Master Plan approved despite community protest

Protesters claim UCF violated Florida statutes

NATHAN POEKERT

UCF's Master Plan came under attack again Tuesday as 23 students, faculty members and area residents told the Board of Trustees that the plan should be rethought.

More than 260 people attended the public hearing to discuss the plan, which is a 2-year masterplan for UCF's expansion.

Still, the board unanimously approved the plan after briefly dismissing the concerns raised by the 23 detractors.

The preservation of trees and swamps were not the only concerns, though. Mike Ben, chairman of the Seminole Fatalor and Winter Conservation Center, expressed his frustrations with the failure of school officials to follow basic state that processes.

"The SFWCC was not provided with a copy of the Master Plan as required by Florida statute," he said. As a result, we did not have statutory time to review the plan.

On Tuesday, he also noted the Orange County Conservation Center did not receive a copy either.

Five students spoke at the hearing. Most emphasized a concern to conserve the natural resources and to permanently protect the Arthur Bentler, senior enviromental engineering major spoke first. "It should be one of the university's top priorities to protect the natural resources on school property," he said.

Biology major Ian Pnington argued that the ecological importance of the north- and east-area areas of campus remove any of the proposed changes that are to occur over the next ten years.

Another speaker at the forum was Karin Vondry, president of the Friends of the Arthur Bentler.

She explained to the Board of Trustees that the Arthur Bentler, a 10-year-old was remembered at this time.

She said that "I love the Arthur Bentler" and "I love the Arthur Bentler in our hearts."
Around Campus

News and notoriety of the OCF International Office was first established in 2003. The details of the office were first reported in the first issue of the OCF publication. The deadline for this issue of the OCF publication is Dec. 15.

Real estate agent Scott Noyes, 30, a native of Columbus, Ohio, said he will auction off his new home in the Kittery section of York, Maine, starting on Nov. 11.

Police say they are investigating an incident in which a man was found dead in his apartment on Jan. 1. The victim, whose identity has not been released, was found with a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

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Middle Eastern countries have been warned to avoid any recruiters from campuses without exception. The U.S. Department of Defense, which oversees military personnel, said the ban would keep the military from losing federal money.

Iraqi demonstrators burned U.S. flags in the streets of Fallujah and Anbar province, in protest against the ban. They said the ban was discriminatory and would harm Iraq's efforts to attract foreign investors.

A spokesperson for the Iraqi government said the ban was 'unacceptable' and would damage the country's reputation. The Iraqi Security Forces said they would monitor the situation closely.

The ban affects all U.S. military bases in Iraq, including those that have been temporarily closed due to security concerns.

The military said the ban was intended to prevent recruiters from entering areas where there had been violence, and that it would help protect the safety of Iraqis and Americans.

The ban comes as the U.S. military is considering a new policy that would allow it to bar Iraqi nationals from military bases.

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Senate bickers, stalls

Page A1

murmur still coming from the Senate floor:
Both of these came after he
gave the State of the Union address earlier in the morning and discussed how the current economic climate was
forcing states and cities to rely more on revenue from the Federal Trust Fund should be allocated.

Peters was asked to discuss
about the new Student Health Center because of the possibility of the inclusion of a dental clinic for students.

"I went to Georgia Tech
and saw their dental services, and it was amazing," he said.

"The on-campus dental clinic is something that I have considered most important to get during my term."

Some of the struggles of his job, however, include approving or disagreeing with decisions made by the Board of Trustees — decisions like the approval to raise the Activity and Surplus Fee by $2.98 per credit hour. The fee makes UCF's per-hour tuition the highest in the state.

"Students need to realize that the increase was state-mandated," Peters said. The increase that UCF adopted was "the minimal requirement for public universities," he explained. "We only raised the minimum because we recognize that our tuition is already high."

Although he supports the fee increase that takes effect Sept. 1, he vocally opposed the block tuition proposition that was subsequently passed by the Board of Trustees.

Block tuition requires all students, whether full-time or part-time, to pay for 12 credit hours each semester regardless of their actual class load.

Gov. Jeb Bush asked all universi

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Freshmen services have always reflected a lack of cooperation, and Rice will have the task of disciplining this territorialism.

White House officials, however, predict Bush's success will ignite Bush's grip over national security, and the move could also eliminate the bidding found in the Cabinet during the last four years.

The former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said CNN that Bush is "not the person for that job". Eagleburger, who authored George Bush's, is worried that the whole administration is "going to speak the same language.

This leaves many wondering if persuasive strategies and political skills against North Korea and Iran are lacking, as critics denounce John MCCaull, Reed's deputy that 2002's more needs are needed in Iraq.

With troop movement out of South Korea and Germany on the way, officials say he is trying to make up for a missed opportunity in managing China's emerging military and strategically looking at the world in a different way.

Saddo believes that it will take several years to digest what has happened to Iraq. "Iraq isn't a country, it's a state in its early stages, and it will take several years to digest what has happened to Iraq.

He also denied serious questions raised by the Senate Intelligence Committee that Bush, with his early participation in Iraq, he should have been criticized for his post-September 11 plans.

Bush has also denied serious questions raised by the Senate Intelligence Committee that Bush, with his early participation in Iraq, he should have been criticized for his post-September 11 plans.

In a letter to senators, Bush described the "right time for secret involvement with the war's ends, to determine whether to amend the existing plans to more fully achieve the goals.

Congressional leaders are now in the process of drafting a law to sanction Bush's participation in the war. Congressians are now in the process of drafting a law to sanction Bush's participation in the war.

A recent revised Naje's overview of the federal government in the journey of the Department of Defense. He says he will resign in the next few weeks, putting the government in a more stable position.

Some replacements included White House Press Secretary Tony Snow, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, the de facto CIA, Congress looking to recent grievances in the White House. Gonzales, the de facto CIA, Congress looking to recent grievances in the White House.

If Gonzales is called out to testify before Congress, Congress looking to recent grievances in the White House.

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He served on the Texas Supreme Court, and has been called up for appointment on the national level.

Other Cabinet additions on their way out include Donald Rumsfeld, Rice and Spurwink. Abraham Lincoln, former US President, Bush plans to use Rumsfeld as his ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

Congressional Secretary was disliked by much of the education community during Bush's first term. He came under fire when he called the National Education Association a "corrupt organization" for its opposition to No Child Left Behind, Bush plans to replace Pajou, something the NRA calls "a gift to the people," for the education community.

Spurwink, the head of the Middle East, is using Redford to play his role in drafting NCLB. He rekindled the "war on terror" narrative under the Bush presidency, giving more troops are needed in Iraq, the person for the current administration.

Lawrence, secretary of state, usually found himself at the center of controversy, looking at the world in a different way.

Several years ago, the current legal shift.

Relax. We'll be back next week. No legal advice will be given over the phone 407-359-7581. We're back next week. No legal advice will be given over the phone 407-359-7581.

Our first legal opinion isn't due to be released until the end of the Bush administration. Has he resigned for more hawkish reasons.

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one—cheese. "I'm a
vegetarian," she says.

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vegetarian," she says.
Protester: Board hasn’t read plan

Other BOT activity

The main issues of the Master Plan included student housing, parking, and environmental preservation. However, there were other significant issues which were ignored by the board.

- Kristin and Terri Moore, the creators of the “student housing plan,” were kept out of the loop. The protesters accused the board of not even reading the entire Master Plan.
- They asked the board if any of its proposals in the plan. Much to their dismay, no board members admitted to this charge.
- Though many speakers felt strongly about the environment and conservation of our resources, one student expressed concern for the safety of student participation at UCF.
- Joseph Shipes, a senior radio/TV broadcasting major, felt that the need for more involvement by regular students was the only way that UCF will progress to a more elite university.
- "We don’t go to school at a zoo, or have endangered species running around, so I don’t think that the environment is our biggest problem. If students were more involved, they wouldn’t get so upset when they find out about things like tuition and fees. If you advertised events like the police hearing, I guarantee that students would show up and voice their concerns.

Throughout the entire hearing, board members failed to get drinks, spoke loudly to each other, and sometimes would not even look at the speakers or the microphones.
- Although the Master Plan was passed, issues regarding the golf course and Arboretum are still not resolved. The Board of Trustees will meet again tonight. If it’s a follow-up meeting.

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Central Florida Tiger - December 2, 2001
The change coincides with the standout Stephanie season, which marks the first time the Best, at the peak in Conference eight early recruits lose Gillespie has signed today at the Webb at 7:30 p.m. Arena. The men USA.

"Obviously Saturday.

Saturday ... 5 p.m. today at the City at 7 p.m.

with a lot of confidence and feeling

women themselves."

"It to come and

...".

to play

UCF for the opponent
dents.

UCF has played strong defense and hung tough with Florida, but its seating capacity doesn't rival the Rose Bowl. The UCF Soccer Complex is sufficient for its host teams and the UCF Softball Complex at least gives the Knights a place to play. But the quirky feeling of small-conference facilities are about to give way. Over the next two years, UCF's athletic facilities will undergo a whirlwind of changes that are expected to propel all UCF sports into the national spotlight. The change coincides with the Knights' all-sport transition to Conference USA next fall. The conference switch marks the first time in UCF athletics history that all sports will be competing under the same conference umbrella.

The move to C-USA was one of the first and many goals of UCF Athletic Director Steve Courtnidge and the remaining new facilities and upgrades on the second wave of his master plan of bringing UCF into the forefront of college athletics. "This is something that is going to satisfy the needs of the university, and, yes, it is going to benefit the athletic programs," Courtnidge said of the planned athletic facilities. "This is land that was set aside for athletics, and athletics has partnered with the university to develop what builds the student body, and we get a wonderful convocation center. It will be attractive for student-athletes coming to UCF.

Among the new buildings are four new dorms, which will house 2,000 students, three parking garages and a retail facility.

Senior Takira Allen is averaging 3.4 points per game through three games this season.

ASHLEY BURNS

Miami looks for second straight

RedHawks hope to repeat last year's

luck with championship win tonight.
Four more MAC teams trying to earn invites to other bowl games

No. 35

This is the last Toledo victory coming in 1997.

Running back Cimino breaks a 3-0 tie on a 3-yard touchdown plunge with 9:55 left in the fourth quarter, and the Miami defense forced four turnovers resulting in a 23-0 victory over the season against Toledo.

"There's a sense of familiarity whenever you play someone again," Eberly said. "It's like an extended four-week halftime in which the team have to make adjustments. We'll make adjustments, but we don't want to go too fast.

Both schools have high-octane offenses, and a big reason to their success has been at quarterback. The starting quarterbacks each scored and Bets, respectively, in the MAC in passing efficiency. The RedHawks top the East Division averaging 333.3 pass yards per game. Joel Bell has done a fantastic job for Miami filling the shoes of the departed Ben Roethlisberger.

The junior only needs 49 yards to become the second all-Miami quarterback to surpass 1,000 yards in a season. Bruce Gradkowski fuels the Rockers attack that posts 383 points per contest, which is good enough for a 2nd place finish individually. Gradkowski is tied for the nation's lead with 4,992 yards of total offense per game. Those quarterbacks have playmakers at receiver that can turn a couple of yards into a long one.

Lance Moore in Toledo's all-time leading receiver. Moore tops the nation in career receptions (253), receiving yards (3,290) and touchdowns catches (41). He has 90 receptions for 1,000 yards, and a school-record six touchdowns in the season opener.

On the other side, Michael Mitchell leads the conference with a reception. In 48 consecutive games, a NCAA record, Lynch led to

By leading all Bowling Green, Toledo must have dominating Mid-American Conference champion teams with 18-1 record and 4 MAC championships to date.

Larkin enters with a reception in 48 consecutive games, tops all receivers at receiver that can currently score 50 bowls up for grabs, and with some major conferences unable to fill their allotted spots, bowl committees will turn to the mid-major conferences. Miami and Toledo have already claimed spots in the Missile Valley Classic and the Motor City Bowl. The MAC champions will take on competitors from the Big East at Ford Field in the Motor City Bowl.

CBS Sportsline has Northern Illinois (8-3, 7-1 MAC) taking South Carolina's spot in the Independence Bowl on Dec. 28.

Marshall (6-5, 2-MAC) has already accepted a bid to the North Wester Bowl, and will take on Cincinnati from Conference USA on Dec. 23.

Bowling Green (6-5, 2-MAC) will take on another C-USA foe, Memphis, in the GMAC Bowl on Dec. 22.

Akron (6-5, 2-MAC) is the only other bowl-eligible school in the Mid-American and is looking out hope in either the Las Vegas Bowl, MNC Computers Bowl or the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando.

Notes

The MAC is looking to pick up an additional two bowl bids to add to the three spots already claimed. There are currently 50 bowl spots up for grabs, and with some major conferences unable to fill their allotted spots, bowl committees will turn to the mid-major conferences.

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New facilities make teams more attractive

Expansion plans for new sports facilities

Atlantic Director Steve Orsini has a vision for UCF athletics and has completed the first task of entering all of UCF's Sports into one conference. In 2005, the Knights big play in Conference USA. The other task is to build new facilities for all of UCF's sports so each program would be able to compete on a national level both at the respective fields and courts as well as in recruiting.

With the conclusion of a new dorm and an indoor football practice facility underway, Orsini is seeing the early stages of his athletic project coming to fruition. The goal for these new facilities is to continue to attract quality student-athletes and student-athletes alike and propel each of UCF's sports to the top of the NCAA.

The first three phases of the facilities should be complete by the end of the 2004-05 season. The complete project will cost $17 million. The first phase will be a $6.8 million multi-purpose indoor football practice facility and a building that will host the Academic Center of Excellence in the Turner Building.

The next two phases will be $5.3 million for 2,000 new dorm beds, 1,000 parking spaces, 400 yards of football fields, four tennis courts and four new diamonds. The final two phases are to be completed after the first three phases, and will be funded by the Florida Board of Regents.

Women prepare for weekend games with A-Sun foes

The Gators dominated in the cushion. During the run, "They didn't miss a step," Mosby netted a game-high 16 points. Forward Tashia Mosby netted a game-high 16 points. Forward Tashia Mosby was 5-for-13 from the field added, three additional points as well as in recruiting. The first phase of the new athletics facilities project.

The center will host 2,000 spectators, and will have a number of tournaments; including NCAA Regional events.

Perhaps the biggest upgrade being added to the campus is a new convocation center, which will host new grades and women's programs are growing by leaps and bounds with their success, the team's current field will be complete by the end of the 2004-05 season. The complete project will cost $17 million. The first phase will be a $6.8 million multi-purpose indoor football practice facility and a building that will host the Academic Center of Excellence in the Turner Building.

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Perhaps the biggest upgrade being added to the campus is a new convocation center, which will host new grades and women's programs are growing by leaps and bounds with their success, the team's current field will be complete by the end of the 2004-05 season. The complete project will cost $17 million. The first phase will be a $6.8 million multi-purpose indoor football practice facility and a building that will host the Academic Center of Excellence in the Turner Building.

The next two phases will be $5.3 million for 2,000 new dorm beds, 1,000 parking spaces, 400 yards of football fields, four tennis courts and four new diamonds. The final two phases are to be completed after the first three phases, and will be funded by the Florida Board of Regents.

Women prepare for weekend games with A-Sun foes

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Meyer could be among the top to coach Notre
•

"I have great respect for that university," Meyer said. "I'm not going to have a home game without the fans in the stands," he said.

The coach declined to say he would consider a move to FedEx Field. "That's the topic after Tyrone Will- ington," he said.

Meyer has been mentioned for other jobs in the past, including the USF job after Skip Holtz left last month. Meyer has only said he's "very happy in Utah, and he plans on staying there." Meyer left Notre Dame for the USF job after the 2005 season.

"I think it's a bit of a circus looking into the NFL," he said. "We've got a lot of good candidates trying to get a team ready to whoop butt." Meyer said he would prefer to stay in college football.

While Notre Dame (6-5) will miss the five points of quarterback Jimmy Clausen, the Irish will play the in-State rival, Utah (6-5), in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., on Dec. 29. It's the most likely the Pios' bowl game this year.

"It's a classic game," said Todd Jefferson, Iowa Coach Joe Gorden, "and I'm pretty excited about the game." The Fighting Irish are fourth in the Big East, while the Utes are fifth.

"I think we have a school with high academic standards," said Venner. "It's a bonus. You always want to be prepared for Notre Dame athletics director Mike McHugh. "I think he was mentioned prominently in Notre Dame search committee discussions.

"I know that Brian and his father was an Irish fan," Venner said. "I think he's a game right now. He talked to a lot of people, and he took a lot of time about the Notre Dame opening. I'm not sure whether he would be interested in the school called.

"I guess I'm one of those guys, I try to avoid it," Meyer said. "You can only avoid it for so long. You're not going to have a home game without the fans in the stands," he said.

Tigers and Candy suspended

Tigers players and six officials were suspended one game by their respective conferences for brawling during a game against South Carolina

"It was amargin of error," South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier said. "It was a margin of error, and we made a mistake.

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**Bush canoedies with Canada**

I n an attempt to repair rela­
tions after the terrorist attacks last September, George W. Bush has been making a point to the country all week on a publicity tour. But his recent visits to our northern neighbors have not been sitting well with the Bush administration, as the decision of the Bush administration to call Canada on the carpet has been met with harsh criticism from many with­

the Bush administration. On Wednesday, Bush visited Ottawa, where he received a 100-year-old welcoming news conference. Outside, it was a different story. A large crowd gathered to watch Bush’s visit. Many marched with signs labeling Bush as a “traitor” and “sellout” and demanding the end of the war in Iraq.

The crowd mostly chanted “Go home Bush,” while en­

joying in showing matches with the riot police. This scene shouldn’t be too unfamiliar for Bush, who has had to meet with protests worldwide over the past few years, most notably in France and Germany.

The visit was scheduled for 2003, but the trip was canceled after the following

Prime Minister Jean Chretien of the U.S.-based Cana­
dian troops to participate in the invasion of Iraq.

Now that Chretien is out of office, the situation in 2003 has changed. Bush has set the stage for a new relationship with Canada in several ways:

- Bush’s public statements about Canada are more positive than they were in the past.
- Bush has committed to working with Canada on key issues such as trade, security, and the environment.
- Bush has shown a willingness to listen to Canadian perspectives and concerns.

But despite these positive developments, there is still much work to be done to fully repair the relationship between the U.S. and Canada. In particular, the two countries need to address issues such as immigration, energy policy, and border security.

**Bush and his policies in the Middle East**

She told reporters after Bush’s speech that the

results clearly showed that Americans are thoroughly disillusioned with the war in Iraq.

Prime Minister Paul Martin, who was recently removed from parli­
mamentary power, has also been speaking about the war in Iraq. He said:

“Canada has been and continues to be a strong supporter of the war effort.”

Since September 11, 2001, Canada has been moving further away from associating itself with American ideologies — as have many other countries.

Right after the attacks — 9/11 — 2000 Americans were stranded in Nova Scotia due to the happenings in Iraq. Canadians reacted like any other people would. Citizens offered passengers many things, beds, showers and warm meals to try and calm down the passengers.

What a difference three years can make. Now there is a real political crisis between the two countries.

Bush, though, dismissed concerns about strained ties between the United States and Canada. He’s decided to focus on the realities of the people looking to the continued conflict of the protectors outside.

But it could also mean that the relationship between Ottawa and Washington is on the mend.

The canadians are still up there ever so patiently waiting for the cattle that was imposed after a case of mad cow disease was reported in Washington State in 1996.

Martin believes that the issue of the mad cow disease is a favo­

rable decision to Canada should be taken as seriously as possible. It is a small issue like this that has been built up to divide in North America. As such, we don’t want to admit, America needs Canada, and Canada needs the United States.

Economically, culturally, and regionally, each country is struggling. By working together, they could limit their losses.

Canada, which has something that has caused a lot of strife for the United States, is now thinking about what the administration stopped trying to relax the issues concerning the war and try to begin to repair the severed relationship.
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Busch Gardens’ new Broadway style show Katonga has been featured in Backstage and Variety. This show has multiple casts and will run for several years. Busch Gardens continuously searches the country for performers who could play a part in this spectacular show.

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Wednesday, Dec. 8: Mid-Knight Breakfast

Library
Monday-Thursday after 7:30 pm: FREE Coffee with SGA coffee mug (Only bring beverages with lids)

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The gradual demise of Orlando's most splendid theme park

Let British rock band be your Muse

Video game sequel deserves a Halo

Rosenstrasse not so rosy, but brilliant
A-Muse-ing band to rock HOB

Muse to bring original, yet accessible alt-rock sound

RICKY SURILLO
Staff Writer

Declare this an emergency, because Muse is coming to House of Blues. Hailing from England, the band has gained lots of popularity throughout Europe and just recently snagged two Euro MTV Awards. Muse (formally known as the Rocket Baby Dolls) joined The Cure on select dates on the summer Curiosa tour but had to cut it short due to bassist Chris Wolstenhome's injured leg.

The Cure is the band that inspired Muse to bring original, yet accessible alt-rock sound. Singer Matthew Bellamy can wall with the best of them (sounding very similar to Thom Yorke), and he also plays piano flawlessly and can crunch out guitar riffs. Wolstenhome plays bass with such amazing precision that he could make Flea jealous. Drummer Dominic Howard keeps the beat with his metronome-like playing. Muse also does what most bands try to shy away from. It drowns everything — vocals, guitar, bass — in distortion. While this would be musical suicide for most bands, Muse gets away with it, and it actually works well.

With three CDs under its belt (four if you count the live/b-sides one), Muse isn't a newcomer to the rock game. But the band is definitely a breath of fresh air with all the horrible Nickelbackish bands currently out there. Muse is also one of the few bands whose live shows might be better than their recordings, with screens playing images behind them while they sing and play almost flawlessly.

Muse may be a semi-unknown band for now, but that probably won't last long. So do yourself a favor and see the group at House of Blues tonight, and you can be one of the cool people that say you saw Muse before they got big. Supporting act will be The Exit, and tickets are available at www.HOB.com and http://www.ticketmaster.com for $17.50 plus service charge.
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HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

FROM 13

Aaron Jarvis, Dave Ewing, Mick Crowley, Ken Chiodini (rock)
Dec. 2, 9 p.m., free
The Peacock Room
1221 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

Marilyn Manson, Slut (rock)
Dec. 3, 8 p.m., $35-$37
Burl Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5481

Sevendust, Magna Fi, Bobaflex (hard rock)
Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m., $22-$25
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-954-2581

The New Left, Steve Beckett (rock)
Dec. 3, 9 p.m., $10-$12
Hullabaloo
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-244-1419

Battles, Euphonic (indie)
Dec. 3, 9 p.m., $7
Will's Pub
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

The Adorables (rock)
Dec. 3, 8 p.m., free
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-954-2581

Marc with a "C", Bucket of Nails (indie)
Dec. 3, 9 p.m., free
Hullabaloo Music and Movies
114 S. Sandman Blvd.
407-617-0039

Landing on Land, Watch Me Disappear (rock)
Dec. 3, 10 p.m., $4
The Peacock Room
1221 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

Fireflight, Distance (rock)
Dec. 3, 9 p.m., $5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Supervillains, Ten New Toes, The Obscene, The Cords (punk)
Dec. 4, 9:30 p.m., $7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-244-1419

Supervillains, Junkie Rush (rock)
Dec. 4, 9:30 p.m., $7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-244-1419

Jade Fox, Madness, Ya-Ya, SoulWAT (hip-hop)
Dec. 4, 9 p.m., $5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

BIG BUSINESS

Lostprophets (hard rock)
Dec. 7, 7 p.m., $15-$17.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-351-5481

Sound the Alarm, Remedy Session (punk)
Dec. 7, 6 p.m., $5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-849-9904

Velvet Revolver (rock)
Dec. 8, 7 p.m., $42.50-$55
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

The Chain
Dec. 2 to Dec. 4, various times, free
Southeast Museum of Photography
Daytona Beach Community College
1200 W. International Speedway Blvd.
386-254-3080

Color Interpretations — All in Mediums
Dec. 2 to Dec. 31, various times, free
Gallery on Virginia
1020 Virginia Drive
407-408-2841

Elegance in an Electronic Era
Dec. 2 to Dec. 14, various times, free
New Moon Community Gallery and Studio
51 N. Burdell Ave.
407-334-1466

FestiveART
Dec. 2 to Dec. 22, various times, free
Creede School of Art
600 N. Andrews Blvd.
407-671-1886

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December 2 - 8, 2004 • the indie
**HAPPENINGS**

**CALENDAR**

**PET FAIR 2004**

The annual Pet Fair held at Loch Haven Park will commence once again at the Orlando Science Center. There will be plenty of events during the fair's two-day run, including pet competitions, Arabian Nights Horse Show, exotic animal shows, educational venues on pet health, carnival rides, live music and much, much more. Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are $8 in advance and will be available at the door for $10. If you're an OSC member, your first two tickets are free, any ticket after that, however, will be $5. There will be free parking at the Florida Hospital Parking Garage on Alden Road. Also, for your convenience, there will be a free continuous shuttle service available all day. For more information call 407-314-2118. It will be a howling good time!

**UPCOMING**

**The Magnetic Fields**, Darren Hanlon (indie)
Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., $20
Rollins College, Annie Russell Theatre
1000 Holt Ave.
407-646-2000

**Wanda Sykes**
Dec. 10, 7 p.m., $32.50
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando, 1000 Universal Studios Plaza
407-351-5483

**Mitch Hedberg, Stephen Lynch**
Dec. 11, 7 p.m., $27.50
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando, 1000 Universal Studios Plaza
407-351-5483

**Afrika Bambaataa (hip-hop)**
Dec. 12, 9 p.m., free-$10
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-994-2583

**Guided By Voices, bloom (rock)**
Dec. 13, 8 p.m., $18-$24
Bambo
46 N. Orange Ave.
407-841-1258

**KC and the Sunshine Band, The Village People, The Trammps (pop)**
Dec. 15, 8 p.m., $35-$55
King Center for Performing Arts
465 N. Washington St.
321-242-2219

**TOBACCO**

**Thai Singha Thai Cuisine**

**SPECIAL LUNCH MENU**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHOICE OF ONE:</th>
<th>CHOICE OF ONE ENTREE:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wonton Soup (stuffed with chicken and shrimp)</td>
<td>Salmon with Black bean sauce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Spring Roll or Small Mixed Salad (topped with house vinaigrette dressing)</td>
<td>Golden Brown Salmon Fish Fillet served with Black bean sauce.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SOUP OR APPETIZER & ENTREE**

**CHOICE OF ONE ENTREE:**

- Salmon with Black bean sauce
- Golden Brown Salmon Fish Fillet served with Black bean sauce.
- Shrimp Eggplant Basil Stir-fried shrimp, eggplant, onion, bell pepper, sweet basil with sweet chili paste sauce.

**Critic’s Choice**

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- Scott Joseph, Orlando Sentinel Foodie Award 2003

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**Blues Jam, 4 - 8 p.m.**

**WEDNESDAYS**

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**Friday Night Sweet Kisses**

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**Saturday Night Heather Friedman**

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**Horses-Harness- Jai-Alai**

The Zutons
ready for big time

Quirky Liverpool band lands on Killers tour

EMILY JANE SCOTT
Staff Writer

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}eeing them onstage as performers, The Zutons look exactly the way they sound. They play danceable surf rock that sounds straight out of a horror movie, and they represent it with long hair flipping everywhere, angular cut black outfits, good time harmonies, and a perpetual Charleston dance — and that's just their saxophonist, Abi Harding. Put this kinetic sax axer in the mix with four fellow Liverpudlian rockers, and you've got one of the best live shows in the Orlando area in recent memory.

With Harding, the band is made up of lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist David McCabe, lead guitarist Boyan Chowdhury, bassist Russell Pritchard and drummer Sean Payne. With all of the kinetic energy and hand-clapping sing-alongs in their show no one in the House of Blues on Nov. 22 could deny that a great time was had watching and listening to The Zutons — especially in comparison to the somewhat staid Killers that soon followed. That audience participation and love of music, of course, is what The Zutons are all about.

"If people are there to see you and you're not enjoying yourself, it's a bit f***ed-up," Payne said. Speaking with what he calls a "Celtic" accent that is often mistaken as Scottish, Irish or Australian, Payne answers questions about his band, their purpose and their style in a very comfortable, affable way. When asked what motivates them onstage, he said, "Partly it's because we enjoy the music we're playing, partly it's for the crowd ... It drains you when the crowd doesn't give back."

The band formed in 2002 in Liverpool.

INTERVIEW

Does maturity blossom earlier in scene kids?

Our resident reporter of the scene poses this query

RICKY SURILLO
Staff Writer

M
}}usic is a wondrous thing. It can be used to change your emotional state, express your feelings toward something or, obviously, taken at face value for entertainment. Somewhere, there's a saying that goes "music makes the world go 'round." There seems to be another great thing that is seemingly coming out of music as well: maturity.

While this may not make a lot of sense, it's something worth looking into, especially in the ever-popular scene. Every good theory needs good experimentation. So here is one to try.

This is Orlando, so there are plenty of local shows to go to. Pick one at random and attend it. Now here's the tricky part — watch how everyone acts with one another and then compare it to how you acted when you were in high school. The point of this is that kids who grow up with the scene around them and listen to obscure bands early on tend to be more mature early on.

Of course, this doesn't apply to everyone. There are plenty of little brats running around inside and outside of shows. No, this applies to those specific kids that are 14, yet are more mature than kids that are 18. It may seem odd, but they are out there. 16-year-old Diane Destefano has her own theory about maturity in the scene.

"I think the kids in 'the scene' used to be more mature because they were all straight-edge and had a lot more self-respect than they do now," she said.

The straight-edge that Destefano refers to is kids who don't drink, do drugs or have sex without being in love. While a lot of kids break edge every now and then, it's good to know that morals can still exist in a scene like that.

But it's hard to tell an immature individual who has been in the scene from an immature individual who goes to shows because a band member is cute. After all, maturity doesn't discriminate. What this theory refers to is not the 14-year-old girls who listen to Good Charlotte while wearing shirts that say "PUNK RAWK" on them. Those kids don't count, and they don't even belong to a scene anyway, at least not this one. If Jeff Corwin hunted out some kids, this would easy for him to find. Jeff Corwin does not hunt scene kids, however, but all hope is not lost. A lot of the times, for kids to get into music, it's usually because of their older brothers or sisters. If more siblings would take the time to introduce their little bro or sis to certain aspects of the scene, then maybe, just maybe, they can be mature at a younger age. Do it for the kids.
Zutons’ idiosyncratic horror-surf hodgepodge forces paradigm shift

According to Payne, each of the band members had been playing in different bands in the area and each found themselves not compatible with these other bands. Through the Liverpool music scene, they all gained a mutual appreciation for the way one another played, and “it all worked out.”

While there is a great deal of buzz about the band’s enormous appreciation for cheesy horror flicks, Payne said this isn’t what brought them together. “We like a lot of offbeat films, Hitchcock, and the occasional B-movie is good,” he said. People think we’re obsessed with B-movies, but we’re not. The name [of the band] doesn’t mean anything.”

Though the artwork on their album cover and Web site may belie this, The Zutons’ musical style speaks for itself.

Payne spoke about the size and depth of the Liverpool music scene. “We’re never in Liverpool anymore, and here each state is the size of England. Liverpool is so small, and not a lot of bands [there] are putting out records.” Payne said that in the UK, The Zutons are often compared to Franz Ferdinand, Razorlight and The Futureheads.

When it comes to defining a genre, however, Payne gave the idea that he and the rest of the band, as well as the press and the radio, have a much harder time with that. “I don’t like categorizing music. People who just do whatever they want, I like that.” He cited Beck, the Beastie Boys (“You could call them hip-hop, but Paul’s Boutique…”) and N.E.R.D. as examples of such. While some may hear The Zutons and immediately make an influential connection to The Rolling Stones, Payne said that their influences include “good songwriters who have a good feel for the music,” including The Stones, James Brown, Neil Young and Sly and the Family Stone. He listed Queens of the Stone Age as one band he’d like to see while touring in America.

As far as future plans, The Zutons will be recording next year. Payne said the band isn’t looking for a new direction on the next album, but that it will feature “whatever comes out, really.” He added that the band would love to come back to a place like House of Blues and as a headliner. While they would be happy just to come out and tour the states again, “If we do get our own crowd, that would be amazing.” For those about to rock, we can only hope that The Zutons get their wish.

And in case you were wondering, lead guitarist Boyan Chowdhury’s moustache is not real, despite appearances.
OMFG

Halo 2

Long review short: Bow down to your new god

How do you follow up a game that slowly became a videogame phenomenon, taking root everywhere from frat houses to basements where 30-year-olds who still live with their parents reside? Creating a sequel with more weapons, maps, vehicles, and online support is a good place to start. That was the plan for Halo 2. It seems to have worked, with more than $25 million made and 2.4 million units sold just the first day.

Here's a look at Halo 2; it's weapons, new features, highlights and shortcomings (which are very few in number).

Campaign mode

Storywise, Halo 2 picks up almost exactly where the first Halo ended: one of the rings was destroyed, and Master Chief (that's you) escapes the blast.

You begin the sequel under attack from the Covenant, and soon find yourself on another Halo ring, trying to save the Universe from being vaporized. Simple enough.

In the style of the first Halo, battle your way through hordes and of enemies charging their plasma pistols in anticipation of your arrival; feel free to bring along a friend for cooperative-mode ass-kicking.

The campaign mode is fantastic — good voice acting, a solid storyline and plenty of action.

Unfortunately, it's rather short, about 10-12 hours of playing time on an easier difficulty setting, and the ending is infuriatingly inconclusive. Oh well, at least we know there will be a Halo 3, right? And there's always Legendary difficulty should you feel like a real challenge.

Sound and video

The biggest complaint with Halo 2 comes from the video. It takes about 5 seconds after the screen has loaded in-game to fill in all the detail, likewise for cut scenes. But this is a very small problem, and since this is the biggest complaint, we're in good shape.

Vehicles like ghosts and banshees now sound much more substantial, as does gunfire and grenade blasts. Not that you'll be able to hear any

The sounds of early '90s San Andreas

Though good, the box set pales against Vice City

With the recent release of a new Grand Theft Auto, it looks as though a tradition is beginning with the Tuesday release of another soundtrack box set with most of the music included in San Andreas. Music helped define the virtual '80s setting of the previous game in the series, Vice City — does this new soundtrack do as good a job of perfectly encapsulating an entire decade?

When the first box set was unleashed two years ago, it was a revolutionary step forward toward getting non-gamers drawn into a game called Vice City. Sure, video game soundtracks had existed long before Vice City, but few made any sort of significant impact on a U.S. audience. Almost every Final Fantasy may have its own original soundtrack, but few gamers learned of the series through its music.

But when the Vice City television ad hit with "I Ran" playing in the background, a lot of people took notice. Several million people. Quickly, Vice City more than doubled the sales of its predecessor, Grand Theft Auto 3. It also temporarily made A Flock of Seagulls cool again. In the game, seven virtual music stations played some of the biggest hits of the decade of androgyny, and even non-gamers fell in love with it.

The San Andreas soundtrack has some high expectations to live up to, particularly since most gamers are familiar with the music of its setting, the early '90s. Does the new soundtrack capture the music we grew up listening to?

Well, sort of.

The inclusion of hits from Boyz II Men, En Vogue and Bell Biv DeVoe harkens back
Women provide wings of desire

WingWomen service helps out shy men

SHARON PARE
Staff Writer

The antidote for every dating foe men suffer from: Wingwomen!

In this world, many men suffer from egotistical cockiness or mysterious shyness, both of which every woman finds to be a drawback. Both of these types of men are the ones that could use wingwomen.

WingWomen is a professional escort service. The men who hire these women pay $50 an hour for their services. Now, you’re thinking, that’s pretty cheap! Well this isn’t the type of “professional escort service” that initially comes to mind.

These wingwomen’s duties are to exclusively escort these socially inept, lonely, single men for Brad Pitt look-a-likes who are much too intimidating to walk up to around bars and lounges and help introduce them to other women in the vicinity.

While the wingwoman and the potential date talk, the wingwoman introduces her male companion and then disengages from the conversation, leaving just the guy and the potential date to talk. If the pairing doesn’t work, the wingwoman and man find a new woman and start the process anew.

Shane Forbes, 29-year-old graduate student and computer programmer founded WingWomen in New York, and has spread the franchise to Miami. Why does Forbes believe that this tactic will work? Simple.

Picture this: As a guy alone in a bar, you meander toward two attractive, yet unapproachable women by yourself in hopes of getting phone numbers. Girls will typically find this sleazy and send you on your way as lonely as when you got there.

But, if you have your wingwoman with you, she can be the one to spark the conversation with these two women. She can say “nice shoes” to your prospective dates without the two women feeling as if she has just hit on them. You can easily be included in the conversation without looking distasteful.

On the flipside, let’s assume that you feel you’ll get nowhere with your wingwoman on your appointed meeting. You will then be refunded your full $50 if you are not satisfied in the first 25 minutes.

“I wouldn’t use it,” said senior and marketing major Craig Watson. “Even if I’m 50 and single and can’t get a date, introverts need it. It’ll hurt my pride. People who are scared to talk to people need it. I don’t care how beautiful you are, all she could say is ‘no’ while I move on to the next one.”

“Dude, this wingwomen is whack,” said senior and molecular and microbiology major Azelynn Crisostomo. “Why can’t these guys just go out with their girlfriends or find a home girl? I think it’s just weird, especially for people our age. Maybe for guys in their 30s.”

But let’s forget the men for just one second. WingWomen can be for you too, ladies!

The bottom line — regardless of whether you think this service is desperate or helpful — is that if your WingWoman is a success, she has become your gateway to future rendezvous with other women or non-committed, short moments of fornication.

For those interested in starting franchises right here in Orlando go to www.wingwomen.com.

Halo 2 runs rings around Halo

From 18

Using a bomb as its weapon of choice, Halo 2 is the real heart of the game. Get up to 16 people together on a LAN, or hop on Xbox Live to battle foes around the world. Here are a few standout game variants:

**Ninjaneut:** One player is the ninja, invisible with a motion sensor. Everyone else? Visible with no motion sensor. Havoc ensues as everyone tries to kill the ninja before he racks up enough kills to win; by taking out the ninja, an opponent becomes the ninja, giving him the chance to win.

**Assault:** Get a bomb into the enemy base. But oh yeah, if you’re carrying the bomb, you run slower and can’t fire a weapon. Have fun there, target.

With far too many other new things to list, your best bet to get an accurate representation of Halo 2 is to play it yourself. Rent, or find a friend who has it.

Failing those options, I’ll be happy to show you the ropes of this great game — and the sharp end of a plasma sword.
The rise and fall of the ride-less China theme park

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and Sea World all have at least one quality in common – rides. Tourists love rides, and the parks with the best rides usually get the most visitors. So what happens when a theme park doesn’t have any rides?

Splendid China was a 76-acre Chinese-themed park and gardens that opened on Dec. 19, 1993. The centerpiece of the park were about 60 scale models of famous Chinese landmarks, such as the Forbidden City and a half-mile long Great Wall. The park also featured shops, street performers and acrobatic shows.

The $100 million park, which was owned and operated by the China Travel Services, a Chinese government travel agency, opened to large crowds and positive reviews. About 3000 people turned out for Splendid China’s grand opening, surpassing expected turnout.

However, hints of some of the park’s problems surfaced on the first day. One mother told the Orlando Sentinel on opening day that “kids got a little bored looking at the statues.” Though Splendid China later added a children’s play area, the park never had any rides.

“I told the local managers [when Splendid China opened] that it will not be successful here, because it was too passive,” said Abraham Pizam, Dean of the Rosen College of Hospitality Management. “You go through and look at the exhibits and look at the beautiful replicas, and while it was an enjoyable [park], it does not match the normal tourist style ... where you can interact and participate.”

Splendid China was also continually dogged by protesters. The group Citizens Against Communist Propaganda objected to the inclusion of landmarks located in previously sovereign nations, such as the Potala Palace in Tibet or Genghis Khan’s Mausoleum in Mongolia. GACCOP claimed that the inclusion of these landmarks was an attempt to legitimize Chinese occupation of these areas.

Despite the solid opening, attendance declined rapidly. Company executives reported to the Orlando Sentinel that by the late 1990s, the park averaged about 400 to 500 people a day, which dropped to 200 to 300 people by 2000.

The park and adjacent land were to be sold for $56.5 million in 2000, but the deal fell through. Additionally, the former president of the attraction, Sunny Yang, was flown back to China and placed under house arrest, partially for his mismanagement of the park.

“Yang purposely made the park look like it was failing so he could be the agent in a sale [of the park] where there would be nothing left for the people.”
LIFE

Action, packed

Rerun figures, poor casing mar series

MARVEL LEGENDS 7
   by Toy Biz
   Genre: Action figure
   Release date: Available now

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

As men like Rodney Dangerfield and Martin Scorsese have taught us in the past, even legends can make mistakes. Such is the case with Toy Biz's Marvel Legends Series Seven, a big step back for what has become one of action-figure history's greatest lines.

The line consists of six figures, three of which have already existed in one or several other forms: Weapon X Wolverine (there are several Wolvies out there already), Ghost Rider (a bulkier version came out in series three) and Silver Centurion Iron Man (a standard Iron Man with other variants was one of Legend's inaugural figures). If you already have another version of these characters, save your money unless you're a completist. There's not enough of a difference to justify purchasing what is essentially the same figure twice.

To round out the line are two Avengers who have recently met grisly deaths: Hawkeye and the Vision — and X-Men arch nemesis Apocalypse. Only the Vision, who's just a repainted Archangel figure with a cape slapped on, is worthy of purchase, since it's highly unlikely we'll see the beloved synthezoid molded in 6-inch plastic again. Apocalypse is massive, befitting the shape-changing mutant's monstrous physique as portrayed in the comics. It's still amazing that Toy Biz can manage more than 30 points of articulation possible on even the chunkier figures. Hawkeye, the standout of the set, equipped with one of his trademark bows and a menagerie of trick arrows plus a rocket stallion, couldn't be better (save for the fact that, coincidentally enough, he's a bit bow-legged).

Perhaps Series Seven's biggest problem doesn't have anything to do with articulation or accessories. The biggest gripe is with the uneven case ratios. Basically, Toy Biz decided to pack the three new characters who haven't been made before with one per case of 12 and put in three of the remade figures in a case each, making it near-impossible to find and purchase the figures worth purchasing! This isn't a minor quibble among collectors, but a continuing dilemma that needs to be remedied if the line will be a success. What's the point of making a product if the consumer isn't able to pick it up at a reasonable price?

If you're able to find Hawkeye, the Vision and Apocalypse pick them up; you probably won't see them for long, and each character is a valid addition to any toy or comic fan's collection of Marvel heroes. But definitely don't scrounge up the $40-plus these figures go for on eBay and other sites. They're not that legendary.

NOT JUST SEX

Is it love or fantasy?

DANA DELAPI
Staff Writer

In college you meet a lot of people. And they are people from all over — from places you think could only be real in the movies. It's a strange thing how people can come from two totally different worlds and one day meet. Before that moment, you never even thought this person existed.

There's Scotty from Michigan, Rachel from Ohio. Guys from West Palm Beach or Jacksonville. Girls from New York or London. College is a mix of people who in real life have no business meeting. But they do, in some surreal notion of fate and destiny.

So here we are living in this fantasy of relationships defying the miles, breaking cultural barriers and finding true love in unexpected places. But, I wonder, during all of this do relationships become real?

When feelings and events can be so surreal it is hard to tell the difference between what's genuine and what's fake, between love and lust. But one can't really exist without the other. You can never know love without having felt lust. Both have to exist simultaneously unless you want a flat, simply agreeable relationship.

Lately I have seen more and more of my friends use the word love when referring to their significant other. But they never seem to define what it is that they love about the other person. Is it their conviction? Their intelligence? Morals? Humor? Their soul? No, more often than not, the answer I get is that they can sit and watch TV together for hours. I can do that with my dog. Seems it is more of a comfort in saying a word that carries so much meaning than in actually feeling it. Call me a skeptic, but if you can't describe it, how do you know if you really feel it? That what you have is real — everything the cliches say about love. Then again, we wouldn't be so cynical about it if it wasn't all that it's cracked up to be.

But what if there is no such thing as “real love”? Anything in the relationship world is truly subjective. What may be real in my mind may not be real in yours. Just because I saw a connection and felt a spark doesn't necessarily mean you felt it too. If the other person didn't see it or feel it, it may not even really be there. Except for in your own head, that is. And that is where we feel most comfortable — in our own heads, in our own worlds where we cultivate meaningful, fulfilling relationships based only on what we perceive as real.

Ultimately, real relationships are built on things outside of this college fantasy life we live in. The feelings have to be mutually reciprocated or else the relationship is only real in your own mind. While that world may be a great place to live, it doesn't always mean you are a part of someone else's. And that is what separates fantasy from reality.
Living a life On Edge

Edgy wrestling biography goes beyond the mat

ADAM COPELAND
ON EDGE
by Adam Copeland
Genre: Autobiography
Release date: Available now

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

During WWE's Attitude era of the late '90s early '00s, a few young tag teams stole show after show in a variety of death-defying bouts, including a series of brutal tables, ladders and chairs matches. One of the participants in these matches, a Canadian lad by the name of Edge, is still with the company today as the rest of his life, in his autobiography Adam Copeland on Edge.

Unlike many other wrestling books, the authorial name used on the spine is not the one that has helped sell out arenas; instead it's Adam Copeland, Edge's birth name. This is fitting, since Edge spends a great deal talking about life outside of the ring. Usually the "rise to fame" part of an autobiography is work to get through, but Copeland knows how much to put in and never gets overly emotional. He came from a poor background without a father, but tackles his upbringing with gusto and humor. From an early age he had an escapist mentality and became fixated with the fantastical — listening to Kiss, reading Spider-Man comics and watching all the wrestling he could. It's the last form of entertainment that turned from a simple delight to an aspiration.

The young Copeland and a group of friends (including former tag-team partner Jason "Christian" Reso) traveled on a number of "winter death tours" across Canada to perform in front of crowds of 50-70 people, while still juggling jobs and relationships back home. Sacrifices were made and risks were taken, but all the hard work paid off for Copeland, who was able to make enough of a name for himself to land a job with Vince McMahon's WWE (then the WWF).

There's no ghostwriter here. This is stream-of-consciousness, blog-like writing, and it works, making the book one that could even be enjoyed by non-wrestling fans. The second half of the book less likely to get the name and career you were looking for, where do you go from there? Being only 30, he hasn't gone through too many rough patches in his wrestling career, though the ones he has endured got less attention than they could have.

He doesn't give too many details about his divorce, which gets about a page of description, but he does talk extensively about the year-long recuperation from severe neck surgery he went through last year.

On Edge is the most honest and entertaining book put out by a WWE wrestler since Mick Foley's duo of autobiographies, Have A Nice Day! and Foley Is Good. It's certainly more dramatic and engaging than anything WWE has put on television in the last few years.

Box set lacks bonuses of lesser CD compilation

Remnants of China remain in Orlando

From f10


"In my opinion, and I may be wrong, but in my opinion it's releasing responsibility or not taking responsibility and just blaming it on a third party; it's always easy to point fingers..." said Dr. Ady Milman, professor at the Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

Even after Yang left, the park's future looked far from splendid. Weeds were growing in on the miniatures. Street performers and dancers no longer populated the streets (the park employed only 40 people when it closed, as opposed to 500 when it opened) And the strict cultural angle was lost when a Cheesburger Cheesburger restaurant was opened inside the park in 2001.

Splendid China officially closed on Dec. 31, 2003, just a few weeks after its tenth anniversary. However, its unfortunate outcome was never really in doubt.

"It was a museum! It was an outdoor museum. And it should have been a theme park," Pizam said.

Nearly a year after it closed, Splendid China is still standing, but the withering Florida climate and three hurricanes have not been kind to the defunct attraction.

The park's opulent front gates are faded and palid. Inside and outside the park, brown vegetation grows wild. Vines snake over and through walls. Street lights leading to the parking lot are toppled and broken, likely victims of Charley or one of his sisters.

A quick peek over the wall surrounding the park reveals the fate of the models. Though undoubtedly much worse for wear, most of the miniatures still appear to be standing, silently waiting for visitors who will never come.

The entrance sign's twin dragons on US 192 still stand, their chipped, weathered grins leaning in the hot Florida sun — gaudy gravestones marking the place where China tried to squeeze itself into Orlando's crowded tourism business.
Swollen Colin in biopic

Oliver Stone's big-budget debacle shows us Alexander the Grating

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

T here's no question about the colossal impact that Alexander the Great had on the course of history. Tutored by Aristotle, Alexander quickly rose to the ranks in the Macedonia army. He became king when he was 20. He conquered the known world before he was 30.

But who could've guessed he was so damned whiny?! Or at least that's what Oliver Stone depicts, if we are to take his bloated sword-and-sandals epic Alexander as a factual biopic. Even if the real Alexander was as emotionally erratic, odds are he didn't have to contend with comical performances, dreadful dialogue and an oppressive sense of boredom that permeates near every image of the film's 3-hour running time.

The movie opens after Alexander's (Colin Farrell) untimely death with Ptolemy, aka "Expositorious Maximus" (Anthony Hopkins) recounting the events of Alexander's life. Or some of them anyways. The script glosses over a number of significant battles and events that should be dramatized, but are eschewed in favor of quasi-incestuous banter between Alex and his mother Olympias (Angelina Jolie).

Stone even suggests that the sole reason for Alexander to head off on his journey of conquest was to get away from his mother! As loopy as that sounds, it is fairly accurate. Three hours of Jolie's Natasha Fatale accent and snake-fondling and I felt like fleeing to west Asia too.

Farrell does an okay job as the simpering, sulking conqueror, but more often than not his bad dye-job mullet ends up stealing the scene. With a better character, his performance may have even appeared Oscar-worthy, but Stone seems to think making Alexander bisexual and mentally unbalanced is a substitute for healthy characterization.

Ah, yes, the gay scenes. Easily the most publicized part of the film, they're actually quite tame. It never goes beyond kissing, and most of the time it's just Alexander and his lover Hephaistion (Jared Leto) making goo-goo eyes at each other.

The battle scenes are visually impressive, but are too few and far between, especially for a film expected to have Gladiator-type action. Fans expecting Gladiato­type action will be disappointed to say the least.

Oddly enough, the typically controversial Stone avoids any sort of political or ethical analysis of Alexander's global exploits. The film opens with the postulation that Alexander really was great, despite his penchant for waging wars with no discernable purpose or objective. There's still a great deal of controversy about whether Alexander should be revered or reviled — alas, Stone missed out on a potentially engaging subject.

Alexander is a film that is unlikely to please anybody. There aren't enough battles for action fans, the characters aren't good enough for drama fans, and the film is too long to even get most people in the door.

On the plus side, the film's likely box office failure could sound the death knell for ponderous, big-budget historical epics. Though it would have been nice if it had happened before we had been subjected to Troy and King Arthur.
A fun Jamie Lee Curtis and a basically bored Tim Allen star in the inoffensive holiday cash cow Christmas with the Kranks.

Family film offers positive Krank Juice for the holiday

There are worse ways of spending Christmas than this

CATHELINE RAFFETY
Staff Writer

very holiday season ushers in maxed-out credit cards,those white-lighted robotic deer families, and, of course, heartwarming Christmas-themed movies for the whole family to enjoy. And while Christmas with the Kranks is certainly no holiday classic, it’s still sure to give viewers some good, clean holiday fun.

Luther Krank (Tim Allen) and Nora Krank (Jamie Lee Curtis) are Christmas junkies, sometimes spending in excess of $6,000 on the holiday. But when their daughter Blair (played by Julie Gonzalo) decides to spend Christmas away from home, Luther convinces his wife to skip the usual festivities and instead spend the money on a luxurious Caribbean cruise. The idea sounds wonderful, but Mr. and Mrs. Krank are soon faced with the wrath of relentless Christmas-loving neighbors as well as the prospect of their daughter returning home on Christmas Eve. The plot seems simple enough, but add a marriage engagement, a police chase and real Christmas magic, and you’ll have a jumbled, cheesy mix of slapstick humor and true meaning.

Curtis gives a great performance, adding a lot of energy and quirkiness to her role. She seems genuinely excited as the zany Nora, which is more than can be said for Allen. He seems bored and unenthusiastic most of the time, a disappointing turn for the man formerly known as Santa Claus. Dan Aykroyd, playing Vic Frohnmeyer, the most unyielding of all neighbors, gives a noteworthy performance with his amusing Minnesota accent and nasal voice. Plus, like Curtis, he looks like he’s really having a good time. Physical comedy rules throughout the Kranks, offering mildly humorous events such as Mr. Krank falling from the roof and Mrs. Krank involved in a frantic supermarket race. The laughs are predictable and have very little subtlety, but children will love them. In fact, anyone who enjoys silly slapstick humor will get a kick out of the film’s jokes.

Amidst the film’s chaos, there are messages about selfishness and togetherness, not to mention the importance of holiday cheer. The concept of rebelling against commercialism loses steam as the movie progresses, but we soon find out that that’s not what the film is truly about. The ideas of giving and neighborly love are blunt and, as always, cheesy. But the bottom line is that the movie does offer some good lessons, no matter how they are relayed by the actors or events.

If you’re in the mood for a lighthearted family flick, then have an early Christmas with the Kranks. While it’s hardly destined to become a holiday classic, it’s still cute, and children will enjoy it. If innocent silliness isn’t your bag, then this movie probably isn’t for you. It could make you cranky.
War tale a wonderful women’s picture

Rosenstrasse a harrowing, uplifting World War 2 epic

JOHN THOMASON
Indie Editor

Rosenstrasse, the latest masterpiece from German auteur Margarethe von Trotta, is a heartbreaking rumination on memory, an absorbing story of the perseverance of love, a mystery, and a German history lesson rolled into one expertly shot, acted, edited and designed picture.

At the forefront is a common theme in the cinema of von Trotta: the resiliency -- and power of women against seemingly insurmountable odds. But in some of her collaborations with husband Volker Schlondorff-like his Coup de Grace (1976) and their co-directed effort The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum (1975) -- the sympathetic and forward-thinking heroines are at the service of devastating plots that martyr them in the films’ cynical tirades against wartime love and the media, respectively. Here, however, the most recurring theme is hope; cynicism is replaced by simple care and patience, proving that uplifting films can be just as painstakingly real and unsentimental as glum message films. While the film is a harrowing and depressing tearjerker on many accounts, one is ultimately left with a sense of satisfaction and completeness at the end of the engrossing two-plus hours of Rosenstrasse.

Rosenstrasse has the difficult task of weaving together multiple stories that are generations apart with the deft use of flashbacks. To understand her half-German, half-Jewish mother Ruth’s sudden pronounced embrace of Judaism at the film’s opening, daughter Hannah encounters a mysterious woman who proves to be a crucial link between her mother’s hush-hush past in Nazi-occupied Germany and her current miserable state. Specifically, the link involves Lena Fischer, a woman who took a young Ruth under her wing when the Nazis raided the area of Jews. Ruth’s mother was taken away, as was Lena’s husband. Lena was saved only because she was Aryan. Hannah must learn more, so she travels from her home in New York to Berlin to visit Lena, now 90.

And so the film presents another devastating, yet often overlooked, facet of the Nazi epidemic: mixed marriages between Germans and Jews. Lena reflects on how she and Ruth would wait for days, despite cruel guards and death threats, outside of a converted prison in Rosenstrasse where Lena’s husband and championed pianist Fabian resided, along with Ruth’s mother and countless other victims of mixed marriages.

But the film’s depictions of Nazi horror don’t stop there — von Trotta shows scenes of Third Reich cruelty unrelated to the plot, weaving in characters suffering from similar forced abandonment. The subplots add to von Trotta’s meticulously designed atmosphere of Nazi Germany, a cold palette of blacks and blues contrasting with the comparative brightness of present-day New York.

It’s appropriate for a film so hung up on the past that the opening credit montage shows a sea of gravestones, relics of one of the most awful times in world history. But in Rosenstrasse, reflecting on the past has the power to heal, not hurt, and the film is an endorsement of the necessity of ancestry and the secrets it can reveal. Even more significantly, it shows that the ramifications of the Holocaust are still relevant and still affecting families who choose the route of "ignorance is bliss" to avoid the past.

One may wonder why so many German films tackle the subject of the Holocaust. But in its very nature, film can help preserve memories, particularly when they’re as grounded in reality as Rosenstrasse. Rosenstrasse, more than just another Nazi movie, provides a strong example of the need for reflection and the problem of suppression in its stirring evocation of the unyielding tenacity of women.

Opens tomorrow at Regal Winter Park.
MOVIES

A bloody Naomi Watts stars in writer-director Scott Coffey's satirical Hollywood comedy "Ellie Parker," set to debut at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival.

Utah jazzed up for Sundance

Sundance Film Festival announces lineup for annual January event

DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sundance Film Festival veterans Naomi Watts, Laura Linney and Patricia Clarkson are returning with new movies to the nation's top showcase for independent cinema.

Organizers on Monday announced 16 titles each in the festival's competitions for independent American dramas, U.S. documentaries and world-cinema dramatic features, plus 12 entries for world-cinema documentaries. The festival runs Jan. 20-30 in Park City, Utah.

"The quality of the competitions is as strong as we've ever seen," said Festival Director Geoffrey Gilmore. "The range of different kinds of work coming through this year is going to be surprising to a lot of people."

Keaun Reeves headlines the cast list among the dramatic competition, playing a dentist in writer-director Mike Mills' "Thumbsucker," about a boy struggling to break an oral fixation for his thumb.

Watts, who co-starred in last year's dramatic entry "We Don't Live Here Any­more," stars in writer-director Scott Coffey's "Ellie Parker," a comic tale of a budding Hollywood actress.


Clarkson, whose Sundance films have included "The Station Agent" and "Pieces of April," appears in writer-director Craig Lucas' "Dying Gaul," a tale of a screenwriter in a three-way relationship with a movie executive and his wife.

Also among dramatic contenders is "Lonesome Jim," directed by Steve Buscemi, about a 27-year-old man who moves back to his dysfunctional parents' home after failing to make it on his own. The film stars Casey Affleck and Liv Tyler.

The documentary competition includes "Why We Fight," a study of the forces behind the Iraqi war and American militarism from director Eugene Jarecki; "Erron: Ask Why," Alex Gibney's exploration of the corporate giant brought down by scandals; "Frozen Angels," an examination of scientific and social ramifications of human-reproduction research, from filmmakers Eric Black and Frauke Sandig; and Ellen Perry's "The Fall of Fujimori," a chronicle of the fallen Peruvian president.

New this time is Sundance's world-cinema dramatic competition, added to help foster U.S. interest in films from overseas.

Among those films are John Leguizamo in "Cronics," about a Miami reporter tracking a serial killer in Ecuador; Peter Mullan and Brenda Blethyn in "On a Clear Day," following a man's attempt to swim the English Channel; and "Brothers," featuring Connie Nielsen in a story of a family coping with a husband's dispatch to war in Afghanistan.

World-cinema documentaries include Pirjo Honkasalo's "The 3 Rooms of Melancholia," which probes the conflict in Chechnya; Werner Herzog's "Grizzly Man," about bear activists Timothy Treadwell and Amie Huguenard, mauled to death by a grizzly in Alaska in 2003; and Sean McAllister's "The Lib­erace of Baghdad," about a famed Iraqi pianist holed up in a hotel while awaiting an American visa.

CINESCENE

Chew on this, theater owners

BRETT RYAN BONOWIC
Staff Writer

I have a pitch for movie theaters around the globe, and I think it's an interesting concept. Please ... I won't write any more.

When purchasing food from the concession stand one of the things I find most appalling (besides the lugubrious prices) is that I tend to finish my mammoth popcorn and so-deep pop before the opening credits unfurl. Now perhaps I have an overindulgent appetite, and maybe the fact that I'm a glutton doesn't help either, but for the love of me if I'm going to pay the same price as a movie ticket (sometimes more) for food that's only going to entertain me for 25 minutes, I want to pay a discounted rate.

I feel that the food I'm served should entertain me for as long as my movie lasts. If I'm seeing "Half Baked or Elephant" (each running about 80 minutes), I want to get something that's going to satiate my enormous appetite until the credits roll. Now perhaps I'm asking for too much. Perhaps my overwhelming thirst and hunger can only be contented by a film that is good. It seems my hunger rises after particularly bad movies such as "The Grudge" and Oliver Stone's acid trip biopic "Alexander." All of this probably stems from the fact that since my pants are so layered with fat, my wallet doesn't have any room in it (read: I'm poor, fat and lonely).

There are those who bring their own to the theatre. You know the type. The ones who line their pockets with Airheads, Twizzlers and cheeseburgers from McDonald's in their pockets. They sit next to you, and you hear the rattle of their soda can top and an abrupt rustling as they discreetly feast on their contraband. And that's all fine. But I'm looking for something more. I don't want to cheat the theater, I want to haggle them. Regardless of my small wallet and large gut, movie theater food is priced for an upper income bracket. If I'm not pulling in six figures, I shouldn't be pulling Skittle residue from my teeth during the flick.

I actually saw a young couple with a child attempting to use food stamps at the theatre. They wanted a small popcorn, and they received nothing. "Foolish pride, one might say to that example, but riddle me this: In a society constantly being told by the media that it's fat, constantly being hounded for being overweight, why would movie theaters only offer the most unhealthy (have you seen "buttery tortilla chips"?!) items? Again it comes down to a simple greed factor, and that greed factor is money. Lots and lots of money. Maybe everyone should follow the outstanding example of that Chili's restaurant and its bottomless tostado-nacho-type things. And have them cost the same as the movie costs. Eighty minutes of nachos. See? "Alexander?" Three hours worth of nachos. Perhaps there could be a timer on the casing in which the nachos were enclosed.

All I'm asking for is my time. Or my money. One of them is worth something, and with the price gouging that takes place now I'd hate to think that an extra-large soda is more valuable than a film like "The Grudge." Sadly it is the way of the world and the wallet of the consumer.
MOOVES

**DVD REVIEW**

*Stephen Lynch brings hilarity on new DVD*

*Live at the El Rey worth seeing for new fans and Lynch devotees alike*

BRANDON BIELICH
Staff Writer

When one mentions a singing comedian, thoughts of Weird Al Yankovich may immediately pop into your head. Well, it's time to clear those thoughts from your mind, because there's a new guy in town. Enter Stephen Lynch. He has the voice of a platinum-selling artist and an attitude to go with it — and not the pop-punk/emo “I hate everyone, I do it for the music” attitude either.

Perhaps the best way to describe Lynch's style is “unpredictable.” His songs start out as innocent and slightly sweet ballads but soon take a turn for the worst; a turn for the worst that will leave you in tears of laughter.

But enough talk; it's time to see for yourself with Lynch's first live concert DVD, *Stephen Lynch: Live at the El Rey*.

The DVD comes packed with a 16-song concert (including six previously unreleased songs), backstage footage, bonus songs and even commentary by Lynch himself.

Upon hearing the first song, “Not Home,” you'll quickly catch on to Lynch's unique style. The song begins with a heart-felt story of a significant other having to leave for a day: “You say that you're leaving / the company wants you to fly to L.A. / So what will I do?” The answer: for one thing, cross-dressing, and that's the very least. And why ... “it's more fun when you're not home.” That short introduction opens up the crowd (and home viewers) to a night full of acoustic accolades and bittersweet surprises.

The next song, “Baby,” creates the image of one of nature's sweetest miracles: the birth of a child. But in Lynch's world, things aren't so sweet. Again after the touching introduction, a chorus of “damn, that's an ugly baby” hits, and well, you can probably guess where it goes from there.

By now, you're just about ready for any twist or turn. Well, fasten your seat belts because it's definitely going to be a wild ride. There are plenty more songs that will make you laugh and cry, some both at the same time. Topics range from “special” friends and family to love and superheroes. And for those who have heard Lynch's songs before, he throws in plenty of new lines to make this concert a one-of-a-kind experience.

But if the DVD leaves you craving more, then be sure to catch Stephen Lynch at Hard Rock Live on Dec. 11. Lynch joins the king of random thoughts, Mitch Hedberg, for an unprecedented blend of comedy and acoustic rock 'n' roll. A limited amount of tickets remain at $26.50 each and are available at all Ticketmaster locations and the Hard Rock Live box office. *Stephen Lynch: Live at the El Rey* is available in stores now.
Home not so sweet home

Technology rules, but so does being one with nature

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Yet another Thanksgiving has come and gone, but thanks to my road trip I managed to avoid all the ickiness that entails. My constant companion and I left San Francisco, a gorgeous utopia of alternative lifestyles that beckons to me from across this wide nation, and booked it home at an incredible rate. California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and finally Florida all rolled beneath our wheels. We barely noticed that the fabled turkey day had come and gone as we sped across these vast United States. Which, in my book, is as it should be.

I think I had a refried bean sandwich and some instant mashed potatoes as my fabulous holiday meal, but such things meant little to me at the time. We traveled through cacti and mountains and desert and swamp as we flew onward, completing our grueling trek. Three days from California to Fort Lauderdale is quite a feat.

And so now, as the manic Christmas cheer starts spreading like a virus in the minds of the populace, I find myself back home, enjoying all the comforts it has to offer. Comforts like cable, 56K Internet, a bed, a full kitchen, and all the other niceties we did without thanks to our microscopic budget.

God, I wish I was back on the road...

Please see HOME on 119

CRAZED INDIE ROBOT

Your an expert with you're grammar

Your/you're and more mistakes!
DIANNA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

December. A time for holiday cheer, insanely crowded shopping malls and finals. Yes, it’s almost time for those pesky little tests everyone’s been dreading. But fear not, friends! For I have put together a little guide to grammar, spelling and word usage that will help the frazzled student with final essays and instant messenger conversations with friends! This guide is that useful. Enjoy. And use it wisely.

Adding a “z” to the end of random words — or in place of an “s” — is not cool. Go ahead and take a few seconds to get over that shock before continuing. Ready? “Z”s are perfectly happy with their place in words like “zoo,” “dazzling” and “pizza.” Honest. They don’t enjoy their time at the end of “dudez,” dudez, so please stop.

If you “could care less,” why bother telling me? That’s not news. I could care less, too. In fact, at any given moment, I’d wager that at least 50 percent of the world’s population is capable of caring less. Ah, but if you’ve gotten to the point where it’s impossible for you to care less, go ahead and shout it out to anyone who’d listen. That’s big news. We want to hear about that. Tell the world, loudly and proudly, that you “couldn’t care less.”

“I was literally starving to death...” Now, not to cast doubt on the people around me, but every time I’ve heard someone say they were literally dying of embarrassment or lack of food, they’ve looked pretty damn good for a corpse. A good rule of thumb to follow: If you’re tempted to utter “literally” to describe something, don’t. Or, use “figuratively” instead, because that’s most likely what you really mean.

Your/You’re. Ah, the dreaded contraction. They’re toughies, I know, but it is time to master them. If you can tackle “can’t” and “don’t” then “you’re” shouldn’t be too hard. See, you’re is shorthand for “you are” while your is the possessive form of you. Simple, really, but quite confusing in practice, as every time a friend writes “your so crazy!” in an

Please see LIGHTENING on 119

NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE

Losing the news

Good news for people who like bad news
MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

I’ve always respected my father more so than any other man. He teaches me an invaluable amount of information, inspires me to be a better person, yadda, yadda, yadda. And he taught me something else last week.

I noticed that he had stopped his weekday ritual of 4:30 p.m. Crossfire, 500 local news, 6:00 News Hour with Jim Lehrer, 6:30 Nightly News (unless Brooks and Shields are on News Hour past 6:30), and 7:30 back-and-forth switching between Hardball and the rebroadcast of the previous night’s Daily Show. Going from all that news coverage to quitting cold turkey in a matter of a week is a bit extreme, but damn if he isn’t a happier man because of it.

I asked him why he stopped watching the news, and he told me: “We tried, we lost and I don’t care anymore. I’ve realized that being happy is more important than caring about a world that gets worse and worse everyday.” And you know what? He’s right once again.

This column has rambled about what’s wrong with entertainment and dabbled in politics, but have never tried to write in a motivational manner. Well, that’s not entirely true. I tried to get you to date Gary Coleman back in February, and during the months leading up to the election, I tried convincing you to vote on behalf of someone who gives a damn about the democratic process, but let’s be honest, doing those things really won’t change your life for the better. What I propose today will.

Now, I don’t see myself as being very persuasive or insightful, as I lack the imposing nature and massive presence of Tony Robbins, but hey, if I can get at least one person to think a little differently by the end of this week’s column, I’ll be pleased. And as a plus, this advice is free.

The thing of it is this: We’re going to die soon. The average life expectancy is about 77 years old, last I heard. That’s a rather short time when you think about it, so as Morgan Freeman so eloquently put it, “Start living or start dying.”

One way I’ve found to do this is to filter out the negativity (you can still read me). It’s been drilled into the ground to the point that the message is ineffective,
It's the long and short of the Internet

Web sites both well-endowed and inadequate

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

Does size matter? On the Internet, the answer is a solid affirmative. Whether it's the size of your hard drive or your record-breaking uptime, the geek world has a million and one standards of measuring what's been dubbed as the "e-penis." For some, the comparator of choice is the length of their homepage's address. Disregarding both tact and my poor editors who have to try to word-wrap them, this week's Web Less Traveled takes a long, hard look at the candidates.

Http://www.illanfairplaywwwgaggeoychymdorobbyll-fjantaill-googogoch.com

Although this site's URL looks like the result of bashing your head into the keyboard in frustration, it's actually the name of a town in North Wales. Its literal translation is "The church of St. Mary in the hollow of white hazel trees near the rapid whirlpool by St. Tysilio of the red cave." The town's tourist board decided to change their name to something ridiculously long as a publicity stunt. Of course, they also needed a Web page. Thus, here it is. Enjoy. I guess this claim to the "world's longest single-word domain name"

Http://www.thisthishelonestdomaiinemethereisandittisverysevencharacterslong.com

Boasting a full seven more characters than the above, this domain name was also purchased purely for the sake of being long. Even though he admits it was a stupid idea, proprietor Benjamin N. Schwartz figures that he's already got the thing, so he "might as well keep it."

Although this site's URL looks like the result of bashing

http://abcabcfghijkmnopqrstuvwxyz

Because 67 characters is the longest allowed length of a domain name, this is as long as things can get. No amount of excitement could possibly create one of larger size. At this contender, people can sign up for a free e-mail address. Why have Hotmail when you could have "The World's Longest Alphabetical Email Address?" The page even has a list of "features" such as: "People have a hard time typing in your e-mail address." "Companies think that your e-mail address is fake."

http://tinyurl.com/

Unbelievably, huge addresses have spawned a counterculture of kids trying to own the smallest URLs possible. Function and metaphorical sexual prowess collide in an epic battle for control of Internet cultural trends. For those seeking function, there is tinyurl.com. It offers a service where you can paste in a long URL and receive something like http://tinyurl.com/6 to tell a friend instead. It keeps you from having to read an impossibly long Mapquest address to your mom over the phone because she's not hip enough to use AIM like normal people.

http://hugeurl.com/

Not to be outdone, the "bigger = better" camp has responded quickly to the tinyurl crew's "It's not the size, but what you do with it!" ideals. HugeURL allows users to type in an address and receive an equally functional, but far less useful, 500+ character rendition. Be afraid. Be very afraid. Also note the owner's request that people stop linking to "that Goatse guy." It reminds me why I love the Internet.

The news is a snooze

but the truth is that the news relies on fear and sensationalism. And it's just freaking depressing. Be selfish. Care more about falling in love, keeping your grades up and doing things you want to do before you croak.

Focusing on your own life is more important than finding out who got whacked in Iraq. Terrible things have always happened, and they will continue to happen, regardless of how knowledgeable you are of them. The who, what, where, when, why's and hows may change, but the basic issues remain the same.

If you really want to know something, there are plenty of places to look for it, and if you feel you'll be missing out by not being informed daily, then don't give it up. And if you find something unique and interesting in the news that doesn't have anything to do with rape or death, let me know, though I doubt you'll be successful.

With a new year coming up and the season of happiness upon us, do yourself a favor and block out the noise. Make it that resolution you might actually be able to follow.

Home has benefits too

From 118

In a second I would trade the pale yet cozy security and luxury of a warm house and fresh food for the harsh rigors of long-distance travel. Without so much as a glance back. I don't care if it means spending every Christmas under a cold winter sky, alone with a can of beans. There is something pure about dropping the chains of luxury that tie us to the working world and keep us addicted to material things. When you don't have those things, what really matters is the adventure and the experience, and the people you meet and the world around you.

There are things I wouldn't want to do without, of course, though I am loath to admit it. I brought my Game Boy Advance SP with me, and I couldn't survive without my iBook. And my CD player, and a backpack full of books and other assorted gizmos. So maybe I wasn't as willing to disconnect as I thought. Some inner technophile is still quite in love with the digital world, and there seems to be very little I can do to prevent or change that. In fact, there isn't much I would do to change that. I adore technology, so there! I guess I am just a regular girl after all, not some sort of wild adventure willing to sacrifice all to trek through the mountains and the jungles of some obscure continent for the rest of my life. Can't I do both?

Maybe there is a way I can combine the two, spending half my life reveling in technology, taking it all in and playing every video game as it comes out and hacking my way into nirvana. Then, somehow, I can leave it all behind for months and months at a time, and live life as we humans were meant to — hunting and gathering in some distant corner of the world.

Each lifestyle is true in its own way. The warm embrace of home and family has its place, as does the wild reckless life of adventure, but the percentages vary by individuals.

Perhaps all of humanity would benefit from a little bit of both worlds. There is rarely any extreme that would appeal to anyone, or that's even healthy. If Buddhism has taught us anything, it's that.

Lightening never strikes at all

From 118

AIM window, my first instinct is to ask "my so crazy what?" Honestly, it's a big mess, so let's practice. Just write this out a few times on any available chalkboard: "Indie Robot, your dorm room is the shiznit! You're so phat!"

Lightening is a natural weather event. You'll find it accompanying thunderstorms and harassing children who have finally realized that thunder isn't dangerous, but lightning is, and it's probably coming after them at that very moment. Lightning, however, is not. With the exception of Michael Jackson, no one in the history of the world has ever been hit by "lightening."

ATM is a group of letters that stand for Automated Teller Machine. PIN is a group of letters that stand for Personal Identification Number. See what happens when saying "ATM Machine" or "PIN Number?" It's quite redundant. And very wrong. Just ask for the ATM next time, and everything will be just peachy. That's just a little FYI information, from me to you.

"Gutting" is an actual verb. In Braveheart, it's what they did to crazy Mel Gibson's character, William Wallace. "Degutting" on the other hand, is not. Frankly, it just sounds bizarre, because I believe degutting — as the opposite of gutting — would have to entail forcibly shoving intestines back into a person. And, really, who goes around with the extra intestines needed for such a task?

(If you can actually answer this question, stay far away from me.)

Stick to the basics, people, and just gut, all right?

There you have it. A starter's kit for more coherent conversation that's small enough to fit in any wallet or purse, making it the perfect cheat sheet for that final essay. Bonus points to anyone who can find a way to work ATMs and gutting into an essay on Kant.
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Enormous Bra Found

HERKIMER, NY—An enormous bra was found in the gutter near the corner of East Lester Street and Jefferson Avenue Monday. The owner of the bra is not known at this time.

The off-white, 48DD Just My Size bra, with its contoured cups and reinforced six-hook back closure, was discovered at approximately 9:30 p.m. by a pair of Herkimer County Community College students.

Above: The enormous bra

Posters Of Naked Women Fail To Draw Real Naked Women To Dorm Room

BRAMP, KS—A trio of posters depicting scantily clad women, hung recently in a Bramp State University dorm room, have been found to have "little to no effect" in facilitating the presence of actual naked women in that room, a Bramp State housing department study reports.

The posters, manufactured by alcoholic beverage companies as promotional items, were intended to establish a fun, party-like atmosphere, in which the presence of naked women would be suggested and encouraged. But their actual effect was "minimal if not entirely nonexistent," the study's findings indicate.

"The thinking was that these posters would set a tone," freshman Chad Dubham said. "We enjoy beer here in Selham Hall West room 508, and we share an equally enthusiastic

Short-Distance Relationship Too Much Work

GASTONIA, NC—After four months together, sales manager Jack Petrakis, 29, and paralegal Justine Froeger, 26, reported Tuesday that dating someone who lives in the same building isn't worth the hassle.

“Everyone warned me that these short-distance things never work out,” said Froeger, who recently spent a night with a friend in nearby Charlotte just to escape the stifling proximity of her short-distance boyfriend. “I thought I would be different, that my love would be strong enough to handle the less than 1,000 feet separating Jack from me.”

Froeger, who lives in a bedroom on the fifth floor Manning Towers, a Petrakis, who occupies a studio on the fourth, met in building’s laundry room September.

Left: Froeger and Petrakis run into each other yet again.
**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Woman Ejected From Bed In Cracker-Eating Incident**

RVINE, CA—Citing "insufficient looks," Jules Hausner, 31, threw Amy Glass out of his bed Monday after catching the 27-year-old consuming Saltines. According to Hausner, Glass was not attractive enough to warrant special in-bed cracker-privileges. "Had she looked more like Linda Schiffer, I most certainly would have let her stay in my bed and get her buns all over the sheets," Hausner said. "But she doesn't, so I had no choice but to kick her out."

**/ND/C/DW/ Wondering Why She Can't Find Someone**

INNEAPOLIS—Susan Stenerud, a red-haired, white, non-smoking, non-drink-Christen who has placed "countless" online personal ads over the years, wondered Monday why she can't find someone to "countless" on. "All I want is to find a D/D-free ND/C/SWM who shares my strong values and doesn't waste his time going to bars and parties," the 32-year-old said. "For some reason, no men seem to respond to that description."

**Girlfriend Dumped After Forwarding Stupid Link**

GREAT FALLS, MT—Amanda Manis was dumped Monday after forwarding boyfriend Anthony Madrid a link for the humor web site LunaticLobsters.com. "I was convinced that I had found my soulmate, my kindred spirit, the woman I could grow old with," Madrid said. "Then, out of nowhere, Mandy e-mails me this stupid link. When I saw those Flash-animation cartoons, I knew it was over." Madrid has previously dumped girlfriends for owning roller blades, buying Vegemite, and watching Craig Kilborn.

**Ugly Man With Huge Penis Unsure How To Get The Word Out**

AUBURN, ME—Overweight and balding Ira Groff, 37, is unsure how to get the word out about his 11-inch penis. "In theory, I could fumble around in my wallet for something and then—whoops!—an extra-large condom falls out," the acne-scarred Groff said Monday. "But that would come off as staged." Groff has also pondered wearing tighter pants, leaving penile-reduction-surgery brochures around his workspace, or sporting a button that reads, "Ask Me About My Huge Cock."

**Peeping Tom Tired Of Watching People Watch Television**

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—Jonathan Hargrove, a Colorado Springs-area peeping Tom, expressed exasperation Tuesday, when a fifth consecutive victim did nothing more with her than watch hours of television. "I thought peering in on strangers would be more, I don't know, exciting," said the 44-year-old Hargrove, speaking from his hydrangea-bush hiding place. "I guess I somehow expected other people's lives to be more sexy or interesting than mine." Hargrove did note, however, that Big Brother 2 is "really starting to heat up."

**Beautiful Nurse Gives Teen Enema**

HUNTINGTON, WV—A routine stay at Huntington General Hospital turned humiliating Monday, when Bradley Fiddich, 17, received an enema from shapely, smooth-skinned nurse Stephanie Goodwin, 22. "Oh, my God, I want to kill myself," said Fiddich following his degrading encounter with the attractive, single Goodwin, who rolled him over and inserted an enema tube into his anus, draining the contents of his colon. "I can never look at another girl as long as I live." Fiddich noted with alarm that while conversing with Goodwin, he learned that the nurse's younger sister is in his science class.

**Slow-Motion Woman Emerges Glistening From Pool**

LOS ANGELES—An unidentified woman in her early 20s emerged from a large, backlit swimming pool at approximately one-third normal speed Monday. According to witnesses, the woman, accompanied by sultry saxophone music, began emerging from the pool at sunset with incandescent pool lights highlighting the droplets of water running down her lithe frame. Upon exiting, the woman reportedly closed her eyes and slowly leaned her head back in preparation for towelling-off procedures.

**Dating Tips**

The dating world can be a bewildering place. Here are some tips to help you navigate the perilous waters of love:

- **Ladies:** Your date's salary divided by your own equals the base you should let him get on the first date.
- **If you are overweight and socially awkward, consider "online dating."** You can go on a dragonslaying adventure instead of to a movie, play games on Pogo.com instead of dancing, and masturbate instead of having real sex.
- **Do not bathe for several days prior to a date to get your pheromones good and strong.**
- **Never date a married person, unless he or she is just about to leave his or her spouse and simply waiting for the right moment.**
- **When planning a romantic candlelit dinner, the right music can create the perfect mood.** Put on The Best Of Spike Jones to create a freewheeling, anything-goes atmosphere.
- **Maintain a casual, "Let's just have fun" attitude until the other person starts seeing someone else. Then let the tears and accusations fly.**
- **Remember: There's only one way to console a widow.**
- **To make a lasting impression on a first date, declare yourself his or her eternal soulmate and propose marriage.**
- **Why don't you ask that Julie girl out? She's a lovely girl. You're practically 35, for God's sake. Fine, rip your mother's heart out.**
- **If you are a princess being courted by a low-born but beloved suitor, be sure to elude the watchful eye of the lord high chamberlain.**
- **Instead of going out tonight, punch yourself in the nuts three times and the heart twice. This will save you approximately $75.**
I Think I'm Going About This Cat Breeding Thing All Wrong

Last October, my dear wife Lois passed on. The first few months after her death were extremely difficult for me, as I missed her very much. Then, one day, my pastor recommended I take up a hobby to help me get my mind off things.

Now, I've always been what you might call a lover of cats, so I decided to take up cat-breeding. And, while nothing will ever replace my Lois, I have found cat-breeding to be an extremely enjoyable pastime. Only problem is, after months of trying, I still haven't seen a single litter from those furry little gals. I'm beginning to think I'm going about this cat-breeding thing all wrong.

To be honest, I haven't the slightest idea what the problem is. As far as I can tell, I'm doing everything right. I wait until they're well in heat, rubbing up against me and yowling to be serviced. At that point, I bring them out back to the shed, where I've prepared a special breeding area.

It's cool and dark in the shed, just the way cats are supposed to like it. There are candles and nice music, too. (Actually, those are mostly for me. I know it sounds selfish, since I'm not the one giving birth to the kittens, but I like the experience to be special for me, too.) I've even laid down soft blankets where the actual breeding takes place, and put up chicken wire so my skittish lovelies can't run far if they get scared.

At that point, I'm ready to consummate the breeding process. Gently but firmly, I hold them down with one hand while I carefully and lovingly breed them with the other. You'd be surprised—the tail hardly gets in the way at all. Sometimes I'm afraid I'm hurting them, but all the books I've read say that cats tend to yowl and scratch when breeding, so I usually don't worry too much. (Heck, I yowl and scratch, too, sometimes.) The worst was the time Mrs. Purrs slashed my thigh. She couldn't help it, though—cats' instincts are so strong.

According to the books, the actual mechanical act of cat-breeding only takes a few seconds, but, just to be sure, I usually breed each cat for about 30 to 40 minutes.

According to the books, the actual mechanical act of cat-breeding only takes a few seconds, but, just to be sure, I usually breed each cat for about 30 to 40 minutes.

It seems like I'm doing everything correctly. But after months of trying, not a single kitten has been produced. So, for the past few weeks, I've been breeding them twice as hard and long, making sure to get each of my darlings right on the money. Especially Princess, I've really enjoyed breeding her. She's a delicate Persian with a long, white coat that's just gorgeous. She's always been my favorite. I've rung her bell loud and long, and for weeks I've been imagining tiny little kittens with her beautiful coat and twinkling eyes.

But still, even after redoubling my efforts, none of them has yet to catch pregnant. Bewildered by my lack of success, I went to the doctor last Saturday to get myself checked out. Except for an unusual amount of lacerations and scrapes in my "area," the doctor said I seemed just fine. Not only that, all my tests came back negative. Obviously, either there's something wrong with my method, or there's something wrong with my precious little ones.

Concerned, I dropped off Princess, Dusty, and Mrs. Purrs at the veterinarian the other day, and explained the problem. Yesterday, though, I got a call back from the receptionist at the vet's office, and she seemed very upset. For some reason, they won't let me have the cats back. I was shocked—I'd tried so hard to get it right. I hung up the phone, determined to learn more about the breeding process.

I've been reading ever since. I'll breed those cats again someday. I can feel it.
interest in naked women. We thought that by combining these two elements, these posters would establish not only a mood of beer-drinking fun, but also one of casual female nudity or semi-nudity.

"Our idea was to create an environment in which nude or semi-nude women would find themselves comfortable and at ease, not only drinking beer, but also just being naked," Drubham added. "We also sort of hoped that they might have sex with us.

"None of these things have happened," Drubham added. "It would appear that our conclusions were completely unfounded."

The housing department report, compiled over the course of three weeks spent monitoring the dorm room and its immediate surroundings, categorically concluded that "there exists no measurable cause-and-effect relationship between the presence of the naked-women posters and the willingness of non-photographic human beings to appear naked in or near that location."

The study went on to report no notable relationship between the number of naked women in the room before and after the decision to acquire the posters, other than the fact that in both cases the number was zero.

"I can't understand it," roommate and management studies major Kurt Beem said. "We had it all planned out. I just can't see where we went wrong. Perhaps we need to know more about women in general, clothed and unclothed alike, before we can accurately affect and predict the behavior of the nude ones, specifically.

"In a surprising side note, the report did find the posters to have a marked impact on alcohol purchase, causing a notable rise in consumption of the product lines the posters advertised, and an upsweep of as much as 35 percent in the case of the wine cooler that sponsored the largest of the posters.

One reason for the initial enthusiasm in the posters project was the earlier success the roommates had had with other, differently themed posters.

"Everybody liked the Miller Lite poster and the Bud Dry neon sign, and they did in fact seem to be effective in facilitating a bar-like, drinking-oriented dorm interior," Beem said.

"Similarly encouraging results seemed evident after our decision to display our Rockin' USA poster (depicting a guitar rocketing into the air with an American flag in the background)," Beem continued, noting that the poster had indeed made the place seem overall more "rockin'."

"Unfortunately, the technique does not seem to have any effect on glamorous, product-endorsing models," Beem said. "In fact, the only effect of the posters so far has been that we get real horned up when we look at them. Jesus Christ Almighty, get a load of that rack. Man!"

RBA from page 1

"Unfortunately, at this point, we have more questions about this enormous bra than we have answers," said Sgt. Walt Sorensen of the Herkimer Police Department. "Who does this bra belong to? How did it get in the street? And what sort of breasts would necessitate the use of a brassiere of this magnitude?"

By studying the dirt and organic matter accumulated on the enormous bra, police were able to determine that it had been outdoors for at least 12 hours prior to its discovery. The bra also shows evidence of severe fabric stress, which could provide clues as to how it came to end up in the gutter.

The bra's ruptured stitching, badly distended comfort-lined satin cups and two broken EZ-close hooks may be an indication that some sort of violent struggle took place," Sorensen said.

area where pranksters may have stolen it from a clothesline before discarding it. A sketch artist has also produced a composite rendering of the bra's owner's torso, which is believed to be at least 55 inches in diameter. Police have provided local media with the sketch and are urging citizenry with any information about the enormous bra to come forward.

Several local residents have already responded to the request for information.

"When I called my 8-year-old son in for lunch Sunday afternoon, he was yelling something about finding 'big boobs' in the bushes," said Eileen Dunne, who lives a block away from the spot where the bra was discovered. "Well, you know how kids are at that age, so I didn't think much about it at the time. But now I wonder if it was the enormous bra."

"I don't know if this helps," local resident Roberta Puhl told police, "but I distinctly remember my kids saying that the boy next door dared them to touch the 'big white thing,' before he picked it up with a stick and flung it at them."

If no one comes forward to claim the enormous bra in the next 30 days, it will become the property of the individuals who discovered it.

"Dude, I don't want that thing," Reznicki said. "The cops can keep it."

"At first, Jack would brag about how cool it was to get a midnight 'booty call' from a sexy girl only three doors down and one floor below," Petrakis' friend Doug Maris said. "He was like, 'I don't even need to change out of my pajamas. I just put on slippers, answer the door, and I'm ready for action.'"
COMMUNITY VOICES

Let Smoove Rock Your Body And World

Have I told you how wonderful you are? When I am with you, I feel like a whole new Smoove. Since you have asked me not to call you at work, I have opted to discuss your fineness through my column. I have known you for only two weeks, but I already know you are the girl for me. You are the only one I want to ride. I am capable of bringing you to a state of freakstasy that no other man could ever bring you to. You can try to find this level of sexual satisfaction with some other man, but you will be living in a cold, cruel, Smoove-less world, and I would not wish that upon you. There is too special to me.

Damn, girl, you need to take the rest of the day off so I can break you off doggy-style in my bathroom.

Ever since we met two weeks ago, I knew you were the one for me. Your style, your boots, and your class are beyond all compare. In a world populated with many fine women, you are without doubt the finest. Let Smoove take you out tonight or, if you are busy, tomorrow night to show you how I treat a lady as exceptional as you. Allow me to break it down:

First, I will pick you up from your house in a white limousine and take you to the finest dance club in the entire city. The people at this club will be attractive and the beats will be crazy. We will not be in the club for a minute before we get on the dance floor. Even though the other people will be good dancers, we will be the best. When you bump, I will bump. When you grind, I will grind. We will move together like twins who happen to like to freak.

When you have had your fill of dancing, I will take you by the hand and lead you to the most romantic corner of the entire club and sit you down on one of the plush, red-velvet couches. While you rest, Smoove will go the bar and purchase a drink for you. Before I bring it back to you, I will taste it, demanding finer gin should it fall short of my expectations for you. Also, I will ask for less ice so that your gin and tonic is not diluted.

When you sip your drink, I will stroke your hair and tell you such complimentary things as "You are like a fine statue carved out of brown marble," and "Your eyes are like pools of creamy Italian butter," and "You have beautiful shoes." You will know that I mean these things because they come from the heart, and the heart is always true.

At this point, we will go back to my place, where I will prepare a dinner specially suited for one as lovely as you. While I am cooking the meal, we will talk about your life, your hopes, and your dreams. At this point, I will unbowl a delicate bag of jumbo shrimp for you to sample as the appetizer. There will also be cocktail sauce. Finally, my dinner of lobster, shipped to

Ever since we met two weeks ago, I knew you were the one for me. Your style, your boot, and your class are beyond all compare. In a world populated with many fine women, you are without a doubt the finest.

As I was telling you about your fineness, I was thinking about the dinner I planned for you. I knew that I would need to find the finest lobster in all of Maine, and I would need to find the finest wine. I also knew that I would need to find the finest restaurant in all of Maine. I was lucky to find a restaurant that was willing to accommodate my needs. The restaurant was located in the heart of the city, and it was known for its fine cuisine.

When we arrived at the restaurant, I was greeted by the sommelier, who was wearing a top hat and tails. He introduced me to the chef, who was wearing a chef's coat and hat. The chef was a man who had worked in some of the finest restaurants in the world. He was known for his attention to detail and his ability to create dishes that were both delicious and beautiful.

The chef greeted me with a warm smile and introduced me to his staff. He showed me around the kitchen and explained the ingredients he would be using. He also showed me the different types of vinegar and oil he would be using. The chef was very knowledgeable and was able to answer all of my questions. He also told me that he would be using the finest silverware and dishes. The chef was very proud of his restaurant and was happy to share his knowledge with me.

After the chef had shown me around, he began to cook the meal. He used the finest ingredients and was able to create dishes that were both delicious and beautiful. The chef was very proud of his cooking and was able to answer all of my questions. He also told me that he would be using the finest silverware and dishes. The chef was very proud of his restaurant and was happy to share his knowledge with me.
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