Frankenstein brings Library to life

Monsters exhibit pairs literature, modern science

The UCF Library is hosting a new exhibit called "Monster: A Genetic Hybrid" that will be on display for the past 180 years — Frankenstein. However, this time around, the "monster" is born to be understood, not the same one its creator worked so hard to create.

Proposed up across the multi-level library, two large segments digest this creation of Mary Shelley as meticulously as Dr. Victor Frankenstein put it together. A sketch of accompanying events, discussion panels and competitions further enhance this one-of-a-kind exhibit, which will call UCF home through Dec. 10.

"We thought it was one of the most interesting cross-disciplinary unions that we could imagine," said Cheryl Mahan, the principal investigator for the Frankenstein grant and UCF reference librarian.

The exhibition, which will tour 12 libraries around the country by April 2006, not only covers "the obvious fields of literature and film. It also goes into technology, bioethics, philosophy, pop culture and many other subject areas," Mahan explained.

Although the only requirement for the exhibit was an opening reception focused on Mary Shelley and her work, the UCF exhibit has gone above and beyond by planning more than its related presentations and discussions that involve UCF experts and three student competitions in areas of film, short story writing and poetry.

Breema Martin, a 22-year-old digital media and graphic design major, won the short movie contest by creating a "monsters day trip" to the Frankenstein story.

"I knew the idea was going to be really cute," she said. The exhibit, which was made in the pre-code style, integrated "play humor that existed in the movies during the 20's..." Martin explained.

Taking one day to show and with a $5 budget, Mahan enforced the rule of friends to start and her own devices for props.

"The girls' costumes are straight from my closet, I have a serious craft crush on the Catwoman and I used the textile media major's rule. The men's outfit is from their closets," Martin said. "The original Bride of Frankenstein, the Bride is made of the monster, so I thought I'd throw that in as well. In the credits, you'll see the car go back to the 50's of Frankenstein's." She said. Martin played the Bride herself.

Citrus lots squeezing parking cash

MARK JUSTICE

The Citrus Bowl's permit system works well, perhaps too well. Those who do not purchase a permit last minute complain that not having a permit is proving to be a problem.

Unable to park in the student permit lots, some fans are forced to locate other parking options. Some of these options such as a lot offered by the Boy Scouts and thru Senegal Avenue are available to the public.

"The $5 lots are always full. I had to pay $20 to park at Family Weekend," freshman, awful insults said.

In addition to the high prices, students have other concerns. "When I paid $5 for my permit near the Citrus Bowl last weekend, the man told us our car was "the worst." He is the automotive major, "Of my friends and I left almost 10 minutes after the game was gone. The car next to mine was even bigger,"

At this past weekend's Homecoming game, several individuals were offering random lots to students. With the Citrus Bowl parking lots being sold out, the lots refused to identify themselves and could not provide proof of their ownership.

Not one of the individuals selling these parking spaces was able to produce any form of credentials or information authorizing them to do so. Once again,穿过 the lines of the lots were sold out.

When asked about the event's attendant of the Citrus Bowl, Leigh Thompson, said the situation was "surprising" and that he had not been aware that this was going on.

Thompson said that because these rules are not set by the city, students parking there are doing so "as they see fit." Another option available to students is to park in the front dean area or the parking garage. However, these locations are filled with students who do not have permits, predominantly specific information, one such person explaining that he was able to "garner some money," he said that he would have probably purchased a permit to claim them.

Students were also picking up parking permits for lots surrounding the Citrus Bowl and trying to sell them. Dulniak said that "When I saw the parking permits sitting in the grass outside the stadium," she said, "I made my best offer to get them." The permits were sold for $30 each during the week before the game.

Students must have a valid student ID to get one of the 2,000 available permits.

Cornerstone: Bear Care 101

Class project raises cash and awareness for battered animals

NATE POKEVERT

When junior Drew Nabors signed up for his required Cornerstone business class, he didn't expect to heathen on American black bear.

"We went to the Web site and saw her, and we just really liked her," said Nabors about Lola. His pet project for the fall semester.

Cornerstone, GEO 208, is required of all business majors. One of the assignments is a 46-hour service-learning project that benefits a local nonprofit organization.

Many organizations asked students to make a new fleet, design a Web site or plan a children's activity day.

Nabors and his teammates decided to head to the woods and lead out the bears.

Students must choose The Care Foundation, an animal shelter in Christmas that rescues endangered wildlife for a return to their natural habitats. The shelter homes more than 70 animals, ranging from Siberian tigers to American black bears and wild rabbits.

"Our two existences are converging," Nabors said of the human and the animal world. "We have so many endangered animals here in Florida."

Like many businesses in Central Florida, the foundation's facility was damaged by Hurricanes Charley and Frances.

"We lost thousands of dollars in roofing damages and fences," Chris Larwood said, the shelter's executive director. "There is large debris on top of cages, we lost refrigerators and freezers needed to store food for the animals."

Nabors said that when his group began planning the "bear day," they discovered "It was a real nightmare trying to keep all the animals together, and keep them safe with the right food and the right medications because they were being kept in storage facilities on Bear Road."

Team member Ronald Williams, a senior accounting major, said the organization asked for his help with the seminar.

"I thought it would be unique," Williams said.

Although group members said they would have to analyze the seminar for their project, their first meeting at the shelter never happened.

"We saw animals in a garage of an old home," said team member Sarah Larwood. "There was scat­tered debris all over the place,"

Burford told the student team that the organization was struggling with its

Registration update

The UCF Registrar dis­abled the wait list function in class registrations ("Waiting"

In the new version of My UCF Registration, students will no longer be able to sign up for courses for which the wait list function was part of the system.

Students have still been receiving error messages for the wait list system, which led to the confusion.

Dulniak said that "the number of which changes are more significant to students interested in registration day." The registrar also made the wait list function difficult to manage.

Students getting the wait list will not be able to register for the class, they will have to educate it and set up an appointment with their advisors for registration purposes.

The lack of wait lists also means that students are not asking friends to hold classes.

Page 7: MRSP 1.22

Citrus Bowl parking lots are filled with fans ready to watch the game.

"The UCF library has a Frankenstein exhibit of book jackets."
Police Beef

Packed pockets expose drug stockpiles

ANKER FOSTER
staff writer

Nelson Izquierdo was arrested for possession of marijuana on Polk Street. The 18-year-old's apartment had a pipe, a digital scale and a gas pipe, and a newspaper, the suspect told police Izquierdo had found the pipe, scale and gas pipe, a digital scale and a gas pipe, and a newspaper, and he said he had "all the tools I need to make" methamphetamine.

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The bong and the banzai

Get your game on, but keep it inside

Safes networks please students, dismay gamers

ERIC SULLIVAN

While a decision to limit UCF's computer network traffic has left students with a new secure Internet connection, it has put a big crimp in the gaming habits of many.

Now, they can only play network games with those in their own housing communities.

The UCF Network Operations Center NOC decided to block network traffic between the various on campus communities to stop the spread of viruses, speed up network connections and discourage illegal file-sharing on campus, said information technology major Chad Rippey.

Students seem to think that it has been successful in these areas. "In reality the speed and reliability this semester have been very good, the best out of the two previous years I have been here," said Rippey, a who has been setting up networks for five years.

Denial of service errors used to be the norm for students living on campus. With the new structure, however, this is much less of a problem.

"What happens in one community doesn't affect another," criminal justice major David Leonard, 21, said.

This new security and reliability comes with a price for students and gaming clubs.

They have limited us to gaming only within the communities," said Brandon Groves, 21, PC Gaming Club Webmaster. "Some of us that live off campus now can not use a virtual private network (VPN) into the UCF network to play games."

A VPN is a way in which people off campus had been able to access the UCF network from their homes. UCF students off campus and on were generally able to play the same game together from the comfort of their homes.

There are a number of gaming clubs at UCF that can no longer use the UCF network as a means to network with another. College and computer science, who once had a myriad of college students to play with, are now relegated to playing with people in their housing communities.

"I felt being able to play with people from other cam­pus" Leonard said. "Late nights with Halo games, people that played Counterstrike on the LAN... I think it was great."

According to Groves, as many as 30 people at a time had been playing Counter-Strike over the campus network. There was a populated game going at all hours of the day.

"To me playing with people over the UCF network was fun. I could hang out with friends among campus in a virtual environment. I remember one night we communicated with someone online about where we live by using the walls and writing with bullet holes," Leonard said.

The PC Gaming Club had been able to recruit new members largely through the game ing services they hosted over the UCF network. Now they will have to find new ways to reach freshmen students.

The blocking of ports for security reasons is another issue. This can interfere with students' ability to host or play their online games.

"My biggest complaint and disappointment with the cam­pus Internet connection is that all incoming ports are closed for security reasons. In fact, the chat program AIM for a week or two," Leonard said. "I hate it. I really can not recognize or figure AIM to accept on a different port, but still, it's the lack of regard to what they're affect­ing."

The change functions to discourage "Windows file-sharing" as well, according to Rippey.

Record labels have been using an increasing number of people over piracy of their music. College and high school students have found themselves in legal trouble over the music and videos downloaded from file-sharing networks, such as Kazaa.

There has been an effort to crack down on illegal peer-to-peer file-sharing over the campus Internet connection. This is one of the ways network administrators can make file-sharing less appealing by limiting their peer base.

Limited the number of people that students are directly connected to limits the number of people that they can share copyrighted material with. "They're (NOC) not too bad when you're on the legal side of everything, but when you want to be illegal, it seems like there's your worst enemy," Leonard said.

Students play games on local area networks or computers through gaming software, like the file-sharing. Now, these games on campus will be restricted to the halls students live in.

"I'm pretty sure we can recon­figure AIM to accept on a different port, but still, it's the lack of regard to what they're affect­ing."

Eric Sullivan specializes in fresh, never frozen grilled and fried chicken tenders. Try one of our delicious tender meals, wraps, and garden fresh salads. All meals come with slow, fries, texas toast, and our famous Mogoo Sauce

PLANET BEACH TANNING SALONS DISCOVER A WHOLE NEW SOLAR SYSTEM

Where Even The Moons Are Tan

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Orlando — The resolution proposes
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students and faculty to oversee
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Students leaders at the Col­
dents, while China sent about
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Of mice and men
A new scientific finding may help the long-tailed
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also expressed his doubts
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At Rolla, Missouri, 5,000
students are expected to be open by 2050.

Evidence presented at tal­
the 2003-04 academic year, said
on a Saturday, and, if 

The test works by detecting

New DELE — The number of Italian students enrolled at American
universities has doubled over the past five years, according to a
study sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

India sent 902,000
students, while China sent about
students in France, South Korea, Japan, Canada and 78,000 males
third, fourth, fifth and sixth, staff and regular
enrollment, the
study said.

Vony County opens start’s first early college program MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Horry County Schools plans
to open the first early college for high schools in the area of South Carolina — a school that would aim to open by 2010.

In addition, the school will also aim to increase the number of eligible students.

District officials expect the school to open for high school freshmen in 2006. Students, who would apply to be among the 400 to 800 partici­pants, could graduate in three years through enough college credits for an associate’s degree instead of four years.

In 2006, 46 early college
programs have opened across
the nation, and 50 are expected to be open by 2010.

Science Spotlight

This technique, for instance, could enable sperm cells to be implanted in mice and extend the reproductive life of that animal for generations, a phenomenon that researchers call "immortalization of the male line of biology."

But, Gangade expressed his concern regarding the application of this finding to humans. "This can become an ethical dilemma," he said.

Frank Zeidler, anatomy
and histology instructor at
grambling University professors
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Robots, clones run amok

Frankenstein schedule

The Frankencontest Complete
and its impact on Robotics
Location: presented by University Printing, Wednesday, 10 a.m. University Room 275.

Alfred E. Neuman Meet Frankenstein
Venue: sponsored by the UF Foundation (Campus competition).

Monday, Jan 19, 12 p.m., UF Library Room 211.

Lola

Florida Foundation for Animals
Location: presented by Lola, 2 p.m. UF Library Room 211.

Frankenstein

Location: and presented by UF Environmental Science Studies, 1 p.m. UF Library Room 211.

Predicting the Future Through Science Fiction: Frankenstein's Reality
Location: and presented by Olivia Stoeckl by the UF Foundation (Campus competition).

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 12 p.m., UF Library Room 211.

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

Location: presented by the UF Foundation (Campus competition).

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 12 p.m., UF Library Room 211.

Hurricane damage left animals homeless

The Care Foundation currently receives no funding or government aid. The impact of this event that will be presented by Joanne Pransky, the world's first robot psychiatrist. The team is still short about $1,000 to buy a new shelter for Lola. As a result, they have a last month instead of two or three months.

The student team decided to have these funds raised as an event to benefit the care of the animals.

The team and the Florida Foundation for Animals will also benefit as a result of this event.

The group also raised funds to purchase three times last of the robots and the emotional aspects and psychological implications of a society in which robots are part of everyday life.

"What I find really sad about the Frankenstein story was that the society rejected Frankenstein and had led to him being successful," Pransky said.

"We need to understand that humans will have responsibility for their robot children," she added.

A full schedule of events and links to the winning short story and film can be found on the UF Foundation's website.

Ask a doc

The advice can range from simple self-care suggestions, to need for emergency care. 24/7 WebMed also includes a library of online health information and facts for students. Research demonstrates the potential of the Web self-ef for health.

With regard to health, the Internet has potential to empower individuals to make the health decisions. The 24/7 WebMed is an interactive web-based system that provides users specific, personalized home advice. This service is only available to students.

You can access 24/7 WebMed by visiting the Student Health Services website at http://www.ufl.edu/health.

Materials from this product are available for free.

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INSIDE THE NUMBERS

Women receive NCAA at-large bid

Israel to miss remaining games

Men ready for A-Sun tournament

Soccer prepares for NCAA Tournament repeat with Florida

Quotables

"I believe the time that I spend on the field, that's where this whole athlete comes from." — Asante Shaw, a senior soccer player at South Florida

"Brandon is a No. 1 goal keeper as far as anyone is concerned, but he's also been a No. 1 leader in the classroom and in the community." — Brian Liska, a former UCF men's soccer coach

"We're really tight with girls soccer. We have a really good relationship with them." — Andrea Becht, a ucf women's soccer coach

COACH

Women's soccer coach takes home two of the season's top honors as she paces program to start of post season..."Brandon is not only a No. 1 goal keeper as far as anyone is concerned, but he's also been a No. 1 leader in the classroom and in the community." — Brian Liska, a former UCF men's soccer coach.
Summer back to No. 2 after Israel suffers season-ending injury

Jeff Sharon

Sometimes, all you can do is rue the day good health and talent. That's more than 30,000 UCF fans who didn't have a reason to be exuberant at extra-point attempt in overtime sailed wide of the right upright last Saturday, giving the Ohio Bobcats a 37-36 overtime victory over the Knights.

Having lost their last three home games by a combined eight points, the Knights found themselves down against the Cardinals than the Bobcats have scored to start the season.

They have plenty of trouble with Luther Huggins, Travis Caughey and Mike Walker in the backfield for the UCF defense.

Ball state offense vs. UDFE defense Advantage: Ball State

Ball State hasn't had the best of offensive years, and the similarities between its offense and UDFE's are vast. Despite two passers, Cole Stilson and John Lynch, each seeing significant time under center and despite pace efficiency ratings of over 4.5 both for the season, neither has distinguished himself from the other.

Ball State's lone ace in the hole is all-MAC defensive end Ridgeway, who comes into Saturday with 90 tackles and 13.5 sacks in just nine games.

Running back Advergle Gibson has been a workhorse, averaging 4.8 yards per carry and scoring two touchdowns. UCF has also taken good care of the football — the team has given up nine fumbles over the last five times this season, the least in the MAC.

UCF's defense has picked up its game in the last two games, playing well against Marshall and nearly holding Ohio. But the Knights still give up more than 200 rushing yards per game, for an average of 47 yards per carry. Opponents have scored 35.3 points per game on UCF, and despite strong turnovers, the Knights have given up more than 12 points per game.

The team also will be without its two top tacklers against Travision Johnson joined Stanford's latest streak by suffering a season-ending injury against the Bobcats.

Brandon Marshall, the team's third-leading tackler, served a suspension last week, but it was Paul Carhoff who finally found his stride, recording four sacks and his first career interception last week. However, the depleted secondary will be a problem against Ridgeway.

Magic number 10 — Average number of tackles per game for Ridgeway.

UCF special teams vs. Ball State special teams

Advantage: Neither

Ball State place-kicker Brian Johnson is 10 of 12 this year, including five of the last six, but missed his only attempt from 40 yards and beyond.

Kick returns have been an issue for both teams. UCF's Anthony Washington has averaged 25.5 yards per return, while Ball State's B.J. Scott has averaged 19.3 yards on his 10. Neither has scored a return.

Kickoff returns also can be a problem for both teams. Neither team's kickoff coverage on the season is much.

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Kickoff returns also can be a problem for both teams. Neither team's kickoff coverage on the season is much.
Jacksonville beats up team his senior year together. "I started all four seasons at the center back position, and we really had some great matches."

After his 61 points (21 goals, 21 assists) during the entire A-Sun regular-season match, Rashwan brothers have big plans for the future."We are excited to make our mark on this program," said Rashwan.

The Herd has dominated the series, winning 14 of the last 15 meetings. However, the Knights believe they have a shot at pulling off an upset this season. "There isn't a year that we aren't confident in our ability to win," said Head Coach Scott Radcliffe. "Our team has been immensely talented throughout the entire season, and we're ready to make a statement in the MAC tournament."

The lead was short lived. A UCF two out of three runs and three assists, before a 1-0 lead run by the Knights went back to serve. "It's hard to put into words how special this win is," said Radcliffe. "Our team has been putting in a lot of work throughout the entire season, and we're ready to make a statement in the MAC tournament."

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jgh, Ashcroft, the gospel-loving son of a preacher, leaving the White House. Now they might find his vocal champion of the Patriot Act to be the attorney general of the Bush administration. Penny has said that Ashcroft, who encouraged his staff to participate in daily prayer meetings, betrayed the line between religion and the law.

In particular, Democratic Senators are asking Bush to name a new appellate judge. The president’s decision is expected to come next week.

Ashford, a former White House counsel, is one of the no-confidence threats in the administration.

Gonzales has also been linked to the White House. But many Republicans say he would be a good appointment.

Many Americans identified Arafat as an enemy and a threat to the state of Israel. "Why would anyone want this job? Being a hard line of men and women who risk their lives to support and protect the government from terror and assassination."

Bush will register investments for the presidency. He was once a partner in a law firm. He was once a partner in a law firm. He was once a partner in a law firm. He was once a partner in a law firm.

Justice would be well served by finding a more moderate man should be his replacement.

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

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Vol. V, No. 12, Nov. 11 - 17, 2004

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COURTESY DISNEY

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HAPPENINGS

Daytona Beach Film Festival
More than 30 films debut in second annual festival

JOHN THOMASON
Associate Editor

When most people hear the word "Daytona," they probably think of the city's beautiful beach resorts and — of course — NASCAR. But for an increasing number of people, Daytona is more than sun, sand and fast cars — it's a place to see unique films they won't find anywhere else.

Starting tonight and running through Nov. 17, the N&S 6 Cinema and the Cinematheque of Daytona will feature the second annual Daytona Beach Film Festival. A drastically improved format from last year's inaugural four-day festival, this year's fest will spotlight films on all of the theater's six screens. In addition, each movie will receive three screenings, as opposed to last year's one.

"Being able to see a week of films on six screens is God's gift to any film buff, or just any local who is interested in seeing a wide variety of films," said Brian Quain, a film booker at Orlando's own arthouse cinema, Enzian theater. "As a programmer [for the Florida Film Festival] this past March, I saw tons of films come in, and it is so hard to pick and choose for 10 days on three screens. This will help the festival make wider decisions, get more films, and a get a much bigger attendance."

The Daytona Cinematheque is a not-for-profit organization that has been bringing art cinema to the Daytona area for over 13 years. The N&S 6 has been showcasing Cinematheque selections for the last two years. The theater's manager, Bob Cunningham, has seen such an increase in art-film patronage that he believes a bigger festival is more than warranted.

"There's a strong desire here for art cinema," he said. "The Cinematheque group was originally about 100 and has grown to over 400." Last year's fest drew a surprising three thousand people in its four-day run. "We're expecting almost six thousand this year," added Cunningham.

Titles at this year's fest include documentaries like Starship in a Housedress, Empathy and Silver Wings & Civil Rights; foreign flicks we haven't gotten here like An Amazing Couple and On the Run and retro films like the classic political drama The Battle of Algiers.

The festivities will open tonight with a retro film, 1970's Nashville, Robert Altman's ensemble story of political activism in the titular city. "Nashville is from a period of cinema that we love," said Cinematheque co-director Jeff Sadler. "And it's a film that rarely gets shown on television, let alone in theaters."

Nashville also provides the cinema with the opportunity for a themed opening reception. Tonight's meet-and-greet before the film will feature a live country band and country-western flavored dishes, and guests are asked to wear their best cowboy and cowgirl attire.

Despite the Cinematheque's illustrious plans and optimistic attitudes, it is still difficult to shake Daytona's commercial image, which has caused some movie distributors to question the festival's importance.

"A lot of people think of Daytona as Bike Week and NASCAR and spring break, and distributors tend to think that way too," said Sadler. "But it's not overcomeable by any means. We're way ahead of the game, and the longer you go on, the more tradition you build."

In the end, Daytona film buffs may just have to get used to NASCAR hysteria. After all, the post-festival awards reception is going to be held on none other than Richard Petty Boulevard.

For non-cinematheque members, an all-festival pass is $120, and individual tickets are $8. The opening night film (Nashville) and reception is $25. For a full listing of film descriptions and showtimes, visit www.nscinema6.com.
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

CAMPUS

Early music ensemble concert
Nov. 12, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.,
UCF Rehearsal Hall
Room 223
407-823-5136

Frankenstein Complex
Nov. 15, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., free
UCF Library
Room 223
407-823-5308

Salsa lessons
Nov. 15, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.,
Student Union
Room 223
407-823-5116

Frankenstein
Nov. 17, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., free
UCF Library
Room 223
407-823-5308

Eve
cinematic Legacy of
Frankenstein
Nov. 17, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., free
UCF Library
Room 223
407-823-5308

Gnematic Legacy of
Frankenstein
Early music ensemble concert
Nov. 17, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., free
UCF Library
Room 223
407-823-5308

Gnema Series: Frankenstein
(1931)
Nov. 19, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., free
UCF Library
Room 223
407-823-5308

Salsa lessons
Nov. 15, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.,
Student Union
Room 223
407-823-5116

Hinduism, Himalayan experience and yoga
Nov. 16, 3 p.m. to 3 p.m., free
Teaching Academy
Room 304
407-823-8592

Frankenstein and Diversity
Nov. 16, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., free
UCF Library
Room 223
407-823-5136

Julington, Says I, Rosebud (rock)
Nov. 11, 9 p.m., $5
Turtle Bay
10402 E Colonial Drive
407-382-7488

 Armor for Sleep, Number One
Fan Days Away, The Snake the Cross the Crown (rock)
Nov. 11, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-823-6471

Cradle of Filth, Arch Enemy, Bleeding Through, Hirusa (metal)
Nov. 12, 7 p.m., admission TBA
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-914-2561

* Bughead (rock)
Nov. 12, 7 p.m., $5
Copper Rocket Pub
160 Lake Ave
407-945-0609


SHOWS

Supervillains, Gargamell, Junkie Rush, Pretty Ugly (rock)
Nov. 11, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
UCF Library
Room 223
407-823-5308

Matt Pond PA, Spacebar, The Party People, Our Divided Fortune (indie)
Nov. 11, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
The Social
54 N Orange Ave
407-246-1419

Waltz, Jingle Bell (rock)
Nov. 12, 10 p.m., $5
Will's Pub
1850 N Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Cradle of Filth, Arch Enemy, Bleeding Through, Hirusa (metal)
Nov. 12, 7 p.m., admission TBA
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-914-2561

* Bughead (rock)
Nov. 12, 7 p.m., $5
Copper Rocket Pub
160 Lake Ave
407-945-0609

Hunger banquet
Nov. 16, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-823-6471

TRACHTENBURG FAMILY SLIDESHOW PLAYERS

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR ON 14
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

From 13

Norah Jones (pop)
Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m., $29.50-$55
Frost Amphitheatre at the Florida State Fairgrounds
813-749-2466

Casiopea (electronic)
Nov. 12, 9:30 p.m., $14
Natural History and Tea
12030 College Way
407-405-3400

The Dumbwaiters, Brian Straw, Six Plus Seven (Indie)
Nov. 12, 9 p.m., $3
Rock Booth
31 W. Pine St.
407-399-1570

Jeff Golub, Euge Groove, Warren Hill (jazz)
Nov. 12, 8 p.m., $16
The Piano Room
415 N. Magnolia Ave.
407-228-4329

NOVA or Beta, The Fever, New Roman Times
Nov. 13, 10 p.m., $8
The Social
5414 Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Trachtenburg Family Slideshow Players (eclectic)
Nov. 13, 8 p.m., $12-$14
The Social
5414 Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Billy Bacon and the Forbidden Peep (blues)
Nov. 13, 10 p.m., $5
Copper Rocket Pub
108 Lake Ave.
407-405-0969

Mass Destruction, Pop Suicide, Yeah Melba, Vancouver! (punk)
Nov. 13, 11 p.m., $7
O-Zone Club
1002 W. Wycliff Dr., Altoona
407-462-1002

Marc with a 'C and The Milk, Bluren, Mummy, Soft Rock Champion (indie)
Nov. 13, 8 p.m., Free
Austin Coffee and Wine
529 E. Washington Ave.
407-975-3760

Yellow Tape, Landing on Land, On Casket, Skylight Mikes, Dodger (various)
Nov. 13, 9 p.m., $5
Back Booth
411 W. Pine St.
407-999-2070

Bouncing Souls, Against Me,
Murphy's Law, Let It Burn,
The Loved Ones (punk)
Nov. 14, 6 p.m., $12
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-894-2393

Our Given Day, Shadow Agency, Dance Floor Tragedy, The Uprise (punk)
Nov. 14, 9 p.m., $5
Wine Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Gargamel, Indorphine,
One Drop, 5 Billion Dead,
In This Day (metal)
Nov. 14, 6 p.m., $8
Screeners
360 State Line
407-244-0099

A Symtatic Lullaby, Hopesfall,
 Codeseven,
 You're in a Denim Awe, Rock Kills Kid (rock)
Nov. 15, 6 p.m., $10
The Social
5414 Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Animal Collective, Black Dice, Motion Picture Massacre, Yip Tip (Indie)
Nov. 15, 8 p.m., $8-$10
Screeners
360 State Line
407-244-0099

Dead to Fall, A Game of You,
Maslin, Sunday Driver,
Of Blues, Tokyo Rose, In Passing, The Goodwill
(Rock)
Nov. 16, 6 p.m., $8
Screeners
360 State Line
407-244-0099

Bob Rafkin (Americana)
Nov. 16, 7 p.m., $12
Chappell on Park
350 N. Park Ave.
407-444-2360

Coheed & Cambria,
Underoath, Three (rock)
Nov. 17, 7 p.m., $15-$20
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-894-2393

Startling Mints (Indie)
Nov. 17, 8 p.m., $8
The Social
5414 Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

HIGHLIGHTS

LARRY THE CABLE GUY
Local boy made good, Larry the Cable Guy, will be at the UCF Arena on Sunday to do his oh-so-white-trash stand-up act. Known as of late for his role on Blue Collar TV with Jeff Foxworthy and Bill Engvall, Larry is a native of nearby Sanford, Fla. At Blue Collar TV continues to wield its redneck influence with a resurgence of good of fashioned Southern fried humor. Larry the Cable Guy continues to increase his audience — from truckers to housewives, and now the arena hopes, college students. The redneck charm he exudes on stage is more of an act than anything. In interviews, he accent loses a lot of its flavor, however, you can tell Larry the Cable Guy is definitely from the south. Right now, UCF students can get two-for-one tickets from Ticketmaster, so if you have a few extra bucks, check out this stereotypical gay and "Git 'er done!"

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10 p.m. - close
$3 cover —

SATURDAY NIGHT
Roger Lee
10 p.m. - close
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NOV. 16 - 21, 2004 • the indie
CD REVIEWS

ED HARcourt
Strangers
Genre: singer/songwriter
Label: EMI
Release date: Nov. 9

By their very nature, greatest hits compilations are difficult albums to critique, particularly if the band in question is actually good.

When a band has put together an extensive (and, for the most part, good) catalog, it's easy enough to pick twenty or so decent songs for a compilation.

The difficulty comes in picking the right twenty songs. The songs that make a listener think, "This is what NoFx is about!" Almost twenty years of music have been perfectly captured with this album!

Thankfully, The Greatest Songs Ever Written (By Us) manages to encapsulate the last decade and a half of NoFx while giving the audience some great punk to listen to.

NoFx is at its best when Fat Mike is at his most sarcastic and juvenile. Though some of that raucous humor can be found in the early albums, the band really hit its stride in the years between 1992's White Trash, Two Heels, & a Bean and 1997's So Long And Thanks for All the Shoes.

Consequently, it makes sense that a large chunk of the tracks (almost half) on Greatest Songs come from these heady years.

While not in chronological order, the tracks on Greatest Songs inspire a fun trip down memory lane, tracking the odyssey of NoFx from young, bratty punks to mature — well, older, at least — bratty punks.

Never slowing, Greatest Songs keeps you rocking from the first strains of "Dinosaurs Will Die" to the call to "kill all the white man" in, uh ... "Kill All The White Man."

Adding another check in the plus column, this compilation manages to avoid including head-scratching "great" songs while, at the same time, leaving actual great songs off the album. Even the superb Rolling Stones collection, 40 Licks, couldn't avoid this pitfall, including an "Undercover of the Night" in favor of a "Midnight Rambler."

Shameful.

It's no small feat, then, that at no point do the selections in Greatest Songs disappoint. Any songs that have been passed over tend to fall into the category of "personal favorites" versus "greatest hits." While it may be slightly disappointing to see "Cheese" and "Where's My Slice?" left off of the compilation, it is understandable.

It's all too rare for a compilation album to offer old and new fans alike an opportunity to experience the soul of a band. The Greatest Songs Ever Written (By Us) does it with humor and fun punk to spare. So go ahead. Add it to the CD collection. Though it's a job to keep punk rock elite, this is one compilation that should be enjoyed by all.

—DIANA ZISMAN

NEKO CASE
The Tigers Have Spoken
Genre: alt-country
Label: Anti
Release date: Nov. 9

"This One's For You." It is a very straight-forward love song with a slow, dreamy quality to it that makes it perhaps the most beautiful song on the entire album. It is raw and simple, and that is what makes it so wonderful.

The album begins with the somewhat upbeat "The Storm Is Coming," which prepares us for the other 11 tracks to come. Them many of the lyrics are not so upbeat. "Loneliness" is drenched in sadness and depression, but that isn't too surprising given the title. What is surprising is how upbeat this song is for what it expresses.

Harcourt reveals so much of himself in this album with seemingly no fear, as he expresses his innermost thoughts in songs like "Strangers" and "Let Love Not Weight Me Down." These two songs reveal different aspects of Harcourt. "Strangers" is a song that reveals confidence, yet we know Harcourt is not one to keep his love. He expresses his innermost thoughts in songs like "Strangers," wearing his heart on his sleeve.

His first full-length album, Here Be Monsters, was a wildly successful album that gripped listeners with its melodic and intoxicating tunes. Then came From Every Sphere, his "difficult" album, which was not as commercially successful as Here Be Monsters.

And now, here is Strangers, Ed Harcourt's love album. Every song in this 12-track album is dedicated to the woman who has stolen Ed Harcourt's heart. Obviously, Harcourt is not one to keep his love a secret, because he's fully expressed it in Strangers, wearing his heart on his sleeve and not giving a damn.

The best example of this is track three, "Let Love Not Weight Me Down." One of the lines in the song has him admitting he is "shedding his tears" and "trying to make sense of it all."

"Strangers" is an impressive effort. Even if you're not much for slow-tempo love albums, Ed Harcourt will keep you listening, after hooking you with "This One's For You." It is rare to have a musician put out an album with so much of himself in it and have that album still be friendly to audiences and easy to understand. Maybe that's because if you've ever been in love, then you know what Harcourt is talking about, and you can relate to his feelings.

All in all, this album is a must have for all Harcourt fans. And if you haven't heard him before, this isn't a bad place to start.

—MATT BALMASEDA

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Brosnan gets a Woody

After the Sunset caper is marred with homophobic humor, illogical scenarios

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

To understand After the Sunset, one must understand its director, Brett Ratner. Ratner was raised in Miami, a rich child of Jewish decent. When it came to college, he attended NYU film school and has lived an unrealistic, idealized version of the life that most can only dream of. In the strangest way, this glimpse into Ratner's personal life is the only way to decipher the strange decisions that have been made in his films.

After the Sunset begins like a lot of movies do today, with a teaser. This teaser involves Pierce Brosnan making out with someone the audience believes might be a man, in the first of what will be many rather uncomfortable gay jokes. The film itself revolves around a criminal played by Brosnan, who has supposedly retired, and the FBI agent that has tracked him down. Of course, there is a "one last job" in this film, and here it involves the Napoleon 3 diamond. Salma Hayek stars as eye candy and Ratner regulars Chris Penn and Don Cheadle ham it up in overextended cameos that don't belong in the narrative in the first place.

There are toys abound in this film, but most that have no basis in reality. They're fun toys and criminal toys, but when one begins to think how they could possibly work (a remote controlled car), the audience must understand they're living in a Brett Ratner world, a privileged world in an idealized setting. Ratner elevates his characters above the hyper-real and navigates them into the terrain one might just call ridiculous.

Logic is something that is often missing from a Ratner film (see Rush Hour and Rush Hour 2), and After the Sunset is no different. At first it looks to be a caper movie, then turns into a buddy movie but somewhere around then decides it wants to be a movie filled with gay jokes and subversive situations in which Pierce Brosnan and Woody Harrelson can talk about each other's poles ... fishing poles.

While the acting is good, its context can sometimes prove ridiculous. When Pierce Brosnan is sleeping next to Woody Harrelson one moment and then professing his love to Salma Hayek the next, one can't help but miss the connection emotionally to the character; the changes just don't make a lick of sense.

After the Sunset is not a bad movie; it's just a painfully average one. Ratner has discussed previously that he loves "call backs," where one character will bring a joke back from the beginning of the movie. This is abundant in After the Sunset. One supposes that the logic behind all of this is that since the audience was there for the joke the first time, when it comes back to the audience they'll feel somehow smarter for getting the reference. This, however, can be seen as talking down to the audience and a manipulation tool that is looked at as pretty lame by most.

Though it does appear on screen that everyone had fun making the movie, it's evident too that everyone tossed their script around day 23 of shooting. By the end of the film Ratner managed to turn everyone into a caricature and in the process took away all credibility and likeability to this sometimes fun, always slick, but disappointingly average caper movie.
New film explores tobacco legacy

Ross McElwee's Bright Leaves
a subtly comic look at industry

GENO MEHALIK
Staff Writer

The way Ross McElwee paints it in Bright Leaves, the tobacco industry and its far-spanning historical implications run the small towns in North Carolina. From pint-sized beauty queen "Miss Tobaccos" to tall fields where laborers shuck the crops that produce a $5,000 gross yield per acre every harvest, tobacco's remnants are still engrained in these locales, socially and geographically.

McElwee learned to make films in the 70s while enrolled in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's graduate film program. His earlier works include Sherman's March, a film about his Southern romantic nature juxtaposed with the conquests of Gen. William T. Sherman in the South in 1864. His seventh and most recent film, Bright Leaves, is a slightly hilarious documentary about the tobacco industry — to say the very least — as it relates to his genealogy in North Carolina.

The film begins with a visit to McElwee's cousin's home in North Carolina where the two gaze at the man's collection of film posters and original stills. His cousin informs him of a 1930 Michael Curtiz melodrama titled Bright Leaf and starring Gary Cooper, Lauren Bacall and Patricia Neal. McElwee, now convinced that the Hollywood production, the story of Brant Royle (Cooper), who struggles to keep hold of his position as the primary purveyor of tobacco against the villainously depicted Major Singleton (Donald Crisp) — is, in fact, a "cinematic heirloom," he embarks on a series of interviews to reinforce his reticent postulation.

McElwee contends throughout the film's historical lounge visits and conversational ruminations that his grandfather, John Harvey McElwee, a North Carolina tobacco tycoon, was ruined and ultimately made bankrupt in legal battles over the "Bull-Durham" trademark with James Buchanan Duke (whose legacy would include Duke University and the American Tobacco Company).

Along the way, however, McElwee intersperses meetings with close relatives and elemental friends and mentors. His home movies of his father and brothers (who all grew to become doctors) isolate, for McElwee, the pathological-agricultural connection embedded in his family. The filmmaker's admitted compulsion to capture everything on film in an effort to slow down time is venerably flawed, as revealed in montages of candid video of his family, including his young son, that illustrate the unyielding power of time.

That theme is further explored in meetings with two of McElwee's best friends, who are engaged to marry. Cutting to and from the couple as they vow to quit smoking time and time again, McElwee inserts a theme of desperation (placed, most certainly, ironically) among wedding footage. Another character McElwee introduces us to is Charleen, his former teacher and friend who he featured in his 1980 film of her namesake. Charleen serves, in this film, as another cheery and optimistic voice in the desperate struggle against tobacco by reporting the story of her sister, Rebecca, who recently died of cancer as a result of smoking.

All in all and at its best, McElwee's Bright Leaves offers an intimate glimpse into the lives of everyday folk struggling with everyday addictions, set among the backdrop of history and speculation and tempered with the elements of affection and lighthearted laughter. At its worst, Bright Leaves is a yellow-teethed and depressing cross-section of provincial wealth (gone big!) and its ramifications. With thoughtful looks at stagnating countryfolk and cautionary peerings into the subtext of a family steeped in silicone soil and wrapped in the debris of the tobacco industry, Ross McElwee's Bright Leaves yields a meditative and low-key scrapbook satire of Southern discomfort. Opens Friday at DMAC.
MOVIES

Presented by

MONDAY MOVIES

THE IDAHO BOUTIQUE CINEMA

U.S. movie revenues for Nov. 5-7
All dollar figures in millions

1. The Incredibles - $35.4
2. Ray - $25.3
3. The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers - $21.3
4. Alfie - $16.2
5. Thin Red Line - $14.6
6. Under the Tuscan Sun - $11.1
7. Shrek 2 - $11.0
8. A Perfect Getaway - $9.8
9. Ladder 49 - $8.8
10. Miss Congeniality 2: Armed & Dangerous - $7.4

FILE REVIEW

Incredibles lives up to its title

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

There are more superhero movies these days than you can shake a kryptonite stick at. Some have been great (Spider-Man 2), many have been lousy (Catwoman) but all have helped to build interest in the superhero genre.

The Incredibles is perhaps the ultimate result of that fascination — a perfectly balanced, wonderful film filled with chuckles, thrills and humanity.

Mr. Incredible (Craig T. Nelson) is on top of his art deco world. He's got a killer physique, tricked-out car and he just got married to Elastigirl (Holly Hunter), the most flexible woman in the world. Then came the lawsuits.

Fifteen years of retirement later and things are not going well for Mr. Incredible. He and his family have been placed into witness protection program for ex-superheroes, and they are forbidden to use their powers. He staves off the misery of his day job as a cubicle designer in a toy store by moonlighting as his old pal Frozone (Samuel L. Jackson), listening for distress on a police scanner.

On top of all this, he can't seem to get a grip on fatherhood. He wants his hyperactive, super-powered son Dash (Spider Fox) to compete in school track meets, but that would blow their cover and they'd have to move. And he doesn't even seem to notice his daughter Violet (Sarah Vowell), who, appropriately, can turn invisible. His infant son Jack-Jack may actually be normal, which disappoints him.

So when a skinny woman named Mirage (Elizabeth Pena) offers him the chance to get back in the super-business, he dons his tights again. But when a maniacal new supervillain named Syndrome (Jason Lee) arrives with a semi-genocidal plot to eliminate all super-heroes, Mr. Incredible will need the help of his entire family to save the day.

Though The Incredibles is being promoted as a superhero parody movie like Mystery Men, it is not a strict comedy. Though full of whimsical moments, the film is largely a cartoon action movie (a concept foreign to many Americans).

It is also an homage piece, filled with sly tips-of-the-cape to 50s' and 60s' spy and superhero material.

However, unlike Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow, which had little substance other than homage material, The Incredibles is a more complete film. None of the characters are simple stereotypes. Mr. Incredible is super-strong but filled with uncertainties. Elastigirl is tender and caring, but strong and independent when she needs to be. Some of the characters are twists on genre conventions. One example is Edna Mode (writer/director Brad Bird), a miniature fashion designer who specializes in superhero costumes (like James Bond's Q, but with style) and who never uses capes in her designs.

Animation-wise, The Incredibles succeeds. Though the starkly-richly detailed world seems somewhat jarring at first, one quickly accepts the reality of the universe, and some effects, such as Violet's force-fields, are positively stunning. The caricatured character designs are lively and emotive and are infinitely preferable to the wooden human populus of Shrek 2.

In a way, The Incredibles' achievement may not be surprising. Pixar is renowned for its delivery of great films, and one could view their latest as just par for the course. However, the film is so wonderfully ambitious in its scope — incorporating beautiful animation with intelligence and action-film thrills — that The Incredibles is probably the biggest achievement for the studio to date. It's the animated film of the year, and perhaps the best superhero movie ever.

COMING TO DVD — NOV. 16

Features are long on Short Cuts

Also, the Elf Infinifilm Edition is worth the wait

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

Short Cuts: Criterion Collection

Robert Altman's kaleidoscopic vision of Los Angeles based on Raymond Carver's writings finally hits the shelves in a new Criterion DVD. A film that has heavily influenced many and inspired more than a few (see Magnolia), The disk includes a featurette entitled Reflections on Short Cuts, a new 25-minute videotaped conversation with Robert Altman and Tim Robbins; Luck, Trust, and Ketchup; and a 90-minute documentary on the making of Short Cuts, a segment from BBC television's Moving Pictures, tracing the development of Carver's short story "Jerry, Molly and Sam" for the film; a 50-minute audio interview with Raymond Carver; various deleted scenes; a look inside the marketing of Short Cuts, featuring trailers and more than sixty print advertising campaigns; and a special reprint of Short Cuts, the Vintage Books companion collection of Carver short stories.

The Chronicles of Riddick

Though not as big a success as Universal might have hoped for, The Chronicles of Riddick comes to DVD in no less than three editions: widescreen theatrical (PG-13), fullscreen theatrical and a widescreen unrated edition that supposedly includes an extra 15 minutes of "unrated" footage. The disk also includes commentary by filmmaker David Twohy and actors Karl Urban and Alexa Davalos, something called "Riddick's World," which includes a 360-degree view of eight locations in the film's deleted scenes; and apparently, banking on the audience's boredom with the film, Universal has also included a special feature where the viewer can play the first level of the Xbox movie tie-in game.

Elf Infinifilm Edition

Waiting almost a full year for the video release of a film can sometimes be a good thing, and such is the case with Elf, the good-natured comedy from the writer and director of Made. Will Ferrell stars as a human elf lost in New York City looking for his father, played by James Caan. Another in the Infinifilm series, this two-disc DVD set boasts commentary by director Ferrell, deleted scenes and Fact Track & Jump to Music viewing options. It also includes Beyond the Movie featurettes — "Deck the Halls," "Christmas in Tinseltown," "Santa Mania," "Kids on Christmas" — a bunch of all-access pass featurettes and a ton of other features.

MOVIE TIMES

REGAL WATERFORD LAKES
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After the Sunset (PG-13)
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Affle (R)
12:00 2:00 7:19 9:50 12:00
Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (R)
12:10 4:20 6:50 10:00 10:10 12:50
The Grudge (PG-13)
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Ladder 49 (PG-13)
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Seed of Chucky (R)
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Please see MOVIE TIMES on 113
MOBIES

FILM REVIEW ★★★★★

The future of anti-Bush docs

BRETT RYAN BONOWICE
Staff Writer

With the election over, my mind started to wander over the DVD shelves of the local videomart. I found myself in the special interest section, a shelf filled with pornography and political documentaries that seemed to have an expiration date on them Nov. 2.

In the last year, a lot of political documentaries with the aim of removing President George W. Bush from office have come to the forefront.布什的《脑》, 控制室，《霍斯和哈洛斯》，《猎杀总统》，《布什家族财富》，《 Fahrenheit 9/11》 and Robert Greenwald's "un" trilogy that includes Unprecedented, Uncensored, and Unconstitutional.

These films, almost without exception, had a singular purpose: To expose the truth and to take back the presidency. Now that that cause is lost, one is forced to reexamine this abundance of films to see for what they really are: films. No longer are they propaganda. Their purposes to propagate are futile now that Sen. John Kerry has lost his bid for the presidency.

The "un" series might be the first films to disintegrate. While filled with important information, these films are not the highest quality in terms of production value. And after getting past the propaganda value of the films, one must examine it for its filmmaking. Sad to say, the filmmaking is not that good, and these films will only be forgotten about with time. Much in the way Osama bin Laden has disappeared, these films will follow.

Horns and Halos is about much more than the Bush administration; it is about Bush as a man and the lengths he has seemingly gone to hide his past. This film will last for as long as Bush is alive and remembered. A film worth seeking out, Horns and Halos follows the author of Fortune's Son, an unauthorized biography of George W. Bush, which alleges amongst other things that Bush was arrested for cocaine.

Control Room is the one film I think will age like a fine wine. The film is not about unseating Bush as much as it is about showing the way in which the media focuses on the war. It is a great film in that it only has to go as far as exposing Bush's actions in the most subtle way to show him to be as incompetent as he continues to be almost 18 months since "Mission Accomplished."

Fahrenheit 9/11 might be the most polished of the documentaries mentioned, but it's the one that runs the risk of being a film that won't resonate as the years pass. Sure, it will always have its place in the history books as the first documentary to cross the $100 million mark, and no one will ever forget its win in Cannes and then Disney subsequently deciding not to release it, but the film had an expiration date of Nov. 2, 2004.

What will these films look like in another four years? By law, Bush cannot run for re-election again (until he changes the rule, that is) so what are these films going to do now besides time capsules that showcase a time when America was so bad that everyone and their brothers made a documentary about how George W. Bush is ruining America and then how America still re-elected him? One has to wonder: What will future generations think of us?

STAFF WRITER

he was meant for the Stage

Stage Beauty a unique, provocative love story

GENO MEHALIK
Staff Writer

ichard Eyre's newest film Stage Beauty is a film about what it means to be a man. That is, from the eyes of a 15th century English gay theatre leading man dressed in drag. What, guys, you don't want that kind of advice? But seriously, Stage Beauty, however dated a period piece, is deceptively relevant in attacking gender issues at their crux.

The film is set in London in 1660, at a time when women were not allowed, by law, to act in any of the kingdom's theatrical productions. The solution for filling female roles? Edward Kynaston (a self-involved and handsome-but-as-charming-as-usual Rupert Everett) and a little persuasion by the king's new mistress, Nell Gwynn (a boisterous and brilliant Zoe Tapper), Kynaston is devastated to hear the King's proclamation that women will now be allowed to take the stage.

From thereon, Kynaston becomes utterly childlike in appearance, challenging and chiding Maria in her every attempt to perform. Maria, however, receives a benefactor in Sir Charles Sedley (a powdered and pompous Richard Griffiths), and quickly outshines the dwindling Kynaston flame.

Stage Beauty assesses a period in time when men were the only players allowed to portray female character on stage. And it does so with great precision. Eyre's film, written by Jeffrey Hatcher, attacks what it means to be male (and female, by comparison) from all angles.

Kynaston's purely sexual relationship with the Duke (in which he is requested to wear his female accoutrements) and the teacher/pupil dynamic between Maria and Kynaston illustrate sexuality and the sociology of gender to alarming detail. For instance, Maria and Kynaston's role-playing and the idea that, in any relationship, one person is the male and one is the female, may sound outdated. But it is, in fact, an idea that permeates society.

The reception and then eventual rejection of Kynaston upon the new order of the King isolates the chilling influence government and politics have on sexuality. Also, a feminist vein is deceptively relevant in attacking the idea that, in any relationship, one person is the male and one is the female, may sound outdated. But it is, in fact, an idea that permeates society.

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Stage Beauty's fatal flaw, however, is its introduction of a transcendent sexuality, where a formerly gay Kynaston falls in love with the ambitious Maria, who pined over him for ever-so-long. The film's noble attempts at a genderless love story are foiled by an indigenous sexuality in the Kynaston character.

Stage Beauty is an August and conscientious attempt at dissecting sexuality versus gender versus society versus theater stage lights versus Hollywood. With strong performances from Danes and Crudup, an involving plot and a thoughtful look at gender through the lens of a historical rearview mirror, Stage Beauty assesses its audience and performs brilliantly.

Take that, Harrelson and Brosnan! Ben Chaplin, left, and Billy Crudup, right, show that homoeroticism can be classy and intelligent, much to Brett Ratner's chagrin.

COURTESY LIONS GATE FILMS

FILMS

FILM REVIEW ★★★★★

He was meant for the Stage

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The film is set in London in 1660, at a time when women were not allowed, by law, to act in any of the kingdom's theatrical productions. The solution for filling female roles? Edward Kynaston (a self-involved and handsome-and-he-knows-it Billy Crudup), an actor classically trained in the art of female subjugation.

Waiting in the wings at every performance, however, is the mousy Maria (pronounced Mariah, performed by Claire Danes, with a flair for shadow-walking). Maria sews, handles props and coddles Kynaston after every performance, only to sneak off every night and perform secretly, emulating Kynaston's Desdemona.

Upon hearing news of the new actress from the Duke of Buckingham, (Kynaston's hush-hush love interest and a long-haired Ben Chaplin), Kynaston is threatened by Maria's momentum. After a dinner with King Charles II (a funny but not-as-charming-as-usual Rupert Everett) and a little persuasion by the king's new mistress, Nell Gwynn (a boisterous and brilliant Zoe Tapper), Kynaston is devastated to hear the King's proclamation that women will now be allowed to take the stage.

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Learn to stop worrying and love the DVD re-releases

Dr. Strangelove's 40th anniversary DVD issue is the film's best release yet

MATT HEDGEOCK
Staff Writer

U  nuclear holocaust is no laughing matter, or so they would have you believe.

In 1964, during the height of the Cold War conflict between the United States and Soviet Union, Stanley Kubrick released his black comedy masterpiece Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb. In spite of, or perhaps because of, the global crisis, the absurdity and bleak humor of the film came across clear as a red alert claxon. Now, 40 years later, Dr. Strangelove still has the power to simultaneously amuse and frighten.

President Merkin Muffley (Peter Sellers) has a slight problem on his hands. It seems one of his generals, Jack D. Ripper (Sterling Hayden) has gone and done a silly thing. He's ordered an all-out nuclear strike on the Soviets in an attempt to protect his vital bodily fluids from Commie fluoridation.

To make the situation more interesting, the Russians have recently installed a doomsday device that will destroy all life on Earth if even one H-bomb is dropped on Russian soil. While the president debates the matter with Gen. Buck Turgidson (George C. Scott) and the Nazi-saluting Dr. Strangelove (Sellers again), British Group Capt. Lionel Mandrake (Turgidson) has gone and done a thing. He's ordered an all-out nuclear strike on the Soviets in an attempt to protect his vital bodily fluids from Commie fluoridation.

From the 40th anniversary DVD release comes just in time for the newest nuclear crisis with North Korea and Iran. The new two-disc set features the previous features from the original DVD release, as well as two exclusive documentaries featuring interviews with former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, Bob Woodward, Roger Ebert and Spike Lee. Also included is a collectible booklet with photos and an essay by Ebert.

The new features are very nice, but don't justify a double-dip purchase if you already own the previous version. Considering the price ($34.95 MSRP) Columbia Tristar should have sprung for at least one audio commentary track.

However, those who do not yet own this masterpiece would do well to pick up the newest release. Remember, nuclear war isn't funny — it's hilarious.
Express to cinematic crapola

Polar Express strives for family fun, but settles for creepily real animation

DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press

People in Hollywood should never work with children or animals, WC. Fields once said. Maybe that should be expanded to hyper-realistic computer-generated children and reindeer, too.

As technically dazzling as we're supposed to believe they are, the creations in Robert Zemeckis' Christmas adventure The Polar Express just don't look right. In fact, most of the time, they look plain wrong, the sort of creepy characters more likely to induce nightmares than visions of sugar plums.

With his Forrest Gump and Cast Away star Tom Hanks providing body movements and voices for many key characters, Zemeckis set out to create a film that stretches the bounds of computer animation with detailed digital renderings of the actors through a process called performance capture.

Hanks and his co-stars performed on a bare soundstage, their actions captured by infrared cameras keyed to receptors on their faces and bodies. Zemeckis boasts that the expressions and body language are so humanly authentic, the film cannot even be called animation.

Distributor Warner Bros. disagrees, having entered The Polar Express in the Academy Awards animated-feature category. While the characters do look more real than the usual cartoon figures, the movie clearly is a form of animation, designed to resemble the world of Chris Van Allsburg's beloved Christmas picture book.

Whether the creations of The Polar Express are more emotive than the fairy-tale beings of Shrek or the superhero caricatures of The Incredibles is questionable. When Shrek's pal Donkey cracks a goofy grin, you feel it, and grin right back.

When the nameless children of The Polar Express stare you in the face, they're unsettling, stuck in some shadowy zone between flesh and figment. They have lifelike parts — hair, mouths, ears, noses — but the pieces fit together rather formlessly, like the indefinite features of the embryonic pod people of Invasion of the Body Snatchers.

And there's something eerie and dead about these children's eyes, making them resemble those evil, stoic kids of the 1960 horror flick Village of the Damned.

Some family flick, huh? Screenwriter William Broyles Jr. sticks to the essence of Allsburg's plot. A boy (body by Hanks, voice by Daryl Sabara) lies awake on Christmas Eve, pondering whether he still believes in Santa Claus. Along comes a train, the Polar Express, stopping in front of his house to haul him to the North Pole with a bunch of other kids for Santa's big send-off.

With the help of a self-assured girl (Nona Gaye) and a timid boy (body by Hanks' Bosom Buddies co-star Peter Scolari, voice by Jimmy Bennett) who's accustom ed to Christmas passing him by, our hero comes to once again embrace Santa and the holiday spirit.

Hanks also provides body movements and voices for the train conductor, Santa, the lead boy's dad and a ghostly hobo who hitches a ride on the Polar Express.

Many of the visuals are truly fantastic — the remarkable detail of the train, wolves prowling the woods, an eagle swooping across mountain peaks.

Yet so much of the action Zemeckis adds to stretch out a thin storybook is in service only of the visuals, not the plot or characters. There are grating musical routines to mostly forgettable songs by Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri (Aerosmith's Steven Tyler performs as an elf belting out the party tune "Rockin' on Top of the World").

The North Pole is a turgid mob scene, with elvies so ominous and off-putting all they need are drabber garments, scars and lesions to fit right into the dark army of Mordor in The Lord of the Rings.

And when in doubt, the filmmakers send the three main kiddies spiraling down a track or tunnel.

Maybe the pretty pictures and visual commotion will be enough to satisfy young children. Their parents might be wishing they had stayed home and read Allsburg's book again to their little ones.

Tom Hanks plays about as many roles as Sylvester Stallone in Spy Kids 3, and The Polar Express is about as dreadful a cinematic experiment. Buuut it's G-rated, so millions will see it. Sigh.
**LIFE**

**Kevin Hill is an up slope**

The series, about a lawyer and single father, boosts UPN

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

**KEVIN HILL**

*BY UPN*

**Genre:** Drama

**Air date:** Wednesday, 9:00 p.m.

Kevin Hill is the rarest of rarities, a decent UPN drama. The network, which always seems to be wrestling with the WB for last place in the ratings, has gotten ahold of a show that might just be enough to get people watching the network. It's doubtful they'll stick around for anything else, but they will at least watch this show. It's simplistic and pleasing enough to reach a wide audience without being too sappy or stupid.

The basic plot is that the title character is a hotshot lawyer living the luxurious bachelor life until his cousin dies, at which point he's left with the deceased's 10-month-old daughter Sara. Now he must learn to be responsible, etc. etc. It's really not as bad as it sounds, and that probably has a lot to do with the easily likable Taye Diggs, who plays Hill. The rest of the cast does as good a job as they can with limited roles. Kevin Hill brings with it the typical clichés you'd expect from this type of lighthearted drama. There's the gay babysitter, the firm female employer, the goofy "let's get drunk and screw" women and interchangeable best friends.

It does a nice job of balancing Hill's social life and baby dramas with the courtroom cases. Generally the case Kevin is dealing with teaches him something about raising Sarah. For instance, in one episode he has to defend a negligent rockstar mom. When he realizes she's a bad parent it makes him evaluate himself and teaches him to keep his morals in tow. It is preachy, but it's done manageably without it ever running rampant through the whole show. With all the high-concept shows that aren't really going anywhere story wise, this show is a gentle excursion. It doesn't try too hard, and it's wise in that it doesn't jam itself down your throat. It's easy to appreciate that type of sincerity from a show.

Kevin Hill certainly isn't the greatest show on television, but it's also far from being the worst. It is as it stands, a show that follows all the rules befitting its genre and is a charming way to waste an hour. Being merely good is an accomplishment enough, considering what network the show is on and what else we've been offered this season. Give it a shot when you get the chance, you just might be pleasantly surprised.

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**NOT JUST SEX**

Relationship limbo blues

DANA DELAPI
Staff Writer

There are only two great places to be in this world when it comes to relationships — either to be completely in one, or completely out of one. It is that in-between stage that is killer and often drives people to the brink of insanity.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you relationship limbo, the most awkward place to be in the world. It is that place between being complete strangers and an actual couple, where nothing is certain, but everything is essential.

For most people, this can be the most fun stage of a relationship. The getting to know you stage, the I-need-to-impress-you-so-much-I-broke-the-bank-buying-this-outfit stage. It is here girls get to act coy and mysterious while guys strive to seem masculine and successful.

But how long is relationship limbo really supposed to last? This is where it starts to get tricky. The longer it takes for a relationship to progress, the crazier some people get.

Imagine this: you've been seeing someone for two months, you go out on a date and act like a complete fool because you're nervous and have no idea where the two of you are headed. You might as well smack your head into a door because it can only get worse from here.

Officially, I think this stage can last no more than three months. After that, you know too much about each other, have spent loads of time together and you will have to keep fending off questions of "What is the deal with you two?" and "Is that your boyfriend or can I hit on him?" Not that it is anyone's business anyway. It just gets plain irritating. Plus, by this time your relationship may have hit a sexual level and monogamy is important on a psychological and physical level.

Getting out of limbo is much harder than getting into it. I keep hearing that the best solution to this limbo dilemma is to simply communicate your feelings. But does anyone actually do that? I could sit here and tell you till I am blue in the face that you need to communicate if you ever want to get out of relationship limbo. But, I have never been able to do it either — classic case of easier said than done.

The unfortunate accessory to this rule is if you have to ask the question, you probably won't be happy with the answer. Relationships are supposed to progress naturally, but not at the speed of a turtle. If it is taking forever for your twosome to become official and comfortable, there may be something else holding it back. And there are only three responses to your question: the answer you want, the truth, or the worst one of all, the lie they tell because it is what you want to hear.

While it may be the scariest thing you ever do, if you truly need to know your status, go for it. Slide under that limbo stick and hope for the best. If you fail you can always start over during the next cycle.
View of Paris from Orlando

Oh God! YES! Paris comes to O-town

SHARON PARE
Staff Writer

The next blonde bombshell to set up shop in Orlando will be coming New Years Eve, 2004. It's not Britney Spears, Jessica Simpson or any other blonde that had ruled this world in the pop-idol kind of way. But it's the bona fide, typical-to-the-tee blonde Paris Hilton, who will be opening up Club Paris right here in Orlando. Club Paris is set to open in major party cities, including Las Vegas, South Beach, New York City and London, but lucky us, we will have the opportunity to party with this dirty vision right down the street from UCF before they open up in any of the other "sin-cities."

Say what? Paris Hilton will be within breathing distance from us? Oh my goodness, isn't this the greatest opportunity to star in my next home video with her? No, that's not the wiseful thinking college students and locals are hoping for, but more so, an increase of class of the nightlife in Orlando. If many of you are not aware of it yet, the Downtown Orlando area will actually have a skyline in two years. With the number of luxury condominiums to be erected, such as 55 West, The Vue Orlando, The Sanctuary and the already built Waverlee, these architectural additions will bring hope to the Orlando economy that we have yet to see.

Paige Grosnick, a sophomore communications major, said, "I heard about Club Paris through the grapevine — other people. Club Paris will give a different vibe; a New York, LA-kind of attitude instead of a tourist. A lot of college students who want to see her will be there. Maybe 18-30 year old men. Although, 21-and-up will bring the club [dance] atmosphere back to Orlando."

Snap to reality! Don't be jealous because it's hard to get into a bar unless you are illegally doing so. Actually, let's hope that club-owner Fred Khalilian knows that the smartest marketing strategy into "upping" the nightlife back into Church Street would be to assure the Orlando crowd that it will strictly be a 21-and-up scene. Justin Timberlake surely would not want to party with a bunch of teenyboppers at Club Paris. Moreover, these teenyboppers are worse than drunken hookers. But then again, how would one know that?

What does that have to do with Paris Hilton? Everything! With the addition of Club Paris to the lavish new malls (i.e. Millenia Mall), luxury living condominiums and grand openings of ultra posh lounges along Orange Avenue (i.e. Rhythm & Flow, The Monkey Bar and the Dragon Room, to name a few), there is a chance that she will bring in high-class life here — such as more celebrities, surprise surprise — which can be a good or bad thing.

Club Paris will be opening at the Church Street Station next to the late Cheyenne Saloon. The club's interior will be, you guessed it, pink. There will also be a special section for Hilton and her guests, a separate martini-and-cigar lounge, a dance floor and a VIP section.

Becky Adney, a senior art education major said, "My brother heard about Club Paris on Celebrities Uncensored or something like that. I think Club Paris will bring more stars, and downtown needs some desperate help and money. Club Paris will attract MTV watchers, 'provocative little girls.' Paris is a big socialite. Cameramen seem to follow her (hehe). It will attract older men and younger girls."

For you Hilton fans out there (and not just for that infamous sex video on the Internet, ask tsk tsk), she has signed a contract that requires from her an obligatory visit at least twice a month at the club. This will perhaps help keep the nightclub alive, for many locals will start to frequent the club obsessively as some have been itching to rub elbows with nationally known celebrities.

In addition, Hilton will be at the grand opening of the new nightclub on Church Street, New Years Eve. Until 9 p.m. that evening she will make an appearance right here in Orlando until it is time to open the second Club Paris that same evening in Las Vegas, the real sin city. Furthermore, Hilton has also received a seven-figure bonus for signing on to this deal. As if she needs more money after her recent nonfiction book that is No. 8 on The New York Times' bestseller list, her new jewelry line, her upcoming perfume to be released this holiday season, her status as the latest Guess? model representative and the most recent film she is shooting to date, National Lampoon's Pledge This!

Although, in respect to opening Club Paris here in Orlando, Hilton aware of the fact that Orlando stops selling alcohol at 2 a.m. and that most of those clubs, bars and lounges close their doors by 3 a.m.? One is not sure whether Hilton and Khalilian have taken that obstacle into consideration as to whether that issue will affect the success of the nightclub, but Orlando should feel honored for having the privilege of Club Paris first.

Tickets are on sale for this year's New Year's Eve event. Admission is $99 just to get in. VIP admission is $249 (and who knows if a bottle of Cristal is included). But, for a steal, VIP private booths and beds will be $999. In fact, tickets will make for "fine food, drinks, and red carpet treatment."

FUTURE FUNNIES

The indie now has full access to the Future's archives, so each week we're bringing you an old editorial cartoon. This piece of beauty turned up on Aug. 31, 1995. We're sure it was topical at the time. Speaking of which, has OJ found the real killers yet?

REAL LIFE FOR REAL

City Tobacco

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The desert is this geek's dessert

This desert life a sandy necessity

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

In my heart, I am a city girl. I always have been. I would be hard pressed to survive without high-speed Internet connectivity and my friendly neighborhood anime/comic book store. However, I must admit my strong affinity for the desert. When I retire, it's going to be to a little villa-style house in the middle of nowhere, an hour away from any major cities, somewhere in the wilderness of Arizona or New Mexico.

Something about the vast scale of things here, the emptiness and desolation in contrast with the mountains that always seem to be hundreds of miles away until you are right next to them, makes my spirit seem to stretch. You can feel something akin to infinity here among the desert brush. The sky seems so large, so looming, you can't help but feel the insignificance of humanity in the universe. At night, watching the stars, you can truly feel the enormity of the universe pressing in all around you. To call it breathtaking would be a cliché, and it wouldn't even begin to describe the way it makes you feel to actually see it all up there. It takes your soul away, if that makes any sense. I feel like I am stretching to meet the sky, and part of me gets lost. A part of me that I do not miss, however.

I doubt I am the only one to feel this way. Countless movies, books, and poems have been created that allow the uninitiated to taste what is out there in the empty places of the world. Here the only colors you see are the rusty reds and browns of the soil and the blue of the vast sky above, peppered by the stars, peppered by the sky, and part of me gets lost. A part of me that I do not miss, however.

I wonder... if a Krispy Kreme was sprayed with ground-up people, would I stay away from there? I feel confident it wouldn't work. I'd cross over a battlefield of carcasses, recognizing friends along the way, to get my Krispy Kreme fix. A fresh one — right off of God's conveyor belt — that would melt in my mouth. Mmmm! Now, don't look so shocked. I've seen people Hoover down two crème-filled ones in a matter of seconds, so I'm pretty sure I'd have good company while crawling over my dead friends.

The crazed robot is a uniter

Nonpartisan things we'll all agree on

DIANA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

With a contentious election over, it's apparent that the country needs a little healing. I say, who better to unite the huddled masses than your favorite robot columnist? See, I'm a uniter (what?), not a divider (what?), Gon work harder (what?), I'm a uniter (what?), we're gon make it (what?), I will unite us (what?), keep on unitin' (what?). Here are a few things that can go a long way in uniting us. Let the healing begin.

Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. How is it possible that even their most simple form — a doughnut consisting of little more than dough, air and sugar — can be the perfect treat? I once read of an unusual method to rid a garden of earwigs: you capture them, mix them with water in a blender and grind those suckers up. Then pour the potion into a spray bottle and spray it around the garden. Apparently, the earwigs flee. The garden must reek of their death, and in its wake, they run for their nasty little lives.

Now, I wonder... if a Krispy Kreme was sprayed with ground-up people, would I stay away from there? I feel confident it wouldn't work. I'd cross over a battlefield of carcasses, recognizing friends along the way, to get my Krispy Kreme fix. A fresh one — right off of God's conveyor belt — that

Don't like America?

Start your own country: All liberal, all the time!

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

Well, now I know that it's official: Turd Sandwich (A.K.A. Bush) has won the popular vote for the first time and will be president for the next four years. Congratulations, you exploitive exploites.

So now that our doom is sealed, we've got to ask ourselves: What do we, the disenfranchised voters who punched in that other guy on the ballot, do now that we've lost? Do we just accept our defeat and let the country rot itself into a puritanical nightmare? Damn straight!

There's nothing that can be realistically done to lift this country from its liberal crisis. We can do as they do and pray for the capture, but change back to our hedonistic ways just before the "righteous ones" get sucked up to heaven. But since that, like all religion, is a load of crap, we've got to think more realistically.

Let's leave the country and start our own. There's a lot of empty space, and if all else fails, we can take over Poland. You can't be a country unless you take over Poland. It's a rule.

So anyway, we start our own country. We call it Freedonia 2 because we'll be honoring the freedom we'll be standing for, and besides I'd only want people who get Marx Brothers references in our country in the first place. It'll be great. We can start a new government and everything. First things first, we ultimately separate church and state by never having a church to begin with. People can still have faith, they just can't incorporate it into our government. We focus on science and the arts and fill our nation with America's great minds who feel the way we do about the sinking status of the country. We don't censor; we encourage daring thought. Remember, the time in which religion had the slightest grip on the country was referred to as the Age of Reason, whereas the most religious time, where thoughts were completely censored and violently silenced if provocative, was known as the Dark Ages.

We'll accept all messes and sexualities and create our own holidays. Everything from "purple pants day" to "watch your favorite Mandy Patinkin day". We'll tax, but we'll let people know where the money's going. I know it sounds a bit idealistic, but what do you expect? I went out there, like many of my fellow-first-time voters, and supported...
RAMBLINGS

WEB LESS TRAVELED

Internet trends of yesteryear

From ninjas to gay jokes to awful personals

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

After a couple themed weeks of Web Less Traveled, it's time to return to normal. We're done with the meager Halloween festivities and people have stopped reloading CNN.com every few minutes for election coverage, allowing the rest of the Internet to proceed with the downloading of pornography and music at normal rates. In this edition, let's examine even more Internet culture fads of yesteryear. If you haven't seen them, then you may already be a newbie. Read and be schooled.

Hello my future girlfriend
http://www.xsunderground.com/thatch/ide/die

Searching for love online has always been a terrible idea. It doesn't help if you're 11 years old and already have a mullet large enough to challenge that of most NASCAR fans. The original Geocities page from 1998 died six years ago, but countless mirrors still exist of this young Bebo's infamous childhood folly. While the image is creepy and the page design is awful, the sound byte is worse. Load the page and you'll hear young Michael saying, "Hello my future girlfriend. This is what I sound like. I am 11 years old in the sixth grade in New Mexico. Please PM me if I am in Yahoo Chat. Byel Thanks for stopping by!' in the most creepy, monotone way possible. In January of 2004, he created a site at deceitful.org, claiming his status as the Internet's foremost child celebrity and telling the side of the story. It's since died again, but with that much embarrassment in his past, is it any surprise that he named his blog something as emo as "deceitful.org?"

Real Ultimate Power
http://www.realultimatepower.net

Welcome to the self-proclaimed "Official Ninja Web-page." It's run by a guy named Robert Hamburger, who posts, "Ninjas are sooooooo sweet that I want to cram my pants. I can't believe it sometimes, but I feel it inside my heart. These guys are totally awesome and that's a fact. Ninjas are fast, smooth, cool, strong, powerful, and sweet. I can't wait to see yoga next year. I love ninjas with all of my body (excluding my pee pee)." Combining youth culture's omnipresent love of ninjas with the then still-unique idea of acting stupid online for comedy value, Mr. Hamburger's site became wildly popular.

I'll admit that I hadn't visited the site in years, but in going there now, I'm not surprised to find that it too has written a book. For only $9.95, you can buy Real Ultimate Power: The Official Ninja Book from Amazon. Apparently it's some kind of confidence-building, self-help piece. Crazy.

Go left, young man

From 114

Tree-face, and as a result felt crushing defeat, I'll be damned if I sit through this disgrace of an administration for four more years. The Civil War lasted four years, as did both World Wars. Do you know how much destruction can be caused now? Join me, my readers, as we start our brave new world, our beautiful nation, Frontier 2. It can't be any worse than what'll happen here. You can say that after the results were announced Nov 3, I saw the light. I truly realize what the people want and know now just how the world works. I might be less tolerant now and a bit more unforgiving, but why not? Got to fit in somehow.

Cult films, anime dig desert

From 114

At dull green of the desert plants. The colors seem almost muted. It is a quiet and powerful beauty. Somehow, looking into the impossibly distant horizon, I feel those qualities rub off on me. Considering that I am normally quite the chatty Cathy, this is a huge change. I can understand why those cowboys and Indian braves who rode out into the desert for weeks at a time came back so very cool and collected, with a stillness inside them. After just a few days, I can feel it rubbing off on me.

Of course, that doesn't mean I am ready to run off to the desert yet. I am sure there is a lot this place could teach me, but I am not quite so sure I am ready to learn it. I have a lot more city adventures to go on, and a lot more talking to do before I am ready to be one with the void. Still, my appreciation is deep. And many others have taken a stab at it. Trigun, probably my favorite anime in the entire world, is based in a desert world far in space where the remnants of humanity must struggle to survive. The cinematography makes full use of the landscape. The great, desolate, honorable David Lynch, god of the strange, has even dabbed in the desert in some of his films. Lost Highway especially did a disturbing job of portraying some of the eccentricity of those tiny desert towns that pepper the landscape.

But none of that stuff holds a candle to the real deal, to the actual presence of the desert all around you. Don't be fooled. To experience it, you must live it. I suppose that's true about any place, though. To actually know the mountains, you must visit them in person. All the pretty pictures of the Rockies don't do them any justice at all, and those sparkling sandy beaches aren't real unless you can dip your feet in the water.

Why not try experiencing some of these places for yourself? I think travel changes you in a very special way, and I know I would not be the person I am without seeing as much of the world as I have. There is so much to explore, so much beauty to be found here on Earth, that it makes the heavens and space seem unimportant.