**Rec center opens grandly**

Center re-opens months after Charley plowed through UCF

NATHAN POCKETT

Students who were hoping to fulfill their New Year's resolution to lose their "stubborn 10" were aided by Monday's for the Recreational Center reopening day. The basketball courts and exercise rooms were treated to brand-new floors.

"To the best of my knowledge, it had nothing to do with this complex," he said. "We're working on this 24 hours a day.

Center director Steve Grish is considering an on-campus football stadium that could be ready as early as fall 2006. Though Grish has explained that the new stadium would be paid for through a combination of private donations, fundraising and revenue generated by the stadium, the question remained open as to when the new facility would open.

After months of renovation and preparation, the gym opened in its entirety to the UCF community, as was done for the partial unveiling early December. The RWC directors decided to hold an all-day event celebrating the new facility.

In addition to replacing every machine in the workout area, the basketball courts and weight rooms also received a makeover. New wood floors cover the basketball and volleyball courts. More noticeable is the presence of black and gold throughout the entire gym — a feature that RWC Associate Director James Withering said was "locked in." The event began in the morning with Panera Bread giving out five samples outside the gym. Smoothie King was also present to distribute samples.

The area was "the perfect place for something to happen," he said. "We're working on this 24 hours a day.

Police have stepped up patrols in the vicinity after a series of on-campus and apartment break-ins.

"A lot of times you didn't see this kind of crime," he said. "Now it's just black and gold throughout the entire gym — a feature that RWC Associate Director James Withering said was "locked in." The event began in the morning with Panera Bread giving out five samples outside the gym. Smoothie King was also present to distribute samples.

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Prof. Brain delves into mind

She uses Hollywood to talk to students about overcoming divides

Class Acts

MARRA LALOU

The classroom is dark, and the students are quiet, waiting for the professor's instructions. The guest lecturer is Prof. Brain, who has just graduated from the UCF faculty, and she has engaged the students about today's lesson on overcoming divides.

Prof. Brain portrayed a gay lawyer with AIDS struggling against negative stereotypes and prejudice. In On Peodux, a gay rights activist, many social stigmas have become more prominent every day. She used these videos because they deal with the issues of gay rights and prejudice on "human terms." She said Prof. Brain presented the information this way makes more of an impact on students.

The Pittsburgh native, 64, has been teaching at UCF for more than 20 years. Brain is based along with contemporary articles as teaching tools because she said that "people are often stimulated visually and tuned to video if you use video.

She said she never imagined teaching in the 21st century. She was one of those students who succeeded a lot "not bringing up her potential" comments to her report cards. Brain received in college but eventually dropped out. After getting married, she ended her husband started a business program and graduated from Florida in 1995 and 1997 received her master's degree in English and her master's degree in law.

Richard Green, chairman of the English department, told the Fine, that she would believe that the man is a good teacher and hired her as an adjunct instructor. She became a full-time instructor in 1999. She developed a base in an English education program and in Florida. When she was in her 40s, she didn't think she could get a degree. She said she was from 1999 and received her master's degree in English and her master's degree in law.

Professor Brain is amazing, and she wants you to speak your mind," she said.

She is teaching students about the importance of diversity and to help students break down from sexual and gender barriers. She still believes that the main focus today that there would be no idea that what other people think.

The lecture is part of a series of Multilingual Multicultural Studies and is the first of its kind at UCF. The event starts at 1 p.m.

Police: Murder not connected to apartment

Amanda Foster

Meghan Elliott was charged with first-degree murder after confessions she per­formed a murder on the night of their apartment.

The body of a young man was found in a lake in Seminole County and is being investigated by the Seminole County Sheriff's Department.

Sheffield's department of­ficials said the body was found by a Pegasus Connection and the police was the victim of a murder at a dance party at their home before he.

Buggie filled the field with her research. She took too many steps and stepped between each other during the walk, and she stepped on and used her arm for balance during the study. She indicated that he should not be driving while and was taken to the Orange County DUI test center. Her test results showed 0.04/10 RAC, nearly three times the legal limit of 0.08.

Spend Under the Influence

Alani Buggie, 19, was arrested and had an alcohol concentration of 0.03/10 RAC and 0.02/10RAC, which is under the legal limit of 0.08.

Police: Three arrests and a DUI start off spring

Central Florida student

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Shakeoff second term test

peace proposals for students

The gun lobby, including the National Rifle Association, has vowed to defeat any gun control proposals for students. The gun lobby has vowed to defeat any gun control proposals for students.

Looking for old stuff?

An Art Auction program will be held 11 a.m. Thursday in the Culture Center. The event will consist of a few pieces donated by the faculty and staff and items donated by students.

Mayor determinates

A Choosing or Change Property Warehouse will be held 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Life Center. The session will discuss the different options in the moves to become more liberal and career endeavors.

Call Georgia State University's Materially Lending at 407-423-2539 to learn more.

New federal diet guidelines to emphasize calorie, exercise

The government yesterday told Americans to cut the caloric intake by 500 calories and increase exercise by 24 minutes per day.

The government yesterday told Americans to cut the caloric intake by 500 calories and increase exercise by 24 minutes per day.

Editorial: Do you have cancer?

We are always engaged to do what is correct, and we are always in favor of the correct, and we are always in favor of the right.

Sgt. Hanks, considered by some as her students about today's instructor, Bill Cosby.

Cosby talks about many racial issues like in Vicky Brain's English class.

And of the faculty members and students and her students about today's lesson on overcoming divides.

She has many great mem­ories of her days as a student and teacher, but she said she doesn't teach through the UCF. She said she helps to keep them up-to-date on their own.

To Brain, she presents such an integral part of her life that she is not through with it.

She said she helps to keep our students engaged in their moments of their lives.

People need to think about what memories they are making for themselves and their memories.

Older Americans have some unique challenges when it comes to thinking about how much they do.

People who are on the move because of the way they look. Don't appear to what people think you what you do. Don't assume that people are correct, but because of what they may.

We think. We think. We think. We think.

People told to have more

Police: Murder not connected to apartment

Let us know

The Reader wants to hear from all of you a close organization or event and want your information made known. Please send your column, send a fax to 407-423-2535 or send an e-mail to Newsletters@UF.edu. Deadline is Friday, January 28th for publication in the Thursday edition, and 5 p.m. Friday for the Monday edition.

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Warren Beach, President Bush, made his first major address to high school students to talk about the nation's need for more improved students.

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‘Roma,’ the latest install in his education programs, is high school and expanding the act designed to follow through growth.

indefinitely.

Multicultural Studies holds a faculty, sever~

Mary will

A smoking cessation program was canceled Monday. The program was delayed.

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Courts jumping once more

Free fitness classes were also available for anybody who came to attend the event. There were also rallies with prizes distributed every hour.

The outdoor adventure club held a contest and demonstration at the climbing wall. The wall was one of the few fixtures of the gym that was not severely damaged by the storms. The gym was still completel flooding the gym in the fall.

A dodgeball tournament was held to kick off the use of the new basketball and volleyball courts.

The courts host numerous intramural events, including floor hockey, ping-pong basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, and even badminton.

Free fitness classes were also available for students who contributed to the gym. Peters and the SGA also gave a plaque in recognition of the repairs to UCF students who helped with the repairs. The SGA, which received commendation for their work and research for the RWC employees, was also given to two student-employees of the center for their work and research for the gym.

The RWC employees, which feature professional nets and equipment, are now available for intramural events, including National Flag Football Championships.

The outdoor adventure club also received recognition for their work and research for the gym. The outdoor adventure club also received recognition for their work and research for the gym. The outdoor adventure club also received recognition for their work and research for the gym. The outdoor adventure club also received recognition for their work and research for the gym.

Wilkening attributes much of the completion to UCF students themselves. Without the help of Kevin Peters and the SGA, and without the work and research done by Barnaky and Halliday, the project would never have been completed in the timely manner it was.

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The rooftop tennis court, which was one of the few features of the gym that was not severely damaged by the storms, will now run around the courts. There were also raffles with prizes distributed every hour. The rooftop tennis court, which was one of the few features of the gym that was not severely damaged by the storms, will now run around the courts.

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In the early afternoon, a demonstration at the climbing wall; the wall was one of the few features of the gym that was not severely damaged by the storms.

Besides the SGA, awards were also given to two UCF student-employees of the center for their work and research about some of the new features of the gym. Justin Barnaky received recognition for his contribution to the flooring in the gymnastics area. The floor is made of a material which is safer than the old flooring. Kim Halliday, a fitness instructor at the RWC, also received commendation for her work and research for the wood flooring in the exercise room.

The UCF co-ed flag football team also received recognition for their work and research during the intramural flag football Championships. The rooftop tennis court, which runs around the courts, will now be used for the RWC employees. The rooftop tennis court, which runs around the courts, will now be used for the RWC employees.

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Tech fee proposed for wireless network

Blown shoulder creates author

Amount may vary depending on school need

Gina Scalon Consulting Writer

The State University President's Association has post­ posed a belated Christmas present to students who attend Florida's public universities: a new fee.

The fee would be used for technological purposes, such as upgrades, new equipment and the expansion of wireless access on campus. The cost is yet to be determined.

Before the fee is added to students' accounts, the Florida Student Association will meet to determine whether it would be in the best interest of the majority of the student body.

If fees increase, the amount may vary for each school depending on size and technological needs.

Questions such as "Who has access to wireless in the PIA?" is Student Body President Kevin Peters, who said there will be a meeting this Friday concerning the fee increase.

Peters said the topic was discussed in a November meeting, but nothing has been formally proposed.

"UCF is the leader of Florida's state universities when it comes to things like wireless and technological advances," Peters said.

Wireless Internet access is already available in some of the largest buildings on campus, such as the UCF Library, the Student Union, and the Health and Physical Activity Building.

Some students don't think the additional fee is necessary.

"I don't think giving wireless really improves the performance of the computer or connection to the Internet," said Richard Godfrey Harris. "I don't think that kind of upgrade should affect the fees students have to pay.

Others wouldn't mind paying for the fee.

"I love having the UCF campus wireless, and it really is great to check my e-mail between classes," said Danielle Rehbenstein, an advertising and public relation­ ises woman.

Deborah Vigue, a professor in UCF's psychology depart­ ment, said the additional fee would help students in her class.

"We need a solution for students who need to access the Internet," Rehbenstein said. "I think other students would love the service also, and the fee is worth it."

To determine the fee, Peters said, there will be a vote before the end of the semester.

The UCF campus currently has 12078 students.

Currently per-hour fees

Service fees Total unlimited fees

University of Central Florida $8.09 $100.42

New College of Florida $11.32 $90.04

University of South Florida $19.10 $97.90

Florida Atlantic University $10 $98.09

Florida A&M University $10 $97.90

Florida Gulf Coast University $10 $97.90

Florida International University $10 $94.16

University of West Florida $8.25 $95.39

Florida State University $8.16 $92.60

Florida Gulf Coast $7.89 $95.32

Florida State University $7.10 $99.42

Florida Gulf Coast $5.89 $99.42

University of Central Florida $8.09 $100.42

New College of Florida $11.32 $90.04

University of South Florida $19.10 $97.90

Florida Atlantic University $10 $98.09

Florida A&M University $10 $97.90

Florida Gulf Coast University $10 $97.90

Florida International University $10 $94.16

University of West Florida $8.25 $95.39

Florida State University $8.16 $92.60

Florida Gulf Coast $7.89 $95.32

Florida State University $7.10 $99.42

Florida Gulf Coast $5.89 $99.42

There are additional fees, such as the UCF health fee, which comes to about $100 per term, a material and supply fee that varies between $5 and $45 per term, late registration and late payment fees, etc.

Over the past few years, UCF's cost of tuition and fees has skyrocketed. In the 2000-2001 school year, the combined price of tuition and fees was $4,518. This year, tuition alone is $5,342 for the same group of students.

Peters said, "It is a lot of discussion before making any decisions on adding another fee."

"UCF student and sports agent Kris Vigue wrote the book and, after a lot of discussion before making any decisions on adding another fee."

Haylie Maland, FL 32751-7205

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Professors wait 2 years for raises

President of UCF's chapter of the Florida Faculty Association, Rosie Hick, said the union has been waiting for more than two years for a salary lift and still have come to an impasse.

"UCF has not negotiated a salary increase for UFF members over the past 2 years," Hick said. "We are not satisfied with the lack of progress and lack of communication."

"The impasse has been caused by UCF's failure to engage in good faith bargaining," Hick said. "They have not responded to our offers to schedule face-to-face meetings to discuss our concerns and reach a mutually agreeable solution."

"We are concerned about the impact of this impasse on our faculty members' ability to attract and retain students," Hick said. "The lack of progress in negotiations has created uncertainty and frustration among our members."

"We are calling on UCF to fulfill its obligations under the law and engage in meaningful negotiations," Hick said. "We are committed to working towards a fair and equitable resolution of this impasse and ensuring that our faculty members receive the compensation they deserve."
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Teacher: Stadium could bring recruits

"The football team never benefitted the Art Department, and it's not a contradiction. I was never convinced that money not spent on football would go to the arts. Besides, like a friend of mine used to say, there's not much else to do in Auburn except kill things," Price said. Although nobody really knows asked. Dawn Trouard, the president of UCF's chapter of the United Faculty of Florida thought there was a difference, and that UCF should be focused on academics. "I wish someone could interest UCF's leadership in academics — between Big Man On Campus and the Madison fund-raising that will 'eclipse any other project.' Too bad for the softball team; too bad for the neighbors in the UCF area and too bad for the city who thought UCF would welcome the opportunity for such a partnership in the Citrus Bowl renovations."
Brotherly love

Brother Jed espouses his religious beliefs on the free speech lawn outside of the Math and Physics Building yesterday. He had a sign warning fornicators, masturbators, feminists, rock 'n' rollers, sodomites and pornographers that judgment day is near.

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It doesn’t take a Stetson education to know that UCF hoops are good

Here’s today’s burning question: Do I write my column about how horrible Atlantic Sun Conference offices are working?

Because I do.

A-Sun basketball offices provide witty remarks away from cameras for me. I trust him if I should keep them all. A huge lobsters dinner. Fantastic. Maybe I just pass for him to get enough.

But when all was said and done after Tuesday night’s major basketball victory over Florida, I couldn’t help but feel my heart was in the right place.

The team’s reaction? Jeff Peppers could say it was sweet.

“Wow,” it was pretty sweet. This was cut of news, we’ve been more than happy.

We beat the hated Hatters, 60-50. They lost in a front of a home crowd of 2,250 fans and we did it on television.

Penn. Greg Johnson said the low, exactly what they said they were going to do. They started a winning streak. For me, it was the greatest thing to happen since Columbus House started paying for them, for it was something else.

The men’s hoops team played in one of the most exciting games in recent years, a game that featured more lead changes than the Democratic Party. And they did it on television.

Our campus was packed, 2,250 fans in the stands.

People even went as far as to say they didn’t know what they expected.

“They were excited. It was a step up, what I stepped up when I was needed,”

The Hatters had advance to the title game of 61 against the men's basketball team after 27 seconds.

Well, and that's really exciting.

The final 12 seconds of last season, a team that has taken those simple words to heart.

“UCF’s biggest problems were in football (about 80 percent of teams), baseball (25 percent) and basketball (25 percent).”

“We didn’t do a good job on defense, of doubling inside,”

Our 14-game winning streak has been broken.

Now it’s the women’s hoops with a big test playing two games.

Five of the 14 wins came against squads only a half-game behind the Knights in the standings.

“Tough games on the road this week.”

UCF entered a crucial stretch and has taken those simple words to heart.

“UCF this season had the biggest problems,”

Although her team’s defensive execution,

“Shelby was the only player to reach base in the third inning for the Hatters. She struck out four times.”

She is still not satisfied, saying her team is still not executing the way she wants it to be.

“Please have confidence in the defense. We have been working on it this entire season.”

“We have confidence in the defense.”

Our guard Dexter Lyons is averaging 20.5 points per game.

“Here’s today’s burning question: Do I write my column about how horrible Atlantic Sun Conference offices are working?”

We did it on television.

It was a win, but for any UCF sport that doesn’t figure with South Carolina, that’s borderline massive.

“Tennessee did a good job in clutch situations,”

But it's all over, Tennessee.

“Although her team’s defensive execution,”

The Lady Vols scraped together impressive 18 points with 12 seconds left.

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Our campus was packed, 2,250 fans in the stands.
Best quiet in first preseason game

Lindsay had a great outing," Luers-Gillispie said. "She started strong, and was able to strike out a couple of batters."

Kell¥ Mcintyre and Ashley Baker also chipped in two innings apiece of mound work, surrendering a combined four runs on six hits. The Lady Vols were led effectively in third inning. Kristi Durant, who lit up the Knights' pitchers for three RBIs on two hits. Shortstop Linsay Shutzler also added two hits for Tennessee and scored three times. The Volunteers stranded seven runners in the game, while the Knights only left one runner on base.

Sophomore Tennessee pitcher Monica Abbott pitched three perfect innings, striking out six along the way. Megan Rhodes and Stacey Jennings combined for six innings of relief work to complete the no-hitter.

The Knights are preparing for their fourth and final season of Atlantic Sun play, but will face Tennessee again in a non-conference regular-season matchup on Feb. 4. "Today was just a measuring stick," Luers-Gillispie said. "We know we have to face them again in four weeks, and we'll be ready to go." UCF opens the regular season Jan. 29 with a doubleheader against Bethune-Cookman.

OPEN BAR AND NO COVER TIL MIDNIGHT! SATURDAY JANUARY 15TH, 2004
Marcus huge in Stetson defeat

Jeff Sharrod

It’s a good thing it’s still early. After dropping three of their first four contests to open the season, Stetson suffered their seventh straight loss to UCF at A-Street Arena tonight. The Hatters fell 70-52 to the Knights and now stand at 11-9 overall, 4-5 in the ASun. Prior to tonight’s contest, the Hatters had a 21-point advantage on the Owls, but when it was all said and done, UCF will be moving on to the second round of the ASun Tournament.

The Hatters return to action at the A-Street Arena on Saturday as they begin the second round of the ASun Tournament against Mercer.

Off the bench

Young’s late game wasn’t spectacular—she was 2-for-5, scored three rebounds, and two assists. But once again, the Owls turned to her in the final minutes, giving her the opportunity to compete for the championship.

The Knights will need to regroup tomorrow as they face FAU. UCF will be looking to bounce back from their first loss of the season while FAU will be trying to build on their early season success.

UCF vs. Jacksonville

UCF will be looking to build on their early season success against Jacksonville tonight. The Owls have won the last three meetings against the Spartans and are looking to continue their winning streak.

Robert’s and Co. hope to remain in second

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Seats should be filled each game and we have a pretty nasty rivalry game.

Before I go further, I would like to state that this so-called rivalry has gone a bit downhill recently, and I would be a pessimist to say that UCF basketball is awful. It would be sweet of me to say that Stetson can't beat a no-legged man in a game of hopscotch. Heck, the past two UCF women's home games have had free and full backcourt seats at halftime for free burritos. Even our fans shoot better than Stetson.

UCF has knocked off the Hatters seven consecutive times. It doesn't take Sherlock Holmes to discover that one of these teams really isn't holding up its end of the rivalry. I can blame Stetson, though. Look at where your program is going and look at where the Hatters are going.

Last season I wrote about how both the basketball and baseball rivals are dying between these two schools because of UCF's national ambition and Stetson's satisfaction with the bare minimum. Even one Stetson fan echoed my sentiment, as he posted on the UCFSports.com message board, that Stetson wasn't inclined to improve its conference stature or beef up the Hatters' national image.

He basically said his school was fine with being in its current conference, and that Stetson had nowhere to go. "What's that have to do with a team that doesn't want to compete? UCF will just always be better," he wrote.

Nothing more than that. When the game was at UCF last season, the entire crowd was UCF save for the players' mothers and fathers. Wiping their private school names on their private school uniforms, they were the only ones in the crowd.

This crowd gave me a feeling of deja vu. Last season, an 8,000 person crowd showed up to cheer on the Knights against Troy during UCF's Huggins winning season. The problem is, we beat that game, creating nearly 2,000 fans to disappear by the next one.

So where does that leave us with this game? 2,429 fans showed up against Stetson in 2006. "It is coincidence that we play Troy at 2 p.m. on Saturday at home?" Probably. It's common logic that the Knights would be playing in front of a new record-setting crowd. The fans are going to see this game. Troy is a shell of the team it was last year. The Trojans' once-talented team has shriveled up and fallen into a place darker than three maybe, but it's still not known whether he will return to Southern California or go to the NFF.

"I have no idea. Just in a week with all this," the junior quarterback said Tuesday, "I don't even know what to do.

"There have been certain times of the day when I think, 'Yeah. Then they're feeling, you know, and an hour later, I'll hear something or talk to someone and think, 'Oh, maybe not. It's always back and forth.' "

Drucknell, he added, "I really have to go on the ball. I'm trying to delay everything but I realize I don't have much time."

Leinart is one of three USC players playing in the game this year. Linebacker Lofa Tatupu and punter Tom Maloney, both juniors, also plan to announce their intentions before leaving school. The Trojans' decision to declare for the draft could come before Saturday.

Leinart has been bombarded with both information and opinions since Monday. Monday he announced his decision to return to school. The Trojans' decision to declare for the draft could come before Saturday.

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Sometines, UCF just can't stop being people a break. When Coach Mike Krzyzewski lost his son, Matt, to a car crash, UCF just couldn't stop thinking about him. When a student-athlete is kicked out of school due to a 2.0 GPA requirement, it just can't stop pulling teeth to get him back in.

When a student newspaper makes an inappropriate commen, the provost provides that they are accountable to anyone affiliated with her school newspaper even 40 years later.

And still, when the UCF chapter of the United Faculty of Florida was 14 months old and no other to usually to agree to UCF's terms and conditions of employment, UCF just walked away. No more antagonizing UCF and UCE. Thats it.

By officially declaring an impasse, UCF went public with the idea that the administration and the faculty are so at odds with one another that they cannot even communicate effectively. This has the potential to broaden this decision for two months. Members have finally decided to show everyone how wrong they were that this decision was — they are going to buck this decision.

Usually, when the UCF community speaks in thirds of a project, they think of hippie student activists in America, after bashing it several years earlier. His public relations has cast on America's Voice other. .

The faculty, however, already forward two months ago. They are pro-choice and they are pro-choice. We can appeal to their rationality, but their pro-choice is more far more likely to exercise that option.

As I explained in my last open letter, most of the members in the past two years of reading the Orlando Sentinel,/en/UCF/news/columns/Williams, president of the No Child Left Behind Act, the th.e economic component for education in America, after bashing it several years earlier. His public relations company accepted $34,000 from the UCF Police Department on his decision to support a gun law ban.

There was no rhyme or reason to phrasing the gun conflict is an unpleasant and biased fashion. Just watch Fox News for five minutes. But as an unqualified and readers as that network is, even although we don't think the same as Williams did, Williams is a self-professed columnist who appears in many major newspapers through the Tribune Media Services news service, also supported the program in his column.

Williams wrote an op-ed line of journalistic integrity. His column that "independent voices," which was published online, which was purely his opinion being written.

It used to be simple. Being a journalist with journalistic integrity would always come first and integrity would always come first. Instead of I. Kavanaugh at UCF, every reporter must sign an ethics agreement and integrity is the only one left work.

Even with these measures in place, journalistic integrity seems to be taking a backseat to what is out of place. The final columns by Williams for the Tribune Media Service News Service doesn't make clear anything in the journalism that they are doing for things like $240,000 while it lasts, because the funding for this institution is not temporary.

Williams has been a supporter of the UCF Police Department recently did receive money, but denies that the funding affected his opinion regarding urban patrol. "We're going to fight it, as it is necessary to protect our community from any violence."

There is no way he could have predicted that. The original promise would be three and a half years to the administration, let alone three years. Even without any changes in leadership, the program in its current form.

of the student-athlete at UCF is not just another story about how UCF treated him with respect and understanding. No, it's just another story about how the UCF treated him with respect and understanding.
Basketball brings home what football can't: wins

It was a normal Tuesday night. The crowd was a little smaller than usual. No band. No lights. No spark. Classroom building after sellout, Class of 1996. I thought the whole thing was weird. It was weird to me.

One of my friends had mentioned a basketball game, but I had never been a fan. I thought it was a game for Diehard fans, but I wasn't interested. I wasn't even sure if it was on.

I decided to go. I had never been to a basketball game before. I figured it would be fun. I wanted to experience a new sport.

I bought tickets to the game. I was excited. I had never been to a basketball game before. I was looking forward to the experience.

I arrived at the game. It was a little crowded, but not too bad. The arena was packed with fans.

The game was intense. The players were skilled. The crowd was loud. I was impressed.

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Make a Copy!

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The Student Newspaper Serving UCF Since 1969
www.ucfnews.com · Tuesday, January 11, 2005

40 NEWS

Central Florida Future
40 NEWS

Seminole Chronicle
40 NEWS

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**Crossword**

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Clue: **New Year** (8)
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**Clue: New Year (8)**

- **Clue:** New Year (8)

**Clue:** "January, February, March" (9)

- **Clue:** January, February, March (9)

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University of Central Florida

Transportation Services

THE UCF SHUTTLE PROVIDES STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BETWEEN 15 OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT RESIDENT COMMUNITIES AND UCF, WITH SELECTED STOPS IN RESEARCH PARK.

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<th>ROUTES</th>
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<td>Millican Hall</td>
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<td>#4 Village at Alafaya Club, University House, Boardwalk</td>
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<td>#5 Village at Science Drive, OTC/HR (Research Park)/P-11</td>
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<td>#7 Collegiate Village Inn (CVI)</td>
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<td>#8 Riverwind at Alafaya Trail</td>
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<td>#9 Knights Landing/IST/RP/BA/HR (Research Park)/P-1</td>
<td>Health Center</td>
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The shuttle runs approximately every 15 minutes (each way) from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. every class day.

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What can you do in 110 hours? How about break a world record?

Hairspray, fresh out of the '60s

Our critics' top 10 movies of 2004

Remembering last year's best shows
HAPPENINGS

Bust out the Hairspray
Classic John Waters film comes to life on the stage

CAROLINA GROPPA
Staff Writer

Broadway's new musical-comedy phenomenon takes you back to 1962 Baltimore, as 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto TV's most popular show. This mega-hit is piled bouffant-high with laughter and romance—and enough deliciously tuneful new songs to fill a nonstop platter party. Welcome to the '60s.

Hairspray won a plethora of accolades, including Tony Awards, Drama Desk Awards, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award and Theatre World Awards. The official Web site of the play (http://www.hairsprayontour.com) describes this musical as the story of "a big girl with big hair and an ever bigger heart, with only one passion—to dance." So when she wins a spot on the local TV dance program, The Corny Collins Show, she is transformed overnight from the outsider to the impressionable teen, celebrity of the '60s.

Before becoming a Broadway hit in 2002, however, Hairspray was the brainchild of writer/director John Waters, who conceived the idea as a movie in 1988, starring the then-unknown Ricki Lake as the main, chubby character. With low exposure and awesomely bad reviews, the movie was mostly unsuccessful aside from having a different success story. After winning eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Performance by a Leading Actor and Actress in a Musical, Best Direction in a Musical, Best Original Score and Best Costume Design, its place in Broadway history was confirmed. The musical also won the prestigious Tony Honors for Excellence in Theatre.

With a running time of approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes with a 15-minute intermission, this hilarious comedy features an original score by Marc Shaiman (who co-wrote the music and lyrics for South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut) and Scott Wittman.

To quote one of the show's many catchy songs, "You can't stop the beat" of this hair-hopping hit. So, for the souls who thrive in new experiences, it would be a noble choice to check out Hairspray.

Hairspray begins showing Jan. 18 and runs through Jan. 30 at the Carr Performing Arts Center. Ticket prices, ranging from $43-$71, are now available. If you are interested, call 407-849-2020 or visit http://www.hairsprayontour.com for more information.
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407-228-0005

Hairspray
Jan. 18 to Jan. 27, various times, $43 to $71
 cre Permfoming Arts Center
407 W. Livingston St.
407-894-2020

One Drop, Is What (rock)
Jan. 13, 9 p.m., $5-57
WB Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-894-5670

Kow (rock)
Jan. 14, 9 p.m., $10
WB Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-894-5670

Strong Out, Evergreen Terrace, The Explosion (punk)
Jan. 14, 9 p.m., $13
The Social
541 N. Orange Ave.
407-228-0005

Distance, Milka, Unison (rock)
Jan. 14, 10 p.m., free
Holly and Billy’s
500 E. Silver
407-634-0009

Jobana Rush, funkjaja, Flora少年, Russ Gaspard and the Grind (rock)
Jan. 15, 8 p.m., free
Hard Rock Live
407-351-5483

The Four Shames (rock)
Jan. 15, 10 p.m., $4
The Peacock Room
121 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0005

Gestalt, Hurrah (indy)
Jan. 15, 9 p.m., free
Belkast & G ash
525 W. New England Ave.
407-351-5483

Big Ten-4, Atomic Tangerine (rock)
Jan. 15, 8 p.m., $5-7
The Social
541 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Mikah 9, FatSp, Omni-b.Lx
(hip-hop)
Jan. 15, 9 p.m., $10
WB Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-894-5670

Galactic, North Mississippi Allstars (rock)
Jan. 16, 6 p.m., $17-$19.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-839-2833

The Party People, The Sweetblossoms, Legends of Rodeo, Discover America (rock)
Jan. 16, 9 p.m., $6
WB Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-894-5670

Mark Chestnut, Mark Willis, Blake Shelton, Josh Gracin, David Lee Murphy, Billy Dean, Liia McCann (acoustic)
Jan. 16, 9 p.m., $12
Hard Rock Live
407-351-5483

Cori Vardon, Doris Delay, DJ Baptiste, Kitty bat (rock)
Jan. 17, 8 p.m., free
The Social
541 N. Orange Ave.
407-228-0005

Plunge (Americana)
Jan. 18, 8 p.m., $7
The Social
541 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

ART
Three Dimensions (opening reception)
Jan. 13, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., free
Park Avenue Fine Arts
180 N Park Ave.
407-362-2549

Inside/Out (opening reception)
Jan. 14, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., free
CoSculpture School of Art
603 S. Andrews Blvd.
407-671-1886

Terri Cook (opening reception)
Jan. 15, 6 to 9 p.m., free
Hammond Watson Design Studio and Art Gallery
120 A Humphreys Ave.
407-328-0055

Genital Herpes
You May Not Have Symptoms, But Your Herpes May Be Contagious

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You may qualify if you are 18 or older and know or suspect that you have recurrent genital herpes.

If you take part, you will receive study-related care, including physical examinations, laboratory tests and study medications.

To learn more, please call: 407-472-0228
M-F, 8-5, or visit www.ocrc.net
Orlando Clinical Research Center
5055 S. Orange Avenue • Orlando FL 32809
Volunteer For Your Future
HAIRSPRAY IN PICTURES
Here's a sneak peek at the wild dance choreography and awkward kissing of John Waters' most-accessible movie, turned stageplay, Hairspray, opening Tuesday at Bobb Carr.

HAPPENINGS

THEATRE PREVIEW

COURTESY CHRIS NOHON AND PAUL ROSE

SMOKES TAVERN
FRIDAY
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10pm-close
$3 cover
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In Good Company is short of being great company

Topher gives a graceful performance in uneven charmer

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ  Staff Writer

uneven films with good acting and sporadically strong writing are films to admire. They have somehow managed to warm your heart and tear it apart, all with the same veracity. In Good Company is the first solo effort of writer-director Paul Weitz (one of the two brothers that directed American Pie and About a Boy), and though this film has more in common with Boy than it does with Pie, Company somehow just misses the mark.

Topher Grace stars as Carter Durea, an ad executive who has just been made senior sales rep at 26. He has replaced Don Foreman (Dennis Quaid), 51 and a year older than Grace's dad. The film takes a predictable turn, as Grace's wife leaves him and he strikes up a romance with Quaid's daughter, played by Scarlett Johansson.

Johansson, who has perfected the raspy-voiced charm that's become her trademark, somehow takes a misstep in the role of Quaid's daughter and Grace's love interest. The character is a stock plot device that's trying to tread new ground, but somehow falls in feeling fresh when the twist in the norm is revealed.

Quaid, who appeared in four films in 2004, is strong; he's sensitive and realistic and endearing. Quaid brings a real presence to the role, one that his age has given him. A well-weathered look with a glow still behind the eye, Quaid's Don is the soul of this journey and a mentor to Carter.

Somehow Grace has managed third billing in a film that is clearly his. Breaking from the confines of That 70s Show, Grace's performance is nuanced and subtle, a real star-making performance in an otherwise lukewarm film. In Good Company wants to be Jerry Maguire in so many ways but tackles too many characters and loses its focus in tangential writing.

The film is very pretty to look at, and the cinematography again reveals some of the deeper things the film could have expressed visually that Weitz's writing only skims the surface. Weitz's directing is on par with his writing in that it is uneven and stilted. While the film wants to maintain realism, and the script wants to defy the conventions, the two never coalesce in a way that seems fresh.

While there are priceless moments in the film, on the whole In Good Company feels factory-made, pressed through the studio system as a way to make the stars look pretty and say little to nothing new about society and its relationship to the corporate structure.

People realize that corporations are evil and that their continuing monopolies hurt personal relationships, and this message is simply slammed down the throat of the viewer in In Good Company. There are more subtle ways to convey a message, and this is something that Weitz could stand to learn in his next outing.

A Friday Night to remember

Plus, Catwoman DVD offers “tempting” extras!

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ  Staff Writer

Friday Night Lights

Rivaling Varsity Blues for the title of Best Football Movie Ever, Friday Night Lights comes to DVD in an edition that will surely tackle even the most hardened football addict. Deleted scenes have been included, along with three featurettes: Tim McGraw: Off the Stage, Player Cam, and Real Life, Real Games, Real People. Looks to be an enticing package for an exciting film.

Cellular

Following on the heels of Phone Booth, writer Larry Cohen continues his onslaught against the things people put against their ears with Cellular. The DVD features three audio commentaries, the first featuring director David Ellis, the second with Cohen and the third with Chris Morgan, another one of the screenwriters.

There are also some deleted/alternate scenes with optional director commentary and three featurettes, the first called Celling Out: A Look at Cell Phones in Today's Culture. The second featurette, Dialing Up Cellular, details the making of the film. Lastly, Code of Silence: Inside the Rampart Scandal delves into the Rampart Scandal.

Catwoman

A film no one asked for, Catwoman stars Halle Berry wearing an unrealistic costume with ridiculously unreasonable zippers flying from her cleavage. The woman who is Cat arrives on DVD in hipper than hip fashion. The DVD features what Warner has labeled an "exciting alternate ending" for the disc, five additional scenes and two "tempting" documentaries — The Many Faces of Catwoman profiles the evolution of the Feline Fatale's look, style and portrayers through the years, and the other is behind-the-scenes tour with the cast and creators. The DVD also includes the laughable theatrical trailer.

Rosenstrasse

We wrote about this excellent German war drama when it played in theaters for a scant week late last year. Nobody really cared then, but now's your chance to see it at home. Unfortunately, there are no extras aside from a trailer, but the film is definitely worth a rental.
MOVIE TIMES
FROM 16

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG)
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou (R)
7:40 10:30
Meet the Fockers (PG-13)
12:20 1:40 4:00 7:20 9:40 10:00 12:20
National Treasure (PG)
12:00 1:40 4:00 6:40 9:40 10:00
Ocean's Twelve (PG-13)
12:20 3:40 7:10 9:40 12:40
Racing Stripes (PG)
12:30 2:50 5:30 7:50 10:30
Spanglish (PG-13)
12:30 4:00 6:30 9:00 12:00
White Noise (PG-13)
12:40 4:10 7:10 10:10 12:40

REGAL WINTER PARK
510 N. ORLANDO AVE., 407-628-0763
Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)
12:30 1:40 2:50 5:00 7:20 9:40 10:00 12:30

Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)
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LOEWS UNIVERSAL CINEMAX
000 UNIVERSAL BLVD., 407-354-3374
Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)
12:30 1:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
The Aviator (PG-13)
1:00 4:30 7:30
Blade: Trinity (R)
12:35 5:40 10:35

IT BEGINS ON THE STREETS.
IT ENDS HERE.
Now presenting the indie film critics’
Top 10 for ‘04
Mad puppets, sad musicians, rad killers and more

Everybody’s doing their year-end top tens, so we must also. We polled the indie’s five crochettiest critics for their personal top tens, pooled them all together and created this universal top 10. Check underneath the countdown for each writer’s individual list, as well as our collective 10 “worst” list.

10. The Saddest Music in the World
If Dogville is the year’s best example of extracting the artificial representation we’re used to in cinema, then The Saddest Music in the World is its polar opposite; director Guy Maddin creates a surreal dreamworld with a bona fide fairytale story. The tower-like use of a Vaseline-greased lens enhance the picture’s decidedly vintage feel. If for nothing else, watch it for the global sadness competition that gives the film its title. The idea of sadness as a tangible property is one the film’s many intriguing ideas.
— JOHN THOMASON

9. Before Sunset
Richard Linklater has always excelled at capturing universal moments. In Before Sunrise it was the bliss, excitement and spontaneity of young love; in Before Sunset it’s the point where naive romanticism has given away to harsh cynicism and the bitterness of aging. Not since the French New Wave has a director made as moving a film about the immeasurable power of memory — in this case, its ability to both comfort and depress simultaneously. As Jesse and Celine walk and talk for 80 minutes, we cherish the time we get to spend with them, as, like the characters themselves, we know it’s fleeting. The memory will be all that’s left.
— JOHN THOMASON

8. Kill Bill: Vol. II
Quentin Tarantino’s sequel, the second volume to the wildly popular cult film Kill Bill Vol. I, saw Uma Thurman through a slew of more cold-blooded killings, eventually landing among her beloved Bill, kiddo
revealed. The characters to meet their demise in this film included Michael Madsen’s Budd, a lazy and loathable Sidewinder, and a betrayed Pai Mei. Somehow more notable, however, is the sad departure of the lovely cycloptic Elle Driver (Daryl Hannah), in a classicly polite and gory way to go. Kill Bill Vol. II also featured another stellar soundtrack including Malcolm McLaren, Shivarre and Johnny Cash.
— GROMBAULK

7. Shaun of the Dead
Take the quirky British comedies of Richard Curtis, add the post-apocalyptic brain-sucking zombies of a George Romero flick with a dash of Guy Ritchie’s frantic camerawork and you might have a good indication of what Shaun of the Dead is. It’s not so much the juggling of genres that makes the film an instant no-guilt pleasure, but the faithfulness writer/director team Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright put into each scene. The movie is both horrifying and hilarious at the same time and never loses its natural charm. In a year where the original Dawn of the Dead gets remade into a stylized music video, filmmakers were still able to find a frightful, delightful bloodfest.
— MICHAEL LAWRENCE

6. Garden State
Zach Braff’s directorial debut Garden included two horny dogs, and amazingly both weren’t trying to copulate with Natalie Portman, who gives the finest performance of her career as a girl who lies and has seizures. Braff’s idiosyncratic script reminds one of the best films of Hal Ashby. Braff wears three hats in the film — writing directing and starring — and excels in each. He has created a powerful opus that somehow magically deals with heavy issues with a light hand. While this film might not end up on every top ten list or even have a hope for an Oscar nod, one can only hope it ensures Braff more work in Hollywood.
— BRETT RYAN DONOVAN

5. I Heart Huckabees
Who would have expected a film about existentialism, nihilism and the purpose of living could be so much pure cinematic fun? One of the year’s surprise delights, I Heart Huckabees kicks around weighty, bewildering concepts like a Nerf ball. The result is one of the best mergers of big thinking and big fun in many years.
— JOHN THOMASON

1 Heart Huckabees
I Heart Huckabees could have easily failed had it been placed in the hands of a sloppy creator. Fortunately, it was handed to David O. Russell, who managed to flawlessly match the nimble script with equally spry visuals. Easily one of the most fun films of 2004.
— MATT HEDGECOCK
When he was in the 5th grade, John Cadigan was voted “most popular, most athletic and most artistic.” In his senior year he was voted “most quiet.” And he had his first psychotic outbreak in college.

In *People Say I’m Crazy*, an amateur documentary produced by Cadigan and his sister Katie, Cadigan shares his life coping with schizophrenia and his gradual road to improvement. The brave, deeply personal examinations of Cadigan’s illness make *People Say I’m Crazy* a memorable film.

The story isn’t all gloom and doom, though. The film is filled with inspiring moments, particularly those involving John’s work with his beautiful, semi-abstract art prints. We share in his unbridled joy and enthusiasm as he speedily carves art into formerly blank pieces of wood.

We can also see the progression of John’s health and his return to semi-normalcy. At the start of the film he’s virtually a shut-in, but a few years later he gives an introductory speech for a mental illness art exhibition in the Capitol Building rotunda. Though it’s clear he still faces a long road ahead of him, the film gives hope for future improvements.

The strength of the films lies in the focus on the illness factor of schizophrenia. While Hollywood productions like *A Beautiful Mind* suggest that mental illness somehow elevates people’s minds to a higher plane, *People Say I’m Crazy* negates such talk. The intimacy of the story makes it clear that schizophrenia is not a gift.

However, the intimacy at times feels narrow-focused. There are times when the film could raise larger points about mental illness in society, such as when John works in a food closet for the homeless. Mental illness is a leading cause for homelessness in America, but the contrast of John, who has a family and home, and the people he serves isn’t touched upon. However, the intimacy is generally refreshing. *People Say I’m Crazy* is a touching and educational examination of one of society’s greatest unsolved problems. Documentaries have been in lousy quantity the past year, but here’s one that really stands out — in subject matter and quality.

*Opens tomorrow at D.MAC.*

(D)ocumentary provides voyeuristic look at arty schizophrenic

**MATT HEDGECOCK**
Staff Writer

Bespectacled schizophrenic John Cadigan gets way up close and personal in *People Say I’m Crazy*, a confessional and informative documentary.
Batman was a long time ago

Michael Keaton hits rock bottom in worthless thriller White Noise

JOHN THOMASON

It's hard to say who's more bored in your average screening of White Noise — the spectator watching the film or the picture's star, Michael Keaton. The actor, now 53 and showing it, is this predictable January clunker's only star power, and he all but sleepwalks through a role that is utterly below him. And this is coming from the star ofMultiplicity and Jack Frost, so that's saying something.

Keaton's character, architect Jonathan Rivers, spends the majority of the film staring at a fuzzy television screen, and the actor does little to make compelling this surprisingly inactive thriller. First-time film director Geoffrey Sax does the best he can, shooting the fuzz from every allowable angle and inserting crude CGI, a generic horror score and clumsy shock theatrics. At several points he simply creates supposedly jarring scares through the editing, which have no logic in the narrative.

While this atmosphere may send chills down the naive spines of teenybopper horror fans looking for cheap thrills, White Noise is yet another example of a great idea squandered for the sake of formula and comfort. A potentially deep and intriguing premise turns out to be woefully innocuous and as interesting as listening to ghost-less static on your AM band.

The movie, which begins with a fairly explicable scenario only to watch its plausibility ratio plummet with every passing minute, concerns the real-life EVP, or electronic voice phenomenon. Many believe the dead can still contact the living through mediums like radio static, and that recording the white noise and playing it back can be the first step in hearing from your lost love one.

It's a premise that can be played with harrowing realism or over-the-top kitsch, and this film goes neither route. Its story is set in idyllic suburban America, where Jonathan's wife Anna (Chandra West), a successful novelist, disappears for weeks until she is proclaimed dead. When a specialist in EVP intercepts a message from Anna from beyond the grave, he informs a skeptical Jonathan, who is in the midst of a visually banal grieving session that somehow feels both rushed and overlong in Sax's hands. After a few eerie coincidences in his home, Jonathan eventually succumbs to the man's claims and decides to check out his services.

Even when Jonathan's newfound obsession with EVP and the decoding of his wife's cryptic otherworldly messages dominate the film's second act, it doesn't lose its relative believability. It isn't until the film's final third that it becomes a ridiculous, unintentional farce. Apparently, just the fascinating idea of communicating with the dead wasn't enough to pull in that MTV demographic, so screenwriter Niall Johnson inserts a horror plot involving a serial killer whose victims can only communicate through the white noise, and it's up to Jonathan to come to their rescues. The film's "twist" ending involves a character so irrelevant to anything in the story that Sax even re-shows the character's only appearance to make sure we remember who the hell the person is.

White Noise is a film that's more clever in its opening stanzas than your typical run-of-the-mill mall-thriller but provides nothing for the discernable filmgoer. At best it merely insults his intelligence. But Keaton, not the spectator, is this wretched film's biggest casualty, as a once-revered actor has to be relegated to this.
Pixies reunion tour exceeded high expectations

played piano to a packed house, preceded by other talented UCF students: singer-songwriter-guitarist Adam Cohen, pianist Aiyana Caldwell, and first-time performer Rob Somers. The night continued with an outstanding acoustic set by the Heather Friedman Band, one of the last before their irreplaceable drummer Ramon Lopez moved to Japan.

7. Marc with a C, Natalie Weiss, Bucket of Nails, and Soft Rock Champion — Aug. 29; Austin's Coffeehouse, Winter Park
A release party for Mr. With a C and showcase for Celestial Bison Records, this was arguably the best local show of the year. Bucket of Nails, a team of two brothers with makeup, guitar pedals, and broken drumsticks in tow, played its first show ever. Natalie Weiss, the mastermind of the distinct Unicorns, played many of the band's tunes on keyboard and accordion. And Marc with a C, claiming he was playing amongst a dream line-up, wowed the crowd with his irresistible catchy ditties.

6. The Killers with The Zutons and Now It's Overhead — Nov. 22; House of Blues, Lake Buena Vista
After taping their Hard Rock Live sessions for MTV in Orlando last August, they sold out the Social and were forced to rock the House of Blues in November. Luckily, they were up to the task. Much of the crowd's reaction was also catalyzed by The Zutons, a genre-defying British band. The rockin' Brits danced, clapped, and harmonized the crowd into a frenzy, perfectly setting the stage for the oh-so danceable Killers. The one drawback to the evening was the first opening band. Now It's Overhead, making its rather unwelcome second appearance in town within five weeks.

5. The Orlando Philharmonic — Oct. 23; Bob Carr Performing Arts Center, Orlando
Never fear — any orchestra that pulls off Tchaikovsky's masterpiece of a Fourth Symphony will rock you more than you might expect. In October, for the official 2004-2005 season opener, the Orlando Phil proved itself to be more than competent with its performance of Tchaik IV. The evening also included pianist John Kimmin Parker, who graced the stage with a near flawless rendition of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1. Ask the many UCF music faculty members who performed in the concert and they'll tell you it was indeed a great beginning to the season.

4. stellastarr* with John Vanderslice, Ambulance and Will Johnson — March 24; the Social, Orlando
Despite critics labeling them as a lesser version of bands like Pulp, stellastarr* can really rock a crowd. After opening for The Raveonettes last year at the Social, the group triumphantly returned as headliners, and their energy jolted their audience. The crowd was not as appreciative of Vanderslice and the other openers, who were poorly matched with the danceably driven headliners. When stellastarr* hit the stage, however, the Social's patrons made their appreciation clear. Aside from great music from a great band, this show had one of the best crowds of the year.

3. The Magnetic Fields with Darren Hanlon — Dec. 9; Annie Russell Theatre, Winter Park
It could be argued that the songs of Stephen Malkmus are comparable to the likes of Cole Porter's. Thus, the red-velvet-covered seats of the Annie Russell Theatre were the best for the band's back-to-back shows on one December night. Unfortunately, only the first of the two shows makes the cut, because the set lists were nearly identical - same songs, same order. This left a bad taste in the mouths of some audience members, but it was remedied by the sweetness of Darren Hanlon, by far the year's best opening act. An Australian singer-songwriter, he needed only a banjo and an acoustic guitar with an old, twangy, wonderful timbre to wow the audience.

2. The Pixies with The Thrills — Oct. 10; Hard Rock Live, Orlando
Despite high ticket prices, this show sold out rather quickly. And rightly so. On their reunion tour, The Pixies may have physically rocked Hard Rock harder than it had ever been rocked before. The legendary "alternative" band was in its finest form. Aside from putting on a hit parade, they also showed off their own musicianship and experimental nature. The audience was less enthusiastic for The Thrills, but the crowd was won over when the Irish band's lead singer Conor Deasy explained that one of their songs was written to sound like Belle and Sebastian meets the E-Street Band.

1. The Mountain Goats and John Vanderslice with Sugar Oaks — Oct. 15; the Social, Orlando
So the first opening band was completely forgettable. It was the only part of the night that was such. Much like They Might Be Giants, this line-up was a Tale of Two Johns — Darnielle of The Mountain Goats and Vanderslice. The energy transmitted by these two really made the evening happen. For lo-fi indie rockers, Darnielle and Vanderslice both have amazing stage presence and know how to get a crowd jumping. Whether acoustic or electric, these guys have outstanding onstage chemistry, resulting in a near-perfect night of indie rock sing-along fun.

The Killers topped their killer MTV taping at Hard Rock Live early in 2003 with an even more stellar show in November.
Plotkin PRKs his ass
Local hipster Danger Dave Plotkin ready to break world radio record

PAULA FERGUSON
Staff Writer

On a Friday night in mid-February of 2004, all hell broke loose at Kinko's on Aloma Avenue — compliments of Dave Plotkin.
Black sheets of paper had been plastered onto the copy shop's expansive windows, concealing from curious onlookers the madness that brewed inside. Meanwhile, at 1 a.m. sharp, roughly 60 raucous teenagers and music aficionados awaited the punk performance of Martian Death Ray. Cardboard robots grooved amid copiers and fax machines, clenching bubble-spewing pistols. Their bellies read: "We can dance if we want to," and "Karate can't stop my body." Security cameras had been swallowed whole by carefully draped garbage bags, and two attendees guarded Kinko's main entrance. A swarm of cops would arrive any second now.
The rebellious Vigilante Bum-Rush, quite possibly the most bizarre and mildly illegal concert in all of Orlando's time, was in full effect.
"My boss at the time had $500 on hold for me as bail in case I went to jail," UCF alumnus Plotkin, responsible for organizing the wacky event, reminisced with a smile and a zestful tone of voice. "It was fun — the craziest thing I ever did."
But perhaps not crazy enough for Plotkin, who strives to surpass even his most extreme schemes. Some know the 25-year-
4. Team America: World Police
In the same year Janet Jackson caused the country to have an outrage of puritanical proportions, nihilist filmmakers Trey Parker and Matt Stone successfully created the most offensive and funniest movie in years. Team America is not a film you hate, but rather one most audiences "won't get." If you complain about seeing the puppets' strings or whine about the vomiting scene being too long, the film wasn't intended for you. However, if you like viciously laughing at any and everything that's wrong with the world, this is your film.

— Michael Lawrence

3. Dogville
Lars von Trier's theatrical and biblically themed play on group dynamics, Dogville, is, undoubtedly, one of 2004's most widely overlooked films. Set on a remote and mostly dark soundstage, Dogville tells the tale of Grace (Nicole Kidman), a mobster's daughter fleeing the din and corruption of a metropolitan existence, only to experience an even darker vein of human nature amongst the hushed and hypocritical emptiness of small-town Colorado's Dogville. Perfectly ice-sculpted performances from Hollywood legend Lauren Bacall and indie ingénue Chloe Sevigny are complemented by a flawless Kidman as the weak and compliant Grace. Dogville runs just shy of three hours, but do not even think about ducking out early, as von Trier's ending may redefine catharsis in film for future works.

— Geno Mehalik

2. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is a film that debuted in the atres a short time after last year's Oscars and ironically has stuck in the minds of everyone who saw it. A film about love, a film about memory, a story about the mind and the soul, Eternal Sunshine is a film that got everything right. Strong writing, visual directing and a cast in sync with the material, Eternal Sunshine feels like less of a film and more like the reading of a letter from a long lost love. Each moment is precious and one never wants it to end.

— Brett Ryan Bonowitz

1. The Aviator
Martin Scorsese delivers a sheer haymaker of a film that's every bit as fascinating and ambitious as its main character. The Aviator is a culmination of Scorsese's career and showcases every talent he learned from each previous film - from New York, New York to GoodFellas. In doing so he creates a wondrous vision of America and the changes it experienced in the first half of the 20th Century.

Even more of a revelation is Leonardo DiCaprio as Howard Hughes. All of the naysayers who dismissed him as a mere pretty boy have now eaten those words. An absolutely masterwork performance.

— Matt Hedgecock

Worst Films of the Year:
10. Saw
9. Open Water
8. The Ladykillers
7. A Slepping Down Life
6. Van Helsing
5. Jersey Girl
4. The Day After Tomorrow
3. C Flagwoman
2. Exorcist: The Beginning
1. Alexander

— The Indie Movie Critics
Our top ten shows of 2004

From pub-rock and hip-hop to lo-fi pop and the Philharmonic

EMILY JANE SCOTT
Staff Writer

One might say that 2004 was not a great year in terms of concerts around town — especially if you were short on cash or transportation. The three Vote for Change shows that came close to here were all up to $70 in admission. And to see either The Cure or Morrissey, you had to travel to West Palm, Tampa, or Miami. However, if you knew where to look, there were plenty of amazing concerts in Orlando last year. If you didn't know where to look, take a hint — read the indie more this year.

10. Sage Francis with Grand Buffet and Mack Lethal — Feb. 16; Back Booth, Orlando
Aside from some problems with the sound system at Back Booth, this show was excellent. After two outstanding opening acts, Sage Francis proved that hip-hop can serve more as poetry than club tracks and gangsta rhythms. From comparing lovemaking to music making with rapturous metaphorical skill to singing of hanging himself at half-mast in "Makeshift Patriot," Francis captured his audience that night.

9. Flogging Molly with Throw Rag — March 26; House of Blues, Lake Buena Vista
The guy from Throw Rag who wore a washboard and played it with spoons wins the award for most fun had by a musical performer in Orlando in 2004. He happily jammed on his washboard and continually lost clothing while the packed crowd went nuts. The moshing built throughout the night and exploded as the well-known Flogging Molly hit the stage. Apparently the tin-whistle blowing, fiddling, Irish pub-rockers loved playing in Orlando — they were back with the Warped Tour and again with their own show at the House of Blues in September.

8. Gina Riggio, Adam Cohen, Aiyana Caldwell, and Rob Somers, followed by the Heather Friedman Band — Aug. 28; Natura, Orlando
Local gig-goers know one thing about Natura — there's no better place to see a local show. One of the best shows there this year was made special with a homecoming for former UCF student and musician Gina Riggio. She

Please see PIXIES on 113
Local and national celebs help out Dave

FROM 114

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WPRK
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World Records, knocking the spotlight off

temper," said Plotkin, a political science
graduate and the former editor of The
Independent Journal.

Furthermore, according to Plotkin, the
marathon will be "about as long as watch­ing
all three Lord of the Rings films 12
times in a row, listening to all six Radio­
head albums 22 times and driving to New
York and back five times."

By now, one might be uttering, "Geez."
So from 9 a.m. Monday to 11 p.m. Jan. 21,
Plotkin, chairman of WPRK's advisory
board, will be ensnared within the under­
ground confines of the Rollins College
9L5 FM radio station — heavily lack­ing snooze time, daylight and all sanity.

If all goes as scheduled, the DJ will go
down in history, book-marking himself a
prestigious spot in the Guinness Book of
World Records, knocking the spotlight off
the current 105-hour, Swiss-set record and most importantly, raising a
meaty sum of money for much-needed
station improvements.

"I want to help out the station a great
deal," said Plotkin, who first DJ'ed on
WPRK at the age of 14. "The station runs
on a $30,000 to $35,000 salary. I want to
show Rollins they're not giving enough
money to the station. This will hopefully
make us 10 to 15 grand."

With the combined help of hungry lis­
teners and corporate sponsorships,
money will be pledged every hour, refuel­
ing Plotkin with the drive to finish the
monstrous marathon. Contributions can be
made at http://www.110hours.org, the
marathon's official site, to help make his
five-day endeavor of exhaustion more
bearable.

But in order to cross the prized 110-
hour-away finish line, Plotkin must first
adhere to a grueling list of rules.

One such requirement is that a
15-minute break be taken after every eight
hours of solid, live broadcasting. And you
best believe Plotkin, who claims he "likes
being very clean," has plotted a way to
maintain his hygiene throughout the
entire 110-hour talkfest without wasting
those treasured chunks of break time.

The winning plan, he described in a
black T-shirt and blue jeans, is to shower
while still on the air.

"We're building a shower," he said, an
expression of sheer enthusiasm gleaming
past his five o'clock shadow. "It's a special
shower because it'll have boom micro­
phones in it so I can continue speaking
during the shower. It doesn't count as my
break."

Thanks to Vanson Enterprises Inc. — a
general construction company — and a
lengthy, plastic tube designed to drain
shower water into a nearby toilet,
Plotkin's desire to stay fresh and clean will
be fulfilled.

"There's so much to this," he said.
"Like, I'll be in the shower reading. This
hot, wonderful shower is brought to you
by Vanson construction and Orlando
Weekly."

Meanwhile, a trusty nurse will be intro­
duced every four hours to watch over the
fatigued Plotkin. According to WPRK, the
vigilant healthcare professionals' sworn
duty "is to be present and certify that
Dave is alive."

The icy grip of death is an almost
laughable possibility, but it should come
as no surprise that Plotkin — a map with
a plan — has foreseen this event in

case, to avoid the morbid tragedy. For
three days each week, he's subjected him­
self to an intense boot-camp session led
by former Navy SEAL trainer Rick
Stafford to prepare for the brutal
marathon. A determined Plotkin has
forced himself from bewitched warm sheets to
meet with Stafford every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 a.m., ren­
lishing hours of slumber to pump it up.

"He's been a trooper so far," Stafford,
who's worked with the Navy SEALs
and the FBI, said. "He's learned about 88
different exercises. Every day is different. It's
never the same day twice."

Come Monday, an approximately 20-
pound leaner Plotkin will hopefully be
in peak physical condition, fully prepared
and pumped to slay the 110-hour beast
that awaits him.

But the fun doesn't stop here. Addition­
al marathon highlights will include the
live performances of more than 30 bands
and dozens of special guests like Orlando
Weekly columnist Billy Manes and
Republican National Committee
Chairman Ed Gillespie.

Matt Kamm, frontman for the indie
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time pals, will help liven up the
driving to New
York and back five times.

In that case, thank God Dave Plotkin
— or, "Danger Dave," as they call him — is
a risk taker. The heroic fellow awaits his
6,000-minute challenge with an eager
spirit and endless enthusiasm. He counts
the days until he can call himself an offi­
cial insomniac, and he'll cherish every
second of airtime as if it were a delectable
vegetarian burrito. A creature this deter­
mined simply can't lose.

Meanwhile, an inopportune Swiss man
will solemnly prepare to hand over his
once record-setting title. Stay tuned.
LIFE

Hold on, as 2005 has arrived

Why not take a look into the future from in between the folds of the Future?

DIANNA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

With the new year upon us, anyone can reminisce about the year that was. Entertainment rags the all over the nation have been filled with “Best of” lists for 2004 (including this one even), but the prognosticators here would like to go farther than that, with a little thing called “Best of 2005.” Here, then, some predictions for the zaniest happenings of the upcoming year.

January and February

Scientists announce that, despite the predictions of early models, there’s a chance that an asteroid will NOT hit Earth in 2029. While many people are pleased at the news, some express disappointment.

Charles Lam of Good Times Calendars: “We have about 13,000 of our ‘You Only Have 9125 Days to Properly Repent’ calendars left. Do you have any idea how much it costs to make a calendar with almost 10,000 sheets of paper in it? A lot. They couldn’t have waited to announce this until we sold more?”

Keanu Reeves, who was told he’d win an Oscar as soon as the world ended, will now be free that night for performances.

Perhaps most upset is the Bush Administration, whose Social Security Plan is, of course, based on the assumption that civilization will end in 24 years, and anyone who deserves more money will have already been taken into heaven.

March

ABC’s latest reality show, “Who Wants to Have Brad’s Babies?” receives record ratings. In the shocking finale, George Clooney barely edges out Gwyneth Paltrow for the chance to mother Pitt’s children. It will be revealed that Clooney’s close victory was due to Paltrow’s insistence on naming the baby “Peach.”

June

Britney Spears shocks the world by announcing her divorce from What’s His Face McLameGuy.

A few days later: Britney Spears shocks the world by announcing her engagement to some dude she met at an Arby’s. The next day, Spears receives a phone call from Elizabeth Taylor, who’s around in “stealth” to show a little more respect for the sacred vows of marriage. “Slow down, darling, and just stick to one damn husband already,” is said to be the advice doled out by the inebriated Taylor.

July

Diff’rent Strokes and Knock Knock Jokes, the latest offshoots from The Strokes, fails to sell more than 1,000 copies when the entire world suddenly realizes just how hard they suck.

August

The Passion of the Accountant — Mel Gibson’s epic tale of April 15 in the eyes of one man (and shot only in accurate 1040bse) — earns $1/40 million at the box office. Critics, however, agree that the movie doesn’t pack the emotional punch of Gibson’s first six passion films. Come Oscar-time, Accountant is only recognized in the costume and editing categories, disappointing the movie’s more rabid fans.

October

After being told that “Jesus” is not a valid nomination to the Supreme Court, the President huffily replies, “All right, fine ... that guy who played ‘im.”

November

Jim Caviezel’s bid to become a Supreme Court justice ends in a landslide victory by the Senate.

A disappointing month for Bush continues when his attempt to replace the Bill of Rights with the Ten Commandments fails. A crazed Ann Coulter is quoted as saying, “This is the work of Marxist, Socialist, anti-American homosexuals, and I won’t stand for it! Damn you! Damn you all!” before wielding a plastic lightsaber and running across the border to invade Canada.

December

Good taste prevails. “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus,” “Feliz Navidad,” and “The Little Drummer Boy” are pulled from radio stations’ holiday playlists once scientists reveal that the three tunes actually kill the brain cells of any person unfortunate enough to hear them. Many express disbelief at the findings. But those of us who have ever cringed while inadvertently stumbling upon the songs in a department store elevator can be found muttering, “I could have told you that,” to anyone who will listen.

There it is, folks. The goings-on of 2005. It’s going to be a doozy.

BLEEPS & BLOOPS

A Half-Life mod that’s not Counter-Strike

Action Half-Life comes back in a new director’s cut

IVAN VELEZ
Staff Writer

The visuals scream seven-year-old technology. Exceedingly simple architecture defines the game’s world. But the quirky, spastic gameplay in Action Half-Life: Director’s Cut has aged gracefully.

The Action brand originally began back in 1997, just as the game modification began to grow in popularity, particularly in the Quake series. No professionals and no funding — just a handful of hardcore gamers later dubbed Akimbo Team Productions wanting to create their own games. Their goal was to transform popular sci-fi first person shooters such as Quake 2, Half-Life and Unreal Tournament into multiplayer virtual action movies.

Action Half-Life was the sophomore attempt at creating this dream. Originally released in 1999, AHL refined the Action brand of gameplay and added John Woo-style diving. More than just a mere gimmick, diving drastically changed the way the game was played.

A poorly executed dive could leave a player a sitting duck, pinned to the ground. A well-executed dive could mean the difference between escaping with a near hit and receiving a fatal wound.

Accessories allowed players to be anything from a Kevlar-wearing tank raining death with an assault rifle to a silent assassin prancing around in “stealth slippers” and throwing quiet, lethal daggers through the air.

The variety of equipment combinations and balance between the weapons (for example, sniper rifles dominated over long distances while shotguns easily controlled close quarters) provided for surprisingly deep battles.

AHL’s lack of “ultimate” weapons prevented the redundancy of games such as Counter-Strike (a mod that started up...
LIFE

It’s Doom and Doomer

The villainous Dr. Doom on his new anthology

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

No one rivals Doom! With my ingenious cunning and mastery of both the dark arts and the wondrous worlds of science, I, Victor Von Doom, sovereign supreme of Latveria, stand high above the shoulders off all other potential world conquerors. Witness some of my exploits that occurred during that hedonistic decade of the ’70s in the trade paperback Essential Super-Villain Team-Up.

Such were the days when I was still in the beginning stages of my sinister career. It is only because of my inexperience that I allow those vile miscreants at Marvel to recount some of my early mistakes without incurring my full wrath in the process. ’Tis better that Doom studies his follies so that he may learn and grow in future endeavors.

Much of this volume recalls the days in which I was naïve enough to believe that I may be in need of ally. Who better, thought I, than the Atlantean king Namor, the Sub-Mariner. Only his savage strength and cunning would be enough to lay waste to that accursed Reed Richards and his quarreling quartet, the Fantastic Four. But alas, I was wrong, for Namor showed signs of weakness, such as compassion and humility. Doom has no room for such frivolous ideas as these, or the men who would waste their lives associating with them. I believed I could sway him to my side and conquer the world, slicing up the globe as we see fit, but it was not to be. Perhaps it truly is as I have always felt it within the heart that lies beneath this suit of armor: Doctor Doom must rule alone!

Namor was at least respectable in comparison to the other insolent curs I cross paths with in this voluminous volume. None raise ire in me (Save the buffoonish Richards) like the Red Skull, who dared invade my homeland on two occasions, tasting defeat at my hands each time. One who believed he had felled me is the Shroud, a second-rate Daredevil who tried disposing of me as a means of gaining a reputation among the idiots in the superhero community. Did he not learn from his peers that all efforts are vaunted when it comes to ridding the Earth of Doom? ’Twas easier said than done.

Perhaps my most glorious moment captured in this series was when I ensnared every mind the world to do my bidding under the auspices of my hypno-gas. The world and all of its inhabitants were under my complete control!! Can Apocalypse or Baron Zemo boast of such an accomplishment? I think not. Only Magneto and the Champions were able to stop me, but only because I allowed them free will to challenge me. There must be weight to my victory, which will come soon thanks to all my knowledge.

One thing I didn’t like about viewing my memories was the inconsistency in my appearance and character. There were far too many one-time writers and artists depicting me, making my adventures seem inconsistent from one issue of them to the next. Marvel even thought it fit to allow that stupid sibling of Stan Lee, Larry Leiber (the worst case of nepotism this side of those whorish Hiltons) tell of my stories. Such a disgrace shall not go unpunished. All of Marvel will die. After I re-read my adventures again, Doom can’t get enough of Doom.

Get more Action out of your old copy of Half-Life

From 1/6

around the same time as AHL, but reached astronomical success) and other similar “realistic” games that usually degenerate into my-gun-is-bigger-than-your-gun.

So why have you never heard of Action Half-Life before?

A string of catastrophic bugs triggered by “patches” for Half-Life that it drowned in the sea of wannabe success stories that rippled in Counter-Strike’s wake.

Action’s window of opportunity was boarded up. A game that had been proudly displayed in magazines in the past was now fading away into obscurity.

But as of Jan. 3, a group of loyal fans has officially unveiled the work it’s been secretly pumping into AHL. The Ministry of Action has revived AHL but has no delusions about where it’s at.

The fans recognize that the opportunity to make the game a mainstream success is long gone; they just wish to return it to its glory days and tweak problems left long unresolved.

And with a small but loyal fanbase supporting them, Action’s time might not be up anytime soon.

If you or someone you know has a copy of Half-Life just sitting around, consider reinstalling it and checking out the version of AHL at: http://www.ministry-offaction.net.
RAMBLINGS

THE GEEK LIFE

Geek life: Customer disservice
A need for money drives our resident geek to tech support

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

So it's happened again. I have trapped myself in the cubicle hellworld of technical support. In the new year, I have found myself on the short end of the broke stick, with my wallet gathering cobwebs where money should be. My very enjoyable road trip, as well as my mounting student loan payments and those damned credit demons chasing me down, sapped me of anything even remotely green.

Here I was, at 24, stuck in my old room, staring at the same four walls, in the same room I spent my high school years brooding in. All I could do was fantasize about that gorgeous city on the bay, that dream city of San Francisco. But if I had any hope of moving there anytime in the next year, it would take much more than mere candy-coated Technicolor fantasies. And here I was with nary a sixpence to my name. Therefore, as 2005 rolled in, I could see only cash signs floating in my head as I dreamed of the day I would be able to buy a burrito whenever I damn well pleased.

It had been awhile, I am sad to say. So, I gave in to my darkest fears and desires. I got a real job. An office job. It's the kind of nightmare meat hook reality lifestyle whose very possibility sometimes keeps me awake and screaming in the dead of night.

You see, I have lived this life before. I have stepped into the

CRAZED INDIE ROBOT

DIANNA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

Here we go: My favorite movies, TV shows and music of 2004.

Movies
Favorite Movie of the Year: Shaun of the Dead. Loved it. Nothing else I've seen this year comes close.

Movies That Get 3 Shauns out of a Possible 4: The Incredibles, Miracle, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.

Best Ben Stiller Movie of 2004: Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story. With characters named Patches O'Houlihan and Steve the Pirate, how can you go wrong?

Worst Ben Stiller Movie of 2004: Along Came Polly.


Best Ben Stiller Cameo Appearance of 2004: Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy. "Como estas, beetches?"

Movie That Gave Me Motion Sickness: The Bourne Supremacy.

Separating the Wheat from the Chaff Award: (He) My Baby's Daddy and Chasing Liberty, for being the sacrificial movie lamb of early January.

The West Side Story Award for Most Effeminate Street Gangs goes to: You Got Served.

A look back:
And the Robot award goes to ...

N/A

CANCELLED, thank God

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

As of Friday, I will be 22 years old. Birthdays always scare me, since I usually spend them re-evaluating my entire life. This year though, I've decided to do something a bit different and embrace this new year of life for me by revealing the deaths of many primetime network shows that were cancelled last year. Perhaps knowing I'll survive another year while Ben and Red won't give me the comfort I'm looking for. Shows are put in the order of time they were cancelled starting, with the earliest. Since so many shows were cancelled and I'm limited on space, consider this a "to be continued" column.

Lyon's Den, NBC — Between this and Dr. Vegas, Rob Lowe has plenty of reasons to kick himself in the ass for leaving The West Wing. Having two shows cancelled in one year is quite the accomplishment. I think we've found someone to give Ted McGinley a run for his money. Lowe's shows die before they even make it big.

A Minute with Slim Hooper, FOX — How ironic that this Norm MacDonald sitcom didn't even last the minute mentioned in the title. Zing!

Friends, NBC — Good riddance to this unfunny garbage that has spawned too many spin-offs and one too many spin-offs (yes, one is more than enough).

Jake 2.0, UPN — In attempt to ride the waves of its Star Trek franchises, and carve a niche for itself, UPN has had its share of sci-fi fodder that usually doesn't last long. Black sitcoms, wrestling and sci-fi? Now that sounds like a successful template for a network to me!

Frasier, NBC — A simple cheer's will do.

Kingdom Hospital, ABC — Stephen King is the kind of name you build a mini-series around, not an entire show. Doomed from the start.

Wonderfalls, FOX — It was a quirky little show with a strong fan base that simply wasn't enough to keep the show afloat. I heard nothing but good things, so it was sad to see it go before I had a chance to watch it. I don't think Fox's habit of cancelling good shows infuriates me quite as much as their habit of keeping crap on the air.

Century City, CBS — A law show set in the future is a bit too high-concept for viewers to take in on any network, even this ratings juggernaut. I'll give credit where credit is due and respect this show for doing something CBS rarely does: Take a risk.

Cracking Up, Fox — Considering the tal-

Please see CURTAIN on 199

Please see ON 199
Could you be this man's Tinkerbell?

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

The beginning of spring classes signals the dawn of a new semester, ending the annual fortnight of post-holiday video-game binging enjoyed by nerdfolk everywhere. As everyone returns, connection speeds around campus have once-again slumped down from "godly" to "acceptable."

But since my head's been in video games for the past few weeks instead of following Internet culture, it's time for another issue of old links. In the usual style, if you haven't already seen these classics, you may already be a newbie.

Peter Pan’s Pixyland
http://www.pixyland.com/peterpan

A rather large portion of the Internet's celebrities are celebrities out of infamy. This one, a 50-year-old dude from Tampa, is definitely one of them. Why? He wants to be Peter Pan, going everywhere prancing about in tights and playing the role as much as possible. For whatever reason, he decided to make a homepage celebrating himself and his obsession. Since its inception, the link's been passed around for years, generally with a tagline like "Oh man, check this loser out!" The site itself contains photo galleries of its proprietor, fashion tips, his experiences being on various TV shows, his personal religious philosophies, and even a page detailing what he wants in his ideal "Tinkerbell" woman. What are you waiting for, ladies?

Welcome to my home page! Kiss you!!!
http://www.ikissyou.org/

Here's another personal homepage. This one belongs to everyone's favorite lovable Turkish man, Mahir Cagri. In 1999, he put up his original page, now available at http://www.ikissyou.org/index2.htm. Featuring photos of Mahir in various locales, it includes choice quotes as "Welcome to my home page. I kiss you," "Who is want to come TURKEY I can invite," "She can stay my home," and "I like sex." As in most of these stories, his site unexpectedly became a success. In fact, it became so popular that the Guinness folks acknowledged it as the most visited personal home page of 1999. Perhaps even more insane is that Forbes ranked Mahir among the world's top 100 celebrities.

Off the air: the below

FROM 118

Most Disappointing Movie That I've Seen Three Times: Troy. The movie was awful. The direction was terrible and the music was so irritating that I was tempted to go on a rampage just to find that woman and stop her from ever moaning on another soundtrack again. Aside from Sean Bean, Eric Bana and Peter O'Toole, the performances were almost uniformly abysmal. And yet ... I've watched it three times. Why? Brad Pitt, Eric Bana, Sean Bean and Orlando Bloom in right clothing. Well, and Peter O'Toole, but only because he's an awesome actor, not for any tight clothing. Damn you, Hollywood, for casting such fine men in such a terrible movie!

Cutest Movie, Even If the Music is Off By About Five Years: L3 Going on 30.

Funnier Than It Looked: Mean Girls.

More Serious Than It Looked: The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou.

Least Surprising Twist Ending: The Village. I think Shyamalan is an extremely talented director but a hack as a writer. I'd love to see him direct someone else's screenplay. Anyone else's. Please.

He can paint wonderfully vivid scenes with his camera, but he's held prisoner by his incessant need to constantly pull a fast one on the audience. What started out as a gimmick has turned into an unfortunate crutch and, like Brian De Palma before him, Shyamalan wants so desperately to be Hitchcock he can't see how any film universe could exist outside of that realm.

Worst Movie I've Seen: Resident Evil: Apocalypse. Not entertaining for even a second.

TV
The Best, Most [expletive]-elated Show on Television: Deadwood.

Bow Down to the Genius of Ron Howard Award: Arrested Development. Thank you, Ron, for being the executive producer of a show as brilliantly hilarious as this one.


Favorite Smackdown of an Annoying, Know-Nothing Pundit: Jon Stewart on Crossfire.

Hail, Jon Stewart!

Best Programming Move By CNN in the Last Five Years: Liquidating Crossfire. So technically, it happened in 2005, but the news continues to make me giddy. So long, Tucker Carlson!

Best Christmas Special: South Park's "Woodland Critter Christmas." Hail, Satani
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