United UCF decides Bentley should be in the driver's seat

The SGA VP nabs the ticket's nomination to run for presidency

MARK JUSTICE

After SGA Senate Speaker Sean Lavin announced last week that he would not run as United UCF's candidate for student body president, party leaders knew they had big shoes to fill. Shortly after they approached him, Willie Bentley Jr. — a solid name to — made official his decision to embrace the party and its support.

Bentley, currently the student body vice president, said he was "determined to give everything I possibly can" to this year's race.

"I am very confident that we can win," he said. "I'm looking forward to it."
**Central Florida Future**

The Student Newspaper Serving UCF Since 1964

**Valentines Day Student Discounted Rose Sale**

For $30.00

Only 200 available

No holding or broken roses will be received

**Package Deal:**

12 roses for $35.00

**Call 629-3424 for reservations.**

**Up from $100 in Orlando.**

Shipped from Orlando, Fla.

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**Florida Strawberry Festival**

February 1, 2005 • Volume 37, Issue 40 • Pages

1407-1414

Editorial: 407-823-5617 • Advertising: 407-823-4555 • Fax: 407-823-4565

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Death payouts to increase

Bush proposes giving families of dead soldiers more

SARAH PESERT

The Tampa Tribune

Thousands of families have grieved the loss of a loved one in the Middle East over the past four years. Soldiers have left behind wives, husbands, and children after dying in combat.

Should a soldier die while serving in a combat zone, the government tends the family a "death gratuity" of about $12,000.

Melissa Poston of the Department of Veterans Affairs said President Bush is proposing raising the payment from $12,000 to $18,000. Bush will submit the proposal as part of his 2005 budget next week.

The families of all soldiers who die in combat will receive the gratuity, in addition, all families who have lost a loved one in combat since the United States invaded Afghanistan on Oct. 7, 2001, will receive a retroactive payment, according to the proposal.

The $6,000 gratuity package will only add to theimgaging amount that the U.S. States has already spent in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

"Any family whose loved one died while training in combat or in combat due to be compensated," said U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a student in the U.S.C.F. U.S.T.

Loans can lead to an interesting future

For students considering going into medicine, there are many kinds of loans that can help pay for your education. There is a loan for every type of degree that you can possibly get, without even going to the school's website.

According to the Office of Student Financial Aid at the University of Central Florida, students can receive loans, but they must apply by March 10 to be considered for the first year. This figure also includes about $395 million in in-state scholarships.

For more information regarding scholarships and deadlines, students can visit www. ucfla.org.

Grants, scholarships aren't paid back

Grants are funded by the state of Florida and is available to students who have the required grades and are from a Pell Grant, the amount received varies depending on enrollment status.

According to the Office of State Financial Aid, there are two types of federal loans that are available, Perkins Loan and Stafford Loan. Perkins Loan is credit-based and it is important to check your loan, or else you may not receive any money on a loan and be enrolled in their first undergraduate degree program.

Another grant available is the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. This grant is awarded on a limited amount to students with great financial need. Students must apply by March 10 to be considered for this grant, and they need to have applied for FAFSA.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Many UCF students benefit from the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, and there are some things to be aware of concerning this scholarship.

To qualify to receive the Bright Futures Scholarship, students must have successfully completed a certain number of credits and have a certain GPA at the end of the summer semester.

The Florida Academic Scholarship Award (100 percent tuition), stipulated in the U.S.C.F. U.S.T., students must have completed a certain number of credits and have a certain GPA at the end of the summer semester. Students who have completed all the requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship, may be able to receive a loan, and have completed at least six credit hours for each semester that year.

"I received the 25 percent Bright Futures and I am a student in Florida Prepaid. Having that financial incentive is such a comfort," said Foundation Scholarship, students must have completed all the requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship, and have completed at least six credit hours for each semester that year.

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It is unclear whether the disruption will continue within limits and ranks, the author of the stringent pre-voting secrecy measure that he strongly rejected, or whether the military leadership has strate­
gically lit the ballot.

The majority of Sunni Muslims and Kurds participated in Sunday's election for a new National Assembly in Iraq's eastern region.

Alcoholism has spread to all segments of society in Baghdad, and many students are finding themselves facing the challenge of alcoholism.

The report says textbook prices are increasing at more than four times the rate of inflation for all finished goods. "Wholesale publishers are hiking textbook prices and skyrocketing the cost of student products," an industry source said.

The report also says textbook prices are increasing at more than four times the rate of inflation for all finished goods.
Secretary: No more payoffs

Department of Education smarts from recent trials

BEN FELLER 
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Education Secretary Margaret Spellings said she will aggressively oversee the ways her department promotes its agenda, after days over a hired media firm and gay characters on an episode of a children's show dominated her first days on the job.

"We need to know what we're getting," Spellings said. The Associated Press on Tuesday in her first interview as secretary. "I mean, we need to have a cleaner, brighter sort of thing that we don't discover later on the process that this is what is coming down the pike."

As for the major education development of the Bush administration, the No Child Left Behind law, she said she might consider changing its requirements if high stakes testing emerges. She named such "crisis areas" as the testing of disabled children or teacher-quality struggles in rural regions. But she said some topics are off the table, including regular testing, which she called "the linchpin of the whole education thing."

As for the new public face of the administration, she has spent a decade as a senior advisor to George W. Bush in the White House and as his domestic policy chief in the White House.

She is the first mom with school-aged children to be education secretary. One of her daughters attends a Catholic high school, the other a public middle school, both in Alexandria, Va.

Less than two weeks after replacing Rod Paige, Spellings is providing change.

The Education Department has that it will remove at the request of its top

Rea, Edmundson not running on ticket

WASHINGTON — United UCF" and he said that he and Edmundson aren't running on a ticket. "It's just me and Edmundson," he said.

Bentley also cited the United UCF's John T. Washington, who opposes the notion that Spellings had said she and her aides would move to improve performance.

The provider will discuss your concerns and do a physical examination to determine your diagnosis. In some cases, a brief period of office observation may be needed. At the completion of your visit, the provider will discuss your treatment, which may include a prescription and/or referral. If necessary, certain instances patients are administered injections or IV solutions.

Visit the "smartypants" sisters of Delta Delta Delta!

Ask a doc

LARRY M. LANGFORD, MD.
Pediatrician

I have never been to the Student Health Center. How do I get on, and what can I expect?

You should schedule a visit to the Student Health Center by either calling 407-823-1040 or walking in to make an appointment.

Alternatively, if you are acutely if you can be seen a walk-in basis by the urgent care provider. In a walk-in situation, the nurse facilitator will decide if you need to be seen

Make a Difference

SCU Student Advocacy Open Forum

Wednesday February 9th 1:00 pm

Key West 218 CD

The Student Advocacy Unit hosts several open forums throughout the semester to give students the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns on issues ranging from the Golden Rule to the Activity and Service Fee budget. For more information log on to http://www.sga.ucf.edu
Neglected Arboretum will get first scheduled burning soon

The Arboretum is damaged by hurricane damage. The above view is in the background, and behind that is an engineering site construction.

There were some students who thought the Arboretum was damaged by hurricane damage. The above view is in the background, and behind that is an engineering site construction.

March 22, 2005

UCF Orlando Campus, Student Union

Hosted by the UCF Division of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Student Association, the Graduate Research Forum will include poster displays, oral presentations of student research and creative projects. The forum is open to UCF graduate students in all disciplines and the community is welcome to attend.

The symposium deadline is February 8, 2005.

Visit www.graducate.ucf.edu for details.

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Your plasma donations can directly save the lives of our troops wounded in combat.

Your plasma is manufactured into a derivative called Albumin. This critical fluid is used to treat battlefield injuries including shock, burns and blood loss.

Earn up to $170 a month donating regularly. When you donate plasma, you are helping save lives. Take being a hero to another level. Donate Now!

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Sticking the world with a red-hot poker

It’s one of the fastest-rising sports and it’s here to stay.

The other night I was in hour two of my all-too-frequent late-night poker tournaments, and my buddy Pat was dealt pocket sevens. He got cold, generated a raise and eventually ended up all-in — only to lose to a pair of kings on the river. Every time we’ve played in one of these post-Devaney’s tournaments since that night, he’s raised it up.

It’s not the reason why I love poker, I don’t. I’ve never really had a friend before another friend get drunk. Who am I kidding? That’s the main reason I love it. What better way to announce your superiority over your friends and enemies than by inflicting pain on the latter? And I’ve loped up yet another tournament as I’m writing this, a discussion popped up at our table. As a humorous poker book has everything, Pat and I decided to bring up the question of whether or not to tip your poker dealer. As Pat has been my friend for three years, will ever fit a point where the dealer will check pain?

At first I thought it has to be at least a 25% fee, but I’m not sure. Poker isn’t exactly like babysitting, as one of the capital requirements of the former is that you work for it, but for the dealer, it’s just straight up dead. Eventually something else has to come up to pay for the dealer, like my Maybe Ch tanker’s or maybe Hungry Harry’s Pizza. But my poker dealer isn’t that good.

I think it’s better to tip than to do anything. I’ve known Terry for three years. Initially my suspicion was correct. After all, the only time I’ve ever been wrong was when I said that Terry’s brother had more staying power than Joe Simpson and Christina Aguilera combined. But I still firmly believe Terry will launch a Chihuahua on the Pac-10 football team with Johnson’s late free throws deliver win.

Somehow a single possession can change the direction a team is going. That moment may have come for the Bears on Monday night in the Knights’ 67-58 victory over Lipscomb. It’s hard anyone there to see it.

With less than two minutes to play, the score was knotted at 58. UCF had surrendered a 13-point first-half lead but came back late in the second half to erase a 6-point deficit. So the Bears had the ball and the chance to lead UCF a damaging loss for the second time in less than a week. Then the Knights clamped down.

With 31 seconds of daylight UCF defense, Lipscomb hit a brick wall. Shot clock violation Lipscomb wouldn’t score again.

The Knights came back and buried the Bears. After frustrating the Bears, Josh peppers found some space at the top of the key and waved a 3-pointer, giving the Knights a 65-58 lead with just under a minute remaining. UCF overalled Lipscomb on defense, and the Bisons fooled Gary Johnson, who made all six of his free throws in the final minute to give the Knights a 9-point victory as the thin crowd of 1,139 filed out.

Peppers scored only 6 points, but 3 of those came from that critical late shot in the game. "I feel like I’m the man under pressure," Peppers said. "I had a bad game tonight, and I know that, but I stepped back up, and I know the team needed me. So I came through with a clutch shot." peppers took the foul on the way that they composed themselves and held point, coming down the stretch," UCF Coach Kirk Speraw said. "After we get down 6, from that point on [the team] executed and finished a lot better. Defense was key, as allowed the Knights to climb back to the game and take away the confidence that I gave both the last two games against UCF.

"The defense was there," Speraw said. "We became a lot more active, closed out better on the shooters, contained better and rebounded better. I think that we were doing a lot more well together the stretch." After struggling early in the season, Anthony Williams continued to impress his impressive play of late, scoring a game-high 14 points. "I’ve been getting more comfortable with the offense," Williams said. "I came from a junior college where I hardly stay.

Point in THERE IS 48

Sate & Nation

Huskies star guard will return jersey

SEATTLE — University of Washington basketball guard Nate Robinson will return a Chicago Bears jersey given to a former Huskies football player because accepting it may have caused Robinson to up his game.

"It’s always fun to come back and get a jersey back where I used to watch a lot of the Huskies games," said Robinson, who played with the Chicago Bears last year.

"It definitely gave it back," Robinson told reporters. "We were just up there a few years ago, and I think there was just a slight misunderstanding with the NCAA and the Bears. But Nate is a good kid. He’s had a good year so far, so I was happy to return it."

Robinson said he will be allowed to wear the jersey against the schools of his choice.

The school administration advised Robinson to return the jersey.

"The GM’s told them not sure how I’m going to give it back," Robinson said.

"The school administration advised Robinson to return the jersey. Robinson said that he didn’t want to give back the jersey. He’s simpler to return it. Robinson said he would be allowed to wear the jersey.

The rules said he will be allowed to accept the jersey.

Barrett, Daytona Beach-Sea breech offensive lineman Richard Clark, West Orange linebacker Justin Wren and two prospects from Seminole County’s Lake Brantley High School — linebacker Cody Kiefer and defensive back Lummar Gay — UCF Backs coach Darrell Hand is responsible for recruiting the Central Florida program. Coach O’Leary is of the opinion that he has a strong bond. It’s closer to home so perhaps we can come here too."

Players often closed the coaching staff, the new athletic facilities, the housing on campus and UCF’s academic offerings as key reasons for committing to the program.

"It just felt I was comfortable over there,” said Wren, who was as three-year letter-winner at West Orange. "Coach Kiefer is cool, I like being around them and I like the way UCF runs things. It would be too easy to stay close to home and I really like that." Wren, who is also a star basketball player at Lake Brantley, school.

"It just feels like it’s the spot to be," Wren said. "Coach Kiefer — the linebackers coach — we have a strong bond. It’s just that the spot to be for me for right now. They’re an up-and-coming program." Coach O’Leary is of the opinion that he has a strong bond. It’s closer to home so perhaps we can come here too.

"I’ve been getting more comfortable with the offense," Williams said. "I came from a junior college where I hardly stay.

Point in THERE IS 48

O’Leary announces newest recruits

Football welcomes new class of incoming Knights

BRANDON HEDING

Wednesday the UCF Backs football National Signing Day, the Knights officially sign national letters of intent to the program.

UCF Backs Coach George O’Leary announced the signings of 19 players, including six junior college and prep school signees, but of the 13 ranked Huskies, after the basketball reports before Tuesday’s practice.

The signings of 19 players, including six junior college and prep school signees, but of the 13 ranked Huskies, after the basketball reports before Tuesday’s practice.

The signings of 19 players, including six junior college and prep school signees, but of the 13 ranked Huskies, after the basketball reports before Tuesday’s practice.
Men send Bison out to the pasture

JEFF SHARON

UCF won because...

It woke up down the stretch. The Knights fell down by as much as six in the second half but managed to fight back in the final 11 minutes. Down 47-41 at the 11:36 mark, UCF went on a 7-2 run to get back within one. Then, down six again, the Knights stormed back to tie the game at 54 with 4:02 left. After both teams traded points, UCF got the ball with 18:46 and the game tied at 56. From there, the Knights would score the last 9 points of the game, and win again needed to score in overtime. They tied the game in the second half, and fortunately for the Knights, they had three outs. UCF's 27-17 lead in the final 11.

Lipscomb lost because...

It couldn't put the nail in the coffin. Twice in the second half the Bisons had the ball and a 6-point lead, and twice they fell to bury the dagger a little deeper. Despite out-rebounding the Rebels 35-26, the Knights scored only 5 of 17 turnovers for the game. Lipscomb converted the advantage in the second half into a 24-advantage in points, and just to cut it off, UCF missed the last 17 seconds when the game was still within reach.

Possession of the game

Lipscomb's blunder of an offensive possession was as much as six times closer to winning the game. When the game knotted at 98, the Bisons again had a chance to go up by one. Then, down six again, the Knights stormed back to tie the game at 107.

Peppers' clutch 3-pointer puts nail in Bison coffin

Peppers' clutch 3-pointer puts nail in Bison coffin

Free A

touched the ball. I think I only got 12 shots in a game, once or twice there. I get shots there.

Williams was key to the victory because he established an inside presence, something the Knights have been lacking all season.

"I thought we did a nice job of getting him looks down and a half behind conference opponent Gardner-Webb.

"We knew we couldn't lose," Williams said. "Our back is against the wall right now.

The Knights do not return to the Legends until Feb. 17 when they will host Morehead.

Despite the tough road that lies ahead of the Knights, Speraw remains optimistic.

"We've got to snap out of those slumps and stay more locked in for the rest of the season," he said. "We expect that will still be the case in some of our upcoming games.

Game notes

Gary Johnson finished with 21 points, six assists and two blocks, and shot a perfect eight-for-eight from the free-throw line. Marcus Johnson was an inside presence scoring 18 points on three-for-five shooting. William Bakanowsky continued his comeback from a concussion and scored 6 points in 8 minutes. UCF was out-rebounded 23-22. The Knights forced 17 turnovers while only turning it over themselves 10 times. There is no better start for the return of injured guard Justin Ross.

FUTURE a team that has had issues at the line so far for Kirk. He only hit 5/12 from the field, the five he did hit were huge and included two 3-pointers.

This award goes to Peppers' 3-pointer that put the nail in the coffin and sent the Bison out to the pasture.
Linebackers rule among this year's class

There's always hope if there's a chip and a chair

Referees punished for botched replay

Dear Suzie,

I couldn't find the right words to say. I wanted to say thank you for your help and support during this difficult time. You have been a true friend and confidant.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
The No Child Left Behind Act remains the main piece of legislation in the United States. Secretary Margaret Spellings — or as she terms herself — has made it clear throughout the years to come that Education was on our agenda.

In January, Armstrong Williams, a political pundit, was paid $400,000 to endorse the "No Child Left Behind" program. The endorsement Similar to the death of the program, which he had previously opposed.

Then, more recently, Spellings threatened to reduce funding for the Public Broadcasting System over the airing of a children's cartoon show. The show is in question, "Bill Nye the Science Guy." The cartoon show, which aired in the 1990s, is now back on the air.

The next episode, which was supposed to air on January 1, had a political message. The message centered on the importance of science education and the need for children to learn about science. The episode featured a character named "Science Guy," who was shown doing experiments and teaching children about the importance of science.

The episode was removed from the broadcast schedule, and Spellings announced that the show would not be aired. The decision was made to show the episode on a different day, and the show would be aired without the political message.

Any parent who does not want their child to view these programs, Spellings said, is free to educate their children at home or in another way. She also said that parents should have the opportunity to make these decisions for their children. The episode that was removed was a "teaching episode," which was intended to teach children about science.

Any parent who does not want their child to view these programs, Spellings said, is free to educate their children at home or in another way. She also said that parents should have the opportunity to make these decisions for their children. The episode that was removed was a "teaching episode," which was intended to teach children about science.
Welcome to UCF ... home of the rich and insanely gullible

COMMENTS

NATHAN POEKERT

I understand there are many great advantages to living on campus. You don't have to worry about parking. You're just a skate ride away from anywhere on campus. However, there are many advantages to living off campus. It is definitely a necessity because your football team needs to make a profit somehow. Roughly $785 per month. Add to that your parking, which I paid $485 for the semester. My junior year, I lived in Jefferson Commons (I never refer to it as a dorm), and I paid $485 for a room and a pool and expensive roommates because living situations were not available at reasonable prices, there were no short-term leases and there were not enough available rooms for multiple people. On top of that living on campus at my family just received a letter a couple of days ago in the mail from Sigma Phi Epsilon saying that housing was provided to everyone displaced.

The funny thing is that as my mother read me the letter over the phone, I was completely surrounded by a journalist. I thought that was the most unnecessary home of the biggest and best college town. I give it four stars. I think the worst will be the long term parties involved and, once again, UCF did nothing to help any of its students, unlike the article stated.

- reader

PREPARING YOU FOR MEDICINE

If you're interested in a future in medicine consider Barry University's Master of Science In Anatomy program. Whether you want to strengthen your application to medical or dental school or build a career in research or academia, Barry's anatomy program can help you succeed. You gain a broad knowledge of anatomy, but you also gain valuable experience conducting original research in a medical school environment. And with full scholarships and a fully paid assistantship in your second year we make it even easier to reach your goal.

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ADC. 1.11

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... home of the rich and insanely gullible

I am a brother of Sigma Phi Epsilon, and from firsthand experience of having to live in Arden Villas, I can say with certainty that there was absolutely no assistance from UCF or Sigma Phi Epsilon nationals when it came to finding housing for displaced students.

We were literally left out on the streets on our own with no friends because living situations were not available at reasonable prices, there were no short-term leases and there were not enough available rooms for multiple people. On top of that, we were literally left out on the streets on our own with no friends because living situations were not available at reasonable prices, there were no short-term leases and there were not enough available rooms for multiple people. On top of that, my family just received a letter a couple of days ago in the mail from Sigma Phi Epsilon saying that housing was provided to everyone displaced.

The funny thing is that as my mother read me the letter over the phone, I was completely surrounded by a journalist. I thought that was the most unnecessary home of the biggest and best college town. I give it four stars. I think the worst will be the long term parties involved and, once again, UCF did nothing to help any of its students, unlike the article stated.

- reader

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**Get Paid to Play!**

The Florida 11th Youth Camp (FYC) needs male and female Summer Camp Counselors ages 18 and up. FYC is an overnight camp located off of Highway 501 in Summerville, SC. The camp runs June 6 - July 3. Please contact Brian at 803-547-5985.

**Contact:**

Call Nick at (803) 547-5985.

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**Contact:**

Call Nick at (803) 547-5985.
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LADIES GET IN FREE ALL NIGHT!

Models & Bottles
$100.00
LADIES BARTAB

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Vol. V, No. 20, Feb. 10 - Feb. 16, 2005

Have a romantic Valentine's Day without leaving campus

Sugarcult takes action at the HOB

Ye olde Valentines from the late 1800s

It's good to have a Bad Education
**Bored? We'll go to see Wilco!**

Alternative rock innovators reinvent themselves yet again

**CHRIS BOWERS**  
Staff Writer

Music has been dealt a lot of bad blows lately, including Nickelback being nominated for a hard rock Grammy, Ashlee Simpson and the invention of the word "emo-core." Music, however, is a resilient fighter, and recently there have been signs that it's trying to fight back. Bright Eyes debuting at No. 10 on the Billboard Top 50 Albums chart, Weezer seemingly ready to finally release their long-awaited Rick Rubin produced/mentored fifth album and the release of Brian Wilson's masterpiece Smile all give hope to those of us who cringe at the thought of Hootabstank possibly being winner of the Grammy for best rock album.

And perhaps one of the largest signs is that more and more people are learning about the Chicago-based band Wilco. In the past two years the band has released what is widely recognized as one of the first classic albums of the century in Yankee Hotel Foxtrot, and they followed that up with A Ghost is Born, a more toned-down album which won the group even more praise. The band has even released The Wilco Book, a strange, artsy, picture-filled coffee-table book, which documents the band's journey throughout the past two years.

Now you have your chance to help good music return to glory by going out to the House of Blues on Wednesday and seeing Wilco perform live. If you have never seen Wilco or heard their music, then this is your opportunity to discover one of America's truly great bands. There really is something for everyone to enjoy here, for the live sound of the band covers a broad area of the musical spectrum.

In The Wilco Book, the band's house engineer, Stan Doty, elaborates on their live sound, "Wilco is a complicated band to mix. Jeff [Tweedy, lead singer] plays old-school at times, and other times he's totally cutting-edge. It's tricky but refreshing...

...One of the greatest things about this band is that they go from low-fi to high-fi, low dynamics to high dynamics, cutting-edge stuff to old-school."

At its very best, live music is inarguably good for the soul. Jeff Tweedy sums this up, and whether he intended to or not gives us all one last argument to go see Wilco live when he writes in The Wilco Book, "The main reason I think touring is really good is that it's really good — and good for you — to play music in front of people and to participate in bringing people together, sharing — and on a good night — really connecting with a bunch of people in a room all listening to the same thing. It's a really great thing to do!"

So at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday do yourself a favor and go see Wilco at the House of Blues. Tickets range from $22.50 to $35. And please, help save music!

Members of Wilco have good reasons to be all smiles. After a traumatic 2002 that saw the band nearly lose the release of their masterful Yankee Hotel Foxtrot, then having their problems documented in a terrific film a year later, the last two years have proved more fruitful. The band, having found on home on classy label Nonesuch, is touring in support of its eclectic The Ghost is Born and a new book about the band. See them Tuesday at the House of Blues.
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[Image of an actor]

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HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

CAMPUS

VLUC Labor of Love
Feb. 10, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., free
Student Union
Garden Key Room 231A
E27iraz@yaho.com

George Will
Feb. 10, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., free
Student Union
Prep Room Ballroom
407-823-6935

Dance Marathon Date Auction
Feb. 10, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Garten Bockdale
12448 Lake Underhill Road
407-823-0474

UCF Jazz Ensemble
Feb. 10, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Visual Arts Building
Auditorium ...
407-823-1473

Black History Month Funny Fridays
Feb. 11, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Cape Florida Ballroom Rm. 316
mcu@mail.ucf.edu

Julia Heinen Clarinet Recital
Feb. 11, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Rehearsal Hall
Room 116
407-823-5116

Miss UCF
Feb. 12, 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., free
Student Union
Prep Room Ballroom
407-823-6935

Chocolat
Feb. 14, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Cape Florida Ballroom Rm. 316
407-823-6935

Black History Month Brain Bowl
Feb. 15, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Garden Key Room 231A
mycu@mail.ucf.edu

TRIBUTE TO A BLACK ARTIST
Feb. 16, 7:15 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Room 210B
mcu@mail.ucf.edu

EVENTS

38th Annual Central Florida Boat Show
Feb. 10 to Feb. 13, various times, $4 to $4
Orange County Convention Center
9800 International Drive
407-299-1667

Twelfth Night
Feb. 12, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., free
Downtown Roosters
Broadway and Monument Avenues
407-913-5697

IMAGES: A Festival of the Arts
Feb. 12 to Feb. 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Riverwalk Park
South Riverside Drive and Downing Street
New Smyrna Beach

386-423-4733

Orlando Rumbler Car Show
Feb. 13, noon, free
Cowboy Orlando
11083, Orange Blossom Trail
407-422-7115

The Cocktail Hour
Feb. 14, 8 p.m., free
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0438

Valentine Strut
Feb. 14, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., $18.50
Harry P. Leu Gardens
1720 N. Forest Ave.
407-246-3620

Jane Hirschfeld
Feb. 15, 7 p.m. to 2 p.m., free
Valencia Community College West Campus
1805 S. Kirkman Road
407-852-0900

SHOWS:
SugarCult, The Early November, Hopscotch, Hawthorne Heights, Moxee
(punk)
Feb. 10, 8 p.m., $15
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-935-2583

Dorja Roberts, Three 5 Human (rock)
Feb. 10, 8 p.m., $30
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1919

Junkie Bush (rock)
Feb. 10, 9 p.m., $5-7
Will's Pub
1001 N. Mills Ave.
407-888-5070

Luna Beloved (rock)
Feb. 10, 8 p.m., free
Ballarat & Grum
513 W New England Ave.
407-539-7714

Adam Cohen, Mike Dougherty (rock)
Feb. 11, 9:30 p.m., $5
Natasia Coffee and Tea
13210 College Way
407-882-5000

Kingsbury, Apollo Quartet, Evil Ballerina (indie)
Feb. 11, 9 p.m., $5
Orlando Island Oasis
2716 N. Fernyth Rd.
407-677-0474

Vancouver, Six on Sunday, The Black Rabbits (indie)
Feb. 11, 7 p.m., $7
6-500e Dr.
1002 W. Hwy 416
407-662-1002

Dead Gospel, Lost in Progress, Fleshweld, Grumpy (metal)
Feb. 11, 8 p.m., $5
The Haven, 2070 Aloma Ave.
407-673-2712

The Band of the Name, On Cassette, Loaded for Bear (indie)
Feb. 11, 9 p.m., $5
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-226-0048

d Manufacturers, Corl Yarkin, The Morning After, New Crash Position
Feb. 11, 10 p.m., $4
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-226-0048

21+ ID Required

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SATURDAY
Roger Lee
10pm-close

- cover

GARGAMEL!
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

FROM i4

Gargamell (metal)
Feb. 11, 10 p.m., $5
Copper Rocket Pub
106 Lake Ave.
407-645-0069

Florganism, Bad Bear (rock)
Feb. 11, 9 p.m., $5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Rocket 88, Hindy Cowboys (various)
Feb. 11, 9 p.m., $5-$7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Take Out, Fin, Pretty Ugly, Kristie DeLuca (rock)
Feb. 12, 9 p.m., $5-$7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Kenneth Brian, The Delusionaires (rock)
Feb. 12, 10 p.m., $5
Copper Rocket Pub
106 Lake Ave.
407-645-0069

One Drop (rock)
Feb. 12, 9 p.m., $5-$7
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Bluelegs, Cadillac Recipe, Mobius, Fat Americans (rock)
Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m., $6
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5683

Bruce Hornsby (pop)
Feb. 12, 5 p.m., free
55 West
55 W. Church St.
407-423-9666

Florganism (rock)
Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m., free
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-728-0048

Cestair, Fallen Heroes, Room Service
(March)
Feb. 12, 7 p.m., $8
0-Zone CDs
1001 W. Hwy 436
407-662-1002

funkits, Mohave (rock)
Feb. 13, 9 p.m., $5
Singapore's
25 Wall Street Plaza
407-849-9504

Summerbirds in the Cellar, Country Slasher, Yip Yip, What's Yr Damage (rock)
Feb. 13, 9 p.m., free
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Via Satellite (indie)
Feb. 13, 9 p.m., $5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Wilco (rock)
Feb. 15, 5 p.m., $6-$8
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Mashlin, Abagana, Getaway, David Melillo (rock)
Feb. 16, 8 p.m., $5
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

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Will Call Hours: Wed. 3/16: 7am-6pm, Thur. 3/17: 7am-8pm, Fri. 3/18: 7am-9pm Sat. 3/19: 6:30am-3pm

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Mobil 1
12 Hours of
SEBRING

Bikini Contest Saturday!
Hood’s music is a sort of isolationist-pop depe, gray and intentionally hokeyless, but richly detailed and evocative. It’s very British, very redolent of gray skies and empty, wintry landscapes. Hood’s pop miniatures are composed primarily of subtle synth, half-numbled vocals, somber strings, icy acoustic guitars and slow-moving, nearly trip-hopish beats. Imagine a combination of melancholic, pastoral pop of The Field Mice, the cold echoing, isolationist minimalism of Main and the downer trip-hop rhythms of Portishead and a pinch of Radiohead circa Kid A.

Outside Closer is, when you’re in the right mood, pretty darn good. If you’re not, however, it can be tedious and even mildly grating. Without a doubt, the weakest link is the vocals. Utterly devoid of any sort of charm or personality, listless and shapeless, they’re at their very best unobtrusive, and at worst dull the magic of the music. It’s easy to imagine with stronger vocals that this album could be transformed from a pleasant (if that’s quite the right word) soundtrack of moping to something genuinely memorable and moving.

After the 41 seconds of piercing static-filled glitch that makes up the first track (“Int.”) comes “The Negatives,” which is the obvious choice for a single. It combines a slow-motion, almost-bounce of a beat with the album’s most extroverted singing and a few moments that approximate actual hooks. Any inclination the listener might have developed to dance from that track is quickly dissipated by the sprawling seven minutes of “Any Hopeful Thoughts Arrive.” Anchored by a thin electronic drum loop and a circular acoustic guitar pattern, thick reverbed clouds of strings are allowed to wander about aimlessly — it’s one of the tracks you definitely have to be in the right state of mind to enjoy. “Closure” has much the same effect, although somewhat alleviated by a richer sound.

A similar acoustic guitar figure is present in the next track, “End of One Train Working,” although this time with a little more forward momentum provided by what has to be the world’s most morose use of handclaps. A brief interlude right in the middle of the song provides a nice change of scenery, keeping it from getting monotonous.

“Winter?” is one of the best tracks on Outside Closer, starting off very much in the mode of early post-rockers Bark Psychosis, with distant chiming guitars playing strange jazzy chords, distorted vocals and lots of echo. As it develops, it shows Hood to be unafraid of abrasive sounds, with some chugging dissonant chords reminiscent of Unwound or Sonic Youth and, later on, piercing feedback squalls. Touches like those give a much needed backbone to Hood’s sound.

— BRYAN COX

Chuck D once referred to hip-hop as the “black CNN,” but lately it seems more like an episode of The Real World — superficial, overdramatic and sex-obsessed. Thankfully, N.J. rappers Dälek (MC Dälek, DJ Still and producer Ottopus) prove there’s more to hip-hop than droppin’ it like it’s hot and getting crunk.

Creating socio-political sonic missiles in the vein of Public Enemy, Rage Against The Machine and A Tribe Called Quest, the trio’s fourth album, Absence, is a dark and gritty affair filled with dissonance and an intense philosophical urgency.

The opening track, “Distorted Prose,” is a spoken-word number punctuated by a menacing bass line and the piercing blare of strings. Featuring a sound byte of a man screaming amidst orchestrations of violins, electric guitar pattern, thick reverbed clouds of strings are allowed to wander about aimlessly — it’s one of the tracks you definitely have to be in the right state of mind to enjoy. “Closure” has much the same effect, although

In his second release on Ani DiFranco’s Righteous Babe Records, The Mysterious Production of Eggs, Andrew Bird plays his guitar amidst orchestrations of violins, electronic sounds and even his own whistling. The opening track is a short instrumental prelude to the lyrical world Bird has in store for us. Following that is “Sovay,” a somber song that was also included as a bonus track to the European release of his previous album, Weather Systems.

The album is part acoustic songwriter material and part abstract orchestral suite. Sprinkled over the top of his songs, Bird drops in swooping violins and plucked strings, which make for a satisfyingly eerie listen. Bird’s soft, melodic voice comes across comforting when alongside his guitar, though remains unremarkable by itself. Standout tracks include the outstanding “Fake Palindromes” and “Opposite Day,” with its crawling violins. Fans of the Garden State soundtrack will find no surprises in the Production of Eggs.

— ROB SOMERS

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The opening track, “Distorted Prose,” is a spoken-word number punctuated by a menacing bass line and the piercing blare of strings. Featuring a sound byte of a man screaming amidst orchestrations of violins, electric guitar pattern, thick reverbed clouds of strings are allowed to wander about aimlessly — it’s one of the tracks you definitely have to be in the right state of mind to enjoy. “Closure” has much the same effect, although

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The album is part acoustic songwriter material and part abstract orchestral suite. Sprinkled over the top of his songs, Bird drops in swooping violins and plucked strings, which make for a satisfyingly eerie listen. Bird’s soft, melodic voice comes across comforting when alongside his guitar, though remains unremarkable by itself. Standout tracks include the astounding “Fake Palindromes” and “Opposite Day,” with its crawling violins. Fans of the Garden State soundtrack will find no surprises in the Production of Eggs.

— ROB SOMERS

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— ROB SOMERS
Park Ave CDs Jr.: Top 25 for the week of Jan. 30 - Feb. 5

1. Anberlin
   Never Take Friendship Personal

2. Bright Eyes
   I’m Wide Awake, It’s Morning

3. Bright Eyes
   Digital Ash in a Digital Urn

4. John Legend
   Get Lifted

5. Unwritten Law
   Here’s to the Mourning

6. Do Or Die
   D.O.D.

7. Ani DiFranco
   Knuckle Down

8. Green Day
   American Idiot

9. Ludacris
   Red Light District

10. Jimmy Eat World
    Futures

11. Killers
    Hot Fuss

12. Paul Oakenfield
    Perfecto Present: the Club

13. Aqueduct
    I Sold Gold

14. Frankensreiter/Johnson
    Some Live Songs

15. Diddy Bops
    Diddy Bops

16. Straight Run
    Straight Run

17. Crime Mob
    Crime Mob

18. Arcade Fire
    Funeral

19. John Frusciante
    Curtains

20. Chemical Brothers
    Push the Button

21. Pitty Sing
    Pitty Sing

22. Black Maria
    Lead Us to Reason

23. Jimmy Chamberlin
    Life Begins Again

24. Erasure
    Nightbird

25. Ed Harcourt
    Strangers

The top male, female, group and album awards

MUSIC

TOP 25

Our third week of Grammy predictions

The top male, female, group and album awards

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

In just a few days, the 47th Grammies will be upon us, and so concludes the three-week look at the different nominees. This week we take a gander at the pop categories and the biggest award of them all, Album of the Year.

Best Female Pop Vocal Performance

“Oceania,” Björk: This is to the Grammies what Sideways is to the Oscars. The pick to show how hip the academy is without actually awarding it.

“The First Cut Is The Deepest,” Sheryl Crow: This Cat Stevens song feels like it’s been out forever. Cat Stevens? Does that mean Crow’s a terrorist?

“Sunrise,” Norah Jones: Is this a song or a jingle to accompany a coffee commercial?

What You Waiting For?” Gwen Stefani: A fun, kitschy song that’s too tongue-in-cheek for most voters’ tastes.

“You Had Me,” Joss Stone: This is that “I’m tough and independent” song Stone had others write for her.

Prediction: Joss Stone, who should have been in the R&B category if not for the minor discrepancy of her being white, will get her one award of the night and will thankfully fade back to obscurity.

Best Male Pop Vocal Performance

“Let’s Misbehave,” Elvis Costello: See Björk above.

“You Raise Me Up,” Josh Groban: Speaking of jingles, this could’ve been used successfully in Viagra ads.

“Daughters,” John Mayer.

“Cinnamon Girl,” Prince: Prince came back to music with something resembling a name, with songs resembling something good. Just not good enough for a win.

“Love’s Divine,” Seal: Talk about your comebacks. This guy’s career looked more shattered than his face, and believe me, that’s saying something.

Prediction: Mayer will win this. The song is more folk than pop, but it’s Christopher Crossish enough to warm its way into voters’ hearts.

Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group With Vocal

“My Immortal,” Evanescence: If this loses (and it will), it’ll just give the band’s fans one more reason to fake-cry themselves through a melancholy weekend.

“The Reason,” Hoobastank: At least they didn’t put this in rock. This is the worst kind of pop out there.

“Heaven,” Los Lonely Boys: With the matching harmonies, it’s the only group song that feels like a true group song. So it’ll lose.

Prediction: Okay, I’ve been using a cheap method, which is to pick the nominee with the most overall nominations, but that usually works. With that in mind, I’ll go with Maroon 5, who’s already set to open the show.

Album of the Year

Genius Loves Company, Ray Charles and Various Artists: He’ll lose here, but Foxx will win the Oscar for playing him, so that’s decent compensation.

American Idiot, Green Day: This is the dark horse, but it’s too dark to be noticed in contrast to West’s sparkling bling.

The Diary Of Alicia Keys, Alicia Keys: A throwback to 1970s soul that will win in R&B categories but come up short overall.

Confessions, Usher: If there were no rookie sensation in its way, this commercial and critical monolith would’ve easily won.

The College Dropout, Kanye West: You don’t get 10 nominations without winning the grand prize.

Prediction: I can already hear the 10-minute speech thanking Jesus. West all the way, nuff said.
Punk and emo bands Take Action tonight

Sugarcult headline annual rock show, set to help prevent teen suicide for fifth year in a row

BRANDON BIELICH
Staff Writer

Tonight, the House of Blues will house a special show: The annual Sub City Take Action Tour, aimed at preventing suicide. Previous participants on the tour have included Jimmy Eat World, Taking Back Sunday and Hot Water Music. This year’s headliners are none other than California pop-punks Sugarcult.

Known for their breakout hits “Stuck in America” and “Bouncin’ off the Walls,” Sugarcult has traveled all around the world, rocking every spot on the globe. But last week, the quartet began touring hoping to send a different message to friends and fans across the nation: stopping suicide.

According to the National Mental Health Association, suicide ranks as the third leading cause of death in young adults ranging ages 15-24. Take Action works with the National Hopeline Network to provide a way for fans to communicate about suicide prevention, as well as dealing with tragic loss.

By dialing a simple 800-number (800-SUICIDE), those in trouble can literally call for help.

President of Hopeless/Sub City Records and founder of the Take Action Tour, Louis Posen, described how the Take Action Tour came about.

“Hopeless Records was going for about five years when we realized we were reaching hundreds of thousands of people and there was a unique opportunity there to do something positive,” he said. “So we launched our sister label Sub City, which donates money to non-profit organizations and raises awareness. That same year, we decided to take that concept to the road, and that’s how the Take Action Tour was born.”

So where does the concert come into play? Well, tickets run for $17, cheap enough to fit even the average college kid’s budget. Plus, proceeds from the show benefit the National Hopeline Network. Ultimately, concert-goers can enjoy a night of rock music and make a difference in the lives of many at the same time.

As Posen explains, “The tour wouldn’t exist without the fans. The fans are the ones buying the CD and paying to go to the show, and that’s how all this happens.”

And your time and effort truly can make a difference. Because of overwhelming fan support through petitions and fundraising, Take Action recently launched the Youth America Hotline (1-877-YOUTHLINE), a peer-to-peer youth line for those in need.

“We realized...that young people want to talk to young people,” Posen said. “If it was a peer-to-peer line, they would feel much less hesitation and more comfortable calling. So, we created the initiative to start 877-YOUTHLINE,” commented Posen.

In addition to the tour, Sub City has released its Take Action Vol. 4 CD, featuring 41 songs from various artists including Taking Back Sunday, Coheed & Cambria, Mae, NOFX and Andrew W.K. The CD retails for only about $4.99, and proceeds also help fund the National Hopeline Network.

When asked about the ultimate goal of the Take Action Tour, Posen said, “Our mission with Take Action is to create a better world, one voice and one action at a time. It’s about empowering people giving people information and letting them make choices. If you’re not armed with all the information, it’s hard to make good choices.”

Now, it’s time for you to make the right choice. With another all-star lineup, this year’s tour is sure to make a significant difference. But it all starts with you. So come out tonight and show your support.

Doors open at 6:00; show starts 6:45 at House of Blues in Lake Buena Vista/Downtown Disney. Joining Sugarcult will be The Early November, Hawthorne Heights, Hopesfall and Maxeen.

For more information check out www.takeactiontours.com

The Take Action Vol. 4 CD is available in stores or online at www.hopelessrecords.com.
**LIFE**

**Will you be my Valentine?**

Check out vintage Valentine greetings

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

As you know, Valentine’s Day is a fake holiday invented by card and candy companies.

Sound familiar? It’s the same old line your one cynical friend hauls out every year when Valentine’s Day rolls around. Well, the good people at the Orange County Regional History Center are determined to silence all of those naysaying single people.

From now until Feb. 20, the History Center will be showcasing the exhibit “Forget Me Not: Vintage Valentines,” a small but impressive collection of Valentines from the Victorian Era and beyond. The exhibit also explains the origins of the amorous holiday.

“The origin, believe it or not, is still somewhat of a mystery,” explains Tara Oliver, archivist for the OCRHC.

Historians aren’t sure, but the Valentine’s Day is thought to be a merging two separate pagan and Christian holidays — Lupercalia and the feast celebrating St. Valentine.

Lupercalia was a fertility holiday celebrated in the Pagan Roman Empire to help make crops, animals, and people more fruitful. Of course, this wasn’t achieved by passing around candy hearts — but rather by flogging people and animals with goat skins. Not exactly most people’s idea of a good night on the town.

“We’re talking about a group of people that were shepherds, so fertility was life,” said Oliver.

As the Roman Empire became Christianized, its people began celebrating new holidays. One of these holidays was an annual feast honoring St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers, who secretly married young couples against the Emperor’s wishes.

Finally, it was decided that since both holidays were celebrated so close together, that it would be easier to just have one holiday, and Valentine’s Day was born.

The holiday would be celebrated throughout the Middle Ages, but it wasn’t until the Victorian Era that the art of woo started to get serious.

“In some parts of England they actually spent more money on Valentine’s than Christmas,” said Oliver.

As the holiday’s popularity grew, cards and tokens of affection got increasingly more elaborate. All manners of lace, calligraphy and art were used to express the eternal human sentiment of “I love you.”

Cards also became double and triple-decked, with fold-out layers that made the cards look so-subtlely like a wedding cake. In this era, cards were handmade and poems were composed by the sender.

“(The poems) are very serious,” said Oliver. “It’s like ‘It’s the end of the world if you don’t reciprocate my love to you.’”

The following poem is an example of this sentiment:

**O! Send me, dear Lina,**
For now Saint Valentine
Has come again!
And smiles and tender sighs;
Are but the thin disguise
Of love’s sweet chains!

Well, it sure beats “Be Mine.”

Most of the cards in the History Center’s collection come from the late 1800s and early 1900s, and range from simple mass-produced cards to ultra-elaborate expressions of devotion. The holiday has lost little of its popularity today — it is estimated that nearly 2 billion Valentine’s Day cards are purchased every year, which is second in total behind Christmas.

So next time someone accuses Valentine’s Day of being a fake holiday, you can tell them exactly where to stuff that box of assorted chocolates.

**MANNO A MARKO**

**Be creative, not broke, this Valentine’s Day**

Marilyn Mannino
Staff Writer

I am the biggest procrastinator I know. If there’s something that needs to be done, rest assured I’ll find 356 other things that must be done first. Right now it’s about 2 a.m. and so far I’ve cleaned my room, put pictures into a photo album, watched three and a half episodes of Sex and the City and doodled the coolest picture on my notebook of a girl lying on a beach. The only thing I haven’t done tonight is write my column which incidentally is due right now.

Exhaustion, like alcohol, can be a bit like truth serum, and at the moment I’m absolutely too “drunk” to lie. So, I’m going to be honest with you.

I love flowers, and I love Valentine’s Day. I really do. I love the fact that once a year everybody gets all mushy, that VH1 is counting down the 100 greatest love songs of all time, and the world is so permeated with it that we have no choice but to stop and appreciate the people we love.

Wow, I’m going to regret this in the morning. But the truth is, other than that it already is morning, that even though we’re all a little cynical about V-Day lately, I’m still a girl.

Yeah, that’s right. I said it, and to all you girls out there who are cursing the notion of flowers and candy this Monday, cut me a break — you’re not fooling anyone.

C’mon, own up to it ladies. I know that Hallmark invented it, and there’s all this pressure on you to find a date or to plan the perfect night, yada yada yada blah blah. Even if you’re single, you all need to relax.

**MARKO A MANNO**

**Love is worth all the hype**

New columnist’s debut a rumination on nature of love

Nicholas Markovich
Staff Writer

My name is Nick. I will be penning the male half of the love/sex/dating column (until I get exposed as a fraud and am subsequently fired). Now that I’ve gotten my introduction out of the way, I don’t want to waste any more time before I place a charge upon everyone reading this column. I want each and every one of you to go out and seek love this week.

Do not be alarmed by such a brazen call to action found tucked away in this sarcastic and cynical (but wonderful) publication. I am marching forward — heart on my sleeve, hope as my guide — and I’ve got just one question: Who’s coming with me? For once, let’s use this holiday as a starting point of a new adventure rather than a benchmark of loneliness and isolation.

No talk of Valentine’s Day as a “Hallmark holiday.” Save the scientific research that claims that the chemical high of love is no different than that of chocolate. Be not afraid. We all (myself definitely included) have to spend less time in our shells, reaching out and leaving yourself exposed can be absolutely terrifying, but the potential rewards are too great to ignore. It’s very easy to convince yourself that it’s better to be alone, but I submit to you that it is not better, only safer.

Love, in its proper and fully-realized form, is the greatest thing that we have in life. Spare me your petitions for great sex, fantasy football, or (God help us) your new PlayStation game. Our everyday speech has critically dimmed the impact of our greatest virtue. You don’t really “love” your new pair of jeans. Angelina Jolie may be mind-numbingly hot, but you haven’t shared the necessary intimate and exceptional experiences with her to legitimately proclaim your “love” for her (and if you have, kudos to you). The iPod may be the greatest thing ever invented, but you... Well, maybe you can love the iPod.

But I am writing this piece with the hope that more people will go out and experience these incredible moments that don’t come around often enough. Love, people. LOVE!

Kissing someone’s neck for hours, fully aware that, in the infinite expanse of the universe, there is no place that you would rather be. Putting your arms around them as they sleep and watching the world’s softest smile spread across their perfect face. The satisfaction in knowing that this person, the most divine and beautiful creature that God has ever created, cares as deeply for you as you do for them. Coming to the realization that, despite all of the education/experiences/improvements you have gone through in your life, you are still only 1 percent of what you are with the person you love.

What I’m asking for is not easy. I can’t provide you directions, statistics, or a Heartbreak Insurance policy. I will tell you that the good does outweigh the bad, and the pain of rejection or loss
the indie’s guide to Romantic Bliss on campus

ROBBIE RABORN
Staff Writer

Be aware of your surroundings, students. Your campus is more than a place of learning, studying, and reading the indie. UCF is the absolute most romantic place on earth for you and your soulmate. Trust me... I draw stick-figure comics.

Monday, you and your significant other (that’s romantic Spanish for “other”) will be sitting around wondering how the two (or three) of you will make this Monday unbelievably memorable without having to leave campus. No worries, friends. I am willing to share my heart and soul (and wiener) so you will not feel lost in the way of campus dating. With the assistance of my lovely assistant, Carolina, assisting me, we will pave your way to an amazing Valentine’s Day. Take notes.

Construction Lot: Making a lasting impression of your love is simple with a little dirt. UCF has plenty to offer with all the construction lots present. Equip the stem of a rose as your mighty pen and lead your sweetheart by the hand towards any bulldozer yard to make public the story of your romance.

Student Health Center: I understand that you can look beyond your sweetie’s dating history but your immune system cannot. Genital herpes, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and Chlamydia are all hilarious to talk about. But it’s when these pathogens enter your body that it becomes no laughing matter. Unless it involves Paris Hilton, then it is pretty funny after all. Get tested!

Recreation and Wellness Center: I know what you’re assuming. “Robbie is going to say how staying in shape can lead to a great sex life.” Wrong, jerk! I study micro and molecular biology so I understand how pheromones (aka “baby-making vapor”) are released after a good sweat. You want this to happen. Visit the rec center to pump affection.

Library: Even professional cupids like myself need to review the art of campus lovin’. This is why the library is a perfect place to grab a romantically informative book (i.e. the Kama Sutra) and a study room. Remember to bring a “Do Not Disturb” door hanger. I prefer the “Do Not Disturb — I am currently naked practicing Indian love-making in this quiet-study room” door hanger.

Boardwalks: UCF’s No. 1 cash crop is squirrels. They are harvested directly behind the Union around the boardwalks. Unfortunately, the squirrels are multiplying toward overabundance. Fortunately for you and your boo, practicing animal control while feeding cute rodents is entirely feasible! Check out this little guy about to eat a delicious animal cracker. Unbeknownst to him, it is his last meal. How romantic!

Student Union: Does a private picnic in a beautiful forest sound perfect for romance? No, it does not. Go public with your dining and eat where every student can turn reddish-green with envy. Carolina and I chose the Pegasus circle in the Student Union (probably the most romantic location on earth).

Reflection Pond: You are probably not aware of this, but your special someone adores Neil Diamond. Learn his complete works and serenade your beauty by the reflection pond. Here I am with Carolina after three straight hours of Diamond bliss. And she loves every second of it.

Arcade: Want to level up on your dance moves all while leveling up on your relationship value? Yes, you do. One afternoon, I spent $20.50 in quarters just so that Carolina and I could become dance geniuses.
**New perfume is sweat 'n' wild**

**SHARON PARE**

**Staff Writer**

Pheromones. They are what lure your significant other to you. Forget how intelligent he or she may be. Or how great that sense of humor is. Or how you get those butterflies of excitement in your stomach. Pheromones are what create that great chemistry between the two of you that make you feel those fireworks. Those butterflies of excitement in your stomach were meant to be together, or because you two are soul mates.

Is love strictly based on fate alone, or is there a scientific meaning? Now women, let us not ponder the why you two are mates. And before we do, we start to experience hot flashes and freckly, older women who have had less affection have become a natural occurrence. This containing pheromones, but this is nothing like that. This new perfume is marketed toward older women who have had less affection from their partners due to a decrease in their “desirability.”

The perfume is unique and was specially developed under very keen screening. Essentially, the pheromone was “isolated from a young woman’s armpit sweat” according to New Scientist Magazine. The special “ingredient” in this new perfume is called Pheromone 1033, present only in younger women. “When I’m older, I don’t think I will be attracted to my wife because of her smell,” said Navin Ramour, triple major senior in marketing, ad/PR and finance. “And it’s stupid to think that smell has anything to do with her attractiveness. I prescribe to the love theory. Plus, older men don’t really want to smell younger women ... they just want the younger woman.”

What are some cheaper alternatives for an older woman? Walk by the younger women on treadmills in the gym and finger attack her armpit! Take sweat and start spreading it all over your neck. Aside from the marketing efforts the company will have to overcome, it can also become one of the most difficult perfumes to manufacture. Sure, armpit sweat is a natural ingredient, and it won’t be hard to pay young women to help contribute to this ingenious idea, but just how many gallons of sweat make a profitable amount of this new perfume?

“Sweat of the young women makes the older men more attractive,” states a perfume2000.com article about a Harvard University research study. Take a look at Donald Trump and his current wife, or Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones, both primo examples that older men love the pheromones of their younger counterparts. Sophomore and accounting major Jordan Egert calls Pheromone 1033 “perfume that makes you think you can steal a man’s money.”

Still, it’s a little difficult and quite disturbing to imagine your grandparents bumping uglies. “Don’t sweat maturity,” said senior and hospitality major Rob Sharkey. “Aspire to perspire.”

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**Girls prefer the cute and mushy**

Why can’t Valentine’s Day be fun again, the way it used to be when we were kids? Remember taping Hershey’s Kisses to paper cards with cartoon characters on them that read “Be Mine”? How come we forgot why roses were red and violets were blue, and replaced it with the idea that Valentine’s Day had to be all about pressure and unmet expectations?

I don’t know why women need this. I’m not a scientist, but there is something in our very nature that yearns for a little beauty. A few days out of the year, and it doesn’t have to be expensive for a guy. In fact, the more money you spend the less it matters to us.

I’ll give you an example. My best friend’s boyfriend called me a couple weeks ago and asked my advice on an anniversary gift for her. Already at the mall and staring at an expensive purse, James was lost and confused. I told him to put the purse down, and to do something sentimental. “The mushier the better,” were my exact words.

A few days later I got a phone call. “James is sooooo cute!” a voice on the other end shrieked like Ashlee Simpson. “What did he do?” I said, trying my best to sound surprised. By giving her a locket with pictures of the two of them in it, James had now been dubbed the coolest person in Jenny’s universe.

I know there are guys out there who are saying, “But my girl doesn’t demand that kind of stuff; she’s cool like that.” I promise you and I say this without a doubt in my mind, she wants it. And seriously, why wouldn’t you want to give it to her?

We’re talking about the girl who laughs at all your jokes, and trusts me, they’re not that funny. She’s the girl who still thinks you’re cute when you haven’t showered and smiles when you burp as if it were a work of art. She loves you, you noodle-head. Do something nice.

---

**He believes in a thing called love**

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 Sept. 19, 1991. We learned that Orlando isn’t as metropolitan and swingin’ as New York. How profound.

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**From 9**

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**FUTURE FUTURE**

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**REAL LIFE FOR REAL**

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The Wedding Date is a Will and Disgrace to the cinema

It may be a different title, but this romcom is the same old fluff

CAROLINA GROPPA
Staff Writer

During this past weekend, the star of the hit show Will & Grace descended upon chick flick audiences everywhere, coyly starring in the nightmarish The Wedding Date.

Revolving around Kat Ellis (Debra Messing), this film tells the story of a never-married New Yorker whose presence is demanded at her sister's wedding. All seems to go well for what should be a blissful occasion, but then Kat discovers the best man is none other than her ex-fiancé who inexplicably left her. Desperate, dateless and displeased, Kat hires a professional male escort to pose as her boyfriend at the wedding and to have a victorious day for womankind. Enter Nick Mercer (Dermot Mulroney), an amiable and attractive lad, whose qualities far exceed average good looks and charisma, causing her ex to dwell in his loss. But what she doesn't anticipate is that this suave, smart and sexy man with the soul of a hopeless romantic falls in love with her.

The plot thickens when Kat realizes that Nick truly embodies all the characteristics she seeks: the ideal son-in-law, the best friend and basically the object of everyone's desire. The sound extorted from this drum sounds all too familiar. Even though director Claire Kilner attempts to recreate the magic of classic romantic movies, certain ideas and scenes are imitated but far from duplicated. A prime example for imitation gone awry is in the underdevelopment of the relationship between Kat and Nick. Even your average testosterone-tempered Joe realizes that the supposed bond between the darlings feels rushed, resulting in the film's poor flow. The affection exhibited happens like clockwork, becoming extremely unbelievable and leaving spectators with too many questions and virtually no answers (aside from the predictable resolution).

Some patrons may appreciate the decent cinematography, which manages to shine a light of hope for the film. However, greater portions of the viewing audience, namely those without estrogen, will be unengaged by the film's hackneyed plot. Oddly enough, this is Messing's debut as a lead, but some say that her performance still remains small-screen, lacking the essentials to make the character unique. Although the comedic timing of Messing and the sex appeal of Mulroney combine to allegedly create an interesting dynamic, Messing doesn't stray too far away from her role as Grace Adler in Will & Grace. Ultimately, Messing should be grateful she kept her day job.

If cynicism sits this one out, one will discover that an underlying theme exists: It is easier to hide behind what we no longer have than to venture out and see what we may find. But if cynicism somehow manages to catch a glimpse from the sidelines, he'd close his eyes to bypass the corny one-liners that no one ever says except in the movies. He'd release a sigh filled with disbelief, and upon opening his eyes, he'd still see a conventional romantic comedy that commences as a wedding date but concludes with the inevitable fairy-tale ending.
**FILM REVIEW**

![COURTESY SONY PICTURES CLASSICS](image)

**Erotic noir Bad Education is essential Almodóvar**

**Spanish auteur weaves mysterious tale of transsexual drifter**

**PAUL HAYNES** Staff Writer

**FOR Pedro Almodóvar, melodrama is a game, a puzzle. Almodóvar approaches his material in the same manner as Hitchcock, playing his audience, to paraphrase the latter, like an organ.**

While Almodóvar's films toy with their audience, they do so in a substantial way that is enabled by the justified passions of the characters. In the end, you're left feeling richer than would be if you'd simply been perfunctorily manipulated. Almodóvar's distinguishing feature is his compassion and the way he humanizes the absurd. Consider the character of Ignacio and all of his incarnations in Bad Education.

A pre-op transsexual whose multiple vices and personal tragedies, as well as his almost comedic fakeness, threaten to push the character into the farther reaches of camp, Ignacio is venerated by Almodóvar with the right balance of mystery and dignity. We're never quite allowed to laugh at this character's expense, and by the end of the film, we have too much information to merely feel cheap pity.

As Bad Education, which is a few notches above All About My Mother but not quite as good as Talk To Her, opens, a filmmaker named Enrique, Almodóvar's alter-ego here, is visited by a man claiming to be an old friend from school-named Ignacio. Enrique plays the situation carefully. Ignacio, he later reveals, was his first love, and he's changed quite a bit since the last time they saw each other. Enrique is strapped for new ideas, and Ignacio leaves a short story entitled “The Visit” and expresses interest in acting in a film. “There's nothing less erotic than an actor looking for work,” Enrique tells his assistant after Ignacio leaves.

Enrique begins reading the story, and we're launched into what may be a flashback, or what may be Enrique's imagining of the text. (These sequences are presented in an aspect ratio of 1.85:1, while the rest of the film is in 1.78:1.)

We learn that Ignacio and Enrique attended the same Catholic boy's school, where Ignacio was sexually exploited by the school's pedophile principal. In Ignacio's written account, he has become a drag performer named “Ánge” and returns to the priest claiming to be Ignacio's sister in an attempt to extort him.

While sexual abuse at the hands of Catholic authority figures might presently be a hot-button issue, this is not an issue film. Bad Education is not a grim movie, either, but a delightfully baroque celebration of cinema and films noir. Its flamboyant palette of colors has been boldly framed by cinematographer José Luis Alcalde, who has worked with Almodóvar in the past, as well as Bigas Luna, Carlos Saura and Victor Erice. The movie is a joyous succession of stylistic and narrative surprises, commenting on the medium of cinema and on creative inspiration in an almost subversive way.

The problem with this deliberately clever approach to melodrama, of course, is that the audience never becomes fully emotionally engaged. By maintaining a gamesman's fatalistic distance from these characters, the audience does as well. You can't have it both ways, although Almodóvar very nearly succeeds. Opens tomorrow at Eразiа.
Furniture salesman Sam Bicke (Sean Penn) lays his troubles on his wife, cocktail waitress Marie (Naomi Watts). Penn's bravura performance almost outshines the rest of the stellar cast, which includes Don Cheadle.

In truth, Sam Bicke's life is a mountain of failures about to violently avalanche. His purity and integrity are qualities that he values but somehow cannot embody, just as he cannot embody the American Dream as he sees it.

Bicke, based on a real person, is played by Sean Penn in a searing performance that substantially improves on his overrated work in 2003's Mystic River, in which torturing his face into a grief-stricken grimace for the umpteenth time was somehow mistaken for character depth. In The Assassination of Richard Nixon, Penn and first-time director Niels Mueller (co-writing with Kevin Kennedy) have created a vividly complete character, equal parts Rupert Pupkin and Travis Bickle. Penn is implosive rather than explosive, and his character's deterioration is both scary and painful to witness, as the movie is almost ritualistic in its cataloguing of this man's failures.

But the movie is more than simply a character study. It is an examination of the way American culture and its unique pressure to succeed in a tokenistic way (you're either a success or a failure) can yield horrific results. Like American culture, the movie is full of counterpoints, most of which are established by television media, which provides food for Bicke's rage, a rage that triggers actions that will ultimately become food for the media. It's a symbiotic, albeit silent relationship.

Scenes are underscored with television images of Richard Nixon delivering honey-coated reassurances to the nation, which Bicke believes is ailing simply because he is ailing solipsistically, his condition is representative of all of America.

His boss, brilliantly played by Jack Thompson, encourages Bicke to develop confidence, supplying self-improvement audiocassettes and Dale Carnegie's How to Win Friends and Influence People, while privately sabotaging any potential for the development of confidence by subtly demeaning and tyrannizing his employee. His wife (Naomi Watts), making ends meet by showing leg as a cocktail waitress, is unconvinced by Bicke's boasts of progress. She seems to have heard it all before. Bicke applies for a loan in order to start his own business with a friend (Don Cheadle); as an American, certainly, he's entitled to entrepreneurship, even if he hasn't the means — and somehow, we know what the result will be. Bicke's self-serving righteousness is fueled by images of the Black Panthers on television, and with Nixon appearing at the times when he hits bottom the hardest, it's clear who's to blame for his failures.

The film is full of perfect small touches, characterizing Bicke's struggle between righteousness and violence, such as when Penn kicks over a trash pail and then kneels down and carefully gathers the emptied contents, returning them to the can. The movie is not stylized and is hypnotically focused, threatening at times to become repetitive but never quite getting there, commanding the viewer's attention for each of its 90-odd minutes until the final, haunting image.

Opens tomorrow at Regal Winter Park.
Hitch a ride to this amicable comedy

Will Smith charms in this decent romantic genre pic

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

Hitch is the kind of movie that Will Smith should be making all the time. After almost single-handedly ruining I, Robot for infusing too much Smith into something that wanted to be taken as "serious" science fiction, the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air has always had a knack for the romantic comedy. From Men in Black to Bad Boys, Smith has had a flair for bringing out the comedy in the romance of those films. He's a suave guy, and he uses that ability to great effect in Hitch.

The trailer and the sub-header for this film, The Cure for the Common Man, may seem to lead an audience to think that the film is about a preternatural being that comes down from the sky a la Cupid. But this is just not so. "Hitch" is just the nickname of Alex Hitchens (Smith). And he's a normal guy, a guy who runs a business helping to open the channels for love for lonely singles.

Hitch is a man about love, helping people find it and helping people believe in it, though he is the proverbial example of someone who does not practice what he preaches. For the first time since his awkward college years, Hitch is dating someone he really likes. Ellen Monroe (Mendes) sparks strong chemistry with this suave guy, and he uses that ability to great effect in Hitch.

Kevin James (middle) competes with three other random men to lend a pen to Amber Valletta in Hitch.

but Mendes finds wigging room for some irreverent banter and sordid comedic situations.

Kevin James, of The King of Queens "fame," puts in a decent, modest performance as Albert, one of Hitch's clients. Albert wants to woo a Paris Hilton knockoff named Allegra Cole. Allegra seems to have a larger brain than Paris, and Albert is attracted to her. But Albert is a fat schlub. And Fat schlubs don't get the chance to even speak to people like Allegra Cole, let alone date her. This is where Hitch comes in.

Kevin Bisch's screenplay, his first produced, provides characters with depth where stereotypes might usually linger. His humor is sharp, and the structure behind it all sticks. He's weaving many threads and somehow all these threads come together into something that resembles less a Cosby sweater and more a brilliant quilt. Hitch is a serviceable comedy that tries to beat the cliches to the punch by addressing them before they become a concern.

Andy Tennant's direction keeps the comedy moving even though Hitch does run at a slightly overstuffed two hours. Tennant, who previously made solid gold nuggets out of Sweet Home Alabama, Anna & the King and Fools Rush In, knows his way around the romantic comedy and actually makes a good one this time.

Switching off with Adam Sandler, who last year brought audiences the friendly and competently made 50 First Dates, this time Valentine's Day is Smith's year. And this year he actually has a decent movie (read: not I, Robot).

Hitch is a movie that will fare well with Valentines Day-type people; it's a safe, feel-good movie that's competently made, funny and sweet with a heart that's hitched to its sleeve.

CINESCENE

Bonowicz vs. Blockbuster

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

With everyone competing for the best rental system, someone seems to have been lost in the shuffle. Me. Just me. Only me. And everyone else who rents movies.

The newest development to the heap is this "end of late fees" nonsense Blockbuster has been pimping like a brand-new prostitute ready for her first night out on the town.

Over the course of three days this past week, I attempted to rent Alien Vs. Predator. I wanted to watch something dumb, something a little fun and something guaranteed to be stupid. Each night I was shut out, struck with the sight of empty boxes strewn upon the shelves. All had been robbed of giving me the 90-some-odd minutes of pleasure I desired, and I had to rent The Forgotten instead. To quote a famous adage, The Forgotten was forgettable, and I decided to go back to Blockbuster again. I asked a customer service representative, "Hey, any um, Alien Vs. Predator in?"

He responded, "Nah man. You gonna have a hard time finding that one."

I inquired further "So, with this whole "end of late fees" thing. This kinda negates your 'guaranteed in stock' thing, huh?"

He looked down, dejected. "I've been trying to tell my manager that."

He knew I was right. He knew that this new policy made no sense. So now the casual hobo can rent from Blockbuster and take his sweet time with picking his wedgie and beating his wife while I wait for the DVD to come back. It's just not sensible.

Ask yourself the question, how long does it take to watch a 90-minute movie? Yeah, I know. 90 minutes. Even if you watch all the extras on a two-disc set, this should not take you a month to do. The end of late fees is the end of an era of sense, where the consumer was rewarded for efficiency, not being a dillard.

And if you're not gonna watch the movie in the next couple of days, what are you doing renting it in the first place? Do you get some thrill out of holding movies away from people who actually want to watch them?

You can see all the managers micro-managing the numbers, figuring out if this new deal makes them more money. It's all it's ever about. If you see a new deal anyway, that company is somehow screwing you. It's what makes my mind spin and the world go round.

My only alternative was to buy the disc. And honestly, since my wallet is not as heavy as it should be right now, this was not an option. I had been defeated, Joe Schluub had now won, and he was running around his front lawn in his jockey shorts like the sore winner he was. I still want to see the movie, but the venom of the corporation has suillded the taste in my mouth.
Silent Waters suffers from a powerful subject with poor execution

Predictable structure and open ending hurt this story of revolution in Pakistan

MIKE FERRARO
Staff Writer

Silent Waters takes place in Pakistan during the late 1970s Cultural Revolution, where religions begin to clash and Islamic extremists start reigniting over a small village. However exciting that premise may sound, in the end, the film is an utter disappointment.

Saleem is a 12-year-old boy living in the small village of Charkhi with his widowed mother Ayesha (a fine performance by Kiron Kher) and has no immediate plans for his future. The mother wants nothing but the best for her son, but when an Islamic militant group appears in their village, the boy is immediately attracted to its philosophies and quickly joins the group. With it, Saleem seems to have finally found some purpose for his life. He is fascinated at the amount of attention that the other villagers now give him when he speaks, even though he may be delivering them the wrong message. The group despises the other religious group of the village, the Sikhs, and this hatred is one of the few reasons that Ayesha wants Saleem to find other interests.

Zubeida, Saleem’s beautiful love interest, can’t seem to pull him from associating himself with this collection of fanatics either. Her dreams of college and marriage work for him at first, but soon he begins to disassociate himself from both Zubeida and his mother. Even more troubles plague Ayesha when one of the Sikhs claims himself to be her long lost brother. It is then discovered that she came from a Sikh background and in 1947, her father was terrified to what some Muslim radicals planned on doing with the women of that village, so he ordered her and her sisters to toss themselves in a deep watering well. Instead of performing the suicide order, she ran off and was captured by the very group her father was afraid of.

When some of the members of Saleem’s group find this out, they begin to question his dedication to their cause. He confronts his mother and suggests a public gathering where she can announce her devotion to their faith. This becomes a troublesome ordeal for Ayesha, since she is now struggling to deal with the past she left behind.

Silent Waters does have some good qualities. It may be interesting for those viewers that know nothing of Pakistan’s brutal history to learn a thing or two from this film, but the viewer will quickly figure out where the film will end up and that is what leads to the film’s failure.

Sadly, the lack of climax also kills the film. The story just builds and builds but never actually completes an actual structure. If only a more cathartic (and better edited) ending had been devised, the film may have been worth more stars.

Opera tomorrow at DMAC.

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SILENT WATERS

Silent Waters is a powerful subject, but the execution is lacking.
Valentine’s Day enjoyable alone
Every now and then, it’s refreshing to just be by yourself

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

This is my first Valentine’s Day alone since I was 15, and I find myself relishing it. There is just something so utterly exhausting about feeling so much about someone, about letting them run around your head anywhere they want like they own the place. They come on in, stomp around here and there kicking up dust and messing up our days with all their sticky tangents of care and affection. They can be comforting at times, with that desire to fall into someone’s arms and just feel comfortable as the dawn creeps in through the windows.

Sometimes it’s worth it, I guess. When it is as wonderful as that.

Still, I often rebelled inside at the oh so very all-encompassing feelings that take over when I feel romantic. I tend to be rather extreme in most circumstances, and matters of the heart are no exception as far as I’m concerned. I am not particularly disposed to too much overt gushiness, but I can’t help but be a little fiery. And of course I tend to be attracted to people with at least a little bit of that same spark. When you mix two rather fierce people, you get a heck of a lot of explosive moments. Which I must admit I do not particularly mind for the most part.

No, what I hate most are the normal things, like money and power struggles. I hate weddings, too. I had to go to one

PLEASE SEE WHY on 119

We’re Aiken for a good song

Breaking down the worst love song of our time

DIANNA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

The last time we had a romance-themed issue, I unwittingly started a tradition for myself. I analyzed one of the 1990s’ worst love songs. When deciding what to ramble about this week, I thought, “Why should the 1990s have all the fun? There are plenty of recent bad love songs to skewer!” But which one?

As fate would have it, I heard “Invisible,” by Clay Aiken (who either looks like a close-cropped Carrot Top or Rocky Dennis, depending on whom you ask). His hit was a very strange song that made you puzzle over just what the hell he was trying to say. So, as a flavor to you, I’ve decided to do that. Enjoy my analysis of “Invisible” and remember: In 2004 the record-buying public wasn’t much better than the record-buying public in the 1990s.

Whatcha’ doin’ tonight/I wish I could be a fly on your wall/Everybody should ever wish to be a fly on a woman’s wall. It’s not going to be sexy. We’re not sitting around talking to ourselves out loud about you. We’re eventually going to start singing, and you really don’t want to be there for that.

Are you really alone/Still in your dreams/Why can’t I bring you into my life? Oh, I get it. He’s singing to someone who he knew before the crazy whirlwind of fame whisked him away. I don’t know why he can’t bring her into his life. Just pay her to hop onto a jet and fly out to meet him when the tour stops in Akron. What would it take to make you see that I’m alive?

Ignore my previous statement. But, I don’t get it. Oh, wait. Okay, maybe Clay is like Darkman, and suffered this horrible accident, and the girl thinks he’s dead but he’s just disfigured (a la Rocky Dennis), and Clay is afraid that she won’t like him for the sweet soul that he is.

If I was invisible/Then I could just watch you in your room

Again, it’s not fun to stand there and watch women when...
Odds are good, but the goods are odd

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

If by now you haven't realized that the Internet is home to the world's most depraved, messed-up people, you haven't been reading this column frequently enough. It's a festering swarm of society's biggest losers, freaks and rejects.

Where else would a better place to find your soul mate? Along with the already-discussed sites such as meetmehotornot.com, specialty sites exist for hooking up couples of millionaires, goths, cowboys, doctors, firefighters, those with sexually transmitted diseases and people who enjoy every fetish out there.

A very wise man once said this about Internet dating: "The odds are good, but the goods are odd." Golly, what a smart guy.

MMODating http://www.mmodating.com/
Are you hopelessly addicted to a Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game? If so, then you probably haven't seen a woman outside of the game in months and—don't worry—those aren't really women. But never fear, for here's a site to help you find an elf or dragon-woman who may actually understand your crippling personality flaw. As in the gaming scene as a whole, the ratio here is 100:1 and those aren't really women. But you can delve into the realm of those you can only see during visitation hours. Whether you've got a thing for bondage or just enjoy dirty, dirty exhibitionism in front of other prisoners, this is the place for it. Just be prepared to hide nail files for your significant other inside your nether regions. I'll be the best Valentine's Day gift ever.

Meet-An-Innmate http://www.meet-an-innmate.com/
Usually, falling in love with someone who goes to prison is a romantic tragedy. On the Internet, it can be a standard. If you're so desperate that the billions of people aren't in jail just don't work for you, you can delve into the realm of those you can only see during visitation hours. Whether you've got a thing for bondage or just enjoy dirty, dirty exhibitionism in front of other prisoners, this is the place for it. Just be prepared to hide nail files for your significant other inside your nether regions. I'll be the best Valentine's Day gift ever.

Why not try a Star Trek theme wedding for a lark?

FROM 118
this weekend and it was a very long 48 hours I must admit. There are so many little traditions that just need to be fulfilled, there's family to meet, old relatives to argue with, and lots of booze to incite emotional outbursts.
Looking back, I'm not even sure why I agreed. It wasn't even my family. My darling-yet-irritating ex-boyfriend begged me to join him as he visited the South for the first time since June. He's always been the black sheep of the family and always counted on me to at least deflect the boozes. Which I did, of course. I think just the fact that he had someone there who was on his side made him feel a lot more comfortable.
Meanwhile, I was forced to sit through the ceremony itself. I haven't had to sit through anything that boring in a fairly long time. At least, not since Miss America was the UCF graduation speaker. The ceremony was so long and stilted and cold. It wasn't like it was a particularly bad wedding or anything. It was just all by the book, I think that's why I found it so tortuous.
Personally, I would much rather have a crazy and fun theme wedding. They have Star Trek weddings in Vegas and that might be a lark. Perhaps a Final Fantasy themed wedding would work out well, with the bride as Rosa and the groom as Cecil in his dark night outfit. A Zelda wedding might be even better, if I can convince the groom to wear tights, of course. But then again, Star Trek and Final Fantasy are never really admitted otherwise. My favorite Valentine's Day, in fact, was so special because of the very geekiness it spewed. After a lovely picnic with lots of yucky food, my beau and I headed over to a nearby hotel to participate in a Super Smash Brothers team championship. We only won second place, but let me tell you my boyfriend was first in my heart that day. I didn't even care that he died before me, leaving me at the hands of two very intant gamers with a bit of a sadistic grudge against Princess Peach. It's the thought that counts.

Hitting a Clay pigeon

FROM 118
we don't want to be seen. Has Clay never seen Hollow Man? Becoming invisible is the first step toward homicidal rages.
If I was invisible I'd make you mine tonight
See? Just like Hollow Man. Clay now thinks that he can force women to his will.
If hearts were unbreakable/Then I could just tell you where I stand
I'm thinking that if he got a chance to tell her where he stood, what would she tell him is, 'I'm over here by the lamp.'
I would be the smartest man/If I was invisible

Huh?
( Wait...I already am)
He already is?? Call Ripley's Believe It Or Not! This is creepy. Do you really want to be visited by Invisi-Aiken, and have him snooping through your closets and dressing drawers? Doesn't he look a bit sickly?
I saw your face in the crowd/I called out your name/You don't hear a sound
If she can't hear, will calling her name out really help? And, for some reason, when I picture Clay Aiken in a crowd, I visualize him at Denny's.
I keep tracing your steps/Each move that you make/Wish I could read what goes through your mind
"I like pie." Wish you could touch me with the colors of your life
I hate lyrics like that. Oh so florid, yet with no real meaning.
When I was younger, I heard an old Bob Lind song called "The Elusive Butterfly of Love," the title of which epitomized this school of crap writing. Even as a kid, I knew it sucked worse than Superbabies, and I now wish that someone had written a response called "The Diminutive Platypus of Hate."
I reach out/But you don't even see me/Even when I'm screaming out/Baby, you can't hear me
Well, we've already established that you're invisible, and that she's deaf. Try dozing yourself with cacaoine and sauntering back and forth in front of her.
That might work.
I am nothing without you/Just a shadow passing through...
Ah, we come to it at last: Clay has turned evil. He's become TheNothing, and will destroy your world as we know it. That sucks, but at least I won't have to hear "Invisible" again. Thank you.
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