Master Plan approved despite community protest

Protesters claim UF violated Florida statutes

NATHAN POEKERT

UF'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 20-year blueprint for UF's expansion. Still, the board unanimously approved the plan after briefly discussing the issues raised by the 23 dissenters.

The presence of trees and swamps were not the only concerns, though. Mike Ben, chairman of the Seminole Valley and Water Conservation Center, expressed his frustrations with the failure of school officials to follow basic state procedures.

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

He also noted that the Orange County Conservation Center did not receive a copy either.

Five students spoke at the hearing. Most emphasized a need to conserve the natural resources the campus owns and to perma­nently protect the Arboretum.

Susan Ewing, a senior envi­ronmental engineering major spoke first. "It should be one of the university's top priorities to protect the natural resources on school property," she said.

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

Another speaker at the forum was Karin Vondrus president of the Friends of the Arboretum club.

In 1996, the Board of Trustees decided that the Arboretum should not be restricted to a conserva­tion site," she said. "In the 2005 plan, it is again changed to the term con­­ervation, but the defini­tions of the conservation in the UF Master Plan allows the new sta­tus to be reversed and the area de­veloped over by an amendment to the Master Plan."

Peters speaks out about year's wins and losses

President Peters speaks out about year's wins and losses

NATHAN POEKERT

Being the sole representative of a student body that numbers more than 40,000 is no easy task.

Student Government Association President Kevin Peters can guarantee the SGA job is never dull.

Peters job requires him to be the only student voice in the myriad of issues that come up before the board weekly.

His mandate help decide the future of UF students.

The job of SGA president requires distributing millions of dol­lar to activities and services for the benefit of your peers. Plus, he makes $10,000 a year.

"It's a job that I really see every­thing that I want for this school to happen," he said. "There is no guar­­antee that some of the issues I have presented to the board will get ful­­filled."

With his term complete in May, Peters says he will step down from his position with Fullerton and Lit­tle regret.

He says he is most proud of the renovation of a new Student Resource Center and plans for FieldTurf installation for the intra­s­tate regent.

President Peters was taken to the hospital for obser­vations after the trip to China.

Israel the chief concern for Jewish student voters

Some wonder if Bush can help Israel, given international relations

KATE HOLLSTEDT

No matter how Jewish students vote or what party they belong to, President Bush's name is a focal point for the Jewish student population on campus.

"Policies toward Israel affected students," said Rebecca Solomon, vice president of UF's branch of Hillel. She and other prominent Jewish stu­dent organization, "Jewish people in general, when they go to the polls, Israeli plays a role." She said Judaism is a part of her identity and she feels his sense of commitment.

"The importance of Israel is ingrained in the Jewish psyche," he said. Saposnik has been to Israel five times in the college while attending UF and said the visits have only deepened his ties in the country. "This is an issue that JSUW members are so energized about.

Several students voiced concerns about the United States' role in Israel. The United States should be involved with Israel to ensure peace to the Jewish community. What that involvement entails and how high­level talks on the issue lie is in more hands.

Although mostUFHillel mem­bers support President Bush, some of them acknowledged that their support is not a new practice.

President Ben Sack, Hillel's president, said he among a group of students who support President Bush.

President Ben Sack, Hillel's president, said he and some of his students support President Bush.

Peters' achievements

President Peter Knight says down in May not pleased with his executive projects.

Cornellians are urging the final tally as the account debate continues over the construction of a new Student Resource Center and plans for Fullerton and Little FieldTurf installation for the intra­s­tate regent.

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Kabbalah trend grows

MONICA PARADISO

Maddonna's latest fashion accessory isn't a flashy diamond necklace or high­priced shoes, but a Kabbalah bracelet around her wrist.

That bracelet signifies her devotion to Jewish mysticism, or Kabbalah. Other celebrities have also jumped onto the Kabbalah bandwagon, includ­ing Britney Spears, Britney Spears, Britney Spears and Britney Spears.

Despite the recent hype generated by high­priced Kabbalah accessories, it's not a new practice. In the 19th century, a U.C.F. professor of Judaism, also is.

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Israel, U.S. are both terrorist targets

Ahlker FOSTER (survive)

Milost "Tubby" Capin was dead for 47 minutes before he arrived at the hospital. His heart stopped when he was declared brain dead and he was pronounced dead at 11:34 a.m. Monday. Capin, who was 28, is survived by his parents, Dean and Martha Capin, his brother, David, and sister, Mary. He is also survived by his wife, Sarah, and two children, Michael and Laura.

Student imprisoned, sexually assaulted

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — A 41-year-old man was arrested in connection with a sexual assault that occurred on a university campus, police said.

Police were called to the campus of Florida Southwestern State College just after 11 a.m. on Monday, according to the Collier County Sheriff’s Office. The incident involved a female student who was accosted by a man outside a dormitory.

The man, identified as John Doe, was taken into custody and charged with sexual battery. He was taken to the Collier County Jail, where he remained pending a bond hearing.

The university issued a statement, saying it was committed to the safety and well-being of all students and was working with law enforcement to ensure a thorough investigation.

The case is currently under investigation by the Collier County Sheriff’s Office and the Florida Southwestern State College police department.

Please note that this information is based on media reports and may be subject to change as more information becomes available.

Arendt, Hannah

"The human is responsible, not the nation. We are all responsible."

Arendt, Hannah, "Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Study in Equality"

celebrity clients fuel beliefs growth

Flew, David

"A Human Being is a Human Being."

Flew, David, "A Human Being is a Human Being: The Case for Naturalism"
Carbon monoxide blamed

Exposing an invisible killer

Each year in America, carbon monoxide poisoning claims about 165 lives and sends another 10,000 people to the emergency room.

- Carbon monoxide, colorless gas, is odorless and impossible to see, taste or smell, the toxic fumes can kill you before you even know it.
- CO gas can come from various sources: gas-fired appliances, charcoal grill, wood burning furnaces, and the exhaust of motor vehicles.
- It can cause serious effects on all age groups, individuals, or animals. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, length of exposure, and overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.

Carbon monoxide detectors are essential to protect you and your family from the dangers of this colorless, odorless, invisible killer.

In the aftermath of the incident, carbon monoxide detectors were checked and found to be working properly.

Pat Michaels, supervisor of Florida’s Blood Centers, stated that during the drive, the donors were taken off the bus because of the generator’s failure to be cooled.

On duty, and made sure no one was affected by the gas.

“A mini fire alarm was set off in the bus, immediately and safely,” Michaels said.

The students were “immediately and safely removed,” Michaels said, and none of them were affected by the gas.

“It’s what it was supposed to do,” Orlando Fire Station 65 responded to the call, but were unable to give out any more details on the incident by press time.

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The Harvard Law School will lose federal money.

The old saying, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away,” is proven to be more than an adage, scientists discovered.

Eating apples in hot peppers can prevent a trip to the doctor’s office, researchers report in the December issue of the Journal of the American College of Physicians.

In their research, scientists found that rat brains exposed to antibiotics obtained from apples reduced cell damage much better than those not treated.

Antioxidants help prevent oxidation of cells, which ultimately can prevent diseases like heart disease and cancer,” explained Preeti Wilkhu, a registered dietician at the Campus Wellness Center.

But antioxidants are not limited to apples. Fruits and vegetables, in general, are rich sources of these compounds, and all are beneficial to human health.

A multiyear study involving more than 30,000 participants showed that eating lots of fruits and vegetables is good for the heart.

The analysis supports the American Heart Association’s guidelines to consume at least five servings of fruits and vegetables per day.

“Antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables are one serving, or as much as one serving per week, of fruits and vegetables is one serving,” Wilkhu said.

However, many consider the five servings of fruits and vegetables a day a difficult feat to meet.

Wilkhu provided a simple solution: "Eat a piece of fruit with each meal and have salad for lunch and dinner (then) you might get five servings.”

Eating frozen fruits, fruit drinks, and smoothies or adding berries to the boost of cereal are some other ways one can get the recommended serving of fruits and vegetables per day.

Fruits and vegetables have also proven to help in weight loss and to prevent diseases like cancer.

"Fruits and vegetables are low in calories,” so you cut back on empty calories that you get from refined carbohydrates such as cookies or soft drinks.

Additionally, fiber content, antioxidants and other phytonutrients which results in formation of a gel and "gives you a feeling of fullness,” Wilkhu said.

"We live in an age of fast food and high-processed foods,” Wilkhu said. "We need to eat fresh fruits and vegetables to keep our body healthy.”

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Senate bickers, stalls

Page 41

mural fields next to Academic Villages.

Both of these came after he was asked about the new Student Health Center because of the possibility of the inclusion of dental clinics.

"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 Service Fee by $329 per credit hour. The fee makes UCF's part-time 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 minimum requirement for public universities," he explained. "We only raised it to the minimum because we recognize that our tuition is already high."

Although he supports the fee increase that takes effect Aug. 1, he vocally opposed the block tuition proposal that was recommended by the Board of Trustees.

Block tuition requires all students, whether full-time or part-time, to pay for 15 credit hours each semester regardless of their actual class load.

Gov. Jeb Bush asked all university presidents to submit a plan that would allow students to get through school more quickly. Though the Board, including Peters, opposed the idea, the members decided to submit a plan that would be the most forgiving on the students, even if they didn't agree with the plan.

"It is ridiculous to make all students pay for 15 credits," Peters said. "There are so many students who can't afford to get to school full-time and have to work to pay tuition for just six or nine credit hours."

Peters feels that block tuition could cause a compromise with Florida universities. Peters and the Board of Trustees favor a plan that allows students who don't take the full 15 hours to be given credits toward summer equivalencies — meaning that if you took 12 hours in the fall and spring semester, you would be allowed to take six hours free in the summer.

The Florida Board of Governors has not yet given a reply regarding the plan proposed by UCF's board.

"It's amazing," Peters says he is also amazed, "that our tuition is already increased that it is the minimum because we were mandating state minimum tuition is already high."

"I can only do so much in SGA," he said. "The executive and legislative branches are literally two separate entities. If they want to fight for four hours, I really can't do anything about it."

Peters admits that his former legislative branch got along better and did not have internal problems. He also knows that the future SGA president will have some difficult laundry to deal with once he or she takes office.

"The only advice I can give is to make sure that you try to get along with everybody," Peters said. "I know that I always have someone who will attempt to get along with everybody."

He added: "It has been my privilege to serve the student body here at UCF and I hope that students will quickly develop the pride and love of UCF that I have come to know in my time here."
Hawks replace moderate

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Recently resigned Ridge has been blamed for his stripping of constitutional rights in the wake of 9/11.

The recently resigned Ridge was one of the last Cabinet members to be replaced. However, the Bush administration did not announce his replacement.

Arrest warrants for four alleged al Qaeda members were issued in a state court in Arizona.

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Teacher is a witty author, students say

MORGAN PARADISE
•

The first thing you notice when you meet English professor Susan Hubbard are her bright eyes, which are startlingly silver.

Then you notice her broad grin, and the other things that make her nature beautiful.

When she talks, every hand gesture bounces. Even if she's never met you before, she will invite you into a conversation as if she knew you well.

She has the virility of a teenager and the zest of the zest of an adult. Her youthfulness is probably the result of her open-mindedness and her ability to

"Some people are obsessed about generations," she said, "having to be in a certain state of time. I have friends with a wide range of ages.

Hubbard sat on Orlando, where she met and socialized with other female professor students. That distinction is one that her colleagues and students share -

"I called it a 'converted'" said Hubbard on Orlando's first issue. Hubbard was one of the first to publish her work, and was featured by "The Florida Review" literary magazine.

During Hurricane Jeanne, Hubbard sat at her computer, and mixed a compilation of songs in honor of her popular hurricane. She passed the time and to share with students.

The 21 tracks on the CD included songs by Neil Young, Ella Fitzgerald, and James Brown.

Hubbard's originality is one of the things they've recognized about her. "She's one of a kind," said senior Kate Setzer, a creative writing major and student of Hubbard. "She defies stereotypes, like I like her because she's her own person."

A vegetarian, Hubbard eats burgers with a diet Coke. A UCOP professor since 1995, she has the impact of any of her students.

"She's really funny," said Setzer. "We always have the worst-possible conversations in class.

One day, Hubbard came into the advanced fiction writing class and announced that she'd run across a woman's work that was presented in class, and Setzer.

"She asked everyone to define the word 'chuckhead' and to explain what the work represented in that term. It came up with a concept idea, she added."

A diabetic animal lover, Hub­

bard said that her students can lower their blood sugar with a simple act.

"I call it a 'converted'". Hubbard compared Hubbard to the "Gallery of Questionable Taste" which she has always been to share a child. It includes random objects with seemingly no possi­

ble, that border on bad taste. 

"From the time I was very young I've fascinated by Hubbard," Hubbard said. "Some people call it bad taste but I just call it question­
able taste. The testing back and forth on the brink of questionability to bad is where things get interesting." she said.

Among an eastern wall of her office, one shelf is dedicated to these objects. Included in the collection are toys, an orange purse.

Growing up she would play with her stuffed animals, Leiby said.

"She collects vintage etiquette manuals, as her favorite in the collection of "Do's and Don'ts for Life," a broken stereo speaker and a broken vintage alarm clock, an "Invasion of the Monster Women" lunchbox, a plastic garbage can from the time she was very young, and a file of books.

Hubbard has a collection in her closet that she's known you forever.

"She has a gallery of question­able objects but there's noth­

ing about what she's known you forever.

"She has a gallery of question­able objects but there's nothing questionable about her taste," said Leiby. "She's so just the fact that people couldn't pull off." For instance, Hubbard had to carry around an oversized orange purse. "It takes a lot of confidence to carry a bag orange purse," Leiby said.

Growing up she would play school with her stuffed animals, but was told that teaching wasn't a good career choice, because teachers are "underpaid and exploited."

In undergraduate school, Hubbard decided to become a writer.

Hubbard has worked for eight years after graduate school. Eventually, she realized that she wanted to write fiction and she went back to Syracuse to earn her MA.

Hubbard claims her greatest accomplishment is not to be real­

ized. She really wants that every­

thing up until now has been preparation. I really feel like I'm working to something that's real­

ly going to make a difference. I don't know what will be."

She paused and then contin­

ued, "I really feel that writing makes a difference in the world. Even if it's Alice In Wonderland or funny books. I think they make a difference. It's by their very existence that you sometimes contribute to the culture, you're infusing the culture."

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Protester: Board hasn't read plan

Susan Eberle, a member of the environmental group, the Sierra Club, caused a bit of commotion when she crossed the golf course and Arboretum area after the hearing. Eberle, a member of UC Foster's Golf Teams, said that the cost of the plan at $8.09 per credit hour is prohibitive. “I sent a letter last year to the board to make sure that each board member understands the cost,” she explained.

Moreover, the board also lost the opportunity to save the planned Golf Center, and the university seems to be losing valuable conservation sites by the board’s action. The safety of students would be stricken.”

Joseph Shipes, a senior radio/TV broadcasting major, felt that the need for more involvement by students was the only way that UCF would progress to a more active 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 this police hearing, I guess we would have a lot more students willing to voice their concerns.”

Throughout the entire hearing, board members raised several issues regarding the public interest. “I sent a letter last year regarding the Master Plan,” she said. “Only those board members actually took the effort to look at it.”

The postings confined testimony from students who said they had seen students raped, students who donated $2 million to fund the building. “I have read many student post­ings regarding the UCF housing,” said Jamie Eberle, a member of the Master Plan. “I am not a big problem.”

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Season 2005 was littered with four consecutive wins, starting with Houston's win over Ohio on Sept. 2. The RedHawks were trying to repeat as conference champs for the first time since 1973-75, while the Rockets are about to give way. The game was played in the Motor City Bowl.
Four more MAC teams trying to earn invites to other bowl games

The Miami Hurricanes and Toledo Rockets both have a chance to earn invites to other bowl games today. The Hurricanes, led by quarterback Ben Gradkowski, have a record of 6-4 and are looking to finish the season with a win against Northern Illinois. The Rockets, led by quarterback Dan Moore, have a record of 7-3 and are looking to secure a victory against Eastern Michigan.

Both teams have strong offenses, with Gradkowski averaging 280.9 yards per game and Moore averaging 269.6 yards per game. The Hurricanes have a balanced attack, with running back Lance Larkin averaging 5.5 yards per carry and catching 32 passes for 444 yards. The Rockets have a high-powered passing attack, with receiver Lance Moore leading the team with 68 receptions for 938 yards.

Defensively, Toledo has a strong rushing defense, allowing 100.5 yards per game, while Miami has a strong passing defense, allowing 224.4 yards per game. The Rockets have a slightly better overall defense, allowing 338.2 yards per game compared to Miami's 342.1 yards per game.

Both teams have a tough task ahead, with Miami needing to win to earn a bowl bid and Toledo needing to win to improve their chances. The game is scheduled for 2 p.m. today at the University of Toledo's Glass Bowl.

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**Notes**

- The MAC is one of the most competitive conferences in the country, with 10 teams vying for two bowl spots.
- TheMAC Championship game in Detroit, Michigan, will feature the team with the best conference record and the winner of the Florida Atlantic University vs. University of Central Florida game.
- The Ohio Bobcats have a record of 7-3 and are looking to secure a victory against Kent State.
- The Western Michigan Broncos have a record of 6-4 and are looking to secure a victory against Youngstown State.
- The Ball State Cardinals have a record of 6-4 and are looking to secure a victory against Bowling Green.
- The Northern Illinois Huskies have a record of 6-4 and are looking to secure a victory against Toledo.
New facilities make teams more attractive

Expansion plans for new sports facilities

Atlantic Director Steve Orsini has a vision for UCF athletic and has completed the first task of entering all of UCF's sports into one conference. In 2005, the Knights began play in the 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 on both the respective fields and courts as well as in recruiting.

With the construction 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 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. The athletics association is doing everything it can to pursue the school's NCAA program.

Under the University of Florida, the school's football program is excelling.

Morehead and Danielle Mosby netted a game-high 16 points for all-UCF's basketball opener. The Bruins are out to a 3-1 start, with their lone setback to Indiana State. 22-6, and forced 21 turnovers.

The big 10 is one of the most challenging conferences in the nation. The big 10 is one of the most challenging conferences in the nation. The big 10 is one of the most challenging conferences in the nation. The big 10 is one of the most challenging conferences in the nation.

Aside from the new practice fields will be added. Two soccer practice fields in the final stage of their construction project will be added. Two soccer practice fields in the final stage of their construction project will be added. Two soccer practice fields in the final stage of their construction project will be added.

The first three phases of the facilities should be complete. The athletics association is doing everything it can to pursue the school's NCAA program.

Aside from the new indoor football practice facility underway, the center is seeing the early stages of his project coming to fruition.

The first phase is being taken care of through bonds and donations, the latest of which was a $1 million gift from Sonja and Tony Nicholson for the football program's new indoor football facility. The indoor practice facility will be open to the sport in time for the 2007 season.

The center is seeing the early stages of his project coming to fruition.

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The Knights were outscored 11-4 in the first half.

The ACC is compelled to allow the Notre Dame quarterback to play. The ACC had been considering whether Notre Dame running back Jordan Todman would be allowed to play. The ACC had been considering whether Notre Dame running back Jordan Todman would be allowed to play.

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Dating show a big mistake on campus

By George W. Bush

I n an attempt to repair rela­ tions between the U.S. and Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and U.S. President Donald Trump met for a summit in Washington, D.C., on September 20. The meeting was part of a larger list of events that have taken place since the Trump administration took office.

However, the meeting did not go as expected. Bush and his policies in the United States have been widely criticized.

She told reporters after Bush’s speech that the results clearly showed that America is moving ahead with its plan for a war. Printer Prime Minister Paul Martin, who was Prime Minister until 2003, has been removed from the parliament and has decided to leave the party on a high. Since Sept. 30, 2003, Canada has been moving further away from assisting itself with American ideologies — in many other countries.

Right after the attacks — 2001 American soldiers were stranded in Nova Scotia due to the ‘American occupation’ and Canadians reacted like any neighbor would.

Citizens offered passengers many ways, both showers and warm meals to try and comfort the passengers.

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

Bush, though, dismissed concerns about ties between the United States and Canada. He’s decided to ignore the feelings of the people and his suggestion of the controls of the protesters outside.

However, it could be the viewpoint of the Canadians who opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, but also “I’m the kind of fellow who doesn’t do what I think is right and will do what I think is right.”

During this time of American imperialism, our administration is trying to establish a dictatorship of law. This war is not George W. Bush’s war.

The U.S. has organized more military operations in this war than Canada. Bush says we can’t win. But Canada’s presence is felt much more than it was when the U.S. was asked.

Prime Minister Martin and Martin agreed to put the AFL-CIO “in a practical way toward common goals,” including tightening border security and trade agreements.

The Canadians are still upset over the U.S. invasion of Iraq which was cast as a crusade in the Middle East.

Canada ministers believe that the issue of abortion is a ‘favorable decision to Canada: should be treated just as possible. It is small issues like this that would create a divide in North America. As such, we don’t want to admit, America needs Canada. We need to mend the United States.

However, domestically, each country is struggling. Both markets could not limit their losses.

Bush, though, dismisses any concern that the U.S. wants to remove the Canadian government from the list of countries that were the closest US partners in Iraq. That is why we are much closer and more independent countries than any other countries.

This will turn up a whole new generation of Canadians who are going to question the policies of this generation.

Bush canoodles with Canada

The presidents of the Student Union, where thousands of students walk every day. Everyone has to take more of my classes. That’s why they don’t let these shows go past their homes, beds, showers and kitchens. They don’t let that show go past them in any other way.

This will happen between a host of students that may not necessarily want — men who are hoping that most Canadian students are smart and easy, and women who, well, yes.

There’s a reason that the show got no orders, the WB doesn’t order any more episodes, and the Fred Tension that Student Union was less- The only way to get to see more reality shows is to try to attract those who don’t watch the shows. UCF police, and Bush himself, say the Barons that passes and people are not working at reality shows.

Sequester, if you walk on the Pegasus, you won’t graduate. I’ve never been a fan of this particular ‘tradition,’ primarily because of its tonal instability. If not walking on the Pegasus, the WB would be too much for us students to find reality shows, trying to attract those who don’t watch the shows.

Let’s just hope that those who watch the show are not people who are not effort and just are not examples of a more positive recognition.

This will turn up a whole new generation of Canadians who are going to question the policies of this generation. As much as we don’t want to admit, America needs Canada. We need to mend the United States.

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SGA coffee mug (Only bring beverages with lids)

SARC (Phillips Hall room 115)
Open 24-7 during Finals Week
Review Sessions
FREE snacks provided by SGA
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

D·eclare 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.

While many bands from England try to gain popularity in the states and don't make it, Muse has already released several singles on this side of the Atlantic and done well. The question then becomes, "Can they keep it up?" But it is quickly answered once you listen to their music. Taking strong influences from Radiohead and Nirvana, Muse creates unique, enticing music that entrances you into a state of bliss.

Each member exudes talent most other musicians can't touch with a 10-foot pole. Singer Matthew Bellamy can wail 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.

IN THE ISSUE

Savor this, friends, for after this we have a week-long drought before you shall next drink from the font of entertainment known as the indie.

We'll be back for Dec. 16, then we'll see you next semester. Until then, revel in the random geeksiness that is this issue.

Video games? Check. Action figure? Check. Wrestling book review? Check. Reviews of foreign films you most likely will never see and don't care about? Check. All the usual staples are here, like "Real Life for Real," and even the "Scene Report" rears its emo head once more, a Loch Ness Monster with plugs, red stars and bad makeup.

Also, thanks to Meg at fisticuffs.org for letting us borrow the photo of Travis Morrison.

—BRANDON HARDIN


**HAPPENINGS**

**CALENDAR**

**CAMPUS**

Mari Ani Canchong - Student Art Exhibition
Dec. 2, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., free
Visual Arts building Room 205
407-623-3602

**EVENTS**

Christmas in the Park
Dec. 2, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., free
Central Park, Winter Park
North Park Avenue and West Morse Boulevard
407-447-5311

Reptkon
Dec. 2, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., free
Visual Arts building Room 205
407-623-3602

Christmas in the Square
Dec. 4, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., free
Downtown Sanford
West 1st Street and South Park Avenue
407-539-5987

Christmas with the Critters Open House
Dec. 4, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge
1815 E. Colonial Drive
407-560-5130

Market Pro Computer Show
Dec. 4 to Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., free
Central Florida Fairgrounds
4600 W. Colonial Drive
407-295-3247

Pet Fair 2004
Dec. 4 to Dec. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Loch Haven Park
2416 N. Mills Ave.
407-514-2118

Tree Lighting Ceremony
Dec. 5, 8 p.m., free
Central Park, Winter Park

North Park Avenue and West Morse Boulevard
407-623-3602

Weavers Annual Holiday Show
Dec. 2 to Dec. 5, various times, free
Donaldson Park
North Baker Street and East Fifth Avenue
Mount Dora
352-424-9685

Christmas in the Square
Dec. 4, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., free
Downtown Sanford
West 1st Street and South Park Avenue
407-539-5987

Christmas with the Critters Open House
Dec. 4, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge
1815 E. Colonial Drive
407-560-5130

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407-295-3247

Pet Fair 2004
Dec. 4 to Dec. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Loch Haven Park
2416 N. Mills Ave.
407-514-2118

St. Cloud Art Festival
Dec. 4 to Dec. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Downtown St. Cloud
9th through 11th Streets
407-882-6916

Reptikon
Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Central Florida Fairgrounds
4600 W. Colonial Drive
407-295-3247

**SHOWS:**

Muse (rock)
Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m., $17.50-$59.50
House of Blues,
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Travis Morrison, Beauty Pill
(Indie)
Dec. 2, 8 p.m., $8
Ybor Pub
1889 N. Mills Ave.
407-886-5570

Rascal Flatts (country)
Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., $27.75-$34.75
TD Waterhouse Centre
600 W. Amelia St.
407-889-2020


**Crispers Presents... Everything You Need to Know About College.**

Of course, your college career will be a wonderful voyage of discovery. You’ll have new learning experiences, expand your consciousness with new courses, meet new people from just about all over the world. But one of the most important things to learn is how to stay healthy and get free food. You’re in luck. There’s a Crispers restaurant right near the UCF campus... and that’s where you get the free food. See? You learned something already.

College isn’t all fatburgers, pizza and substandard subs. Not when Crispers is so close to UCF.

Crispers is your quick, delicious alternative to fast food, where you can stack up on garden-fresh gourmet salads, hearty stacked sandwiches, and a dozen tempting soups, all made fresh every single day.

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**Free Sweets!**

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FRI-SAT. 10:30 AM - 10 PM
SUN. 11 AM - 8 PM

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CALENDAR

FROM 13
Aaron Jarvis, Dave Ewing, Mick Crowley, Ken Chioldini (rock)
Dec. 2, 8 p.m., free
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

Marilyn Manson, Slant (rock)
Dec. 2, 8 p.m., $25-$37
Hard Rock Live
Orlando
407-839-7387

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Hard Rock Live
Orlando
407-839-7387

The Adorables (rock)
Dec. 3, 8 p.m., free
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-244-1419

Marc with a "C" Bucket of Nails (indie)
Dec. 3, 9 p.m., $10-$12
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-244-1419

Landino on Land, Watch Me Disappear (rock)
Dec. 3, 10 p.m., $10
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

Fireflight, Distance (rock)
Dec. 3, 9 p.m., $5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-992-2570

Supervillains, Ten New Toes, The Obscene, The Corks (punk)
Dec. 3, 9:30 p.m., $7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-244-1419

Jade Fox, Madness, Ya-Ya, SoulWHAT (hip-hop)
Dec. 4, 9 p.m., $5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-992-2570

Mystik NRG (reggae)
Dec. 4, 10 p.m., $5
Wall Street Plaza
Wall and Court Streets
407-899-9904

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

High Water Marks, Plain Jane Automobile, Euphoria's Way, Marc with a "C" (indie)
Dec. 4, 9 p.m., $8
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-992-2570

White Bitch, Raybon (eclectic)
Dec. 5, 8 p.m., $7
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-992-2570

Terri Binion and the Bible Belt Orphans (Americana)
Dec. 4, 10 p.m., $6
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

Gustaff, The Kids Table (indie)
Dec. 5, 7 p.m., $5
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-244-1419

Lostprophets (hard rock)
Dec. 7, 7 p.m., $15-$17.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-834-3283

Sound the Alarm, Remedy Session (punk)
Dec. 7, 8 p.m., $5
Will's Pub
1504 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

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

The Chains ofBlues
Dec. 2 to Dec. 4, various times, free
Southeast Museum of Photography
Daytona Beach Community College
1200 W. International Speedway Blvd.
386-354-1080

Color Interpretations — All in Mediums
Dec. 2 to Dec. 31, various times, free
Gallery on Virginia
502 Virginia Drive
407-998-8434

Elegance in an Electronic Era
Dec. 2 to Dec. 14, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., free
New Moon Community Gallery and Studio
51 N. Burdick Ave.
407-334-3468

Battles, Euphone (indie)
Dec. 3, 9 p.m., $10-$12
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-244-1419

Aaron Jarvis, Dave Ewing, Mick Crowley, Ken Chioldini (rock)
Dec. 2, 8 p.m., free
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

Marilyn Manson, Slant (rock)
Dec. 2, 8 p.m., $25-$37
Hard Rock Live
Orlando
407-839-7387

The Adorables (rock)
Dec. 3, 8 p.m., free
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-244-1419

Marc with a "C" Bucket of Nails (indie)
Dec. 3, 9 p.m., free
Hallaballoo Music and Movies
114 S. Semoran Blvd.
407-671-0039

Landino on Land, Watch Me Disappear (rock)
Dec. 3, 10 p.m., $10
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

Fireflight, Distance (rock)
Dec. 3, 9 p.m., $5
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386-354-1080

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Gallery on Virginia
502 Virginia Drive
407-998-8434

Elegance in an Electronic Era
Dec. 2 to Dec. 14, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., free
New Moon Community Gallery and Studio
51 N. Burdick Ave.
407-334-3468

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

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR on 15
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

THE MAGNETIC FIELDS

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
doors for $1. There will be a howling good time!

HIGHLIGHTS

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WANDA SYKES

From 14

Visual Spirit
Dec. 2, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., free
Orlando Museum of Art
2416 N. Mills Ave.
407-896-2817

Our Daily Bread
Dec. 2 to Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free
Southeast Museum of Photography
Daytona Beach Community College
1200 S. International Speedway Blvd.
386-254-3080

Out of the Fire: The City
of Orlando Pottery
Dec. 2 to Dec. 17, various times,
free
COLIMA Gallery
813 Virginia Drive
321-242-2219

Scultping Nature: The
Favrille Pottery of L.C.
Dec. 2 to Jan. 3, various times,
free
408-376-1400

Wanda Sykes
Morse Museum of American Art
401-211-1665

Meet the Artist
Dec. 9, 6 p.m., free
Central School of Art
600 S. Andrews Blvd.
407-671-1886

UPCOMING

The Magnetic Fields
Dec. 9, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., $20
Rollins College, Annie Russell Theater
1000 Holt Ave.
407-646-2000

Wanda Sykes
Dec. 10, 2 p.m., $22.50
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
1000 Universal Studios Place
407-351-5483

Yisi (noise)
Dec. 11, 7 p.m., $12
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-226-1419

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

Afrika Bambaataaa (hip­
hop)
Dec. 12, 5 p.m., free-$10
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-954-2583

Guided By Voices, bloom
(rock)
Dec. 13, 8 p.m., $18-22
Etu
46 W. 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
3665 S. W. Eighth St.
321-264-2779

SUNDAY
Blues Jam, 4 - 8 p.m.
MONDAY
Wednesdays
Open Mic Night with Ramon
THURSDAY'S
Karaoke
FRIDAYS
The Smokee Tavern

Friday Night
Sweet Kisses
10 p.m. - close
$3 cover

K & The Sunshine
Band, The Village People,
The Trammps (pop)
Dec. 15, 8 p.m., $35-$55
King Center for Performing Arts
3665 S. W. Eighth St.
321-264-2779

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Golden Brown Salmon Fish Fillet served with Black Bean sauce.

Thai B.B.Q Chicken
Thai style marinated chicken breast served with green curry sauce and wasabi sauce.

Shrimp Eggplant Basil
Stir-fried shrimp eggplant, basil, onion, bell pepper, sweet basil with sweet chili paste sauce.

Critic's Choice
Best Thai Restaurant
Scott Joseph, Orlando Sentinel
Foodie Award 2003

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MONDAY
Wednesdays
Open Mic Night with Ramon
THURSDAY'S
Karaoke
The Zutons

ready for big time

Quirky Liverpool band lands on Killers tour

EMILY JANE SCOTT
Staff Writer

Seizing 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 mix in 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 stoic Killers that so often 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 s***tier," 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

Music 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 anyways, at least not this one. If Jeff Corwin hunted out some kids, this would be 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 Zuton’s 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

by Bungie
Genre: First-person shooter

Release date: Available now

ow 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 be a Halo 3, right? And there's always Legendary difficulty should you feel like a real challenge.

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 asskicking.

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

IVAN VELEZ
Staff Writer

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.

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
LIFE

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 either egotistical cockiness or mysterious shyness, both of which every woman finds to be a drawback. The egotistical types tend to have no shame when trying to meet women, which in the end results in them being a complete turn-off. The shy types who get cold feet approaching women, never get anywhere because they never talk. 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.

REAL LIFE FOR REAL

FUTURE FUNNIES

The indie now has full access to the Future's archives, so each week we're bringing you an old editorial cartoon. This gem turned up on Nov. 28, 1995. It's the worst piece of turkey humor we've seen since that "gobble gobble" scene in Gigli.

HALO 2 runs rings around Halo

From 18

OF that when your friends are swearing at you (or you at them) in multiplayer.

Importantly the plasma sword. Devastating at close range, the plasma sword is not to be taken lightly. Or through the stomach. A few old favorites are different. No more scopes on pistols, and they're weaker. The needle is more powerful. The shotgun reloads slower, but is stronger.

That's the price of progress.

Multiplayer This 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:

Ninjaut: 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.

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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-style park and gardens that opened on Dec. 19, 1993. The centerpieces 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 3,000 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. A 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 Chinese 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. GACCP 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
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 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.
BOOK REVIEW

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 his divorce, which 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 appeal to those non-fans, as it just details Copeland's feelings about matches. Once you get the fame 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 half 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

Finn 18

to the days of spazzing out like a dork while doing the "Roger Rabbit." But not as well-captured is the alternative selection of music. In a decade where grunge defined the alternative movement, the choice of alternative bands in San Andreas seems questionable. Depeche Mode, Soundgarden and Danzig attracted their fair share of success, but they don't make up for the gaping hole in this playlist. Where are our Smashing Pumpkins, Pearl Jam and Nirvana?

Rockstar Games may have been limited by their ties with Interscope in terms of what music they could include in their new game. While Vice City had Blondie, Michael Jackson, Hall and Oates, Judas Priest, REO Speedwagon and big name after big name, San Andreas often sounds limited in comparison.

Other oddities surround the release of a more streamlined (read: cheaper) two-CD soundtrack as an alternative to the eight-CD box set. The biggest hits from each of the game's eight virtual radio stations are crammed onto two CDs — along with a bonus track of AFI covering "Head Like a Hole" and a bonus DVD containing an extended intro to the San Andreas game.

Cool stuff — except for the fact people paying for a full-blown box set don't get the bonuses.

Unless some drastic changes happen in the next few weeks, many may find themselves disappointed with this latest compilation.
Swollen Colin in biopic

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

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

There'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 "Expositiorius 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 Hephaestion (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 flick about a man famed for his military prowess. Fans expecting Gladiator-type 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.
Family film offers positive
Krank Juice for the holiday

There are worse ways of spending Christmas than this

CATHLEEN RAFFETY
Staff Writer

E 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 unenthused 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 selflessness 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. However, 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 II epic

JOHN THOMASON

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.

Von Trotta 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.
Sundance Film Festival announces lineup for annual January event

DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press
L

OS 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."

Keanu 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," co-starring Peter Sarsgaard in the 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 Iraq 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 "Cronicas," 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.

Utah jazzed up for Sundance

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.

BRETT RYAN BONOWIC
Staff Writer

I have a pitch for movie theaters around the globe, and I think it's an interesting concept. Please ... read on with wide eyes.

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-dee pop before the opening credits unfurl. Now perhaps I have an overabundance of 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 will see some grub 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 for any extra cash (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 rip 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 gullet, movie theater food is priced for an upper income bracket. If I'm not pulling in six figures, I shouldn't be pulling Skittles 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. A child, 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 "battery topping" 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 "The Grudge"? I'd hate to think that an extra-large soda is more valuable than a film like "The Grudge. Sadly it's the way of the world and the wallet of the consumer."
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 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 $25.50 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

Y et another Thanksgiving has come and gone, but thanks to my road trip I managed to avoid all the cooking 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...

CRAZED INDIE ROBOT

Your an expert with you're grammar

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

D ecember. 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 98 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 email, I have to be tempted to utter “literally” to describe something, don’t. Or use “figuratively” instead, because that’s most likely what you really mean.

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**It's the long and short of the Internet**

Web sites both well-endowed and inadequate

By 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 the people you meet and the harsh rigors of long-distance travel, the Internet has spawned a counterculture to material things. When measuring what's been dubbed "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 tenderer, people can sign up for a free e-mail address. Why have Hotmail when you could have "The World's Longest Alphabetic 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," and "Some e-mail software cannot be configured!"

I didn't think any e-mail address could possibly be more ridiculously long and worthless than my 167-character junk. But far less useful, the above, this is a publicity stunt.

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The 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.

"Me and Jeremy were coming back from the sub shop and, all of a sudden, we were like, 'Whoa—what is that in that puddle on the curb?"' Craig McCrae, 19, told the reporters. "Jeremy was like, 'Holy s--- dude, I think it's some kind of humongous bra.'"

"This giant fucking bra was just laying right there in the gutter," said Jeren Reznicki, 20, who noted that he almost stepped on it. "I was like, what the hell?" Reznicki said he and McCrae stood staring at the bra for several minutes, encouraging passersby to "check out the giant bra," before continuing on their way home, leaving the item unmolested.

Herkimer police officials said they have few leads in the case.

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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 Drubham 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 one-bedroom on the fifth floor of Manning Towers, a building that houses Petrakis, who occupies a studio on the fourth, met in the building's laundry room in September.

"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."

Left: Froeger and Petrakis run into each other yet again.

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Sales Of Guys Gone Wild Video Disappointing

Area Horse Hung Like Horse

THE NEW LONGER LASTING AXE EFFECT.
NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman Ejected From Bed In Cracker-Eating Incident

RIVINE, CA—Citing “insufficient looks,” Arles 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-eating privileges. “Had she looked like Arles Schiffer, I most certainly would let her stay in my bed and get the satisfaction of eating her,” Hausner said. She can’t find someone who shares my strong looks,” the 35-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.”

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—whooops!—an extra-large condom fails 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 evening 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 toweling-off procedures.

the ONION presents

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.”
- 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.
LOCAL

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 kit-

To be honest, I haven’t the slightest idea what the problem is. As far as I can tell, I’m doing everything right.

tens, 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.

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THE NEW LONGER LASTING AXE EFFECT.
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, 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 unclad 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 upswing of as much as 36 percent in the case of the wine cooler that sponsored the largest-breasted model's photo.

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 posters 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!"

BRA 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 out of doors 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 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 Dunn, 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."

"We were both down there waiting for our clothes to dry, so we started to talk," Petrakis said. "It turned out we had a lot in common—we shopped at the same grocery store and worked out at the same gym. At that point, I wasn't thinking about the future and how hard this sort of relationship can be."

For several weeks, Froeger and Petrakis enjoyed a protracted honeymoon period, during which the short distance dividing them seemed like an advantage. Friends report that Petrakis and Froeger thought it was admirable to share a mailman, bump into each other near the trash bin, and frequent the same coffeehouse.

"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.'"

"He's not bragging anymore," Maris continued. "Last week, a bunch of the guys were hanging out at his place when someone knocked on the door. Jack made us all stand there from place and totally silent, for about five minutes until he could be sure that whoever it was had left."

Both Froeger and Petrakis said they began to experience misgivings about the lack of distance dividing them in early December.

"When I met Jack, I'd just broken up with this guy from Toledo, so I was really looking forward to dating someone nearby," Froeger said. "Now, I realize that having him so nearby that I can hear him whistling every time he uses the elevator isn't an advantage. And I do mean every time he uses the elevator. Seriously, every single time—that same OutKast song, "Justine is sweet," Petrakis said. "But sometimes it's too much. Once, I stayed at my buddy's house after a late night of drinking. When Justine saw that I hadn't picked up my newspaper from the door- mat, she called to make sure I was okay. That's when I started feeling crowded."

In addition to infringing on each other's privacy, Froeger and Petrakis said the close proximity removes a level of excitement from the relationship.

"Part of the fun of getting involved with someone is immersing yourself in a new environment and experiencing new things," Froeger said. "But staying overnight at someone's place isn't as great when you live on the same block. Our apartments overlook the same exact tree."

"Now we have no excuse to make it downtown or anyplace else," Froeger continued. "And believe me, Jack doesn't look for one. We just order delivery from the menus we both already know by heart."

Petrakis agreed that "things are getting a little stale."

"Justine and I kiss goodbye in the morning, then I see her 30 minutes later in the parking lot," Petrakis said. "Then I get home, and boom! There she is in the elevator. I don't know what to do. I've told her that I need my space, but her space and my space are practically the same space."

Froeger said she has started to think she needs someone who will 'be there for me occasionally.'

"The next person I date should live in, say, Chicago or Minneapolis," Froeger said. "There are a lot of nice guys from the Midwest profiled on those Internet dating sites. If I was seeing someone farther away, I could spend a passionate weekend together, but I wouldn't have to sit around at Starbucks for an extra two hours after work until I'm certain I won't run into him."

Petrakis said he agrees that a break-up might be the only answer.

"Next time I'm on the market, I'm gonna get out to a lot of out-of-the-way bars in neighborhoods that I wouldn't normally have any reason to be in, like that area behind the expo center," Petrakis said. "From now on, I'm gonna stick with the 50-block rule: no dating anyone who doesn't live at least a 10-minute car ride away."
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 know we have known each other 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 someone else, but know that if you break from Smoove, I cannot guarantee that I will still be single when you realize that only I can satisfy your senses. Then, you would be living in a cold, cruel, Smoove-less world, and I would not wish that upon you. You are 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 booty, and your class are beyond all compare. In a world populated with many fine women, you are without doubt the most fine. 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.

While you sip your drink, I will stroke your hair and tell you how complimentarily 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 unthaw a deluxe bag of jumbo shrimp for you to sample as the appetizer. There will also be cocktail sauce. Finally, my dinner of lobster, shipped to Maine, will be completed and placed on the polar-bear-skin rug so we can do it all night. In the morning, I will make you waffles that have chocolate chips embedded in them. There will be coffee waiting for you, and there will also be a cup with cream and two sugars, just the way you like it, cooling on the breakfast bar. If you want toast, I will make it for you and offer you a staggering array of exotic jams.

French jams.

Through this display of caring and thoughtfulness, you will see that I am the one for you. We are like two slightly different colored beads on a single ancient necklace. We are so right together. It hurts to even speak your name when you are not around me. Do not doubt my words. Believe me when I say this to you. Smoove's love will rock your world.

Peace.

Ask That Tramp I Saw You With Last Night

Dear Connie:

The other night I came home from work to find my prize azalea bushes completely wrecked. I didn't witness it, but I feel sure I know the culprits: the children next door who are always running wild in our yard. How do I keep my bushes safe without permanently alienating my neighbors?

Frustrated In Fairport

Dear Connie:

If you need advice so bad, why don't you go ask that tramp I saw you with last night? She must have had some interesting things to say or you wouldn't have sat there buying margaritas for her every 10 minutes. I'm sure she knows all kinds of things I don't, or you wouldn't have spent so much time talking to her, laughing at everything she said like she was the funniest person on earth.

Dear Connie:

There's a big company dinner party coming up at the boss' house, and I can't decide whether to "dress to impress" or just go with the casual confidence of the one for me. There will also be cocktail sauce.

In A Quandary In Quebec

Dear Connie:

I'm sure that tramp I saw you with last night would know the answer to this one. She seems like the kind of woman who could tell you a thing or two about impressing the big boys! After all, she had you dancing to her tune for hours. I just happened to drive past your office, and your car wasn't in the parking lot. I guess you were working so hard you just had to take a little dinner and dancing break with that cheap slut.

Dear Connie:

My mother's 75th birthday is coming up, and I want to get her something really special. I want to go out all on this one, but I'm afraid I'll spend a fortune and end up with something she doesn't like. What would be an appropriate gift for an occasion like this?

In Fairport

Dear Connie:

I suppose your mother wears blue eyeline and miniskirts, and hangs out at El's Mile High at two in the morning, batting her eyes at everything some big, dumb, married ox says, doesn't she? Maybe if I dressed up like a two-dollar whore and snuck around in the middle of the night, that'd satisfy you. Maybe then you wouldn't go galavanting around at God-knows-what-hours! Is that what you really want, a tramp like her? You know what I mean? I'm glad I saw you two. I gave you the best years of my life, you no-good, goddamn, two-timing son of a bitch! Get out of my sight!

Connie Vance's weekly syndicated advice column, Ask That Tramp I Saw You With Last Night, appears in over 250 papers nationwide.