West coast rivalry.

Miami State has given the Hurricanes some more time than a chance for the Hurricanes, who haven’t scored a conference game this season.

South Florida has given the Hurricanes some more time than a chance for the Hurricanes, who haven’t scored a conference game this season.

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Miami State has given the Hurricanes some more time than a chance for the Hurricanes, who haven’t scored a conference game this season.
Judino scores fourth goal of the season to lead men's soccer over Mastodons

Page 87

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

The score remained at 1-1 until 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 58th minute, forward John Imran broke through with a goal in the right side, assisted by Billy Judino and Tim Sobczack.

Imran added the third and final goal for the Knights on the weekend, assisted by Judino and forward Michael Okoh. The game went two overtimes with neither team scoring overtime goals, finishing 2-1-1 in the overtime periods. The Knights outshot Howard, 7-4 in overtime.

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

The only goal came from sophomore midfielder Rafael Teixeira in the 66th minute. Teixeira gathered the ball about 25 yards from Howard’s goal and scored on a long shot over the keeper's outstretched arms.

UCF continued to control the game and had too good chances to score goals.

Winch also added that he was looking for John's last, 2008, senior's leading goal-scorer, to perhaps work on becoming that true goal-scorer.

Winch began to answer questions on Sunday as he netted the game winner over HPU.

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Sick of politics is sick of democracy

Central Florida has been sitcommed with politics at all levels this week. For one, Rep. John Gekas debated the UCF House candidate in Orlando on Thursday.

This week, students hoping to be the Summer's candidates are competing on campus, with publicizing as their No. 1 priority. 

Some students may rightly be sick of politics for the semester. Any news site or stories covering trends of the political scene for hours every day. Students are merely becoming used to being accosted by political networks, and they have to take time to vote and survey questions. Yet students have a real voice in this election going on, and UCEC being 44,000 this semester, could alone determine many elections happening this fall.

The primary focus is the university election for student senate. Each year, the election is intensely competitive. Last year, around 6000 votes were average for each seat, and these are determined usually by a couple of votes. Another election determined by a few votes is the presidential election of 2000. Florida, with over 500,000 votes. One overall, general-election lecture class has near that many students, meaning UCF could easily make or break any candidate.

The war in Iraq is a prime issue when considering that half of the American soldiers in Iraq are under the age of 25. Students are more likely than any other age group to be interested, leaving young people with few options if they get sick or need medical attention.

Both higher education plan focuses on preparing the campus for jobs to educate and train students. The plan includes putting all students of degree and community college under a good and direct government.

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Bush's higher education plan includes providing $500 billion for college every year of college, and the Department of Education can help provide students to the minimum of the ideal population to help students with low-income.

Some people feel that in the last three years, Bush has labeled Iraq as the enemy as the main point of tilt of the United States.

He sentenced Saddam Hussein as a nuclear war-killing dupe, and waited until last for the right time to strike. This "poodle" domineer of Hussein's Iraq has since proven to be false.

We now know thanks to the extensive analysis of the U.N. weapons inspectors and U.S. military that Hussein did not own any weapons of mass destruction.

The Bush administration and its political backers had to this entire nation believe Hussein had the capacity to produce the weapons and was hiding them ready. His threats for such weapons might have been true, but any weapons Hussein had did not pose a serious economic resources or political power threat.

Never were there ties of any sort between al-Qaida and Iraq and the administration had said otherwise. 

When Cheney told a Florida crowd that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the United Nations, the U.S. State Department, and the Central Intelligence Agency all echoed Cheney's statement.

In his speech Tuesday Bush focused on delays help in the reconstruction of Iraq, but not once did he reach out to the United Nations, to help in the fighting that continues.

The U.N. and its member nations have refused to commit to President George W. Bush's plan to reorganize and build an Iraq that is in secure, democratic, and free.

Bush said that the average American could understand that reconstruction in Iraq was under way. 

He allowed the terrorists to become a new audience for the United States.

In his speech Bush makes absolutely no sense because any government, anywhere in the world, could probably not be spent, just like the war in Iraq. Bush's administration most asked Congress to divert some of the reconstruction funds to the security functions because they could only send more American troops.

With growing a foot of influence for the war, Bush is willing to accept and allow the war on terrorism in the campaign to be "weak, wounded and lost.

Our candidates are responding to figures thought of the Pentagon, weighed heavily on world's minds.

On Monday, Sen. John Kerry, the fiercely attacked Bush for the war was under way, but has "created a crisis of historic proportions."

"He didn't talk reality to the American people," to say to Congress that Bush ignored the U.S. Senate Council's orders and organized a "will of the will" to invade Iraq.

"He seems to be in denial," Kerry said, adding that the war went on as the war on terrorism was under way, but has "created a crisis of historic proportions."

The American people are now considering their options for the Bush campaign. Bush finds himself in a position where he must decide just which things are more important. The Bush administration is acting on a force that is not legal, but not in line with the legal laws.

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Power of the cell

I think we often ask ourselves how we can best contribute to the solution of the world’s problems. A little time spent reading shows us that many of the problems we face are not new. They have been with us for a long time. I think we often ask ourselves how we can best contribute to the solution of the world’s problems. A little time spent reading shows us that many of the problems we face are not new. They have been with us for a long time. We often think that we are the first to face these challenges. But we are not. Others have faced similar problems and have found creative solutions. We must learn from their experiences and build on them. We must work together to find ways to address these challenges and make the world a better place.
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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 produced 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 production. Every song was recorded with the entire band in one room, all facing each other, with no headphones and very little overdubbing. An interesting element to this album is the use of hard panning, 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 compared 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.

THE INDIE

Central Florida Future
3361 Boone Road, Suite 200, Orlando, FL 32817

IN THE ISSUE

Vol. V, No. 5, Sept. 23 - 29, 2004

We never intended to take over the world. Honest. It's just kind of working out that way.

In its earliest incarnations, The Independent Journal was only about publishing the best arts and entertainment writing Orlando had to offer. Granted, we sent ninjas to take over the Future office, but, those weren't real ninjas. It was a publicity stunt. Sorry to break all your hearts.

No, the indie was not about global, or even school-wide, domination...until recently. We get more new writers every issue. Our staff meetings have more students than office chairs. We'll soon have more people working for us than Donald Trump. Honestly, we don't know what to do with everybody! World domination isn't so much a want at this point...it's a necessity.

—JOHN THOMASON
HAPPENINGS

HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDANCE FILM SERIES: TANNER ON TANNER

One can always count on an uber-liberal, maverick director Robert Altman to make mcinema out of the American political system, and he does so again in Tanner on Tanner, playing at Enufon Tuesday as part of the Sundance Film Series. A three-part miniseries of half-hour episodes detailing a fictitious presidential hopeful campaigning and butting heads with real-life political figures, Tanner on Tanner is a modern spin-off of Altman's successful satire Tanner '88. This time around Senator Tanner (Michael Murphy) encounters celebrities like Madeline Albright, Ron Reagan, Al Sharpton and Robert Redford (Redford in a Sundance-affiliated film? Naaahhh ...).

Politician Prize-winning cartoonist Gary Trudeau wrote Tanner on Tanner; and 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.

FLORIDA CD AND RECORD SHOW

Better not buy that DVD box set or video game you've been eyeing. Hocks 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 show some sympathy for the record industry. A CD and record show, held Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Central Florida Fairgrounds, will feature more than 30 music vendors from all over the south, hawking rare, out-of-print and new releases. From 4 to 6 p.m., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., the cash can get to the real-life political figures. It's 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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CALENDAR

From i3

Casiopeia (electronic)
Sept. 24, 10 p.m., $5
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

In Memory of Winter, The Lush, Modern Day Arcade, Thread of Hope (punk)
Sept. 24, 5 p.m., $5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

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

The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

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

Racin' for Pink, Green Goblin Project, Wisenheimer (punk)
Sept. 25, 9 p.m., free
Osiris Den
1335 Howell Branch Road, Winter Park
407-644-3588

Iron Sift, Furious!, Altered State (metal)
Sept. 25, 9 p.m., free
Holly and Dolly's
500 E. S.R. 436
407-834-0069

Young Buck (hip-hop)
Sept. 25, 9 p.m., $5
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

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, Neomortem (metal)
Sept. 26, 7 p.m., $10
The Haven, 6700 Aloma Ave.
407-673-2712

Gargamel!, Indorphine, In This Day, 5 Billion Dead (metal)
Sept. 26, 6 p.m., $10
Scrammers
360 State Lane
407-244-0219

Love is Red, A Perfect Murder, Deconstructionists, Cut the Cord (punk)
Sept. 26, 9 p.m., $5
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, Limbeck, Hello Goodbye, Reuben's Accomplice (indie)
Sept. 28, 8 p.m., $10
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

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HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

FROM 14

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

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

Iqua, 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
315 S. Magnolia Ave.
407-992-1200

Art of the Imagination
(opening reception)
Sept. 28, 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. 27, 7:30 p.m., $12-$14
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

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Thelma Adams, USA WEEKLY

"Writer-Director Zach Braff has a genuine filmmaker's eye and is loaded with talent."
David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

"Garden State" illuminates a young man's coming of age with UNEXPECTED DEPTH AND GRACE.
Kevin Thomas,
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Zach Braff is a force to be reckoned with."
Clay Smith,
HOLLYWOOD ACCESS

"Peter Sarsgaard is CONSISTENTLY EXCELLENT."
Mark Goodman,
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

"A WONDERFUL SURPRISE."

"Natalie Portman is genuine and completely in her element here... "Garden State" is a beautiful movie."
Allison Beatnick, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Peter Sarsgaard is a FRESH, UNCONVENTIONAL talent."
Roger Ebert, Ebert & Roeper

ZACH BRAFF NATALIE PORTMAN PETER SARSgaard IAN HOLM

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CRITICS' CHOICE
BEST FILM OF 2004

"HILARIOUS AND HEARTFELT..."
Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"Terrific"

"n"
Zombie parody Shaun of the Dead short of life

Brit film provides more nods of amusement than genuine laughs

**C**lever and cute are two words not the usual Jane 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 Transporting 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 of 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 realistic — 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 if 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 dead”

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 taking over all of the dialogue from the movie and a couple of featurettes 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 Lucas to cash in on the success of Fahrenheit 9/11, Miramax (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 tape? Me neither.
We implore to adore The Door in the Floor

Unique adaptation is much better than that awful rhyming headline

JENNIFER GONZALES
Staff Writer

The complexity of a family slowly and irreversibly falling apart is what Tod 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 Jeoff 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 the 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 assitant, 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 boozed up egotist 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.

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

MATTHEW HEDGEOCK
Staff Writer

Before the world hated George Lucas for spawning JarJar 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.

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AS SEEN ON
**Charming actors, weak script**

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

**NICOLE SCHAUB**

**FILM REVIEW ★★★★★**

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 150th. After being invited to play at Wimbledon in a wildcard slot, Colt barely stands the chance of making it through the first round. He himself and even his family, including his brother who Kournikova possesses.

Lizzie Bradbury (Dunst) is everything Mark Levin struggle with how much they want to reveal about the characters. We get sort of a superficial outlook on Bradbury and see more of Colt, rather than finding out what makes them both tick.

Although the game of tennis is made popular and even his family, including his brother who Kournikova possesses.

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Lizzie Bradbury (Dunst) is everything Mark Levin struggle with how much they want to reveal about the characters. We get sort of a superficial outlook on Bradbury and see more of Colt, rather than finding out what makes them both tick.
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.

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 insinuated 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 another 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

The Milwaukee Brewers general manager (Chris Neth, left) is thrilled to have Stan Ross (Bernie Mac, right) on his team.

CHRISTY LEMIRE
Associated Press

Bernie Mac plays a baseball-star version of his corrosive TV-show persona in Mr. 3000, a comedy that's essentially an extended ad for ESPN. Ironically, though, the insertion of real-life media provides the film's few laughs.

Mac stars as Stan Ross, an egotistical lefty slugger who abandoned the Milwaukee Brewers immediately after logging his 3000th hit — or so he thought.

Nine years later, as Ross is being considered for the Hall of Fame, officials discover that he's three hits shy of the milestone. 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, unlikeable 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 abrupt change of heart. 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. The guys in the clubhouse start to embrace him, too.

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.
MUSIC

TOP 25

Park Ave CDs: Top 25 for the week of Sept. 12-18

1. FLOGGING MOLLY
   Within a Mile of Home
2. SOUNDTRACK
   Garden State
3. THE FAINT
   Wet From Birth
4. NELLY
   Sweat
5. NELLY
   Suit
6. BJORK
   Medulla
7. HOT ROD CIRCUIT
   Reality's Coming Through
8. SAVES THE DAY
   Ups and Downs: Early Recordings and B-sides
9. SENSES FAIL
   Let It Enfold You
10. HEAD AUTOMATICA
    Decadence
11. ACTION ACTION
    Don't Cut Your Fabric to This Year's Fashion
12. MARC BROUSSARD
    Carenro
13. PRODIGY
    Always Outnumbered, Never Outgunned
14. BOWLING FOR SOUP
    A Hangover You Don't Deserve
15. RISE AGAINST
    Siren Song of the Counter-Culture
16. NUMBER ONE FAN
    Compromises
17. LESS THAN JAKE
    B is for B-sides
18. DAVE MATTHEWS BAND
    Gorge
19. FROU FROU
    Details
20. VARIOUS ARTISTS
    Future Soundtrack for America
21. MEDESKI, MARTIN & WOOD
    End of the World Party
22. YOUNG BUCK
    Straight Outta Cashville
23. VARIOUS ARTISTS
    Rock Against Bush 2
24. NONPOINT
    Recoil
25. TIFF MERRITT
    Tambourine

LOCAL BAND SPOTLIGHT

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 that's been essentially exclusive to singing comedians, the hip-hop underground and sometimes mainstream rap, while occasionally popping up in exceptional exceptions like the pop/rock jokesters in Nerf Herder.

But if semi-obscure referencing is still un-cool in the lo-fi, four-track recorded, acoustic pop world, nobody told Marc with a “C.” In Marc's world, Laura Prepon, Victoria's Secret, a crayon drawing of a Honda Civic paint rocket and a Livejournal online personality quiz about Heathers all become fodder for songs.

Sure, Marc has his fare share of depressing songs too, most of which were compiled on last year's Hey Rape Girl EP. Just as morbid in content as its title would indicate, Hey Rape Girl is by no means 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 change 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, overproduced 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.
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 sound and energy carried the audience away on a musical interlude. By the end of his 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 does not 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 performers 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.”

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 jai- balt 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 teenage boppers who had been there since midnight the night before, I decided to wait it 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 II 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 remake 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 AJ 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 pippin’ boy band from O-Town.
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MUSIC

CD REVIEWS

DEVENDRA 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 — art student 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 melodic earth that is not necessarily characteristic of many of his colleagues.

Banhart's acoustic guitar skills shine, and between his soothing rhythmic and harmonic structures he creates a challengingly tranquil mood. The guitar melodies become slightly repetitive, but they create an alluring hypnotic effect. Aside from the alluring guitar lines, there is a partic-

Tom McRae's Just Like Blood — which sounds a lot like a warbling Duncan Sheik mishmash with a dash of Counting Crows and watered-down Coldplay — may appear child-like and quiet. However, its humility and closed-mouth admissions slip-toe it into epiphany with an undeniable display of valor and capability.

For instance, whispery exhilarations of a confident, brave lover overtake "ghost of a shark," a track you remember for its syrupy simplicity. "Day Like Today" is elemental, on-point, metered and almost a rhythmic tease, with peaks and valleys of heart-filled utterances and ingress. "Overthrown," however, lowers sentimental par to new depths. Watery purple and almost alcoholic, "Overthrown" hangs, towering like a mist above sadness, with a real depth, a perfect close-your-eyes-and-realize-your-place song. "Human Remains" is the most evocative track on the album. Within pain is sweet crystallized and well-meaning for Tom McRae, and love is still sustenance enough, however dry and damaging to the back of your throat. Summing up, McRae's Just Like Blood isn't an original as it is brave. And it isn't as likely to be described as whiny as it is likely to be described as intoxicating.

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EMILY ASHLEIGH EISINGER
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 gold and 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 Elias 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, lushly 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.

"My annual entertainment budget worldwide was $300 million," Logan said. "That doesn't even count special events."

Logan explained the reason for the interest and involvement of Disney in the Arboretum director Christopher Schwarz

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: Hurricane 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

'Danes 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:

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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 puppy with excitement, smilling to myself as I stare off into space. And it makes me want to hurl.

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 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
Stats compare Mouse and Knight

from 114

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 Land 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 2005, 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 has none — unless one includes TreeTown. Disney World has 131 costumed characters, including 175 different costumes for Mickey and 200 different outfits for Minnie. Knightro 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 hazardous at times, since it is never certain whether or not they can make it to the top floor.

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.

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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.

ABC

This Disney network is tanking in the ratings, 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 spin-off from The Practice with James Spader's character, may develop strong enough followings to warrant DVD releases.

Creamiest crap: Wife Swap is indistinguishable from the trillion other shows with a similar premise. Complete Savages may have the backing of Mel Gibson, but not even he or his pal Jesus can save this show from overwhelming the blandness of TGIF hell.

NBC

The days of Must See TV! have devolved into "eh, I'll watch it if nothing else is on." And after losing two of its flagship shows last year, it needs any reason to keep viewers.

Cream of the crop: L.A.X. It's Wings, but it's unfunny on purpose! No, this show won't be good, but we can't leave this slot blank. Did you expect us to fawn over The Contender? It's Sly Stallone and he's not in a Spy Kids movie. You happy?

Creamiest crap: Joey, a show that's only one-sixth as funny as Friends. But at least it'll last more than a month, unlike Father of the Pride or Hawaii.

WB

The network will never be No. 1, and it knows it, but as long as they keep up the teen franchises and don't take many risks, they'll always be a safe haven for devoted viewers.

Cream of the crop: Jack and Bobby

Matt LeBlanc stars this fall in his Friends spinoff Joey, which will probably be the biggest hit, although its pilot isn't entirely successful. It's driven too much by its premise and seems better suited to a mini-series, although the potential is there, and that's something that cannot be said for the network's other shows.

Creamiest crap: Someone thought it was a good idea to put Drew Carey and pals in front of a green screen for thirty minutes in Drew Carey's Green Screen Show. These must be the same ass-wizards who thought it was a good idea to put Jude Law and Gwenyth Paltrow in front of one for an entire movie.

BLOOPS & BLOOPERS

You can Kill Bill for free

Dicing up computerized villains, one part at a time

Kill Bill Vol. 1 (Dreamcast)

http://www.gamikaze.org/board/viewtopic.php?t=1242

A yellow track suit. Hattori Hanzo steel. Geyser of blood. Players control The Bride as she hacks apart a horde of over-dressed masked goons. Like lemmings, the throng of thugs practically dive onto The Bride's blade as she acts as a woodchipper. After a few dozen bodies have been laid out, a blaring siren signals the climactic battle with ball-and-chain-wielding psychic schoolgirl Go Go Yubari.

There's only one level, one kind of thug (although he comes with three different hairstyles) and Go Go is the only major villain. There are three tracks from the soundtrack, but they are a little clunky, particularly the obnoxious, looping siren when fighting Go Go. But hey, it's free!

Kill Bill Vol. 1 is a home-brewed
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 unscathed.

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 northeastern 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

I'm 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

game. There are no investors involved, no licenses to negotiate and no team of developers slaving to meet deadlines.

It's a modification of an existing game called Beasts of Rage (which compiled the character art from other existing games and put them in an early '90s arcade-style side-scrolling beat'em up).

The anonymous author of Kill Bill also 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 CDI 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.
**RAMBLINGS**

**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 hand-holding, the kissing, the cuddling, the long walks and all-night soulful conversations. It's enough to make a girl all fluster. I personally think love is the best emotion ever, and I doubt I am the only one. I have found I am the happiest and most content when I am in love. Dating sucks, but romance kicks hardcore ass all over the place. Oh yeah, take that, dating — a karate chop to the gluteus will do you quite nicely.

Dating is the lowest form of social contact. It is stilted, artificial, awkward, devoid of any sort of emotional support or stability, and it leads to sluteness. Now being in love, that's a whole other matter. Of course, the crucifix of the matter is getting too close. It happens just not that often. Those times when two strangers' eyes meet and it's like electricity flows through the air and they feel an instant connection and must be together no matter what are exceedingly rare. Except of course, in the wonderful world of romance manga and anime.

In the pages of romance manga, you find that sort of connection happening all over the place. She sees him, he sees her, he sees him, she sees her, whichever pairing you happen to like, and suddenly the moment freezes in time. Little sparkles flow through the air, cherry blossoms drift in the wind, blue sparks pass from loving gaze to loving gaze and suddenly everything in this crazy mixed-up world makes sense. Le sigh ...

Naturally, the plot of said manga and anime would be rather boring in a perfect sort of way, so the talented Japanese writers and artists always try to find ways to mix things up. Often enough, after the first intense eye contact, they find reasons to hate each other. They're rivals in school, 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 Kissabi or between high school freshmen like in Kare Kano, and, of course, there is always the young Japanese school girls from different genres, almost anything can happen. Sometimes, their feelings are nothing but screams and kicks and blood and tears and laughter and love and life and death. Love, the kicker of death, the joy that turns to sorrow, the sorrow that turns to joy, the fire that turns to ash, the ash that turns to new fire, the new fire that turns to new ash, the ash that turns to the new fire.

But what do I know? I'm just an average girl with an average life and an average imagination. I could never create such magical stories of love and hate and tears and blood and joy and laughter. But I can love the stories, and I can love the art, and I can love the music, and I can love the people who create it all. And I can love the people who love it.

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**CRAZED INDIE ROBOT**

**Controlling the music airwaves our way**

Ending the sprawl of double-albums

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 we 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 Shaggs all day, every day, until you'd 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 cata- logue 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 a bloated, 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 Shaggs!

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
Rate My newspaper column: Vol. 2.0

Rate My Poo sinks to new low, even for Internet

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

Follwing the runaway success of hotornot.com, rating sites are a dime a dozen as everyone tries to cash in on the trend of rating everything. Last week's column brought you ratemykitten.com, ricecomotricecpom.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 constrainment or the album Thriller? The band Erasure or shaving the number 77 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 #2655. I just voted that Mapquest.com is better than Elion Gonzales' raft. Since I know you're wondering, Gigi ranks just three percent behind 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 feces 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.

On a more practical level, try seeing how many folks of the opposite sex look legal but actually aren't. How good is your "jailbait detector?" If it's broken, finding out from the Internet might be better than finding out from the sheriff. It's both fun and practical!

PoeimRanger http://www.poemranger.com

Need your daily dose of poetry about blood, sadness and love, but can't get enough from reading Livejournal? Try PoemRanger instead for all your emo in one convenient place, complete with a handy anonymous way to tell people if it sucks. Shakespeare or Sadness? It's up to you.

Goth or Not http://gothomot.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.

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Goth or Not http://gothomot.com/

"Who are those weird kids hanging out in front of Target dressed in black leather and spiked hair? "Those are goths, Mom. "What are goths?"

If you've ever had this conversation with someone, just bring her to gothotmail.com. It will present more examples of gothdom than you can shake a spiked crucifix at.

You can rank just how gothy people are using names like "xGravlEyArDaLTX" and "Five_days bleeding." "Fort, Dianna," someone 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, they 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 "fellow" 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' "Wish Me Well (You Can Go To Hell)" all in regular rotation. That's the life for me. Not the life for you, say The Shaggs.

Let the robot be world's DJ

From ITB

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 newfangled: Immaculate crap is still going to taste like crap.

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Let the robot be world's DJ

Absolute power, idiocy

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 flouting.

Air America may have succeded 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. Carping 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 fluffly 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.
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 1¼ mile up on the left. From 192, travel west to Sherberth Road. At Sherberth Road, turn right. The Wardrobe Building is 1¼ mile on the right.

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