BOOKS that take FLIGHT

Flying Horse printing press succeeds by merging words and images into art

MOMA PARKERS (artist)

Walking through the Research Park office of UCF's printing press, Flying Horse Editions, is much like wandering through the hidden back rooms of an art gallery — where the most interesting artwork is stored.

Several minority-quality artists books lie stacked along the tables, including their latest publication, 'Landscape, which is housed in the collections of Yale University and the New York Public Library.

Along the walls hang vibrant art prints by various visiting artists who work with the press each semester. Prints in progress are spotted on top of the antique traditional presses.

Flying Horse Editions has grown both in size and prestige since its humble beginnings in the Visual Arts Building 14 years ago.

Founded by art professors Robert Burkhart and Robert Koven, the press opened after acquiring a $40,000 grant in 1994, the press began printing artists books under Ke Francis' supervision.

In 2000, Francis interviewed Ryan Edwards for an art faculty position and eventually offered him a teaching position and plans to work with the press each semester.

The press was languishing after Ke Francis' interview and the two actually did meet three times that backfired, Cheney, the vice president was probably the last person Edwards would come across when he walked on the university campus.

However, the discussion followed the political records of Edwards, John Kerry, "You have a future with him, but I'm sure not what you got in store for the Iraqi war. That's billions and billions.

Edwards argued that "the first Gulf War was a 

Edwards is right, Cheney is wrong, the first Gulf War was a million.

Voters not sure of issues, relying on first impressions

KATE HOWELL (copy)

Students turned out in the thousands this week to vote for SGA Senate — but not every voter was well informed on the choices or the issues.

Students like Ashley Kenard, an elementary education major, said they were "hesitant to vote" because they didn't know much about each candidate's platforms. "I'm voting for a friend because I know her character," Kenard said. As for her other choices, the sophomore said she met some Senate hopefuls outside the Student Union and plans to base her vote on those conversations and fliers.

"I might vote for them just on the basis of them being female," she said.

Elections began Monday and ended Tuesday. Students voted electronically at computer booths manned by candidates and volunteers outside the Student Union or by accessing http://sga.ucf.edu on their personal computers. At least 322 candidates are vying to fill the 22 seats in the SGA Senate. Run-off elections will be held starting Monday, and the winners will be announced Oct. 31.

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Tresspasser climbs balcony, beats woman

**Christine Dellert**

A 40-year-old man was arrested and charged with trespassing and battery on Sept. 5 when he climbed a balcony and entered a home.

The suspect, 40-year-old Michael Peterson, of Orlando, was arrested by Orlando Police Officer Clayton Wooten after being caught by a resident of the apartment building and identified by Johnny B. Williams in the police report.

The landlord said Williams went to the apartment earlier that evening, but the couple had an argument, according to the police report, before Williams became physically abusive.

The landlord suffered a wrist and elbow injury when he caught the suspect and Williams was arrested.

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Higher Education

What's in the news of colleges around the country.

Professor says science is underfunded and face delay.

TORONTO — Forcing students at one of the world's most prominent universities to spend more time and professionally and should be subjected immediately, Ontario's minister of education, Liz Sandals, said Wednesday. There is no need for the university to wait until the provincial government has a plan before taking action, she said.

"The association that represents the 12,000 academic staff at Ontario's universities said it was disappointed by the province's decision to freeze funding at current levels for one year.

Harvard student tells of violent confrontation.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Glapion, a senior in the psychology department, said student Alexander Wilner had been stacking violating that requirement.

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Space symposium a blast

Moon author: Space visits a possibility in the future

MONICA PARANOS
Staff Writer

Twenty years from now, your summer vacation plans might include the Bahamas or Europe. Instead, you may be packing for a trip to outer space.

"If you're in your twenties today, chances are good that you could go into space as a tourist." said Andrew Chaikin, renowned author of A Man on the Moon.

Last Monday night, Chaikin spoke in a packed audience in the Pegasus Grand Ballroom during the Lou Fry Institute's symposium. He described both future and current state of NASA's space program.

Chaikin said this generation would not return to the moon but would return to the moon and travel further. He would outline outer solar system's secrets of using the moon as a source of energy and materials for mining from asteroids.

William Readdy, a former astronaut and associate administrator for NASA, shared Chaikin's vision. "We also spoke at the symposium, said the positive future for space exploration in the coming century are limitless. Anything that you could imagine would probably underlie the future of space travel, " he said.

However, Chaikin stressed that the moon could be in jeopardy. They said that unlike NASA's major space support for exploration which is a little over a century in its heyday, some of these resources are not yet fully explored.

Readdy has already noticed one side effect of space envy, "When the first moon went around less than the Kennedy era," he said.

He explained that the future of space funding would be privatization. The private sector would pay for the projects and then NASA would provide the infrastructure and buy equipment.

Private corporations have already taken control of space missions, including the Ansari X Prize, a $10 million award given this week to the first team to successfully build and send a privately funded ship to orbit.

"Chaikin thinks the X Prize might be the space exploration catalyst for which the world has been waiting. On Monday, SpaceShipOne manned by Brian Binnie blasted 160,000 feet into space, winning the prize just eight years after it was announced. "Starting today, we're at the threshold of a new era," Chaikin said.

On the other hand, Readdy feels that the new era began with the moon landing. He's hoping that it has renewed society's curiosity about space. It appears that it has. NASA's web site has received 12 billion hits since the first moon landing. Readdy said, "It's impossible to fake that, " he said. "Besides, how would you fake the first moon landing? a secret with hundreds of thousands of people working on it is going to be impossible to fake that.

Chaikin said Neil Armstrong summed it up perfectly: "It would have been harder to fake the moon landing than it is to fake any photo finish.

For further proof, Chaikin referenced the magazine Tout. "I think that the moon landing was used as a fake photo finish loud."

Unfortunately, not everyone is cynical or apathetic about the moon landing.

Narayana Nagraj, a math major from India, said that he chose to attend the symposium because of its proximity to NASA. "I was so excited about it", he said, "It's hard to believe that I'm actually living this, " he added. "I'm hoping that it has renewed society's curiosity about space.

According to Chaikin, it is students like Nagraj who will make space exploration a reality. "I think the future of space exploration is a reality."

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Woodcuts some of press's abilities

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Fazale Rana, director of Irving life Studies, with Steven Severin, a visiting artist working on a choreographed piece presented by Life scientists Dr. Robert Switzer, Fazale Rana.

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National honor for teaching effort

UCF educators awarded for help in schools

NASEEM SOWTI

UCF's effort to improve math and science education in Florida's public schools has earned the school a national honor.

The College of Education’s Carol K. Mehta, Ph.D., was named the recipient of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' (AASCU) 2004 National Honors for Excellence in Teacher Education award. She is one of five educators to receive this honor, which is in its 31st year.

The AASCU award recognizes individuals or institutions that have made significant contributions to improving the quality of teaching and learning in higher education. The AASCU's mission is to foster excellence in teaching and learning at all levels of higher education.

Mehta has been a faculty member at UCF for 15 years and has served as the chair of the Department of Mathematics and Science Education since 2000. She is also the co-director of the National Center for Science and Mathematics Education and Outreach (NCSMO).

She has also been involved in numerous community service projects, including the Florida Alliance for Mathematics and Science Education (FAME) and the Florida Alliance for Science and Mathematics Education Outreach (FASMO).

Mehta has received several awards for her work, including the 2004 Florida Alliance for Science and Mathematics Education (FASMO) Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education Outreach.

Mehta said she was honored to receive the award.

"I am grateful to the AASCU for recognizing the efforts of UCF educators and the college's commitment to improving math and science education in Florida," she said.

She added that the award is a testament to the dedication of the UCF faculty and their commitment to enhancing the quality of education in the state.

Mehta's research focuses on mathematics and science education, with a particular emphasis on improving STEM education for middle and high school students.

She has published numerous articles and books on this topic and has presented at conferences around the country.

"This award is a recognition of the importance of education and the role that UCF plays in preparing future educators," she said.

Mehta said she hopes to continue her work in the field and to continue to contribute to the improvement of math and science education in Florida.

"I am committed to ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education and that they are prepared for success in the 21st century," she said.

The AASCU's National Honors for Excellence in Teacher Education award is one of the highest honors the association can bestow on an educator.

Mehta is the first UCF educator to receive this award.

She is joined by other recipients from across the country, including educators from the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Texas at Austin.

"This is a tremendous honor for UCF," said UCF President John Hitt. "Carol Mehta is an exceptional educator and a leader in her field, and this award is a testament to her dedication to improving education in Florida."
McIntosh and Imran lead men's soccer over Hatters in Atlantic Sun opener

Andy Vasquez / Staff Writer

After a slow and somewhat disappointing start to the season, the UCF Men's soccer team shouldered Sunday night that it is well on their way to a "top tier" recovery.

Gametes, a term McIntosh's best performance of the season didn't hurt either.

The Golden Knights beat Atlantic Sun conference rival Stetson (0-0-0 A-Sun) 3-1 in a tight match on Stetson's Orlando campus, improving their record to 2-3-1 and perfect 1-0-0 in the A-Sun. They have now won two games in a row and extended their unbeaten streak to three.

Imran, who transferred from Stetson to UCF after his freshman season, scored the game's only goal in the 73rd minute when he worked through defenses Xavier Delgado's pass from the left side and scored from the top of the box.

"I had some problems at Stetson," Imran said. "Not to mention any issues but I had some problems with some people, coaches, so it doesn't feel good, not because I dislike them, but good for myself because my team is winning."

In a junior forward, said that he knew former Coach Sean Murphy was upset last year when the Golden Knights scored the game-winning goal over Stetson.

"This year I think he felt it a little bit more for sure," Imran said of his former coach. "I could see in his way, it's a good feeling."

For the third time in six games the Knights were outscored by their opponents, but they were able to overcome the deficit with the timely goal by Imran and the dominating net minding of McIntosh.

"He stepped up as a leader and our captain," sophomore midfielder Mark Weng said of McIntosh. "If it wasn't for him we wouldn't have been in that game."

McIntosh, who has now started in 49 consecutive games, saved a season-high nine shots, including three in the first half. He earned his first shutout this season and 12th career shutout, which moves him into a tie for fourth all-time at UCF. His performance was also good enough to earn him A-Sun "Player of the Week" for the fourth time in his career.

"It feels good," McIntosh said of earning the award. "I thought our team really well as a goalkeeper to win that award, but everyone contributed. It reflects well on the team."

"There were three or four times where if he didn't moved quick, he would have totally stopped their way," senior midfielder James Masella said. "He was our hero."

Please see MCINTOSH on A8.

Cross country ready to get past the hurricanes

With setbacks already a running theme, the Knights are ready to go

Carissa Grasell / Staff Writer

After surviving a tumultuous beginning, UCF cross country is picking up some steam.

This year's cross country squad contains a majority of freshmen, young legs with only five seniors between the two teams. In their last women's representing the A-Sun, both teams hope to leave a lasting impression in the conference.

Mancia-Minor-Weissbach begins her eighth season as head coach, having accumulated eight conference titles and nine conference coaches of the year awards in the past.

While the men's and women's teams are separate, it should be noted that they are quite unique in their bond. "Men and women are essentially one team," Mancia-Minor-Weissbach said. "They train together, travel together, and have the same coach."

This season the men have a talented trio of freshmen striving to give the Knights their first championship in men's cross country. With senior leadership coming from captain Blake Miller and Brian Shaubert, UCF fronts a strong line up that was third in the A-Sun last season.

"This is the best team of men we've ever had," Mancia-Minor-Weissbach said, "They're really competitive and they work hard."

At their first meet, the Gator Invitational in Gainesville on September 18, the men finished fourth out of 21 teams. Leading UCF was freshman Jake White followed by according twins Brent and Ryan White, and

Please see YOUTH on A8.
Cromwell isn't surprised with top play of freshman phenom Flock

The Knights know that this win was important because it allows them to continue building their confidence, which was something they needed during their early season struggles. "It's a different game. It's quicker. It's faster, and more aggressive. It's just so many things," Mcintosh said.

Some have praised different, she's had to pay attention to the differences in diet, as well. Flock admitted that she's had a few people make fun of her voice, but it's highly likely they were opposing fans.

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Youth leads the pack with cross country season barely under way

The Knights were forced to cancel the UCF Invitational because of the weather and have also had tosoften practice locations due to storm damage. The triple combination of cancellations and the rain caused the majority of the trails the team ran to be clogged, forcing them to run on sidewalks and pavement, which tore up the legs.

Another dilemma is the lack of hills to challenge the team. To remedy this situation it travels once a week to the orange groves in Clermont to train, which gives the team a different terrain that is easier on the legs.但在 Clermont, however, is important to meet around 5 a.m.

"Those are the sacrifices we're willing to make," Mansur-Wentworth said.

UCF's next meet will be Saturday at the Disney Classic in Lake Buena Vista. Mansur-Wentworth plans on competing all of his athletes and expects to have a good turn out of family and friends to cheer them on.

"It's a fun meet and a good morale booster," Mansur-Wentworth said.

With several standout individuals and a coach with a proven record, success is on the horizon for the Knights.
Huskies' tough ground game could prove costly

Defensive job not getting any easier in home matchup

Boaz Marlow
Staff Writer

UCF VS. Northern Illinois

Last week, UCF suffered one of its biggest losses in program history, getting blown out by Memphis. Despite a decent offensive performance, the Knights were unable to score on four of the last five drives, giving up 440 yards to the Tigers. This week, the Knights have the honor of opening up against Northern Illinois.

Let's break it down...


t/offense vs. NIU defense

In its last game, the NIU defense put up a show at Akron that could rival the final playoff game. The Bulls held the Zips to just 61 yards on 34 carries, a paltry 1.8 yards per carry. The defense also held the Zips to just seven punts for 240 yards, a 34.3-yard average. Also, the defense gave up just three points per contest while the offense managed an average of 16 points per game.

UCF enters this game averaging 24.5 points per contest, while the Huskies are allowing 10.5 points per game.

In its last game, the UCF offense had a tough time, losing 49-19 at Miami (2-3, 1-1 MAC) to fall to 2-4 on the season. While the team had some bright spots, it also had some low moments. The UCF offense gained just 243 yards on 77 plays, averaging 3.1 yards per carry. The offense also had three turnovers, two of which were fumbles.

The Huskies, on the other hand, have managed to put out a decent offensive performance for the most part. The team's scoring defense has been its biggest problem — the Knights have given up 25 points in each of its last four games.

This week, the Huskies will be facing a team that is one of the best in the country. The Chicago-based team has a 2-0 record and is averaging 40 points per game. The team has scored more than 33 points in each of its last nine games.

The UCF offense will have its work cut out for it. The Huskies' defense is one of the best in the country, allowing just 10.5 points per game.

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The Huskies, on the other hand, have managed to put out a decent offensive performance for the most part. The team's scoring defense has been its biggest problem — the Knights have given up 25 points in each of its last four games.

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Election statutes need strengthening

O n Wednesday the Florida Senate held hearings and followed up by passing the amendment to the Student Government Act (SGA Act). 

The SGA Act would force students to vote in the SGA Senate election. A non-vote would count as a vote for the SGA ticket that was the oldest in the voting machine. 

The new amendment forces students to vote, and if they don't vote, they will be forced to vote for the SGA ticket that was the oldest of the other tickets. 

T he amendment is a move to curb the non-voting behavior that has been seen in previous elections. The amendment would make it harder for students to not vote, which would increase the number of votes. 

T his amendment will take effect in the next election, which is typically held in the spring. 

Election statutes need strengthening

Election statutes need strengthening

Election statutes need strengthening
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MOM... WORKING OUT ALL THE TIME.
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Four UCF political organizations gear up for this crucial election

Halloween comes early at Universal

That spinning sound is Orwell in grave

Tom Waits' Real Gone is real good


THE INDIE

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HAPPENINGS

5,000 stalks of corn, 2 parks and 14 years

Universal goes to hell for another season of scares

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

When there's no more room in Islands of Adventure, the dead will walk in TWO theme parks.

Halloween Horror Nights XIV has begun at Universal Orlando, and, as usual, it's even bigger than it was last year. The biggest difference this year is that instead of holding the event in one park, as all the previous years did, it is now held in both Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure.

There are also seven all-new haunted houses this year—a new record. As that weren't enough terror, there are also—four of holding the event in one park, as all the open areas filled with "scareactors" and special effects such as flame bursts and water jets. Other attractions include the Festival of the Dead parade, Bill and Ted's Excellent Halloween Adventure and an assortment of normal rides like the Incredible Hulk Coaster.

Incredible Hulk Coaster.

Excellent Halloween Adventure and an Festival of the Dead parade, Bill and Ted's houses new and more elaborate scare zones —

and the whole event takes more art and design entertainment, explained that though some of the houses may seem familiar to returning visitors, they are never the same.

"We break all the mazes down and redesign them all from scratch," Mannarino said.

Each house has its own distinct theme, such as a haunted ghost town and a castle filled with vampires. All of the houses are very elaborate and scary, but some are more impressive than others. Probably the most innovative house is Hellgate Prison, a maximum security prison in which the insane inmates have taken over. The house in need of the most improvement is Deadtropolis, a quarantined city filled with zombies. The idea is excellent, but with traditional Romero-zombie behavior, making the house feel less unique than it should.

The most improved feature this year is the four scare zones, which are much more impressive and detailed than in previous years. Areas include a haunted cornfield complete with 5,000 real stalks of corn and a post-apocalyptic war zone with flame-bursting oil pipes. These areas are at times more fun than the haunted houses since there is more room to run around and watch other people get scared by lurking creatures.

Be prepared to do lots of walking, though. The houses are spread far apart between the two parks. Those wanting to see everything should be sure to pack comfortable shoes.

… And deliver us from banjo-playing hillbillies, one of many threats to be found both Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios for Halloween Horror Nights XIV. Scream like a pig, boy!
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

CAMPUS

Gallery Talk with Carla Poindexter
Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m., free
Visual Arts Building
UCF 140A
407-823-3161

Moon Festival Talent Show
Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
ucf_vasa@yahoo.com

Lecture on Creoleness
Oct. 11, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., free
UCF

Table of Involvement
Oct. 12, noon to 2 p.m., free
Student Union
South Patio
407-823-6471

Do Platanos Go with Collard Greens?
Oct. 12, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-823-6471

Amateur Knight 3D
Oct. 12, 8 p.m., free
Wachovia
Student Union
407-823-6471

EVENTS

Halloween Horror Nights XIV
Oct. 8 to Oct. 31, 7 p.m., $54.75
Universal Studios
1000 Universal Studios Plaza
407-843-7000

Micky's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party
Oct. 8 to Oct. 31, 7 p.m., $25.95 to $34.95
Universal Studios
407-224-6321

Winter Park Autumn Art Festival
Oct. 9 and Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Lake Iden Park
455 S. Denning Ave.
407-544-8281

Collection convention
Oct. 9, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., $9
Raford Bunce, 1444 International Drive
Orlando, FL
Pioneer Days
Oct. 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., $2
Fine Arts Center for the Arts
6015 Kendale St.
407-823-7681

Viva Ocecal!
Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., free
Kissimmee Lakefront Park
101 Kissimmee Blvd.
407-347-1174

HIGHLIGHTS

DEVIANC FEST
Will's Pub gets silly and irreverent this Friday and Saturday for its fifth annual Deviance Fest. The two nights of fetished mayhem include an AntiBabe Model Auction, a Dating Game, and a Battle of the Bands. Tickets range from $5 to $10.

George Carlin
To say that George Carlin is just a "stand-up comic" is misleading. In the 40 years he's been performing, Carlin — second only to Richard Pryor on Comedy Central's 100 Greatest Standups of All Time list — has taken everything from pampered golfers to religion, going so far as to whistle the Ten Commandments down to two. During that time, he's found the energy to star in the occasional film, appearing as Rufus in both Bill and Ted movies, Cardinal Click in Dogma, and — his defining role — Mr. Conductor on the television series Shining Time Station.

What can an audience expect when he brings his act to Orlando? Age hasn't slowed Carlin down a bit, and he's still as caustic and hilarious as ever. Never one to play down to an audience, the controversial comedian isn't afraid to mix relevant social and political commentary in with his lighter material. Carlin will be performing Wednesday at the King Center for Performing Arts in Melbourne. Tickets range from $39.50-$49.50.
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

Fract 13

Digital Underground, Tone Loc (Hip-hop)
Oct. 8, 8 p.m., $15
55 West
55 W Church St.
321-229-6790

Collective Soul
Oct. 10, 4 p.m., free
Waterside Lakes Town Center
413 N. Alafaya Trail

NRBQ (rock)
Oct. 10, 7 p.m., $20-$25
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Emery, Brazil, From First to Last, Down to Earth Approach (Indie)
Oct. 10, 6 p.m., $10
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-808-5070

Pixies, The Thrills (rock)
Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m., $39.50
Hard Rock Live

CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

Home Grown, Spitfield, Denver Harbor (rock)
Oct. 11, 6 p.m., $10-$12
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

The Beach Boys (pop)
Oct. 11 and 12, 9 p.m., $54.75
Epcot
Walt Disney World Resort
407-351-5483

Searching for Chin, Nervous Breakdown, The Red Letter, Anam Cara (punk)
Oct. 12, 9 p.m., $5
Back Venue
33 W Pine St.
407-999-2570

Deftones, Death Angel (Hard rock)
Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., $35-$37.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Jennifer Daniels (rock)
Oct. 13, 9 p.m., $5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-808-5070

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ART

Landscape show (artist reception)
Oct. 8, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Galery on Virginia
1003 Virginia Drive
407-836-6343

Spirituality (opening reception)
Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Leslie Boyd Gallery
1802 Winter Park Road
407-399-7555

One-Year Anniversary Show
(opening reception)
Oct. 13, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Orlando Marriott Downtown
400 W. Livingston St.
407-843-6664

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LIFE

Campus activism rocks
Four of UCF's political groups ready for battle

EMILY JANE SCOTT
Staff Writer

"There's always talk about how youth doesn't care ... I think that's gonna change," said Ashley Boroski, the chairwoman of UCF's College Republicans.

There is much validity to her claim — young voters at UCF are exceedingly active this fall. With a student population more than 40,000, as Boroski said, "There's going to be every type of opinion out there." Although so many opinions seem to boil down to two sides every fourth autumn, opinions are voiced stronger than ever among UCF student organizations.

Often throughout the year, students involved with ROCK (Rebuilding on a Conservative Cornerstone) and organizations governed by the Progressive Council tend to get the most attention, particularly this past weekend with the appearance of Michael Moore and the Inception of Tent City on UCF's Math and Physics lawn.

Erin Shine, the vice president of development for College Democrats, said of some of these somewhat radical groups, "Unless you're 100 percent for those ideas, people get turned off by the extreme groups."

This election, students are seeking to find common ground with their fellow young voters through canvassing, phone banking, tabling and more organized events rather than large-scale protests. Some of the most highly active groups and hardest working student organizers on campus are members of College Democrats, College Republicans, Students for Kerry and Students for Bush.

What drives students to these organizations is their passionate views of the upcoming election and the candidates running. "Do you think the country has been going in the right direction for the past four years?" asks sophomore David Brown, who is president of Students for Kerry. He details his involvement with this group as a reaction to the things that have happened in America for the past four years, highlighting economic turns and the war in Iraq. "The motivation to do this wouldn't have been there four years ago."

His counterparts in the more conservative contingent have different reasons for their passion. TJ Hickman, the vice chair of Students for Bush, said of himself and his fellow College Republicans, "When you're talking about national security, it tends to get us pretty fired up." He said that this election is "very, very, very important because of 9/11." Boroski states a similar viewpoint: "Are you gonna switch leaders at this time of war?"

Although College Democrats and Students for Kerry share many members, and the same goes for College Republicans and Students for Bush, they are separate organizations with somewhat separate goals. According to Brown, the members of Students for Kerry "aren't necessarily Democrats — they're tired of the way the government has been going for the past few years, and they want a change."

Hickman states opposing views in the same way about Students for Bush: "It's non-partisan. It's for Democrats, independents, anyone who wants to support Bush but doesn't wish to join College Republicans. Obviously it's going to be heavily Republican."

Boroski said that unlike the specific Students for Bush organization, College Republicans are highly focused on the campaigns of local government officials as well as state congressmen and women. "While we're focused mostly on the Bush/Cheney and the Mel Martinez for senate campaign, we also focus a lot on other local elections." She said the way in which many Republicans campaign for one another helps her group's activism. One thing binding College Republicans and Students for Bush aside from support for the President, she said, is dissatisfaction with Kerry as an opponent.

Similarly, Shine stated that the College Democrats are in direct contact with the Kerry/Edwards campaign, Betty Castor's senate campaign, and Rick Staly's campaign for Orange County Sheriff. "Shane explained working with Students for Kerry in this presidential campaign, "We work side by side in collaborative efforts to help Kerry take office and get Bush out."

Each group takes a very active role in the campaigns playing out this fall. Tabling is a project each of these organizations focus on and also a very effective project for all. "Our membership has grown up from 300 to an unprecedented 1,000," said Boroski of College Republicans, giving much of the credit to tabling outside the union and also a table the group had at student orientations this summer. The activity also drew a high response for the Students for Kerry group. Brown said, "Just standing outside the Student Union, asking people who they're going to vote for, we get an overwhelming response. In one day of tabling, we had eight new volunteers, 50 registered voters, and 200 people sign up for the club."

Both organizations also agreed that they are focusing heavily on phone banking and campaigning door to door. Phone banking is a type of campaigning that involves calling numbers on a list at one of the campaign offices, and talking to the people at those numbers about support and getting out to the polls. Students for Kerry holds phone banking sessions every Tuesday and Thursday night. Much of the same work is done in door-to-door campaigning, also known as canvassing.

According to Boroski, there is a huge Bush/Cheney campaign "push" focusing on the last 72 hours before the election. "We're going to have phone bankers, poll watchers, door to door [workers], and we're signing up people at our tabling sessions now. Everything is leading up to that day." Larger events have been frequent as well. Recently, College Republicans helped out in an event called The Meeting of the Mouths at the UCF Arena, featuring conservative commentator Sean Hannity. Many members of this organization got to meet Hannity. College Republicans also attended a speaking event by conservative commentatorAlt-right wing commentator Nick Nolte.

Decisions, indecisions

Get out and vote or stay home and mope?

NICOLE SCHaub
Staff Writer

To vote or not to vote, is it even a question? Yes, it is.

Voting statistics among youths have shown a drastic decline of 13 percentage points since the voting age was lowered to 18 in 1972. According to youthvote.org, only an estimated 42 percent of registered 18- to 24-years-olds voted in the 2000 Presidential election, while an estimated 70 percent of registered 25-year-olds and above voted.

Campaigns such as MTV's Rock the Vote and Choose or Lose along with visits from presidential candidates to college campuses have attempted to bring up the low numbers in youth voting for this upcoming election.

 Actress Drew Barrymore noticed this problem and decided to speak out to the youth by touring the United States and talking with people ranging from musicians to politicians to understand why there is a low voter turnout among youths. Her journey in The Best Place to Start aired on MTV recently.

By talking with people such as director Michael Moore and former Christian Coalition Director Ralph Reed, Barrymore found that many young people don't vote because they feel like politicians don't connect with them or take interest in their concerns with the issues in our country. They feel a lack of trust.

"Many people aren't going to vote because they don't feel like they can trust the government or the representatives voting for election, said UCF junior Lisa Needel. "I don't doubt that corruption is widespread in our government, but forsking your right to vote is a useless retaliation. You become another unclaimed ballot, a faceless statistic. How is that effective?"

However, other students don't agree and feel that they as Americans have the right not to vote. "I am not voting, not registered to vote, don't know about politics, nor do I care about it at this point in my life," UCF senior Heather Hruby said when asked why she was not voting in the 2004 election.

UCF senior Shari Corser, who did punch her ballot in the 2000 election, had other reasons for not participating in 2004. "I voted last election for Al Gore, and after that I haven't agreed with either side," she said. "There are
CSI: Bithlo coming up

More spinoffs and reality shows near

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

We're back with round two. Two weeks ago the indie covered the WB, ABC and NBC's newest shows, and now it finishes up with the remaining three networks. You've been warned.

FOX

This has been a crazy year for Fox. With their season supposedly starting in the summer (if you count trips like Method and Red and Quintuplets as shows) and multiple allegations of plagiarizing from the other networks, Fox has developed a crazy strategy, which is to just film something whatever it is, and edit it. Because of baseball, their fall season won't start until November, but when it does, the unloading of a gazillion reality shows will most certainly continue, as we'll see more celebrities box and more midgets get married. Only on Fox: Two of their biggest hits, 24 and the juggernaut that is American Idol, don't even come until January, along with the awaited return of...Family Guy.

Cream of the crop

House. A show about a grizzled brilliant doctor who can solve many problems others can't, but it is a major crank about it. The apt supporting cast of Omar Epps and Robert Sean Leonard certainly helps. Plus, many critics have reported that the main character is too crotchety to be likable. Finally, a character to relate too.

Creamiest crop

The Partner. A legal reality show by producers Chris Cowan and Jean-Michel Michenaud on Sundays! What morons are programming for Fox Sunday has and will always be the comedy block. They shouldn't try to change it now. They'll put this on the schedule. They shouldn't try to change it now. They'll just give us more of the same.

CSI

They are the leaders in the industry with several huge hits that consistently wipe out the competition for much of the year. While their strategy of playing it safe and relying mostly on franchises to network draws' ratings, will the network finally make a decent new show?

Cream of the crop

Hasn't CSI only been on for four or five years? It's a bit premature for a second spin-off (CSI: New York). This will continue CBS' dominance over television, with its formulaic fast-food TV.

Creamiest crop

Whose career has fallen lower? John Goodman, who's returning once again to primetime comedy with the stale Center of the Universe, or Jason Alexander, who along with the always likable Malcolm Jamal Warner unite to star in Listen Up, a show where the balding actor plays a sports writer? Both sitcoms look to be travesties of Gigli-sized proportions, but let the Seinfeld curse continue and give the award to Alexander! Don't worry, there are a lot of worse fates in the world than being remembered as George. You could be Vanilla Ice.

UPN

The black comedy and B-level sci-fi network has been the manatee in the lake that is television. Or something like that. Their Monday night comedy block has a loyal following, but it's never been strong enough to get the network out of last place. With a strong ace up its sleeve, UPN may be this year's proverbial dark horse and lift itself out of the doldrums.

Cream of the crop

Kevin Hill is the ace up the sleeve in question. Starring the remarkable Taye Diggs, Hill tells the story of a hotshot lawyer who must take care of his baby relative when the father dies. The premise may be a tad on the hokey side, but this has been the highest-rated show of the season and has given the network that legitimacy they so desire. Plus, hokey premises have turned into great shows. It'll be interesting to see what the hype is all about. The hip, youthful Veronica Mars looks like a show the WB is going to regret not having as a part of their lineup eventually. Second Time Around, a romantic sitcom which is the only other new show this fall from UPN, looks neither bad nor good enough to receive any type of reaction, which is more than can be said for some of the horrid shows on other networks.

Creamiest crop

Just about everything else still on the network.
Rallies, canvassing a must

From 15

with Rudolph Giuliani in Orlando in late September. On Aug. 30, College Democrats and Students for Kerry collaborated and welcomed three of John and Teresa Heinz Kerry’s children as well as Cate Edwards, John Edwards’ daughter, to UCF in the Student Union. Despite short notice for the event, the event drew 250 people who could fit into the room, and about 70 who had to be turned away due to lack of space.

The recent Kerry rally at the TD Waterhouse Centre was also a huge event for these groups. While College Democrats volunteered in large numbers for this event, it wasn’t just limited to the Democrats. As Hickman states, members of Students for Bush and College Republicans held what he referred to as a “counter-rally” outside of the event. He stated that the event was not a protest against Kerry, so much as Republicans standing up and saying, “Florida is Bush country, and he’s [Kerry’s] not going to win this state.”

Heading on into Election Day, all of these organizations have a lot planned. Brown talks about projects considered for the big day, such as offering rides to elderly people who can’t make it out to the polls. His group also focuses on making sure voters know where their polls are located and how to get there.

Before Election Day comes, Shire wishes to remind students of important dates. According to Shire, voters can still register for absentee ballots until Oct. 18. The period between Oct. 18 and Nov. 2 is called early voting, and it is possible to send in an absentee ballot or show up at designated polls anytime during those 15 days. For information on early voting sites in Orange County, as well as more information on absentee ballots, you can check the county’s supervisor of elections’ Web site at http://www.ucf.elections.com. The importance of voter participation is an ideal both parties hold in high regard.

Although there’s only a little over a month until the general election, students are still encouraged to join any of these groups. Three of these organizations have list-servers students can join, with Students for Bush still organizing theirs. You can find College Republicans on the web at http://www.ucfcr.com and College Democrats at http://www.ucfcollegedemocrats.com. College Republicans meet every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Business Administration Building, Room 119. College Democrats meet Thursday afternoons in the Communications Building, Room 108 at 5:00 p.m.

Still hope remains

From 16

relationships.

5. Sensual dips in the bath tub with your sweetheart. How many college students actually have a bath tub that they would willingly swim in? Yuck. Give me three scrubs with Tilex and I’m still thinking about it. Not to mention, the size of them. How could you possibly comfortably fit two people, some bubbles and easy conversation into that tiny tub? Now, a spa tub (think Pretty Woman) and it is on.

6. Flowers strewn across your apartment in an effort to say “I’m sorry” or “I love you.” First of all, how did they get in there? Unless of course you have roommates or gave out your key, this may not happen. And if you have a particularly dense boyfriend, it will never happen. This also goes for flowers strategically placed on the floor leading to the bed where an extra special gift awaits. Again, movie stuff.

7. And last but not least, my favorite cliché. Remember the time you fought with your boyfriend about, say his ex-girlfriend. You vow never to speak to him again and go out dancing with your friends. Poof, he arrives, laden with apologies, “I love you” and “Let’s be together forever.” Forget the fact that he had no idea where you were going to be. Do you really believe he drove all over town looking for you? Just because Freddie Prinze, Jr. did it in She’s All That doesn’t mean the average guy will.

What I love most about all of these events is that half of them never happen. And if they do they are nowhere near as fabulous as we intend them to be. But we still watch them in movies and hope they come true.

Ahh, the pathetic idealness of it all.

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The folk behind the scares

The daily grind of the scare-actors

TYLER KING
Staff Writer

G

uests who attend the annual Hal­loween attraction at Universal Orland­do vary from local residents to inter­national tourists. Likewise, the army of
characters brought in to staff the event as per­formers, called “scareactors” come from all
over the state and the country to work at Hal­loween Horror Nights.

At the July 13 open call auditions, actors arrived from as far as Minnesota to attend one
of the country’s largest haunted attractions. A
veteran performer, “Papa” Carl Roberts works a
day job as an “unassuming lawyer” in a pri­

ate practice in West Palm Beach and has been
coming back year after year for a one-of-a-kind
gig: Scaring guests past their breaking points.
Professionals, students, teachers and everyone
in between make up the typical cast at a haunt­ed
house or street scare zone.

The days for a Halloween performer are
typically average. “We wake up, go to work or
school and then by night arrive at Universal to
begin their transformation,” says first-year
house scare-actor Lynda Addison. Scareac­tors arrive at their green room, or break area,
and sign in to begin their night. Next they have
over to the makeup artists to be air-brushed, painted,
splattered or get their individually crafted
mask made on property by the prosthetics
department.

One hour after arriving, the actors head on
set for their first 45-minute set of the night. Each house and street area has a cast of about
30-100, comprised of two casts: A and B. A cast
will open the set and welcome the first guests
of the night. The two casts alternate every 45
minutes until close. Actors must constantly
come up with new ways to startle and terrify
the guests, to give the guests a different experi­ence
every time and also to keep themselves entertained.

After the first week the standard practice of
“boo and skiddoo” (the phrase used by Hal­loween employees to describe the act of scar­
ing and then disappearing for the next guest)
can get old for everyone.

“The excitement comes from trying new
scare and getting a great reaction from a
guest,” says street performer Jeremy Franze.

“The scare-actor lives for screams.”

However, not all guests give the reaction
the performers expect or would like. At times,
guests can be downright nasty after a few
drinks.

An unfortunate reality of Halloween for
every performer is the belligerent or obnoxi­

ous guest. These are the people who scream
back at the performers who are giving them the
experience they paid 50 bucks for. Typical un­
wanted responses have included getting beer tossed on them, hit, slapped, punched or
otherwise insulted by four-letter words and
comments about their mothers. In addition,
there are always the invitations for some sort
of sexual activity to a member of the same or
opposite sex while the guest’s significant other

complains, even though they didn’t take part
in the electing process,” says street performer Jeremy France.

“You can’t bitch don’t agree with either side morally. I am
people can wear a ‘Vote or
Off’ T-shirt, others should be able to wear a
‘Voting is for Old People’ one. We have that
right.”

Many attempts, such as Web sites, rallies
and the launching of pro-voting organiza­tions
for youths have been made to change the
outcomes of voting participation in this
election and inform people on how impor­tant
the issues are and how one vote can make a
difference. Until November we won’t know if
the efforts will pay off.

“Because of the kinds of things that are at
state with this [election], such as the envi­
ronment, the deficit and America’s position
in regard with the rest of the world, it is
incumbent on everybody to come down on
one side or the other,” English instructor
Russ Kesler said. “We need to exercise that
right. The rights we don’t exercise some­
times end up going away.”
The Indie now has full access to the Future's archives, so each week we're bringing you an old editorial cartoon. Ah, bowling! The sport of kings (as seen on this cartoon published Jan. 16, 1996). You know, we're sure Carolyn Doyle means well ... actually, that's a lie. We never have a clue what she means.

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Critic's Choice

**BEST THAI RESTAURANT**

- Scott Joseph; Orlando Sentinel Foodie Award 2003

**Dirge focuses on Cloud**

The general consensus is that this game may not make it stateside.

**Dirge of Cerberus**

**Platform: PS2**

Resembling the action series Devil May Cry, Dirge shifts focus from Cloud's solemn introspection to the frantic gun battles of his pseudo-demon ally Vincent Valentine. And everyone's favorite remote controlled robot-cat toy, Cait Sith, makes his return as well.

Vincent battles an army under the moonlight, three years after the defeat of FF7's big, bad, Sephiroth. Players will get an opportunity to revisit familiar landmarks, only now re-envisioned with a massive graphical upgrade provided by the PS2. While the game concept itself may not be new, this may be the biggest genre leap the Final Fantasy series has made to date.

**Advent Children**

**Platform: DVD and PlayStation Portable**

The angsty, spiky-haired ex-soldier with the ridiculously huge sword is back in this upcoming CG movie. Cloud returns to battle a trio of white-haired, super-powered "children" that looks to have some sort of tie to Sephiroth.

The death of Aersi and Sephiroth's initial turn to evil highlight the official trailer, along with cameos from a few old allies sporting makeovers (Barret's looking less Mr. T-like these days). Two years after the events of FF7, the old gang looks ready to fight some evil super kids in several high-octane, superhuman fight sequences.

As with the Final Fantasy games and the previous movie The Spirits Within, the level of graphical detail and fluidity captured in the animation so far seem to have taken the CG to the realm of eye crack.

Expect the storyline to continue to confuse the hell out of fans while distracting them with the purdiest CG this side of the Matrix trilogy.
Forget about Poland: More films bashing George Dubya

Orwell Rolls in His Grave

MATT HEDGECK
Staff Writer

It seems there is no shortage to the list of filmmakers seeking to bury President George W. Bush. What could he have possibly done to make so many people unhappy? The Downtown Media Arts Center, located at the southwest corner of East Pine Street and South Magnolia Avenue, continues its Take Back Democracy Film Festival through the month of October. This week they add Orwell Rolls in His Grave to the already motley assortment of anti-Bush documentaries.

Orwell Rolls in His Grave

When George Orwell wrote 1984 in 1949, he created a vision of the future that had never been seen before. Instead of jet packs and little green men, Orwell saw the future as a world where the government would have complete totalitarian control over the masses through control of the media and a series of perpetual wars.

According to some, Orwell was 20 years too early.

In Orwell Rolls in His Grave, director Robert Kane Pappas claims that the Bush administration is creating a real-life version of the police state described in Orwell’s classic novel. The main focus of the film is comparing the book’s Ministry of Truth to the modern news media — not just Fox News, mind you, but all news media which is owned by multi-national corporations that donate large sums of money to Republicans.

Pappas claims that the news media deliberately keeps people uninformed by barring them with unimportant entertainment news and sensationalist stories. One example that he cites was the Iran Hostage Crisis of the late ’70s and early ’80s, which the news media followed from day one to day 444 while ignoring other, sometimes more significant stories. He blames the general decline in America media quality on the deregulation in the 1980s, which allowed corporations to own a vast number of media outlets. Essentially, America’s are deceived by the fact they have more choice, when they actually have less diversity of views.

The film does a good job explaining why this a problem, primarily through first person interviews with media experts. Some footage with the always boisterous Michael Moore helps to liven up the occasionally dull string of facts (Pappas inadvertently ends up making Moore look somewhat silly by juxtaposing his rambunctious style of speaking against more solemn interviewees who make the same points as Moore, but with less arm-flailing).

Though the film is competent in proving its point, it stretches itself too thin. The film feels long even at only 84 minutes — chopping it down to an hour or less would have helped to increase the film’s impact. Also, comparisons of the Bush administration to 1984 have become common and somewhat clichéd since Sept. 11, 2001, and even moderately informed liberals will probably learn nothing new from watching the film.

Orwell Rolls in His Grave is a workhorse of a political documentary. It’s more functional than flashy. Sometimes this is a positive quality, but ultimately it means that it gets overshadowed by better media-themed documentaries like Outfoxed and Hijacking Catastrophe.

Playing Friday at 9:30 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m., and Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

COMING TO DVD — OCT. 12

Horse: ‘No sir, I don’t like it’

But we do, because Ren and Stimpy are on DVD

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

Ren and Stimpy: Seasons One and Two

This three-disc set, which has been some time in the making and is an oft-bootlegged item among college students, finally has an official release.

Wisely releasing the episodes in their original uncut versions, Ren and Stimpy can now be seen in all its happy happy joy beauty.

More than 30 episodes from the 1991-93 seasons are included in this set. The banned episode “Man’s Best Friend” is also included. A featurette entitled “In the Beginning” is included as a bonus.

Other promises for this release include audio commentary by the creators, an image gallery and more.

The Day After Tomorrow

Providing the spectacle without the aliens, Independence Day director Roland Emmerich has castrated the threat in his film The Day After Tomorrow.

Though some might say global warming is a far more pressing threat than aliens, aliens are still the more exciting one to watch.

The DVD includes two commentaries, the first by Emmerich and producer Mark Gordon, and the second with co-writer Jeffrey Nachmanoff, cinematographer Ueli Steiger, editor David Brenner and production designer Barry Chusid. Deleted scenes, an “audio anatomy” interactive sound demo and more than an hour of exclusive making-of footage via DVD-rom round out the features.

Raising Helen

One of two Garry Marshall pictures released this year, (what’s happening to this world?) Raising Helen proved to be the least profitable of the two (the other was The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement) and the one that critics roasted on an open fire and spit the film exactly where it belonged: The spitoon conveniently located near your leg.

This disc will include what must be an illuminating commentary by Marshall and the writers, hilarious deleted scenes, wondrous bloopers and a Liz Phair music video.

A full-screen edition is available and recommended in this case, as you’ll see less of the movie that way.
Fiery! Original! Unfortunately, Ladder is none of the latter

Despite the star power of John Travolta and Joaquin Phoenix, Ladder 49 goes up in flames

ASHLEIGH EISINGER

Imagine the typical non-super hero movie. Now imagine that this specific non-super hero is a firefighter who risks his life to save the very last person inside a burning building, thus trapping himself inside of its fiery walls. If you can do all this and then insert the typical emotional flashbacks that show the audience how the hero fought to get to this very moment in time, you're doing great. Welcome to Ladder 49.

It's your basic storyline: Newbie firefighter Jack Morrison (Joaquin Phoenix) comes into a firehouse run by laid-back Captain Mike Kennedy (John Travolta), who acts as both a father figure and a tour guide through Jack's discovery of what teamwork, responsibility and heroism really mean. Jack's character growth is shown through a series of flashbacks that interrupt the main scene. The flashbacks are what you would call "typical." There's the "rookie prank" scene, the "meeting the future wife" scene, the "doubting and worried wife asks if this is really worth it" scene, the introduction of kids, the killing of the non-critical teammate, etc. etc.

Now of course, the main scene is where Jack is stuck inside a burning building after refusing to give up on the last guy stuck inside. The civilian was brought to safety but then, naturally, the floor beneath Jack's feet gives way, sending him tumbling down into the middle of the smoldering wreckage, surrounded by licking flames and crumbled mountains of concrete and twisted iron. And, of course, the pounding question (between the frequent flashbacks) is whether or not the rest of the Ladder 49 team will be able to pry Jack from the blazing inferno in time. Will he live or will he die? You'll have to see the movie to find out... or you could just take a guess between the almost supernatural rescue and the imminent death. You be the judge.

The cast was the best feature of this movie by far. Joaquin Phoenix is never disappointing (think back to fond memories of him in Gladiator, Signs and The Village) and John Travolta is a legend. While the cast does a fabulous job of acting, and the directing, stunt work and special effects are outstanding, the storyline is just too overdone.

This is your classic hero-gets-in-trouble-doing-good-for-others plotline, hands down. If you feel like seeing a movie full of great screen shots, heart-felt emotional scenarios and heroism at its cliched best, this is your movie.

But if you're looking for a new and interesting perspective of life as a firefighter, or any other everyday hero for that matter, you might as well skip Ladder 49.
**MOVIES**

Don’t find this Lost Reality

Despite National Lampoon love, these reality TV spoofs stink

JOE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Once again National Lampoon is lampooning something new. This time, it’s reality TV.

Lost Reality is broken down into nine segments, each a different reality show. The premise is that these reality shows never aired because they were too outrageous.

Unfortunately, the film fails to deliver many laughs. This is a decent premise, but it is done very poorly. Production-wise, the video is not gritty enough to be reality, but not lit well enough to look remotely professional.

It looks and feels just like a freshmen video production, where the freshmen are so excited because now they can drop the f bomb and show lots of boobs. For example, one of the segments is entitled “Casting Couch.” In this segment, you see the inside of a casting office, where several young actresses are auditioning for a soap commercial and invariably end up less than fully clothed. Another segment is called “The Whore.” This one actually looked the most like an actual reality show, with odd, forced camera angles and bad audio. In this segment, the producers take a guy and set him up on a blind date with a hooker. The thing is, the guy doesn’t know she’s a hooker. After dinner, the happy couple retires to the backseat and is interrupted mid-coitus by the host of the show holding a microphone. The guy is then told the truth where upon he breaks into a torrent of swear words and marches angrily away.

One segment that works pretty well is called “Take That Drug.” This is a “Name That Tune”-style, homemade game show that pits stoner against stoner in a battle to see who can take the biggest combination of the following: Weed, coke, acid, Jack Daniels and assorted prescription pills. One of the only funny parts of the entire DVD is watching the aftermath from “Take That Drug.” However, this little part cannot save the rest of the film.

The film really misses with a couple of segments. One is called “Psyche Ward,” where a group of patients in a mental ward are subjected to high-pressure situations to see if they can handle it. Predictably, all of them fail but no hilarity ensues.

Another segment that fails to entertain is “Money.” “Money” is a man-on-the-street type show where the host asks random people to do outrageous things for cash. Some of the things are asking a man to lick the toes of a guy black midget and asking a man to drink lye until he pukes on the street. Once again, a decent premise, but it fails to deliver.

With the phrase “National Lampoon” attached to the film, viewers will expect a lot more from this DVD than it can hope to deliver. Do so yourself a favor and lose this Reality.

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**CINESCENE**

Don’t fret, be like Brett!

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

When DVD buying is one of the main problems in your life, you know you’re pretty set for the moment. A couple of weeks ago both Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind and Super Size Me hit the shelves at the local marts. Now, in order to control my ample appetite for DVD consumption I’ve tried to compress my DVD spending down to $40 dollars a week. To my shock and amazement when I checked the local marts’ advertisements, both Eternal Sunshine and Super Size Me were priced at $18.99. This put me over my allotment for the week. Not one to break a promise with myself, I had to find a way to own both of these discs without breaking any sort of Florida Statues — I didn’t want to end up being in Police Beat for DVD Theft.

And that’s when I checked good old reliable deepdiscountdvd.com. Super Size Me was firmly priced at $16.16. I checked on Eternal Sunshine ..., $21.99! Blasphemous price gouging! I then web surfed over to amazon.com where I found the price to be $20.99. Intrigued, I checked the price of Super Size Me $18.89. All total this put me at $37.90 with deepdiscountdvd.com and $39.88 with amazon.com.

And what about shipping? Amazon only offers free shipping on certain orders more than $25, so I mix and match was clearly out. Deep Discount offers free shipping on every order, so my choice was clear and my budget laid room for just about a gallon of gas to put in my tank.

Crisis averted. I might not have my discs on the Tuesday release date, but was I going to watch them that day anyway? They’d probably sit in their wrapping for at least a few days, gathering dust before my busy schedule allotted for a time of film-watching.

When on a budget as tight as mine, crucial decisions need to be made. I could wait for these discs; I had a promise to keep to myself. I ordered the discs and I felt I won a personal victory. I kept under my allotted budget and somehow felt I had done the world a favor. I had left two copies of these movies in store for the folk that have the time and money in their schedule, and then purchase the discs. In other words, someone, movie geeks is crying “thank you” to me. I offer him my hanky.

A lesson to all of you out there: When the price isn’t in your budget, don’t fret. Be like Brett. Look at your online retailers. Think about the time you have in your schedule, and then purchase the discs. In the end you’ll find yourself spending more time than money, and isn’t money the more precious of the two? I’m glad we agree.

Trivia: Please remember to e-mail Brett@theindie.com your answer, your phone number and name so thy prize can be claimed.

Question: Before Jim Carrey became interested in the part, what actor was going to play Joel Barish in Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind? Your correct answer will bring forth a poster prize and a chance to meet me in person!
Gloomy morality play lacks entertainment

**FILM REVIEW** ★★★★

**Gloomy morality play lacks entertainment**

**Woman, Thou Art Loosed**

**Loosed**

**true to life...Lifetime, that is**

**KRISTINA VELAZQUEZ** Staff Writer

**Confessions of an inmate on death row, movie No. 536: Woman, Thou Art Loosed.**

**Woman, Thou Art Loosed** is a documentary about a woman on death row for murdering her mother's boyfriend, the man who raped her when she was 12 years old.

Based on the self-help novel of same name by Bishop T.D. Jakes, the key points in this movie take place either in a revival meeting or in a jail cell. The movie skips from past to present and back to past to relive her life experiences. The author of the book plays himself as the evangelical preacher during the revivals. He is also the man Michelle confides in to get the help she needs.

After suffering a hard life, Michelle Jordan, an ex-con, ex-stripper and ex-cocaine addict, sets out to better her life, to get "loosed" (a term used by Jakes during the revival to speak of starting anew, clean from all sins). Still, her past haunts her. She is constantly reminded of her mistakes and of how she was wronged; her mother still chooses a deadbeat boyfriend over her, her ex-pimp comes to pay her a visit and the neighborhood-friendly drug dealer tries to get her to relapse.

**Woman, Thou Art Loosed** has an that is both morally depressing and hopeless. Still, it presents a slight silver of peace when Michelle comes to terms with the fact that what she did was wrong.

Clifton Powell, who plays Reggie, the man who raped Michelle, comes short of successfully acting out his role. In fact, this entire movie is compiled of many actors who don't quite cut it. Michelle's mother, Lorette Devine's Casey, does her best to support her daughter, but is torn between her lover and her child. Naturally, she goes for the lover.

Still, though this stereotypical scenario may be irritating, the movie cannot be blamed. The main character Michelle, brilliantly played by John Q. star Kimberly Elise, is a "composite character" who represents a countless number of other women who go through these horrors every day. In this sense, **Woman, Thou Art Loosed** presents a real-life problem, which many people seem to ignore or don't care to acknowledge. Its efforts to bring this problem to light are highly commended.

Director Michael Schultz does a superb job in producing this low-budget, true-to-life film. It is no wonder how the man who directed Ally McBeal and Everwood could be responsible for this Lifetime-type movie.

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**Book and CD highlight DVD extras, but Hopper’s commentary is lame**

FROM 11

1960s America, including an alcoholic ACLU lawyer (Jack Nicholson), commune-dwelling hippies and violent rednecks. Ultimately, though, their trip is summed up by Wyatt in a single, emblematic line: "We blew it."

**Easy Rider** is a film of profound historical importance. While it wasn't necessarily the best or most creative youth movie of the 1960s, it was the most commercially successful.

It proved to studios that movies that were risky or unconventional could be commercially viable and prompted them to take chances on young directors such as Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas. Easy Rider effectively created the climate for the films of the 1970s, which is widely regarded as the best decade in American film.

The film is good, but not great. The montages of Wyatt and Billy cruising through the deserts to the sounds of hippie rock are cool, but are too long and frequent. Parts of the film feel disjointed, particularly some of the dialogue scenes in which most of the cast was high. Also, a number of the people the two meet are little more than stereotypes, particularly the southern rednecks.

For some reason, though, the film works. Easy Rider is a fascinating treatise on the mindset of the 1960s counter-culture and its ultimate failure. Surprisingly, the film hasn't dated much either, despite the film's context.

Also included is an 80-page book by Lee Hill, which is part of the British Film Institute Modern Classics series. People who don't care to read won't see much value in this, which is sad because it provides some nice depth.

However, the actual special features on the disc are somewhat disappointing. The film only comes with the documentary Easy Rider: Shaking the Cage and full-length audio commentary by director Dennis Hopper. The documentary is solid, but Hopper's commentary is flat-out boring. He really doesn't add anything that can't be learned from watching the documentary or reading the book. The film, of course, is presented in anamorphic widescreen, and the disc also includes a photo gallery, production notes and talent files.

Though special features leave a lot to be desired, the set is a good value. For a little less than $20 you get a classic movie, a good CD and an informative book. Don't blow it, man. Do yourself a favor and pick up this set, ya dig?
Raise Your Voice a neutered, corny Fame

You'll want enough of Duff in the latest vehicle for innocent teen star

CHRISTY LEMIRE
Associated Press

With Britney getting married twice in the same year, Christina going from blond bombshell to goth chick and back again, and Lindsay defending the authenticity of her breasts on a near daily basis, at least there's Hilary Duff, who seems to represent the last bastion of all that is sweet and wholesome in these mixed-up teen-idol times.

Her image is so old-school, it's almost refreshing, despite looking like a mini-Jenna Jameson with her tight T-shirts and long, platinum locks.

The Lizzie McGuire star makes this abundantly clear once again in Raise Your Voice, a sort of Christian version of Fame.

Imagine the performing arts students from that movie (which seemed so racy back in 1980, didn't it?) being transplanted from New York to Los Angeles and deprived of their nudity, unwanted pregnancy and desperate dreams of stardom, and this is what you'd have.

"Call me a dork, but I love choir practice," Duff's perky character, Terri Fletcher, effuses after belting out "Joy to the World" with her equally eager classmates at the film's start. Her original songs are just as feel-good: "There's a light in me and it's shining bright," she sings in a breathy, tiny voice while sitting at home by her keyboard.

Then Terri's brother, Paul (Jason Ritter, son of John Ritter, to whom he bears a striking resemblance), dies in a car crash that she survives. Although her mother (Rita Wilson) gives her the cross Paul always wore around his neck, Terri loses the desire to sing, until she learns she's been accepted to a prestigious summer music program in Los Angeles.

Despite its religious overtones, though, the film from director Sean McNamara and writer Sam Schreiber seems morally at odds with itself. This is a movie that says it's OK to lie to your father (David Keith) and run off to L.A. on your own if your dad is a pigheaded, overprotective jerk. That's just what Terri does with the help of her mother and her aunt (Rebecca De Mornay, who could pass for Duff's sister).

Once she's there, her classmates universally ostracize her for being a goody-goody and lacking the angst that's requisite for an artist. She eventually falls into a chaste romance with a rakish British musician named Jay (Oliver James, who played another rakish British musician last year opposite another squeaky-clean tween queen, Amanda Bynes, in What a Girl Wants).

As in Britney's Crossroads and Mariah Carey's Glitter, the two lovebirds compose a generic ballad together. The results aren't any more inspiring the third time around.

Thankfully, a scruffy, flannel-clad John Corbett shows up, looking like Russell Crowe between movies, and brings some much-needed edge and energy as one of Terri's music teachers. But besides that, nearly every note in Raise Your Voice ironically rings false.

In their tepid version of the Hot Lunch Jam scene from Fame, for example, students sit in a sun-splashed courtyard, play the guitar and sing "ooh, ooh" while smiling sweetly at each other.

While it's admirable of the filmmakers to try and offer something for young people that's not hopeless or subversive, what they've come up with here is earnest and wholesome — but unfortunately stiff and corny.
MOVIES

MOVIE TIMES

FROM 110

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow (PG)
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Wimbledon (PG-13)
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Going Upriver: The Long War of John Kerry (NR)
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9:45
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All listed times are for the weekend and subject to change.
Nelly and others are releasing two albums at once, hurting consumers

RICKY SURILLO
Staff Writer

If there's anything that can be learned from the artists of today's generation, it's you can never make enough money. Sure, touring and selling merchandise makes them money, but to get to that point, you have to sell your CD first. That's where someone (whether it be the artists themselves or record producers) gets the bright idea of convincing their fans to buy more than one copy of their latest album.

Now, releasing a double disc like Outkast did with Speakerboxxx/The Love Below doesn't count, since it couldn't be bought separately. Perhaps the best example would be Nelly's latest innovation of releasing two completely different CDs. With one called Sweat (dance songs) and another called Suit (slower ballads), it's possibly one of the most ingenious things he could've done. Sure, why not have your fans give you twice as much money; at least there are completely different songs on them.

There are other ways to get fans to buy more than one CD. Some of them are simply just like having different cover art (Michael Jackson's Invincible). There's also the sneaky way, like Blink-182 used with Take Off Your Pants and Jacket. They had three different versions of the CD, but there was a catch — you didn't know which CD was which version, so you might get a CD with 2 bonus songs, or one with none.

Good Charlotte wants to jump on the sell-more-CDs bandwagon too. Their upcoming release, The Chronicles Of Life and Death, will be sold as a life version and a death version. The only difference between the two is that each will have an exclusive track (not like that can't be downloaded), and each CD will have different artwork in the booklet. The artwork alone might be a reason for fans to buy both CDs, since it is drawn and (drawn well) by guitarist Billy Martin, and looks like the style of Jhonen Vasquez (Invader Zim).

It doesn't stop there however. Usher is re-releasing his multi-platinum CD Con­fessions with remixes and new songs. Maybe setting R&B records and being five weeks at No. 1 isn't enough for some people. Is this a way to bite back against downloading? Hopefully not, since people who have the original CD can just download the extra songs. In the end buying more than one CD is probably only for die-hard fans or anyone that has some extra cash to spare. The latter fact alone will rule out a lot of college students.

BOOK REVIEW

Dylan's brilliant words, without the bad vocals

Everybody must get stoned, then read his engrossing autobiography

LARRY MCMANe
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Any book that features Bob Dylan sharing a greasy hamburger backstage with Tiny Tim is going to get your attention, especially when the story is told by the ordinarily reclusive Dylan himself.

Dylan's much anticipated autobiography Chronicles Volume One is chockfull of such entertaining anecdotes. There was the time he saw the ghost of John Wilkes Booth in a basement bathroom in lower Manhattan. And the days he spent playing Woody Guthrie songs in a hospital room with Woody Guthrie.

And there's the first person to recognize young Dylan's musical acumen: professional wrestler Gorgious George.

"He winked and seemed to mouth the phrase, 'You're making it come alive,' Dylan writes. "I never forgot it. It was all the recognition and encouragement I would need for years."

The book begins with Dylan's early days in New York City, signing his recording contract with music impresario John Hammond. The transplanted Minnesota boy recounts his early days in Greenwich Village, hanging out with Tiny Tim and meeting heroes like Dave Van Ronk.


Many rock stars have written books, but few do it with the same level of engagement and honesty as Dylan. In this book, Dylan takes us on a tour of his life, from his early days in the cotton mill town of Duluth to his current status as a world-famous musician.

At one point, he writes about watching Pete Townshend perform on The Tonight Show, and getting irritated when Johnny Carson didn't invite the singer to sit on his couch.

W wonder how Bobby Zimmerman became Bob Dylan? He briefly considered taking the stage name Bob Allyn, but rejected it as a name more fit for "a used-car salesman."

There are other interesting tales and stories throughout the book, including Dylan's trip to the Coney Island home of Guthrie. The folk singer, who was hospitalized in New Jersey, had told Dylan to stop by the house and pick up a bunch of unfinished Guthrie songs that were stored in the basement.

Guthrie's wife wasn't home, and Dylan left empty-handed. Decades later, the songs were recorded by Billy Bragg and Wilco, who put music to the vintage Guthrie lyrics.

Dylan also recounted a meeting with jazz genius Thelonious Monk, who told him, "We all play folk music." And in another chapter, he writes about his near retirement in 1967, following a tour with Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. Only a revelatory moment at a show in Switzerland persuaded Dylan to keep on playing live shows.

Dylan writes at length about the fascination with him and his works during the 1960s, when his decision to strap on an electric guitar caused a ruckus. All the attention became incredibly bothersome, he writes: "I don't know what everybody else was fantasizing about but what I was fantasizing about was a nine-to-five existence, a house on a tree-lined block with a white picket fence, pink roses in the backyard. That would have been nice."

He also writes about his childhood fascination with the military. "Before I knew I was going to be a singer and my mind was in full swing, I had even wanted to go to West Point," he writes, "but the man who would later pen the anti-war anthem "Masters of War."

"I'd always pictured myself dying in some heroic battle rather than in bed."

The book is a must-read for anyone interested in the life and career of one of the greatest musicians of all time. Dylan's words are honest, engaging, and revealing. He takes us on a journey through his life, from his early days in the cotton mill town of Duluth to his current status as a world-famous musician. This is a book that will be enjoyed by fans and non-fans alike.
MUSIC

CD REVIEWS

CAKE
Pressure Chief
Genre: alt-rock
Label: Sony
Release date: Oct. 5

Cake has what so few artists today have: Consistency. With each consecutive album they release comes more of that signature Cake sound. And Pressure Chief, the follow-up to 2001’s Comfort Eagle, is no exception. In it, they preserve their mellow tone, light-hearted lyrics and the familiar sound of their trumpet. While Pressure Chief can seem monotonous at times, it will still prove a nice addition to any Cake fan’s CD collection.

One thing Pressure Chief lacks is a truly standout song. While the opener “Wheels,” and new single “No Phone” will imbue their catchy tunes in your mind for days upon days, they are average in comparison to past Cake hits. Songs like “Never There” and “The Distance” stood out because each held a certain uniqueness while preserving a sound that was undeniably Cake. Pressure Chief’s songs achieve the latter, but are missing the individuality that made Cake’s earlier releases so memorable.

While a lot of artists start their careers with offbeat and groundbreaking music, then gain more commercial and mainstream appeal as the years progress, Tom Waits’ course has been the exact opposite. Indeed, Waits seems to get more avant-garde and weird with every release, further distancing himself from the folk music troubadour of 1973’s Closing Time. Not disappointing his fans, Waits’ Real Gone is easily just as weird as Bone Machine (1992) or Mule Variations (1999), and critics are sure to be just as dumbfounded as always as to where Waits will go next.

Waits’ signature barroom piano is abandoned here, with more of his own vocal percussion than ever before. But don’t worry — Real Gone is nothing like Björk’s hideous Medulla. The vocal beats, used sparingly and in conjunction with all kinds of other bizarre percussion instruments, is only used to enhance the eerie atmospheres that are all over the record.

If anything, Real Gone could be dubbed avant-blues, embracing the simple purity of Skip James and Howlin’ Wolf compositions and decorating them with Waits’ peculiar narratives and clattering, growling percussion. Waits’ cigarette-stained rasp is the biggest blues reference point, though he eschews the gravelly baritone of his last two records (Alice and Blood Money, 2002), only employing it toward the end of the brilliant “Don’t Go Into that Barn.”

Alice and Blood Money balanced tales of harrowing horror with beautifully sentimental ballads. Real Gone has few of either of these polarized points, though the focus on the macabre and the misanthropic is still here in droves. The album’s strongest and most fascinating songs include “Shake It,” where thunderous clapping, spare tin-can percussion and psychedelic guitar highlight Waits’ choked-out vocals. Similarly, “Baby Gonna Leave Me” is a gory, heavily percussive acid trip of a song, laden with more thick, snake-like guitar sounds and jarring clanging noises.

Elsewhere, “Dead and Lovely” evokes the hip depravity of film noir; a simple piano-bar waltz (without the piano) provides the music for a dark and dizzying narrative that would be tragic if it wasn’t so cool. “Hoist That Rag” provides the skeleton of a Latin dance song, ornamented with bass drum and more clattering percussion.

By the album’s last two songs, Waits changes direction almost completely, ready to swing on a porch bench, strip it down soft.

The most upbeat song, “Carbon Monoxide,” reveals Cake’s fun side. Its lyrics are vaguely reminiscent of such automobile-inspired Cake tracks as “Stickshifts and Safetybelts.” We do love those racecar tunes, don’t we? They have become a staple for Cake, and it’s nice to see at least one racecar undertone in Pressure Chief.

One monotone thing in the album that works well is singer John McCrea’s voice. He is as smooth as ever and does what he does best: performing a unique combination of talking and singing on each track. Anyone who has heard a Cake song knows what the style is. He talks with extra rhythm, if you will. McCrea seems to be trying out his singing voice slightly more than usual in Pressure Chief, though, especially in the mellow “Guitar Man.” It doesn’t make a huge impact, but the emphasis on singing is a nice addition.

Then there’s the trumpet. Trumpeter Vince Di Fiore shines in “Waiting” and “Tougher Than It Is,” wailing on his trumpet with a familiar beauty heard on so many Cake songs. Now, that’s just cool. How many bands out there can boast a trumpet player that actually sounds fresh? Di Fiore makes it work and adds flavor to every song he plays in.

While Pressure Chief does have some interesting lyrics, none compare to past songs like “Sheep Go to Heaven” or “Meanwhile, Rick James…” Cake lacks such creativity this time around. No Jesus writing blank checks. No goats going to hell. The new song lyrics are not overly serious, as usual, but none particularly stand out.

If you enjoy the signature Cake sound, then Pressure Chief is for you. It offers nearly everything that makes Cake a great band. This CD may have less originality than some of their earlier stuff, but it is still wholly enjoyable.

— CAITLIN RAFEY

TOM WAITS
Real Gone
Genre: blues/singer-songwriter
Label: Anti
Release date: Oct. 5

If it wasn’t before, it’s official now: Caliban has gone melodic metal-core. Their new album The Opposite of within seems to be something new for Caliban themselves but, sadly, nothing new for metal. Opening track “The Beloved and the Hatred” erupts with intense screams and pounding double basses, then slows down into a delightful melody not unlike that of a traditional emo song. But don’t be alarmed, the album is also stocked with a few songs reminiscent of the old Caliban and the traditionally beautiful heavy breakdown is still intact. Just don’t be too upset when you hear singing... and quite a bit of it.

Traditional fans of Caliban may find this album a bit of a let down, but if you’re a fan of As I Lay Dying or any other melodic metal-core band, you’re going to love The Opposite of Within.

— ASHLEIGH EISINGER

CALIBAN
The Opposite of Within
Genre: metal-core
Label: Abacus
Release date: Oct. 5

Every Everything from chaotic post-hardcore to a mix of more organized lyrics behind a fast-paced new wave beat is apparent on Q & Not U’s third album, Power, their most innovative record yet. Power provocatively attempts a new funk sound while continuing to cover their previous genre. Through powerful lyrics, the 13 tracks bravely explore social issues ranging from innate beauty (“Wet Work”) to social injustice (“Book of Flags”). The collection of poignant lyrics layered over new dance beats and fast percussion makes it difficult to ignore the thoughtful messages. Taking the fluctuating vocals from their first full-length album, No Kill No Beep Beep, and the new wave feel of their second album, Different Damage, Power meets the expectations built up during the two-year wait for the new release.

— JESSIE SCHINDLER
**RAMBLINGS**

**THE GEEK LIFE**

**A Dear Stewie letter**

Adult Swim is television’s gift to slackers, stoners, colleagues* Elizabeth Fernandez  
Staff Writer

Dear [adult swim],

I would like to thank you for being so miraculous. You have made the world a better place for everyone. And my gratitude knows no bounds.

There are many ways in which you have made this rocky sphere more tolerable. I couldn’t list them all if I tried. Much of it is intangible. To me, the very idea that people exist who can think such things, that can imagine situations and dialogue and visualize a madcap world where such things make sense and feel like home, in and of itself proves this world to be a better place than I thought it was.

Yes, there have always been some of us who have imagined such things before, who have strung together ideas in ways that seem like nonsense on the surface but somehow make perfect sense in an illogical way that is incomprehensible.

When people create miraculous wonderful things like Futurama and Trigun and Family Guy and Lupin the 3rd, others can’t help but smile. Then you wonderful guys and gals at Adult Swim take these incredible stories and bring them together, keeping them from being forgotten and sinking to the bottom. And you succeed valiantly. How can anyone forget that thanks to you, Family Guy will soon have new episodes?

It’s so great to find fans of eccentric, original programming. Truly, in a world where everyone begs to be on that bandwagon and hopes to God somehow make perfect sense, makes some sort of miracle to find that some still think watching a father tear his son’s face off in retribution for pretending to steal his nose a laugh and half. And thanks to Seth McFarlane, by being such a genius and thinking up the joke in the first place.

Of course, Adult Swim is more than just anime too. For Toonami and hilarious cartoon comedies pulled off the air before their time. You brilliant Adult Swim writers and animators had to go and create programs on a shoestring budget that blew everything else out of the water. Sealab 2021, Aqua Teen Hunger Force, Venture Bros., Harvey Birdman and so many more.

These are small nuggets of genius. The humor is random and insane, and you must have been high or drunk or tripping when you came up with half the stuff, and when you put it all together it just fits. It makes some sort of wacky sense. Yes, it makes more sense the less sober you are, but who needs to be sober after midnight anyway, right? You have taken every stoned slacker in the world and given them something to do, something miraculous and free that can bring them all together.

Villains rally around their candidates

Madmen a prized demographic

Djanna Zisman  
Staff Writer

Recently, Alan Keyes --- an Illinois Republican running for senator --- made the assertion that Jesus Christ (yes, that Jesus Christ) wouldn’t vote for Barack Obama, the popular Democratic candidate, a comment that has raised eyebrows across the land. Regardless of whether or not that’s true (I’m betting it’s true as Jesus, a non-citizen, can’t vote for anyone in 2004), much less Obama), your humble robot columnist decided to interview Jesus to see who He would endorse if He had the opportunity.

Unfortunately, this task proved easier said than done, as He is a really tough guy to get a hold of. I’ve tried everything, from attempting to interview my life-size Buddy Christ ceramic statue to calling Mel Gibson up and pleading for the number. No dice. Those feisty Republicans showed they’re better people than I for managing to make contact and wrangle an endorsement out of the difficult-to-reach Christ.

Thankfully, the last couple of weeks have given me ample opportunities to get other endorsement scoops. A number of Republican pundits have shown up on political talk shows reporting that Osama Bin Laden is rooting for a Kerry victory in November. Ignoring the fact that, if you can get a hold of him for an endorsement, it really shouldn’t be so difficult to capture him, I saw --- and grabbed hold of --- the opportunity to interview other madmen for their thoughts on the upcoming election. Here’s the scoop. Remember, you heard it here first.

Adolf Hitler: Is dead.

Rumors that his clone has been hanging around South America were just that. I did, however, enjoy my extended Brazilian vacation, particularly the fine male specimens at the clothing-optional beaches.

Slobodan Milosevic: “I would have supported Bush, but he turned on all the issues I really cared about. No nation building, my ass. Still, I say screw the Democratic Party and their humanitarian interference. So, I guess I’d have to go with Nader. Cause he’d never invade anyone.”

Top 7 comic book fights

Bush and Kerry aren’t the only great battlegrounds

Michael Lawrence  
Staff Writer

Bush vs. Kerry: The Ultimate Showdown! This debate has shown that: A. America loves a good battle, and B. John Kerry may have a pulse to match those purple hearts. In honor of our feuding presidential hopefuls, I’ve compiled a list of my top 7 comic-book slugfests, because A. I like making lists, and B. Comic-book violence is America’s true pastime, and besides, the escarpment is long overdue.

7. The Juggernaut vs. Spider-man and X-force (Spider-man #6, X-force #3) One of the first fights I read as a kid, this saw Juggernaut pitted against the rookie X-force and Spider-man, who acts like a veteran throughout. Spider-man points out their mistakes, but also admires their courage. Juggernaut flies, giving the fight a lame QO ending, but the team was able to prove its worth.

6. Doom vs. the Thing (Fantastic Four #40) The Fantastic Four have lost their powers and Doom sees this as a convenient time to attack. The Fantastic Four are constantly on the move, until Mr. Fantastic finds the machine that gives them their powers back. The only one who can stop Doom is the Thing, but the Thing doesn’t want to change back when he can stay as Ben Grimm. Needless to say, he makes the heroic decision, and the overconfident Doom throws everything at him, keeping him at a distance. The Thing, battered and bruised, moves ponderously towards Doom and crushes his hands. “Maybe I’m just too dumb to die!” Thing exclaims. That’s heroism, folks.

5. Choro­zon vs. Morpheus (Sandman #4) Not a traditional fight per se, but an amazing battle nonetheless. Morpheus goes to Hell to reclaim his helm but must win a challenge against the demon Choro­zon. They change into different things in a magical battle a la The Sorcerer And The Stone, besting each other until Morpheus changes into the one thing Choronzon can’t counteract: Hope.

4. DC heroes pile on Anti-Monitor (Crisis on Infinite Earths #11-12) Tons of heroes from different series fight the omnipotent Anti-Monitor. Just an
Hey pal, can you spare me a bob job?

4 of the best Web sites for begging in the Internet

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

It wouldn't be the Internet without people trying to find ways to make money. Some people have really gotten lazy about the whole process, though, preferring to simply ask for it. Sporting a variety of reasons from saving a friend's life to buying boob implants, they're far more diverse than the average offline panhandler.

Save Karyn
http://www.savekaryn.com/

Karyn was one of the first people to think up the idea of what CNN's since dubbed "Cyberbegging". This lady had $20,000 in credit card debt and posted a Web site asking for donations to pay it off, now available at http://www.savekaryn-origina­l­site.com/ because she doesn't need to be "saved" anymore. That's right. Her plan actually worked. It only took 20 weeks before people had paid for her mistakes for her. It also scared her stories in the New York Times, People and Time, along with a book deal. For us, it spawned millions of copycats.

GiveBoobs.com
http://www.giveboobs.com/

One of the earlier copycat sites came in the form of a girl asking for money to get breast implants. Combining philanthropy with the allure of cameltoe images turned into a profitable business that netted this girl exactly what she wanted. As a "thanks," her site now contains several cheesecake images of her new rack, along with the old "before" pictures. Nowadays, there's a hell of a lot of similar sites, many offering more racy photogra­phs to donors in return. This strain of the web donation industry receives the most notoriety for somewhat obvious reasons. It's only a step above full-blown camwhoring, but we'll save that for a future column.

Help Save Schnups
http://www.helpsavenschnups .warp.com/

There's half a billion donation sites requesting money for medical procedures, but this one gets a mention because it's about a pet instead. Plus, it's got some of the worst design I've seen since the late '90s Geocities boom. People can donate via Paypal, directly mailed personal check, or direct bank deposit.

Make Me Richer than Bill Gates
http://web2.airinail.net/ 
gandolf/you.htm

Some people don't even bother to put up the charade of being needy. It costs almost nothing to put up a Web page, so why not churn one out and see if someone sends you a buck or two? Donating $1 million to this guy will earn you the chance to visit him if you're ever in Dallas. A billion dollars lets you become his new best friend. 46 billion earns you a plaque and the ability to call him your friend for life. If this doesn't convince you, maybe the waving American flag and the background MIDI file of "America the Beautiful" will.

Don't believe my description of how many beggars are out there? There are whole sites devoted to finding them and encouraging their development. Try www.save­mesites.com, www.ebeggers.com, or www.cyberbeggar.info. Save­mesites links to almost 2000 of them, and the number grows daily. Eбегgers's slogan is "Begging has just become a whole lot easier!" For better or worse, they're right. I could use a new computer. Anyone want to send me money today?

Cyclops is not a wuss

Cyclops is not a wuss

epic, beautifully drawn battle, when epis­oks still meant something.

3. Nuke vs. Dr. Spectrum (Squadron Supreme #3)

Dr. Spectrum confronts his teammate Nuke, who's just lost his family due to cancer, which his radiated body gave them. Nuke goes on a rampage, and Spectrum must stop him. He traps him in a capsule, but Nuke breaks out. Nuke continues to lash out, and Spectrum tries to wrap him up in the same capsule again, using all his might to keep it together, while Nuke exerts his full force. That same force causes Nuke to exhaust himself of his energy and his air. Spectrum wins, but at the cost of a team­mate.

2. Kraven vs. Vermin
(Kraven's Last Hunt)

After burying Spider-man alive, Kraven decides to become him. He's already beaten the ever-loving crap out of some random thugs, then decides to go after even a bigger fish, or should I say rat, Vermin the cannibal killer. He tracks Vermin to the sewer, and a brutal battle ensues. There's biting, cheap kicks and some massive punches thrown by Kraven, who takes off his mask and smiles triumphantly. He is the Spider.

1. Cyclops vs. the X-Men
(Uncanny X-Men #127)

Cyclops trounced the X-Men. Feel free to rerate that sentence slowly: Cy ... claps ... tro ... unced ... the ... X ... Men.

The mutant team had just finished fighting the reality-altering Proteus and were tired and losing confidence. Cyclops, as the field leader, felt the only way to clear their heads of doubt was by taking them head on. He fought Wolverine and tossed his sorry Canadian overrated butt, gave a swift optic blast to Storm and knocked her for a loop and gave a pouncing Nightcrawler a healthy dose of pulse blasts. One by one they fell, and afterward Wolverine, who had hated Cyclops up to the point, gave him his due respect. In one little fight scene, Cyclops was elevated to high status as a character and showed the guts and skills it took to be a leader.

Darth Vader a Bush fan

Lord Voldemort: "I'd definitely vote for Bush. He is a wedge issue in the Labour Party, which is good for the Tories. And, of course, what's good for the Tories is good for me. Now, if President Bush would be so kind as to invade Hogwarts and bring me the war lord known as Harry Potter, I would make it worth his while. A few well-placed death curses and no one will be talking about the National Guard any longer."

"The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra: "WHO ARE YOU? I AM RISEN. ANIMALA, KILL THE INSUFFERABLE WATERFOWL."

Darth Vader, Lord of the Sith: "I would vote for Bush. I think it's real sweet when a son follows in his father's footsteps."

Sad­dam Hussein: "You interviewed me after three fictional characters, none of which exist in the same linear timeline, and one of which is a skel­leton! Screw you, I'm not talking to you. Wait ... do you happen to have any cig­arets I can trade here?"

There you have it, folks. Six villains, two votes for Bush, one vote for Nader, one "no comment" on account of being dead, and one non-sensical ramble about wet chickens or tuna or some­thing. I'm not entirely certain, but I think it may have been threatening me. Anyway, if those comments are anything to go by, it appears that Nader is stealing Kerry votes even in the all­important (to the Republicans, at least) "psychotic madman" voting group. Buckle up, kids, it's going to be a tight race. As for me, I'm holding off on mak­ing a voting decision until I see which candidate gets Hannibal Lector's endorsement.
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