Senator chief declines bid for top role

Sean Lavin decides not to throw his hat in ring

KATE HOWELL
Senior Staff Writer

Bryan Council, a Student Government Association official, faces no immediate charges of malfeasance following an SGA Senate committee's decision to throw out an affidavit alleged that Council violated the University of Central Florida's Student Judicial Rules Committee's decision to throw out an affidavit that accused him of wrongdoing.

In a 5-3 vote, the Senate's Legislative and Judicial Affairs Committee voted today that an affidavit filed against Council, who was expected to run for student body president, by former colleague Winkler, should be dismissed.

The affidavit alleged that Council violated the Student Judicial Rules Committee's decision to throw out an affidavit that accused him of wrongdoing.

In a statement to the students, Lavin, who was expected to run as a candidate for the United UCF party, said, "Despite the outpouring of support and encouragement from my friends and colleagues, I have decided I cannot abandon my responsibilities to the Senate that I have come to love."

The speaker's decision not to run has united UCF — one of the three major political parties at UCF — looking for another candidate to endorse for the top Senate position with the three-day window for filing candidacy opening tomorrow.

"If Sean ran for president, he could do an amazing job, but he does have a responsibility to the UCF student body and to the Senate's role as speaker," Arts and Science's Sen. Darrah Winkler said.

Lavin explained the additional housing available for upperclassmen with the opportunity to move into a place on campus will allow them to use their creative skills to full potential and will thoroughly prepare them for an actual job with a gaming company.

"Our goal is that 100 percent of students will be employed by graduation," Mossholt said.

The Orlando City Council decided last month to lease the former Downtown Expo Centre, hope of the UCF, formerly known as the Downtown Expo Centre, to UCF for a year for the next 40 years.

Although the Expo Centre is not completely renovated, it already has received four grants from the UCF School of Film and Digital Media who began their first semester visual language program this month.
Video-gaming academy joins two similar U.S. institutions

TRACY BROWN

The Student Health Advisory Council of UCF is seeking new members at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Campus Wellness Center classroom. For more information, contact Brian Burkart at 407-823-4910.

Only students in the nation have familiar programs to the FIEA. Carnegie-Mellon in Pittsburgh and the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. State and local officials hope the academy, which received a $4.2 million grant from the Florida Legislature, will convince EA to increase job opportunities for the many game developers in the Central Florida area.

FIEA is the academy for those creative, innovative students with a four-year degree who are ready to go into the gaming world.

History reveals school's penchant for pretty faces

SHARON BERNHEIM

It may not have any colorful or self-impressed readers, but it is a student in the University of Central Florida, a young woman in the Library in the Week of Women's History Month. The screening is free to all students and faculty.

Let us know

The Future wants to hear from you! If you have a club, organization, event or need your information to be considered, send a fax to 407-823-3361. You can reach us at editor@ucfnews.com. Deadline is 6 p.m. for the Thursday edition and 5 p.m. Friday for the Monday edition.

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Winter weather shuts down high schools in Atlanta

On Thursday, the Southeastern Conference decided to cancel the Pac-12 games on Friday. The decision came after the NBA announced it would not play the game later. The Southeastern Conference was formed by 14 Southeastern Conference members.

The first issue of the Student Health Advisory Council was approved by the university professors. The professors will be given graduate certificates instead of master's degrees. Students who complete the programs will be given graduate certificates instead of master's degrees. Students who complete the programs will be given graduate certificates instead of master's degrees. Students who complete the programs will be given graduate certificates instead of master's degrees. Students who complete the programs will be given graduate certificates instead of master's degrees. Students who complete the programs will be given graduate certificates instead of master's degrees. Students who complete the programs will be given graduate certificates instead of master's degrees. Students who complete the programs will be given graduate certificates instead of master's degrees. Students who complete the programs will be given graduate certificates instead of master's degrees. Students who complete the programs will be given graduate certificates instead of master's degrees.

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Alabama sets stage to ban books for being too ‘gay’

Schools may drop taboo textbooks, plays from curriculum

GINA SCALON

State librarians in Alabama are proposing a bill to cut funding that would aid libraries and communities of books and plays with homosexual characters or themes. The bill is one of the first introduced to this year’s Alabama Legislature and could be discussed when the session begins Tuesday.

“The fact that this is taking place in Alabama makes this even more worrying, but I would hope that something like this could never happen,” said Peter Gergar, 25, the vice president of the UCF GSA Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union. “It makes me sick to my stomach.”

Alabama State Rep. Gerald Allen, who sponsored the state ban on gay marriage last year, but has the backing of President George W. Bush on the issue. He has already paid at least five visits to the White House where the two have discussed the bill in detail.

The proposal would ban the use of state funds to purchase any books or other materials that promote homosexuality or realism or present it as natural or normal.

During a press conference, Allen announced 4000 books that met the bill’s criteria, Allen, a Republican, said, “We dig a big hole and dump them in and burn them.”

This proposal may challenge the Bill of Rights — specifically the First Amendment — which allows freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Librarians are especially concerned with the proposal.

The Color Purple and Tennessee Williams’ Cat on a Hot Tin Roof will be seen as corruptions.

“If books — any books — are removed from the curriculum and libraries, then it makes changing people’s perceptions on sexuality more difficult,” said UCF English Associate Professor Martha Mardis, who teaches Queer and Lesbian Studies. “The best method for learning tolerance is through art, film and literature — it would make it even more difficult than it already is to disseminate my work.”

Some students expressed distaste at the proposal. “It’s absolutely ridiculous,” UCF theater manager Kelly Hould said. “It violates basic rights of the gay community and, more importantly, citizens of the United States... This isn’t a question of artistic or cultural value. It’s an attack on a large group of people, and it’s discrimination.”

If the bill passes, theater students like Hould would be restricted from performing certain materials. “You can’t just tell a theater student one day that he/she can’t do Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” Hould, 21.

Quizzed on where the line will be drawn, Allen said, “The current draft of the bill does not address how that is going to be handled. Literature like Shakespeare and Hamlet could be left alone.”

Larry Spalding, legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, said, “The ACLU is opposed to censorship in general. We particularly oppose censorship in centers of learning such as schools, public schools and universities.”

Others disagree with Allen’s intentions based on a similar在过去的一年，参议员胡德在参议院发言，讨论了性取向问题。

Some students are worried that this would seriously affect the educational process.

“Just off the theater major Giancarlo Damato said: “Whether this man likes it or not, homosexuality exists. Plays don’t necessarily glorify it, they’re just a part of reality that’s actually going on. And there’s a very small percentage of plays that even present it at all. They are exposed more on television and in the movies.”

Not all Republicans agree with the bill. “It’s a little bit extreme,” Chris Genensky, executive director of the UCF College Republicans said. “As a government we should not be limiting information that we view and read, students especially. If we can’t learn about the different people in society, then we can never accept them.”
Senator said his complaint should count more since he's in office.

"If we really want to do the right thing, we should bring this into new business and vote it down."

KATE HOWELL
Assistant editor

"Fiscally conservative" was the Senate's watchword Thursday as members cut a political action group's request for $3,000 and passed another bill allotting $1,000 for food at Senate meetings. It is highly unusual to not cut a bill's funding on the third reading. Nevertheless, this was the Senate's decision at a vote of 37-25, stating that the Senate did not think that the NORML budget was justified.

The reasoning behind the cut was a desire to reduce nonessential spending. Earlier in the meeting, Senate President Sean Homan said he wanted the senators to know that they would be out of money by the end of next month. He also wanted the senators to know that if they didn't cut this bill, they wouldn't have any money left. Senate Speaker Sean Levin, though concerned, said he was disappointed.

Despite the Senate decision, NORML is being served with legal action. The Senate's vote was the first step of this process, and the bill will be challenged in court. It is highly unusual to cut a bill's funding on the third reading. Nevertheless, this was the Senate's decision at a vote of 37-25, stating that the Senate did not think that the NORML budget was justified.

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A player and friend near the Memory Mall were dedicated to Mark Dogoli, a 1980 SGA vice president who had made the Student Senate. Dogoli died of cancer a year ago. Student officials have since dedicated a plaque and bench near the Memory Mall to Dogoli. Mark Dogoli was introduced to his friends at the Memory Mall, who had gathered the evening to remember him. The ceremony brought friends together, and Dogoli was honored for his work to bring the world together. His memory will live on through the student body. A plaque and bench will be dedicated to him, and the world will remember his contributions.

**Former SGA vice president remembered for his service**

MARK JUSTICE reporter

Students, faculty and alumni gathered Friday evening to pay tribute to the memory of former Student Government Association vice president Dr. Mark Dogoli, who died in his sleep one year ago at the age of 33.

Most UCF students have never heard of Dogoli, although arguably he did more for this campus than any other SGA official.

Dogoli is perhaps best known for working to make the Student Union a reality and lobbying the government to assure that UCF received the state funding it deserved. As an alumni, the Student Union would have been the last place he would have ever thought to go to.

The ceremony brought together old friends who went to Dogoli's passing, eager to celebrate the person he was. SGA Vice President Willie Bentley, Jr., SGA Senate Speaker Sean Levin and Senate President Pro Tempore Mark White joined them.

Levin presented the crowd with a resolution declaring Jan. 28 Mark Dogoli Day and referring to him as "an inspiration of excellence" and "one who rose to the highest levels of accomplishment."

In addition to his contributions to UCF, Dogoli continued his education to become a doctor, and would later serve in a top position at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Never one to be satisfied, Dogoli spent much of his career pursuing various parts of the world to bring them much needed medical care. Outside of his professional life, Dogoli was accomplished in many fields.

As part of the memorial, a plaque and bench at the Memory Mall was dedicated in Dogoli's honor, explaining it was not only a sacrifice for Dogoli, but also for the friends and family who were with him.

Serving on opposing sides of a divided SGA, current UCF students can relate to Dogoli and his struggle. Student officials have since dedicated a plaque and bench near the Memory Mall to Dogoli. Mark Dogoli was introduced to his friends at the Memory Mall, who had gathered the evening to remember him. The ceremony brought friends together, and Dogoli was honored for his work to bring the world together. His memory will live on through the student body. A plaque and bench will be dedicated to him, and the world will remember his contributions.

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Men end three-game losing streak with a 60-57 win over Belmont

**ANDY VASQUEZ**

Sometimes wins are ugly. But they'll win, ugly wins to the job, especially when they help kill a three-game losing streak.

Anthony Williams scored 10 points and grabbed 10 rebounds while the Knights' defense blocked two shots in the final eight seconds at UCF held on for a 60-57 victory on Saturday night at the UCF Arena.

The win ended the Knights' losing streak and moved UCF into a four-way tie for sixth place in the A-Sun.

A lack of consistency has defined the season thus far for the Knights, and this game was no exception. UCF lost a 10-point-second-half lead and allowed Belmont to stay in the game with some sloppy play in the final minutes.

Gary Johnson had two turnovers in the final 16:09, one of them leading to a Belmont lay-up that left UCF with a 6-6 final with four to play.

After two Johnson free throws, Belmont's Justin Hazen scored off the glass to bring the Bruins within in at 58-57. Johnson was fouled again, and again he made both free throws to extend the pointer into the seats, leaving the Bruins with only one of them leading to a Belmont lay-up that left UCF with a 6-6 final with four to play.

The Knights were forced to readjust their goals after a frustrating stretch, plagued by inconsistency, in which they lost three consecutive games and fell into a tie for ninth place.

The Knights then had their best defensive half all season long, wasn't .

JU sprinted to a quick 7-0 lead and got within eight at 56-48 on a jumper by guard Francine Houston at the 3:53 mark.

The Knights used a 12-2 to cut the margin down to 47-35 with 9:15 left, and got within eight at 56-48 on a jumper by guard Francine Houston at the 3:53 mark.

The Knights then had their best defensive half all season long, wasn't .

Women's streak ends at seven

Previously wireless Dolphins upset A-Sun's top defense

**MATT DUNAWAY**

The UCF women's basketball team dropped a 60-57 decision to Jacksonville on Saturday night at Swisher Gym. It was the first loss for the Knights (9-5, 10-2 A-Sun) in the past two years.

The Knights (16-4, 9-2 Atlantic) in conference play.

"Anybody you play on any given night can come out and beat you," Coach Gail Strieglar said. "I had us out and played a fantastic game when we took it up 20-80 minutes to really get going. Hopefully we can build from this point.

"It's still want things to come a little bit too easy.

The Knights decided to foul guard Rebecca Montz right away. She made one and missed the other, and UCF was down by one, with an :54 to play.

"Anybody you play on any given night can come out and beat you," Coach Gail Strieglar said. "I had us out and played a fantastic game when we took it up 20-80 minutes to really get going. Hopefully we can build from this point.

"We still want things to come a little bit too easy.

"God wasn't very pleased about that loss, and we didn't play UCF basketball tonight," Strieglar said.

U-G-L-Y, we ain't got no alibi. And Saturday's win was ugly

Every day that I drive to work I have to turn onto University from Atlanta and there's this little patch of road that's bumpy as hell. I always think, 'I can't stand it because it makes my car shake like a crack addict, and I have to roll over it at one mile an hour just so my Jeep doesn't explode.'

We all complain about it. I know everybody reading this right now is thinking, 'Sweet Jesus, he's freaking right as always.'

So is there a point to my story?

Probably not, but if I had to pick one it's this: I'd say that life is full of bumpy rides. No matter how good things are going we're bound to hit a rough, rough road.

That's what our men's basketball team hopefully just got over with an enormous emphasis on the word "hopefully." Losing one in a row is not easy for any team to overcome.

"It seemed like every time we had even ball, we'd lose it. Then all the way down and then clinched right back up and did it again. It seemed like every time we had even ball, we'd lose it. Then all the way down and then clinched right back up and did it again.

Just like breathing, life is a struggle and we all have to learn to live with it. Every day I drive to work I have to turn onto University from Atlanta and there's this little patch of road that's bumpy as hell. I always think, 'I can't stand it because it makes my car shake like a crack addict, and I have to roll over it at one mile an hour just so my Jeep doesn't explode.'

They were handing. Then it was this but then it was that and they were handing. And I can't stand it because it makes my car shake like a crack addict, and I have to roll over it at one mile an hour just so my Jeep doesn't explode. We all complain about it. I know everybody reading this right now is thinking, 'Sweet Jesus, he's freaking right as always.'

So is there a point to my story?

Probably not, but if I had to pick one it's this: I'd say that life is full of bumpy rides. No matter how good things are going we're bound to hit a rough, rough road.
Johnson leads men back from bad half

UCF COACH KIRK, January 31, 2003

Johnson leads men back from bad half

UCF COACH KIRK, January 31, 2003

Women still atop standings after loss to JU

UCF 70, Jacksonville 62

It was a night of free throws, and the Knights charged back on a 27-8 run over the final 12:06. Stetson's last second shot was blocked and closed the game out on a Florida Atlantic win on Wednesday night at the Edmunds Center.

UCF's defense was solid for a majority of the game, but offensively they struggled. The Knights were able to recover from a 10-point deficit in the first three minutes but came up just short.

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Tennis off to a slow start in 2005

Road unkind to both the men's and women's teams

History has a tendency to repeat itself...

Four days after the men's tennis team lost to the University of Miami, the women's tennis team lost to the Lady Gators by the same score.

"This team has an extraordinary amount of depth," Coach Frank Fortin Allison said prior to Thursday's match against No. 3 Florida. "We look forward to upsetting teams; it's going to be a dogfight.

Unfortunately for Allison's Knights, the Gators made their look like pipsqueaks, sweeping all three doubles matches and all six singles matches.

With the day's only bright spot, UCF sophomore Becky Gordon set an all-time high for UCF's Angela Frangulyan, who is ranked No. 74 in the nation, when she won the first set 6-3. Gordon dropped the second set 6-2, but rallied in the third set to take the match overall, giving the Knights a 4-2 victory.

UCF captains Kristen Lohman and Paulina Fernandez both lost when they took on Jennifer Murray (No. 1) in the nation, Lohman in the first set 6-1, and Fernandez in the second set 6-3.

Lohman and Fernandez as a duo gave the Gators more than they expected when they played the nation's No. 3 doubles team of Frangulyan and Whitney Schirmer, however the Knights' top doubles team fell 6-4.

Allison said prior to their match, "It's going to be a very, very tough match and we never say die." Allison said of her team, "It's not over yet. It's going to be a Boomers and Reds." The women's team next plays at 3 p.m. on Feb. 4 at the UCF Tennis Complex against Boomer and the Asians of the Auburn Tigers.

Men still seeking first win

After losing that one to the Gators, the UCF men's tennis team traveled to Alabama over the weekend looking to rebound.

Now, after losing to both Alabama and UAB, UCF would just settle for its first win in the spring.

Ranked No. 77 in the nation, Alabama (0-4) easily defeated the No. 98 Knights (0-3) 6-1 in the Cramp Hickie Indoor Facility.

"Things began badly for UCF when all three doubles losses fell to the Crimson Tide," said the team of Allen and Alabama's junior Marcus Yoon 6-3, 6-1 in the first position, which was the same score that the second doubles team of Davis and Lohman lost to the Crimson Tide.

In a close match-up, Lohman fell to the No. 3 player in the nation, Luigi Mattioli.

Junior Horr Gurney took on No. 92 Alabama's Jani Varkonyi, who made his first set 4-4, came back to win the second set 6-2, before finally losing 3-6 in the deciding set.

UCF's first point of the season finally came in the second set when Allison came from behind to return victory against Eddie Moller 2-6, 7-6, 6-4.

The Knights then Finding themselves 4-0 in the match after losing the first set 1-6 and 0-6 in the second set to UAB's Alan Mierlo.

The other three matches were suspended due to rain.

When asked about his team's goals, Coach Bobby Cashman said, "This is our chance to get a feel for which teams will be out of the way.

When another ref waived off that call, there was a sign from the bench area that read "For the love of God." The men's and women's tennis teams lost to the Lady Gators by the same score.

The UCF coaches are working the first round game of the A-Sun Tournament, so look for the website to have the results.

The Knights have been playing no matter how bad we were. We just can't win. We need to prove that our offense is just fine. The three needs to stop and the finals need to die. More than anything the turnovers need to disappear.

There are only six conference games remaining on our schedule. For every game remaining, there's half a chance of ugly trees out there.

When asked about his team's goals, Coach Bobby Cashman said, "This is our chance to get a feel for which teams will be out of the way.

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She might dance loco, that don't make her a ho no

I f life reflects art and art reflects life, then Alabama politicians must be hoping to turn small-town, small-ballЋ_

with their fall bus tours of gay characters. State Rep. Gerald Allen has presented a bill to the 2005

Alabama State Legislature. The bill, if passed, would make it illegal for any public school to promote homosexuality — or view it as a right on its own merit. The legislature set quorum on

March 8, and the bill will likely go through an initial review.

State lawmakers rejected one of Allen's similar, anti-gay proposals last year, but the one in this past November, Alabama did not make it past the state legislature either.

Critics of Allen's new proposal hope that this time won't make it past the legislature either, and Allen is already backing off book ban legislation.

The bill is blatant and horrifying. All it does is address homosexual behavior, regardless of whether it is natural, or even normative. It is not just an issue of the state's culture, but it's a major problem in many conservative states. And it's not only a issue of the state's culture, but it's a major problem in many conservative states.

The bill is not only a terrible precedent, but it is also a threat to our civil liberties. This kind of legislation is the same kind that led to the Jim Crow laws and other forms of discrimination in the United States. It is not only a threat to our civil liberties, but it is also a threat to our freedom of speech.

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I am a busy guy. Between singing the national anthem, writing down some of the most important moments and doing the whole frivolity thing, last pretty time.

Sometimes a man needs a break, and what better way than to visit his local strip club? People, have a drink, grab some food and do it all in plain sight of advertising (sometimes skanky), dancing, singing.

However, in Orlando, it is not that easy.

Conservatives who run this town insist on putting orange county clubs on a watch list of those that are making family values. I understand that family values are important, but it seems that this new government is more concerned with making money.

With the American public looking for new ways to make a living, Orlando has emerged as a center for the strip club industry. In fact, about 300 clubs exist in the area, making it the No. 1 convention destination with more than 1,000 hotels and other venues.

What better way to cut costs than to eliminate the strip clubs? Because it can be difficult to find a job, there are so many in the champagne room.

What is the point of trying to cut costs when you don't have the money to do so? People don't create penguins, nipple pasties and can't simply walk away from the situation. But they don't always cheat on them. You want to try to cut costs, try covering more areas.

As for the strip clubs, they are truly a moving religious experience.

Toad's Wild Ride is closed. How are your conventions? I've been told they have that family tourism is the No. 1 convention destination with more than 1,000 hotels and other venues.

I'm talking about the nightlife here. What better way to con­

vive with your constituents than to make sure you know what the nightlife is like? You need to make sure you know what the nightlife is like.

What better way to talk to them about it? How else can you expect people to have a good time if you don't know what is happening? People need to be aware of their environment.

You can argue that clubs of these sorts bring crime to the area and can't argue that notion. But I have an easy answer to that.

We must place these clubs in tourist spots and where people enjoy the nightlife. We need more convention centers with more convention space.

And what is the point in trying to cut costs when you don't have the money to do so? People don't create penguins, nipple pasties and can't simply walk away from the situation. But they don't always cheat on them. You want to try to cut costs, try covering more areas. What better way to cut costs than to eliminate the strip clubs? Because it can be difficult to find a job, there are so many in the champagne room.

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. The information presented on this website is for general informational purposes only. Jeffrey W.

 fwexpress@collecthearts.com

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LOSE YOUR WAGES?

DON'T GET MISTAKEN!

DOES YOUR FORMER EMPLOYER OWE YOU HARD EARNED WAGES?
Testing the waters in an area to purchase a new refrigerator at the price. Before you decide to buy the refrigerator, make sure you check the price and quality. Jeffrey W.

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Right around the corner from UCF

The central Florida Future Housing Guide
At stands Monday Feb. 7th

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Very clean 3/2/1 w/ ceramic tile. $365/mo incl. util. & maid service, gardener, pest control, gym, computer lab. Lease until August. Special Valentine's Day Classified in the MarketWatch. $100/mo and apts. for rent. $649 to $1295. Tell Nicole at UCFs East 407-977-8085. FEE Free!...Short term lease, but can renew. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays! For More Details Call Andrew @ 305-522-4348 or Laura Reddish @ 407-227-7579.

Furnished room avail in 3/2 house. $390/mo incl. util. $100/mo for M with priv BA available in 4/4 HOUSEMA.TES

Very clean 3/2/1 w/ ceramic tile. $365/mo incl. util. & maid service, gardener, pest control, gym, computer lab. Lease until August. Special Valentine's Day Classified in the MarketWatch. $100/mo and apts. for rent. $649 to $1295. Tell Nicole at UCFs East 407-977-8085. FEE Free!...Short term lease, but can renew. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays! For More Details Call Andrew @ 305-522-4348 or Laura Reddish @ 407-227-7579.

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BATTLE BOREDOM
A BULLETIN FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

THIS WEEK:

MONDAY 31
SGA Presidential Election
Declaration of Candidacy:
January 31st - February 3rd
Office hours are 9am-5pm
Monday through Thursday in S.U. 214

WEDNESDAY 02
Black History Month Opening Ceremonies
11-12pm Student Union Patio
Brought to you by AASU & MSC

SGA Sports Expo
11-3pm Pegasus Ballroom

CAB Movie: Donnie Darko
8pm in Cape Florida
Be there or go back in time and be there.

Dance Marathon Registration
2-5pm Cape Florida 316

THURSDAY 03

CAB Comedy & Variety Committee
Brings back your favorite hypnotist
Tom DeLucia,
8pm Pegasus Ballroom

AASU-MSC Black History Month Networking Luncheon
11am-1pm Cape Florida, SU 316

Volunteer UCF
Volunteer Expo
12noon Student Union Patio,
Make a difference! Over 30 community service agencies represented

FRIDAY 04

Dance Marathon Registration
2-5pm Cape Florida 316

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb. 5th
- Dance Marathon Yard Sale
- AASU-MSC Black History Month Field Day
- UCF Baseball Opening Day event

Feb. 7th
- VUCF Arthritis Foundation Carpool

Feb. 9th
- CAB Lego Event
- AASU-MSC Black History Month Valentine's Day Gala

Feb. 10th
- Dance Marathon Date Auction
- Arnold Palmer W.A.C.H. Orientation session for new volunteers
- VUCF Labor by Love

Feb. 11th
- AASU-MSC Black History Month Funny Fridays

Feb. 12th
- CAB Spectacular Knights presents the Miss UCF Scholarship Competition

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Happy fourth birthday, Broken Speech Poetry Slam!
FX show a strong rival for Megacon
Show features guests from films, TV, comics

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

Do you like comics? Have you ever given your mother the silent treatment after she dared call one of your action figures a doll? Then come on down to the 16th annual Florida ETravaganza, also known as “The Coolest Show on Earth” (Take that, Barry Manilow!) running Friday through Sunday at the Orlando Expo Center on 500 W. Livingston St., across from the TD Waterhouse Centre. Anyone who’s no one is going to be there.

Perhaps the coolest guest for comic fans will be the legendary former escape artist, Jim Steranko, whose innovative work in the 1960s on such titles as Nick Fury, Agent of Shield is still looked at with awe these days. With many of our comic corps fading away, it might be good to thank one personally while he’s still here.

Also, check out Ethan Van Sciver, one of the best artists in the industry today (check out his penciling in Green Lantern Rebirth).

Guests from sci-fi movies include such convention regulars as Mark Goddard (Lost in Space), Sid Haig (Capt. Spalding from House of a 1,000 Corpses), Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett from the Star Wars series), Walter Koenig (Chekov from Star Trek) and Glen Shadix (the fat dude from Beetlejuice and the voice of the mayor in The Nightmare Before Christmas).

Two real treats appear in the form of fellow Oz castmates Ernie Hudson and J.K. Simmons. Hudson, who does many a B-movie, never ceases to be an entertaining presence in anything he does. Simmons is quickly becoming one of the best supporting actors in Hollywood and is the only redeemable part of the original Spider-Man flick.

On the horror front, you have actor/stuntman Kane Hodder (Jason Voorhees) and Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2 and Night of the Living Dead actor Bill Moseley. Even more random, check out Cindy Morgan, the actress most known for her role as Lacy Underalls in Caddyshack, and washed-up wrestling personalities Jimmy Hart, Johnny B. Badd and Glacier, who will be signing autographs for free at the “Notable and Notorious” booth.

Also, the event will feature more than 750 dealer tables. Tons of toys that you can normally find in stores for retail price will be sold for exorbitant amounts! All the phasing Visions and Unmasked Batmans you’ve been looking for are available for a small fortune. What a country!

The convention goes from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Be there and be square. Go to http://www.fxshow.com for more information.

Expect to see fans like these — this picture was taken at last year’s Megacon — at the Florida ETravaganza this weekend, where being an outsider will get you inside.
A sample photograph from Carrie Mae Weems, appearing today at the Crealde School of Art.

CAMPUS

Talent show audition
Jan. 27, 7 p.m. to 4 a.m., free
Student Union
Key West Ballroom 218A
407-823-6471

Free Trade in the Americas forum
Jan. 27, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., free
Student Union
Room 218
407-823-6471

Malcolm X screening
Jan. 27, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., free
Welcome Center Auditorium
407-823-4195

Malcolm X screening
Jan. 27, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Welcome Center Auditorium
407-823-4195

EVENTS

Carrie Mae Weems
Jan. 27, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., $25
Crealde School of Art
600 St. Andrews Blvd
407-647-3307

John Scott and Horace Boyar
Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m., free
Hungrybird Elementary School
230 S. College Ave.
407-647-3307

Kalamu Yo Salaam
Jan. 27, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., $25 to $40
Suntrust Bank
233 N. Orlando Ave.
407-740-6307

Sylvia Waters
Jan. 27, 2:20 p.m. to 5 p.m., $25 to $40
Rollins College
Annie Russell Theatre
1000 Holt Ave.
407-647-3307

Woodie King, Jr. & Elizabeth Van Dyke
Jan. 27, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., $25 to $40
Rollins College
Fred Stone Theatre
1000 Holt Ave.
407-647-3307

Florida EKtravaganza
Jan. 28 to Jan. 30, various times, $8 to $15
Orlando Expo Centre
500 W. Livingston St.
407-849-2562

Hurston Humanities Panel
Jan. 28, 1 p.m., $30
Winter Park Civic Center
1000 W. Morse Blvd.
407-647-3307

Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities
Jan. 28 to Jan. 30, various times, $5 to $10
Downtown Eatonville
Kennedy Blvd.
407-647-3307

Superbowl of Motorsports
Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., $12 to $15
Central Florida Fairgrounds
4603 W. Colonial Drive
352-955-5454

Orlando CD and Record Show
Jan. 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., $3
Central Florida Fairgrounds
4603 W. Colonial Drive
352-955-5454

SHOWS

Pedro the Lion, Earlhamart (Indie)
Jan. 27, 8 p.m., $13
The Social
541 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Kynda (rock)
Jan. 27, 9 p.m., $5
Walt's Pub
1820 N. Mills Ave.
407-808-5070

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR ON 14
**CALENDAR**

From 13

**Audiophile, Distance, Lucid Fly (rock)**
Jan. 27, 8 p.m., $5-$7
305 State Ave.
407-244-0299

**Keller Glass (acoustic)**
Jan. 27, 9 p.m., $2
Ballard & Greer
515 W. New England Ave.
407-539-1711

**Suckerpunch, Hedshok, InTension, The Goldminers, Ed Self, Gettindeep, Clayton Hall (rock) for “Emergency Fest”**
Jan. 27, 7-30 p.m., $10-$15
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

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**Equinox, Daibolic Intent, The Absence, Domfear (metal)**
Jan. 28, 9 p.m., $5
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

**Keane, The Zutons, The Redwalls (rock)**
Jan. 29, 7-30 p.m., $17.50-$19.50
Will's Pub
407-898-5070

**Shavers (rock)**
Jan. 30, 7 p.m., $10
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

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**AIDS BENEFIT MUSICAL**

Broadway Cares: Equity Fights AIDS (BC/ EFA) is an organization that aims to give theater artists with HIV or AIDS the opportunity to continue working and leading full lives. BC/ EFA gives to pay for the rent, medical bills, medications or anything else artists with AIDS may not be able to afford.

At 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Will's Pub will link with BC/ EFA to do a benefit performance of I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, a popular musical about relationships, from dating to marriage. This is a fantastic opportunity for BC/ EFA to raise donations and an entertaining way for you to help out. Tickets are $30 for adults and $25 for seniors. For more information or to reserve tickets, call their box office at 407-645-0145. Come out to support “Winter Park’s only professional theater” and artists with AIDS.

**21+ ID Required**

WEDNESDAYS

Opem Mic Night with Ramonx

THURSDAYS

Karaoke

SUNDAY

Blues Jam 4-8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Boulderfield

10pm-cloie

SATURDAY

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Masgan & Wynn Bros.
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For 1 Free Program

(Any Performance)
The Five Finger Discounts, Mesmer Machine, 3rd Limb, Fifth Avenue Onyx, Whystation, Verloren, Unstable, Danny Morris Band (rock) for "Emergenza Fest"
Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., $10-$15
Back Booth, 37 W Pine St.
407-390-2570
The Skepticals, The Corks, Insufficient Numbers, One Pump Chump, The Know How (indie)
Jan. 30, 5 p.m., $7
Will's Pub, 1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-896-5070
The Kick, The Hour Unknown, Country Slashers (rock)
Jan. 31, 8 p.m., $5
Will's Pub, 1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-896-5070
Walls of Jericho, Bury Your Dead, Full Bloom Chao, Premonitions of War (hard rock)
Jan. 31, 9:30 p.m., $10
The Social, 54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Winne-the-Pooh Live
Who could forget that "Silly 'Ole Bear"? For the past 80 years, the unforgettable characters of A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends have lightened the hearts of the young and old in the pages of their books. Now, starting tomorrow and running through Feb. 20, the honey-coated cast will come to life on the stage in an adaptation by Kristin Sergei. So, if you're feeling fuzzy and a little nostalgic for the lovable teddy, join Pooh, Piglet, Kanga, RoO, Eeyore in their adventures through Ashdown forest at the Orlando Repertory Theatre, 1001 E. Princeton St., 407-896-7363. Admission is $12.50.

Kings of Convenience (indie)
Feb. 1, 7 p.m., $15
The Social, 54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419
The Toasters, Supervillains ( ska)
Feb. 2, 8 p.m., $10
The Social, 54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419
Having staked a reputation in two of the most influential independent bands of the 1990s, Dinosaur Jr. and Sebadoh, and having put together successful home-recorded compilations, Lou Barlow comes forth with his third solo record. Titled *Emoh* and probably a wordplay on everyone's favorite teenybopper music of the times, this album does work toward many of the goals that most "emo" music does — simple expression of emotions through uncomplicated songs. However, Barlow does this effectively by with beautiful melodies, quiet guitars and strong songwriting.

It seems as though Barlow has continued to calm down over the years. Dinosaur Jr. came out of the gates rocking from the start, and then Barlow's days with Sebadoh included more songwriting and a great deal of mellowing out. Like his Sebadoh material, this latest record does not convey any desire he might have to be a rockstar. On *Emoh*, we have a series of solid songs of love, hurt, hope and redemption, some which inspire laughter while others are likely companions for a good cry.

Much like his home recordings, the overall feel to the record is surely lo-fi, but the sounds are clean and well-produced. One aspect that stands out here also is Barlow's voice. With the familiarity of 1970s folk singer and the steadfastness of a Christian praise and worship songleader, Barlow infuses meaning into lyrics such as "If you love me/tell me with your eyes," from "Leg-endary." Pleasant singing may not always be a pertinent feature of lo-fi indie rock, but it certainly works on this album.

The songs on *Emoh* skim through but don't really explore varying genres, but are highlighted with some string and piano accompaniment. The record has an overall folky feel, with some alt-country sensibilities to boot. Many of the lyrics are somewhat of what made Dead Cities such a fascinating and unique record was how it co-opted the sort of cheesy, faux-majestic synth sounds usually found in fantasy video games and low-budget anime but put them to use making genuinely majestic and emotional music. *Before the Dawn Heals Us* uses a similar sound palette as *Red Cities*, but now simply sounds cheesy.

The comparison that got used out the worst moments. *Before the Dawn Heals Us* isn't nearly enough to offset *Before the Dawn Heals Us* worst moments. *Red Cities* changing its sound so dramatically and with such apparent purpose, one wonders whether *Before the Dawn Heals Us* is a mistake or aberration. More likely, instead, is that *Red Cities* was a glorious one-off, an accidental byproduct of inexperience, the likes of which *M83* will never be able to recreate.
The *indie* is giving its two cents on the major award categories; this week, we cover Best New Artist and Short Video of the Year.

**Best New Artist**

Los Lonely Boys: A true crossover act if there ever was one, Los Lonely Boys has played on top 40, adult contemporary, country, latino and rock stations across the country.

Maroon 5: It's technically not their first album, but who's keeping track? With three songs that had to put a restraining order on, Maroon 5 has made songs about being dumped catchy and cool for the first time since Counting Crows.

Joss Stone: With the personality of an *American Idol* contestant, what this English tart lacks in charisma she makes up for in vocal prowess. With two lucrative albums, Joss Stone is becoming the queen of plastic soul.

Kanye West: This producer-turned-rapper is the toast of the town at this year's Grammys with his overly ambitious and overlong CD *The College Dropout*.

Gretchen Wilson: A protégé of Big and Rich and a member of their esteemed Music Mafia, Wilson showed that she could succeed with party anthems as well as slow ballads.

Prediction: With West's 10 nominations, it seems likely he'll sweep in other categories, and they'll award it to Joss Stone, who's being groomed for big things, though Maroon 5 will definitely put up a good fight.

**Short Video of the Year**

"Take Me Out," Franz Ferdinand: An unconventional video that captures an unconventional song. An excellent way for a band to make a first video. It gives a good, lasting first impression and leaves you wanting more.

"American Idiot," Green Day: An overrated video from an overrated album by an overrated band.

"Flawless," George Michael: It's different but not accessible enough for lasting appeal.

"Walkie Talkie Man," Steriogram: Directed by music video and film genius Michel Gondry, this video has some fun moments but is one of Gondry's weaker efforts. Still beats "Human Nature."

"Vertigo," U2: U2 is the only band that consistently releases albums and still has each one labeled as a comeback. This video rocked and picked up right where the band left off.

Prediction: U2. Grammy voters dig guys that can still rock in their 40s. It gives them hope. Plus, the dizziness of the video matched its namesake.
After the pre-holiday deluge of major games, this past month has been pretty stagnant on the release front. Xbox, PS2 and PC gamers all received their blockbusters of Halo 2, Metal Gear Solid 3 and Half-Life 2 back in November. The sales of those titles carried over into December, but January hasn't seen any other high-profile games for those platforms.

Luckily, Nintendo has been less stingy this month. Two new games from two of the biggest franchises gave Nintendo gamers something to be happy about this month.

The Legend of Zelda: The Minish Cap
Game Boy Advance

Everyone's favorite pointy-eared, green-vested warrior has returned in yet another hand-held adventure. The Minish Cap returns the Zelda series back to gameplay more reminiscent of the Super Nintendo's A Link to the Past than recent 3-D entries in the series.

The 2-D graphics provide for a vibrant, cartoon backdrop for the colorful characters and monsters that Link encounters. The look was heavily influenced by the cel-shaded visuals in The Wind Waker.

The Minish cap allows players to become smaller than a dime. When players shrink, their environment becomes drastically different and more threatening. Being tiny, however, allows players to interact with the diminutive Minish race. It also allows them to explore inside places where they normally can't fit — they can even attack enemies from within!

Developer Flagship used its previous game The Four Swords as practice dabbling with the classic Zelda gameplay. Now they've produced a game that once again proves that 2-D games are alive and well on the Game Boy Advance.

Resident Evil 4
GameCube

Five years have passed since Resident Evil...
A pool hall fit for dukes

Duke's is 'your living room on steroids'

MARILYN MANN

Staff Writer

"I really just wanted to create the kind of place that I would want to hang out at," Jeff Meyers said. At the youthful age of 26, Meyers is the owner of Orlando's newest addition to the pool hall scene, Duke's Billiards.

"It's nice because most of the places you would normally go to play pool don't have good food and are usually kind of beaten up and run-down," said Steve Wilson, 35, a loyal patron since Duke's grand opening on Sept. 13 of last year.

With everything gleaming and only a few short months old, it is a long way from being run-down. A traditional pool hall with a few extras added in, Duke's is a streamlined and upscale version of the original idea. Its high ceilings and large rooms are lined with shiny pool tables and plush leather couches — all of which are surrounded by an array of 40 television sets.

"It's kind of like your living room on steroids," Wilson remarked with a smile. "Wow, I've never heard it put like that, but I like it," said Meyers. "I'm not really a big bar person, so coming up with this place in my head I probably did, without even realizing it, create my living room."

True to the hype, the atmosphere, with the help of a team of lovely Duke's girls, does a good job of catering to a wide variety of needs.

Feel like watching the game? Then you can kick back on any of the eight leather sofas or recliners set in front of a 120 inch HD TV screen. The sofas are "the first thing to fill up on game night," according to Meyers. If a game isn't on that night, then the screen rolls up into the ceiling to reveal a perfect stage for live music. You might find the comfortable leather and table service to be a nice contrast from the usual standing rooms, plastic cups and self-service that is typical of any other local music venue.

Hungry? Any one of the girls will be by your table any minute to see if you'd like something to eat from a full menu. Or, if you'd rather drink your dinner, then you can visit any one of two full-liquor bars.

Of course you could always play pool. It is still a pool hall, right? "I can definitely say, without a doubt, that we have the nicest pool tables in all of Orlando," boasts Meyers of the 15 brand-new Brunswick tables.

Still, at its Lee Road location, Meyers admits that even though Duke's isn't around the corner from the colleges or set in the middle of downtown, he hopes that it will become a popular destination for anyone in search of a beer and a game of pool.

"It would really warm my heart if this place could become that place that everybody knows about," he said. "I would love for it to be that kind of place for Orlando."

Like random violence? Then this game is for you

**MERcenARies**

**by LUCUS ARTS**

**Genre: Action**

**Release date: Available now**

RICKY SURRILLO

Staff Writer

You're a lone agent who gets to hijack anything you want, kill people and blow up your surroundings. Sound familiar? It should, it's been done before — and done well (Anyone hear of Grand Theft Auto?).

While nowadays it's hard to find a truly original video game concept, Mercenaries puts its own twist on the genre. There are three different mercs to pick from, though it doesn't really matter which one is chosen. Each character can drive the same vehicles and shoot the same guns. The only difference is one can take more damage, one runs faster and one is harder for enemies to spot. Each merc can also speak an additional language, which doesn't affect your gaming experience.

The game is set in North Korea, where the government has been overthrown by General Song. Taking him down will make you an extremely wealthy mercenary, Song has a $100 million bounty on him, but to get to him, you have to get through his 15 "officers." All together they are known as the Deck of Spades. There are four factions that will give you jobs and bounties: Allied Nations, South Korea, Russian Mafia and China. If you decide to favor one faction over the other, it's not a problem. If you ever get to the point where you become hostile with one of them, you can just bribe them and you'll be ok. So feel free to shoot anyone and blow up anything, since really, that's the point of the game. Sure, you get money from bounties and random contract jobs, but if you decide to blow up, say, a random vehicle or building, go right ahead and get paid for it too.

Mercenaries offers something that other mission-based games don't — supply drops and bomber raids. After all, a building isn't going to get destroyed with grenades and machine guns. That's when you order a surgical strike to take it out. As you progress through the game you get more options available to you, from getting a vehicle whenever you want to an extremely powerful "bunker bomb."

Probably, the best part of the game is the sound, but what else would you expect from a Lucas Arts game? So, bottom-line, as long as you don't care about mindless destruction and the go-here, kill-this-guy-type of game set in a war zone, then this is for you. It gets a little old and redundant, but if you ever get bored you can explore the countryside and find hidden goodies and, as always, blow the ever-loving crap out of everything.
Four years of the Broken Speech

Faithful poets keep it alive through three venues, giving them a shot at a wider audience.

EMILY JANE SCOTT
Staff Writer

Nestled in Winter Park is Stardust Video and Coffee. It is a Thursday night at about 9:30 p.m. Michael Tedder stands on a stage in a small room. He introduces the event that is about to take place — the weekly Broken Speech Poetry Slam.

Before the performances, Tedder and founder/organizer Jay Bradley look around the room to find three judges for the slam. Each volunteer is handed a wipe-off board and a dry-erase marker. The judges are instructed to score competing poets on a one-to-10 basis, decimal points allowed. Performers are limited to three minutes for each poem. Tedder reminds patrons to show appreciation for every poet who performs and the slam officially begins.

Location aside, this is the way that Broken Speech has operated for four years. "Jan. 27, 2001, we had four poets compete in the very first Broken Speech slam at UCF," Bradley said. "Originally, it started through Sigma Tau Delta. The first slam took place in a room in the Student Union.

Broken Speech spent a year at UCF before it moved to Guinevere's, the downtown coffeehouse, now a part of DMAC. Bradley said the move was a "tremendous success." After a year there, Bradley had considered a move to Stardust, but Guinevere's took action first. "The Iraq war was breaking out, and all over America, there were poets reading against the war. I decided to do it because it was a great way to get more socially conscious poets out there, and to get the slam promoted. Guinevere's said, 'by e.'" Stardust then gave Broken Speech a home on a trial basis and people kept pouring in. That home was soon made permanent. Jay is emphatic as he states. "Stardust is the best venue."

Now, each Thursday night, patrons of Stardust witness all kinds of poets, from beginners to seasoned veterans, perform in three rounds. "When it comes to slam poetry, Jay actually runs the tightest ship that I've seen," says Martin Collins, the first poet to perform this particular evening. "He's real rigid on the rules ... other places are more spoken word, open mike, much like Speakeasy on Tuesday nights at Will's [Pub]." Bradley said the three-round competitive format was created by a Chicago construction worker in 1986 in hopes to make poetry seem "more accessible" to more people.

A regular performer at these events, Collins' poems often talk of eating gingerbread men and kittens. "When it comes to actually reading stuff, when it's judged, I find that the more quirky, amusing stuff, the audience likes better," he said. "I've heard some poetry as a college student, but he had gotten involved in Broken Speech in the past year.

The second poet performing this evening is Veronica Smith. She is the chosen representative of Broken Speech for the upcoming 2005 Individual World Poetry Slam competition in Worchester, Mass. Smith beat out three other male poets to have his chance at being the representative. "We had different qualifying rounds, and you first started out with a basic slam," she said. "Whoever ranked the highest [went] onto the final round." She said she had not expected to be the victor.

Smith got her start in slam at Will's Pub. "I read this poem called 'Quotes' and then afterwards, this sister came up to me with this piece of paper with red lips on it. I came out to her that night and it was one of the most eye-opening experiences. I had never seen people get up and compete between who had the best art. I came to Broken Speech "to get a taste of both venues [Austin's and Stardust]." Smith says she writes poetry more focused on the message and not so much about competing. She feels that poems such as "Funk Me" and "Rape Music" achieve her goals.

The third poet for the evening is another regular, Curtis Meyer. On this night, he reads an amazing poem about the young girl who died in the Fenway Park riots last fall. While he says he writes poetry to keep himself occupied, he comes out to Broken Speech for a different reason. "I think it's completely the social aspect. I've come here, I've made friends. Yes, I've found love ... " Meyer said. During his first slam visit, he "saw an absolutely beautiful girl onstage and said, 'Hey, they're doing poetry.' I didn't know what a slam was at this point. I came back the next week, performed, met that girl, and she is currently my girlfriend."

Bradley is the last poet in the round. A self-proclaimed "Slam Master," he has engineered this slam from the ground up. "There was a documentary done in 1996 called Slam Nation. A lot of people who saw that documentary wanted to get started in slam. Bradley said about his earliest inspirations. Other causes of the slam are restless locals. While other poets would complain, Bradley decided to take action: "I decided that Orlando needed a slam."

Broken Speech's regulars do not deny that their slam is somewhat male-dominated. Collins said, "Every venue ends up having its own sort of flavor. Jay's slam tends to be heavy on guys." Collins also feels there is a lack of ethnic diversity, not just with Broken Speech but also across Orlando. "My impression about Orlando is that we're pretty vanilla," he said. "What I've noticed is that slam started out as much more of an ethnic movement. Where all the white men did academic poetry, slam poetry developed on the streets."

Some would say slam populates a black female. Bradley wittily remarks, "What Asians? When they're out there."

In the meantime, behold at each Veronica gets a standing ovation. She is the first judge and holds up 10s.

Jay announces at the night's end, "Judge Jacob's out. More on performance night. This week, indeed thrives. May Smith simply "the Snap" from Orlando that is our slam at night.

Tonight, BIW's anniversary party and a host of Smith. The event is Smith's trip to Orlando that is our slam at night.
Ch Slam

Judas surprised to know that a poetry group mostly by white males have Smith, as their competing representative. The others are more diverse. At Broken Speech, where are our Hispanics? Where are our blacks? Our gays and lesbians? I know here, we need them to come out here.

Saturdays, there are still great poets to come out. Broken Speech slam. On this night, they get up to recite their last poem for the night. They got my sons listening to this rap/hip hop culture. A woman in hip-hop culture. As she finishes, you can hear the thunderous applause. She laughs, relieved that she finished. The poems are up on their boards, revealing three perfect performances. The scores for the top three poets: Smith, Bradley and Curtis. First-time performer Kennedy says, “Most of the competition is great tonight, so I went with a performance piece.”

And poets alike chat and make their way between the Orlando culture. If you know where to find her, you can see her, Veronika, man it up well when she described Broken Speech as “the art within the art.”

Broken Speech will be having its fourth party, with specially invited performers. A half-hour block reserved entirely for the event will also serve as a fundraiser for the Massachusetts group. The slam will start at 9 p.m.
LIFE

Raborn asks the Astrological Society questions about Uranus
Stars and moons aren't just for emo Internet names anymore

ROBBIE RABORN
Staff Writer

Last week, I was given one of the most exciting opportunities ever to have graced mankind: I interviewed the president of the UCF Astronomical Society. The president, Miss Erin Landsdor, was kind enough to let me meet her in some musty physics lab. I felt quite intimidated as I was surrounded by nerds, dorks, geeks and a trekkie. But not to fear, the interview went swimmingly, except when some German über-nerd lady interrupted me by complementing my hair and following that with a lecture about how the observatory could be a great place for us to “make sex.” Enjoy!

RR: What are three statements you can make concerning the awesomeness of UCF’s astronomy club in two statements or less?
EL: Well, you get to play with green laser pointers. We let you use the telescope. And... wait... Your question is impossible.

RR: Indeed. What kind of students would be most interested in joining?
EL: Astrogeeks, mostly. Photography majors would be interested as well.

RR: I am assuming that students should learn to speak Klingon if they are even remotely interested in the astronomical society.
EL: Oh, hell yes!
EL: ‘jfyajbe’
EL: What?
RR: Oh, that’s Klingon for “I don’t understand.” I figured you would have known since you are the club’s president.
EL: Well, I B.S’d the club entry forms.

RR: How often will meetings be this semester?
EL: We meet at 4:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month at the UCF Observatory.

RR: Will there be Moon Pies® and Sun Chips® for snacks?
EL: Yes. Not to mention green cheese. That was a moon joke.

RR: It certainly was. What should students expect to learn from the club’s Web site (http://phy.physics.ucf.edu/astronomy)?
EL: The site features pretty pictures of the galaxy taken by club members. There is a calendar of events. And then there is the basic club information.

RR: Somewhere out there, the Heaven’s Gate cult is partying on the Hale-Bopp comet. When will it return so that we may join them?
EL: That comet is not annual. In fact, we will be dead by the time it comes around again.

RR: Please talk about the public viewings at the university’s observatory.
EL: They happen on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The next one is February 2 and it starts around 7 p.m. Driving directions are University Boulevard to Gemini, hang to the right, right on Libra Drive, left on Neptune (at this point please dim your lights), and then about a quarter mile to the Robinson Observatory.

RR: Is it correct to assume that the club is also interested in space travel and exploration of the cosmos?
EL: All of us are into that. Astronomy majors are the explorer people.

RR: Who was a nobler leader: Captain Kirk or Captain Picard?
EL: Definitely Captain Picard. Hands down. Oh! And Data was great too! And his cat! Uh... Spot...

RR: Please stop.
EL: Sorry.

RR: I recently visited http://www.yourstar.com and purchased a star from the Universal Star Counsel for $80.95. How much longer until we have the proper technology so I may be able to visit my new property for maintenance and overall upkeep?
EL: Again, you’ll be dead by that time. That kind of exploration is up to the support of the government.

RR: A UCF engineering team headed by Clayton Keene recently redesigned the coordination controls for the observatory’s telescope. How has this impacted the ability for you and your affiliates to study the infinite frontier?
EL: Tracking stars, planets, and other celestial bodies is much easier. We don’t have to put in as much effort to keep up with the earth’s rotation.

RR: Well this was truly exciting. Any final thoughts our millions of readers can digest?
EL: Pictures can never compare to seeing the real goods. So come check it out. Also, for the ladies, we currently have an 8-to-1 guy-to-girl ratio. And the guys are pretty cute!

RR: You sicken me.

FUTURE FUNNIES

The indie now has full access to the Future’s archives, so each week we’re bringing you an old editorial cartoon. Check out this one from April 20, 1994. We hope it has increased your social awareness of the plight of snakes as much as it has ours. Which is to say, not at all.

REAL LIFE FOR REAL

Fright kicks off ’05

FROM 1B

demands remedy the old disorienting camera angles and clumsy controls.

And there are no zombies. Deadly, quick assailants swarm on players rather than the stupid, sluggish zombies of old.

Players control Leon Kennedy as he searches for the president’s kidnapped daughter in a small, isolated European village. He soon finds himself alone and defending himself against a horde of pissed off villagers, spewing death threats at him in Spanish.

It may have arrived a little behind the rest, but the GameCube’s major player stands tall in the beginning of 2005.
After the long wait, Clint Eastwood's profound, redemptive masterpiece lives up to its Oscar hype

JOHN THOMASON

The allure of boxing, a paradoxical glamour that gleams beauty and glory from the ugly, bloody faces of its competitors, has never been lost on the cinema. Boxing films have always captivated audiences, with emotions ranging from pitiful sadness (Requiem for a Heavyweight) to triumph (Rocky) to conflicted anger (Raging Bull).

And, much like those films, you don't have to know a thing about boxing to appreciate Clint Eastwood's ambiguous poem to the sport, Million Dollar Baby. While providing a bit of all three of the above films' emotions, it adds another layer of depth to the genre: boxing as a metaphor for faith, or more specifically, redemption.

Redemption is a common theme for Eastwood, best articulated previously in Unforgiven and also playing a part in his last effort, Mystic River. But where Mystic was arguably over-plotted, Million Dollar Baby is spare and simple — a straightforward master/protege story where the master ends up being taught the great lessons. It's a timeless theme, but with its profound religious undertones, lack of sentimentality and subdued use of music, it feels revitalized like never before.

Washed-up boxing agent and trainer Frank, played by Clint himself, is a quintessential Eastwood archetype. His trademark phrase, hung up with pride in his office, reads "tough ain't enough." It's the kind of concise, cogent pragmatism you might hear from The Man with No Name, the Outlaw Josey Wales or Dirty Harry while they train their perennial sidekicks. But there's an archaic weariness to this statement in Million Dollar Baby that matches the veteran actor's own haggard appearance. One wonders if the jaded hero can even believe his own aphorisms anymore.

In fact, there isn't much he does believe in, yet he still goes to mass and sits like a silent rogue, for reasons neither he nor his minister can understand. He's severed ties with his daughter for reasons unexplained, but continues to write her letters for only his benefit — always bounce back to his doorstep.

A conservative agent whose last client left him for the quick title shot offered by the competition, Frank is at the end of his rope when he comes across the boundlessly ambitious but dirt-poor amateur boxer, Maggie, played by Hilary Swank. After wrestling with his own dated notions of masculinity ("I don't train girls," he agrees to take her on and literally teach her the ropes). A professional work relationship develops into a genuine friendship, and Maggie soon rises to the top of the boxing world. And, then, tragedy.

But even when the tragedy occurs and the film appropriately shifts in pace, the subject is never sentimentalized for saccharine tear-jerking. It's merely presented in matter-of-fact reporting-style courtesy of Morgan Freeman's stoic narration.

With hands-down the best lighting in a 2004 film, cinematographer Tom Stern creates a shadowy noir-ish atmosphere, the visual representation of the darkness buried deep in Frank's soul. If Citizen Kane cinematographer Gregg Toland were to shoot a film today, this might be what it would look like.

And for purely aesthetic reasons, the boxing scenes are a beauty to watch. This kind of intense, visceral verisimilitude has not been seen in a boxing picture since Raging Bull, or possibly in any sports picture of the last 20 years.

But in the end, Million Dollar Baby is not just a movie for boxing fans, or even boxing movie fans. It's a movie for anyone who's ever felt lost, guilty or depraved, for anyone questioning the divine power of religion versus the real demands of everyday life, for anyone who's wondered what it all meant. If you look hard enough, Million Dollar Baby may provide an answer.
**MOVIES**

**FILM REVIEW**

**Three 12s**

**Mr. 3000 strikes out as a comedy**

Brett Ryan Bonowitz
Staff Writer

Mr. 3000

Bernie Mac as a retired baseball player going back to the majors for a few more hits because of some error in counting. Sounds like a winner. Mr. 3000 didn’t fair as well as Bernie Mac’s other film of 2004, Ocean’s Twelve, but then again Mr. 3000 didn’t quite have the cast, writer, director, cinematographer, musical composer, grip, gaffer, lighting technician and animal wrangler that Ocean’s Twelve had; it’s just a different pedigree altogether. The DVD includes deleted scenes with director commentary, sure-to-be-hilarious out-takes and extended scenes, including SportsCenter and The Tonight Show featurettes. To top it off, Buena Vista has included three more featurettes: Spring Training: The Extras Journey, Everybody Loves Stan and Making of Mr. 3000.

**School Daze: Special Edition**

It’s another case of a faux two-disc set in the vein of Easy Rider. Including the soundtrack to your film is not adding another disc. The new set does include a new commentary with the cast and a few other featurettes that don’t make this new double-dip worth the purchase price. Shame on the studio. While the soundtrack can be a nice listen, to tout itself as a new two-disc set implies a second DVD, and that is not the case. Beware.

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**COMING TO DVD — JAN. 25**

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**Difficult Vera Drake poses more questions than answers**

Leigh’s film firmly fits into trend of British social realism

John Tomason
**FILM REVIEW**

The number of British films we get here in America each year is relatively small. Because of this shortage, we’re used to a polarized British cinema: We either get the hip, glossy playfulness of Danny Boyle and Shun of the Dead, or the dark, moody social commentaries of Mike Leigh, Ken Loach and sometimes Stephen Frears. Leigh’s latest effort, Vera Drake, certainly falls into the latter category, a difficult and uncompromising two hours that tackles a controversial issue without ever succumbing to over-the-top preachiness.

In an austere, minimally set England of the 1990s, Vera Drake (an extraordinary Imelda Staunton) is a perfect lower-class housewife (Leigh accentuates the class difference by having Vera clean rich folks’ homes for a living), caring for a sickly neighbor and her own mother, while frequently treating her large extended family to elaborate meals and get-togethers. But unknown to her family, she performs illegal abortions—or as she puts it, “helps girls out”—on the side, for no pay. When one of her routine operations goes awry and a girl nearly dies from it, the police catch wind of Vera’s covert operation, and the film’s gripping second half, largely the questioning of Vera and the inevitable trial, more than make up for the slow-paced first hour.

What’s most remarkable and pleasing about Vera Drake is that Leigh refuses to take a side on the controversial abortion issue. Pro-lifers and pro-choice could watch Vera Drake, and both groups could find fuel for their arguments. We see girls being raped, which justify their abortions, but the near-death is certainly a red light. Like a good debate and with fine subtlety, the film acknowledges both sides of the issue, and does it without overly saying anything.

And if you go in leaving your abortion thoughts at the door, Vera Drake is simply a marvelous example of humanism; though Vera performs abortions, she cares about everyone, even the police officers (who show plenty of kindly humanism themselves), who she refers to as “dears” throughout the questioning. It may just be Vera’s unrelenting compassion that drove her to commit the crimes (the film is ambiguous as to whether Vera herself was raped as a girl). In fact, if the film ever faltered, it’s in its angelic depiction of a wholly innocent and martyred Vera.

Staunton’s performance is heartbreaking. Leigh focuses a lot of screen time on the contours of Staunton’s face as we watch her inevitable breakdown, and there isn’t a single note that rings false. Even if her character can be criticized for being too saintly, Staunton conveys every moment with painstaking authenticity, her performance even rising above an already great script. If that’s not a sign for the Best Actress Oscar, I don’t know what is.

Opens tomorrow at Enzian.
DiG! a sad and funny look at indie-rock feud

Vengeful documentary finds the real massacre in the Brian Jonestown Massacre

Director Ondi Timoner on the set of DiG!

JOHN THOMASON

Debunking the myth that for indie-rock bands, it's "all about the music, man," DiG! shows us that rock-star excess and arrogance isn't limited to the famously volatile Wilcos and Oases of the world. Sometimes, it even affects bands you've never heard of, bands that have neither the clout nor the justification for their self-destructive actions. DiG! follows a seven-year period in the lives of Portland's The Dandy Warhols (the band you have heard of) and California's The Brian Jonestown Massacre (the band you haven't unless you're firmly entrenched in indie-rock circles). Though Orlandoans may remember the band playing a rather static opening set for Guided by Voices at The Social last January).

There's a reason most people haven't been turned on to the excellent psychedelic cult band The Brian Jonestown Massacre: the erratic, cruel and spotlight-hogging theatrics of its overly ambitious frontman, whose actions on and off stage prohibited the rest of the band from hitting the major-label paydirt they should have. Meanwhile, old friends and touring mates, The Dandy Warhols, took their equally clever band name and became one of the most popular groups overseas while shooting pricey music videos for Capitol Records. The film follows the warm friendship-turned-laughably-bitter-rivalry between the two groups, intercutting crucial scenes in their seven-year evolutions.

Like the other recent D.MAC rise-and-fall story Overnight, DiG! is largely about how the self-destructive behavior of one individual can damage the careers and prohibit the success of others in team efforts, like music and film. Also, like Overnight, we feel no sympathy for the main character, just the hardworking bandmates thrust into his working domain.

But both are also about the fickle nature of the industry and the unfeeling coldness of the money-hungry record companies. References are made to the inconstancy of Napster in the grand scheme of things and even the meaningless of poor band performance and behavior. The BJM's frontman Antone Newcombe insisting the blame to be wholly on the inhumanity of record executives. While it's easy to say Newcombe's crybaby self-centeredness was a large contribution to the band's unraveling, he also has a point in the "what have you done for me lately?" impatience of the major-label heads.

The film is far from a fair and balanced look at both groups. Narrated by Dandy Warhols vocalist Courtney Taylor, the film is heavily weighted toward Newcombe's spontaneous bursts of erratic behavior, which get far more screen time than the modest and cinematic success of The Dandy Warhols (what can you do, sensationalism sells). Thus, DiG! partly feels like Taylor's revenge note against his old pal Newcombe, written through the medium of film.

A funny, fascinating and sad film with more complexities than the simplistic formulas of a Behind the Music, DiG! is a great rock movie, whether or not you're a fan of either band. Opens tomorrow at DMAC.
NWA = Nannies with Attitude?

Ice Cube loses all credibility in the awful, unfunny family film Are We There Yet?

MICHAEL FERRARO
Staff Writer

B rian Levant, the directorial mastermind that discovered one of the future Anakin Skywalkers in the 1996 Christmas film Jingle All the Way, brings us a new road trip film starring Ice Cube. This is no ordinary Ice Cube film, however. Gone are the days when Cube smoked weed, drank 40-ouncers and popped fools who kept steppin'. Nowadays, he is doing things the clean and PG way. Surely, one could have predicted this move while rocking out to some old-school NWA records. Maybe he matured a little bit since Friday and decided to make a PG film to appease the kids out there. But sadly, he picked the wrong film to start with.

To elongate the plotline as much as humanly possible for the purpose of this review, the film tells a story of Nick (Cube), a bachelor who discovers the ultimate way to woo over his new lady friend, Suzanne (Nia Long). She has two kids, Lindsey and Kevin (Aleisha Allen and Philip Daniel Bolden), who need a ride to Canada, for which Nick happily volunteers his time. Of course, as the title suggests, some mishaps happen along the way that this bachelor, and his new SUV with spinner rims, just wasn't prepared for.

Calling them "kids" is actually doing them a great dis-service. They are actually spawns of Satan. These aren't likable kids by any means. These are the kind of kids that if they were burned alive in a fire, you'd probably laugh because they deserved it. For example, in the beginning of the film, they practically kill one of their mother's potential suitors with a prank involving hundreds of marbles. What is their justification for this? They don't want their mom to be held up when, and if, their dad comes home to rejoin the family.

Putting some quibbles about the recycled formula and shabby direction aside, other problems lie within the characters themselves. Not only are they the type of children you would not want your kid looking up to, the film also promotes bad parenting. In the few scenes that actually show Suzanne alone with the kids, she does nothing to scold them for their terrible actions. She actually resorts to no disciplinary tactics whatsoever. In fact, she lets her kids walk all over her.

If you are looking for a film involving bratty and spoiled children, the parenting skills of a corpse and a plot you've seen more often than not, Are We There Yet? is perfect. It would also be a great film to see if you were pondering a vasectomy.

Before Nick is introduced in the film, there is a scene where Lindsey tells her brother, "I feel sorry for the next sucka that tries to date mom." She should really feel sorry for the next sucka that pays to see this movie.

H ollywood loves its sequels in the same way that my aunt likes her scotch. They're safe. They're soothing. They're familiar.

But why make the safe remake time and again? Why make the sequel that is sure to bring in box office dough? Make the movie that'll be remembered as an oddity in everyone's filmography. Perhaps the next renaissance will come in the adventurous sequels. Here are five ideas I've had in what I'd like to call my adventurous sequels wish list.

Schindler's List 2: Picture it. All the survivors band together in the aftermath of the holocaust and exact revenge on the Nazis. Solid gold. Just add a small supporting cameo role for Liam Neeson in a reprisal of his Oscar-nominated role, coupled with shooting it in color and cutting the running time to 90 minutes. Pitof (Catwoman) will direct.

Being Famous Actor in the Future. This is a proposed comedy that takes place after the events of Being John Malkovich. Eventually those occupants will find another vessel. This will be the hot "it" actor of the moment. It could be a futuristic thriller or a character-driven drama or even a screwball comedy in the vein of Bringing Up Baby. Maybe it could be called Bringing up Being Famous Actor in the Future. This idea has flexibility and that gives it moxy head and shoulders above all other sequels.

Casablanca 2. Not a remake of Casablanca but a sequel! Rick gets out of Casablanca and finds Ilsa; they get together and start a family only to realize that being together was only the beginning! Cast two modern actors like Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez in the roles and, you got one hot biscuit so to speak. Handle it, oven mitts are provided with every copy of the script!

Family Matters 2: The Movie. Remember Urkel? Remember Urkel's big screen debut? I don't either, but that's the genius of this idea. We're actually skipping over the first movie! There's guaranteed sequels potential in this; everyone will want to know what hijinks ensued before all that happens in Family Matters 2. The plot will revolve around the revelation that Urkel has been on a top-secret mission in the Winslow's home for the last 15 years. He's been sent to find that long-lost daughter that disappeared from the show that one season. This revelation causes his relationship with Laura to erode and his personal libido to drop. McG will star as Urkel's partner in the CIA as well as taking the reigns as director.

Blues Brothers 2005. In this updating of the 2000 classic, John Goodman is on life support in a struggle for his own life because of how fat he is. He rediscovers his love for the Atkins diet and spirited dancing in black suits and finds his way back to a healthy 400 pounds. Jesse Dylan will direct the screenplay by the Coen brothers (I assume after Intolerable Cruelty that they'll write anything).

There you have it. Five new films. Check back in a year. I'm almost certain one of these ideas will be in production. For every Casablanca, a Casablanca 2 isn't very far behind.
**MOVIES**

**DVD REVIEW ⭐⭐⭐⭐**

Thriller *Leon* gets a professional 4th DVD treatment

**MATT HEDGECOCK**
Staff Writer

Crime films of the early 1990s were some of the most over-hyped films of the current generation. While some, like *Pulp Fiction* and *The Usual Suspects*, are modern classics, many like *Reservoir Dogs* are just above-average thrillers, propelled to a lofty status by boozed 20-year-olds. *Leon* (aka *The Professional in the United States*) is one of the latter.

The film is a spin-off of sorts to director Luc Besson’s earlier flash-and-dash Euro-assassin film *La Femme Nikita*, and it is filled with the same sort of high-energy exploits as most of his action films.

*Leon* is a fantasy crime film — *Leon* is improbably skilled, every thug is armed to the teeth and the real life DEA has rules against hiring scene-chewing, pill-popping maniacs. But Besson handles over-the-top scenarios with a wry, entertaining charm, and the film oozes fun and personality.

Oh, and do you like Gary Oldman when he overacts? Buy this DVD, and then go buy *The Fifth Element*.

Additionally, the version on this disc is the extended European cut, which includes some controversial scenes in which Mathilda asks *Leon* to have sex and scenes showing the two lying in bed together (albeit not in a sexual manner).

The scenes aren't particularly offensive to someone who understands the context of the film. Mathilda comes from a dysfunctional home where she is openly exposed to sex, and therefore assumes she understands it (the scene is also defused by *Leon*’s frank refusal). The scenes don't add a whole lot to the final film, but it's always preferable to have the uncut version.

This latest release marks the fourth time *Leon* has seen DVD in one form or another. And while the extras aren't anything special, the latest release is the definitive version to own.

The special features include three featurettes — a 10-year retrospective, a spotlight on Portman. They're nicely done and informative, but far too short, clocking in at less than one hour of material. There's also an informative "fact track" that plays with the film, but a commentary of some sort would have been preferred. Oh, and the film itself is the Superbit version, so the picture and sound are first-class.

*Leon* is a fun crime picture that has unfortunately been diluted by heaps of hyperactive praise in the 10 years since its release. However, it remains a lively affair that would make a good addition to anyone's action movie collection. Fans of the film might as well jump in for this double-dip. After all, waiting for the 15th anniversary edition would take way too much patience.
RAMBLINGS

THE GEEK LIFE

It's a surreal reality (television)
The voyeuristic allure of reality TV claims another victim

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

A
s ashamed as I am to admit it, I have found myself finally giving into the reality-TV craze. Oh, I think I did a good job for a rather long time of avoiding the dreaded curse. The truth is, I find most of that stuff incredibly boring and stupid. And yet, it even managed to capture my oh-so-elitist interest.

It all started with The Osbournes, a show I still faithfully follow. At first, I didn't think too much of my fascination with the show. Ozzy is like an old friend of mine. I've seen him in concert many times. His silly whiny rockstar voice is indelibly imprinted in my brain folds.

The show was and still is lovely, brash and full of delicious curse words and British accents and spoiled bratty scenester kids I would probably hang out with even if they weren't famous. I have no problem enjoying that show.

Then it happened. The Surreal Life showed up, and I couldn't pull away from the wretched train accident/explosion that is Vanilla Ice. These genius producers decided that the next leap in eavesdropping would, should involve locking B-list celebrities in a mansion and watching the sparks fly. Well, whenever the ice-man showed his pasty, angry white boy face they will. Somehow, this show made its way to VH1, which is longing to make itself the new celebreality capital of the cable nation. The network

please see STRANGE on 119

CRAZED INDIE ROBOT

Sidekicks keep flicks kickin'
The indie Robot ranks the all-time best tagalongs

DIANNA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

S
idekicks. We all have them, or else we are them. In movies and TV shows, they can be off-­kilter and exuberant at times when the main characters cannot. They tend to not be regarded favorably by those who must endure them, usually looked down upon as "tagalongs," and ending up the butt of society's jokes. Which is a shame, as sidekicks are, quite frankly, what make the world go 'round. Here, then, just a few of my favorites. I salute you guys.

"Milhouse, on The Simpsons. From claiming that his mom says he's the coolest kid in school, to randomly collecting ALF pogs, Milhouse has all the hallmarks of a classic sidekick. Bart's best friend rarely got a chance to shine on his own, and his long, unrequited crush on Lisa made him extremely pitiable, but gosh, he sure did try not to suck.

Sean Astin as Samwise Gamgee, in The Lord of the Rings: He fights giant spiders. He carries his master up steep, dangerous mountains. He makes heartfelt speeches at the drop of the hat. And, to top it all off, his chemistry with Frodo makes audiences the world over blush. Is there anything that little hobbit can't do? Not likely.

That Crazy Irish Bastard, in Braveheart: Always talking about "my island," and claiming to have a direct line to God, the Crazy Irish Bastard really adds a healthy dollop of humor to Crazy Mel Gibson's tale.

Harrison Ford as Han Solo, in Star Wars: In the first one, he was the character that everyone in the audience could identify with: the guy who hears about the Force and says, "What is this crap?" He has absolutely no idea what's going on, and doesn't believe in any-

please see HAIL on 119

NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE

Bush, Pimp my country

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

W ell, it's official. Turd sandwich was inaugurated last Thursday to serve his second term as president. I know, I know, it blows more than Superbabies, but what are you gonna do? Poor people will continue to be poor and Blue Collar TV will remain on the air. Congratulations, Bush. But don't worry, it doesn't have to be so bad. Not if Bush elects to listen to my proposition gracefully.

p1mping.

Mr. Bush, I offer you the chance to advance your agenda of manifest destiny and at the very same time entertain the masses. The Department of the Interior meets interior design, advance by loads of crank to give the nation its newest reality sensation, Pimp My Country. It snatches the interest of all demographics, especially the ones you've ignored. The NAACP will instantly forget how you've ignored them when they see this show.

Here's the concept: We send about 100,000 troops into any country (voluntarily, involuntarily, it doesn't matter) with bullets and buckets. Of paint, that is! And we decorate the ever-lovin' hell out of them. We cross over the lines of bureaucratic red tape that keep us from interfering with countries and replace them with designs of red drapes! Each week it's a different country with guest rappers serving as ambassadors of dopeness and Colin Powell hanging along for the ride.

Let's take, for example, the Vatican. That place is beyond old-school. It makes John F. Kennedy look pale in comparison. What the Vatican needs is a good pimping. In just a few months with some hard work we can transform the Vatican into (drum roll please) ... the Phtatican! With its bullet-proof exterior, the Pope-Mobile is already the envy of many rappers. Put some tight rims and some holy hydraulics and you'll be cruising out wild like every night's your Last Rites. And how about replacing the pope's hat with a sombrero? No one's going to question the authority of a man in a sombrero. Plus, we can replace that archaic smoke-blowing chimney with some loud speakers. Pump a joint way up and some holy hydraulics and you'll be cruising out wild like every night's your Last Rites. And how about replacing the pope's hat with a sombrero? No one's going to question the authority of a man in a sombrero. Plus, we can replace that archaic smoke-blowing chimney with some loud speakers. Pump a joint way up and
WEB LESS TRAVELED

These people do it on the Internet

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

Because of the Internet’s “anonymous” nature, its denizens feel more comfortable telling millions of strangers their most secret, innermost thoughts under the mask of a screen name. For the bored, looking through them can be a delicious, guilty pleasure.

Online self-help columns are home to everything that Ann Landers would never dream of printing. Want to find out if cranberry juice is a good lubricant? Need to ask for advice about your tendency to cut your hair? Don’t ask your friends, but only sometimes.

Some other guy has confessed that he wants to break his toe to obtain sympathy and sympathy from off work. Another choice tidbit is someone who has submitted to “liking Mexicans,” but only sometimes.

Yet another guy says he’s never used a toilet in his life because he prefers a sink. It’s a cornucopia of things that decrease your faith in humanity, one reload at a time. What could be better?

SexTips Community
http://www.livejournal.com/community/sextips/

Oh, Livejournal-chan! What won’t you do? This is a sex column for the new millennium. Sure, there’s the usual “How big is the average penis?” and “Why does my crotch smell funny?” but that’s where the normality ends. Remember, this is not just the Internet, it’s Livejournal.

About one entry per day will ask about a fetish you probably never knew existed. Others will make you sad that its posters are reproducing. None of it could possibly be printed on this page. From reading today’s batch, I’ve learned that some poor dude is wondering what it would be like to put Listerine strips on his penis. In the “I hope I never have a daughter” department, there’s a girl here asking for advice about how to stay with a man she hooked up with at a movie theater. The catch? She’s 14.

Awesome.

Lesbians will save us all

From 118

and none of it ever coalesces with the feuding factions in these countries. So let’s use lesbians! They’re like a shot of whiskey. They instantly make anything better! We’ll have a mix of both hot and butch lesbians. The hot ones will go in first and speaking with the dictators. They’ll give them style tips, take them out for manicures and pedicures and watch Sandra Bullock movies. The butches will just be there as peace-keepers to make sure all goes well.

Soon every country will be pimped up by rappers and softened up by lesbians.

Let’s face it: The president, could care less about mending Malaysia, Tsunamis are sooo last year. As a former cheerleader, his heart lies in beautifying, not rectifying. This is the way of the future. And hey, if all else fails we can always fall back on Who Wants To Bomb My Country?

Strange Love VH1’s creepiest thing

From 118

It seems intent on showing the ditz Simpson girls in our faces as well as dragging every person who was ever the least bit famous all over the screen. The crazier and creepier, the better, of course.

The creepiest thing VH1 has on right now, and the show I of course can’t get enough of, is Strange Love, the bizarre and twisted journey of the heart of tiny defunct rapper Flavor Flav and European giantess Brigitte Nielsen, the barely famous ex-wife of Sylvester Stallone who is currently engaged to some hot Italian nobody. These two star-crossed freaks of nature met through IRC since well around through IRC since well before then. Its readers know even less about sex than the ones on Livejournal but somehow are having it anyway.

There’s a man here convinced that his penis has shrunk five inches over the last two years. Another wants to know if masturbating will make one of his testicles fall out of his body. Some unlucky woman out there has written in because she wants to know what an orgasm is. To top it all, the entire site is terribly translated, giving such gems as “do sex” and “What medicine for good erection and longtime enjoyment?” It’s English-licious!

Hail Inigo Montoya!

From 118

thing but his own self-preservation until his slightly inexplicable (but satisfying) change of heart at the very end. And, though irritable, he had a clearly defined sense of humor.

I don’t know that his name is actually Earl. That’s just the name we always call him when watching it. Why is he on the list? He’s a cyclops. Duh.

Jeff Cohen as Chunk, in The Goonies: Poor Chunk. He’s constantly lying, he’s a little pudgy, and all his so-called friends pick on him. If this was a movie directed by Larry Clark, he’d probably get his revenge by shooting Mikey, Brand, Mouth and Data in the face and by giving Stef and Andy AIDS. But alas, this is not a movie directed by Larry Clark, it’s directed by Richard Donner, and so Chunk ends up teamed with a deformed giant name Sloth trying to catch up to his adventure-seeking buddies who secretly can’t stand him. At least he manages to keep himself in good spirits throughout.

Ringo Starr as That Other, Weird-Looking Guy, in The Beatles: He always knew his place, never clamored for attention, and yet made crucial contributions at key moments (say, the title of “A Hard Day’s Night”). He got perhaps the best expression of appreciation ever sent by a leading man to a sidekick, when John Lennon wrote “In My Life” about him.

Mandy Patinkin as Inigo Montoya, in The Princess Bride: My favorite sidekick ever. From his skills with the sword to his revenge quest, he captured my heart the very first time I saw him. Not only are “Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die,” probably 13 of the most famous and oft-repeated words in cinema history, Inigo dispatches the evil Count Rugen with the awesome “I want my father back, you son of a b----. [stabs]” It doesn’t get any better than that in sidekick land, folks.
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