Director reads his plan for upgrading the Arboretum

JOSEPH CRUZO
Staff Writer

With the spring growing season near at hand across the campus, the director of the UCF Arboretum is gearing up to restore the overgrown green heart of the campus.

Martin Quigley, a landscape architect and UCF biology professor who was named director last year, has new staff members and an operating budget and is committed to giving the Arboretum a whole new look.

“We are working on a contract to have a professionally prepared master plan for the Arboretum to guide us through the coming years,” Quigley said. “Our concept is to redefine the collections areas by bio-geographical origin, such as Southeast Asian, Mediterranean, and Florida native collections, all united by a theme walk.”

Quigley, a plant ecologist and lifelong horticulturist, said he hopes a controlled burn in the area will help jumpstart an ecosystem that was nearly wiped out in the wake of last year’s hurricanes and the absence of controlled fires.

“For the Natural Areas, I have been submitting grant proposals, working with UCF administration and other faculty members to establish a comprehensive prescribed burn program that will return not only the Arboretum areas, but the other green areas of the campus, to a healthy native plant community,” he said.

He anticipates the first burning project will begin in April.

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
Staff Writer

After SGA Senate Speaker Sean Lavini 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 — made official his decision to embrace the party and its support.

Bentley, currently the student body vice president, said he’s found “the mission and goals of United UCF” most appealing, and added that it best represents his campaign’s commitment to experience, integrity and vision.

Stefanie Matthews, a member of United UCF instrumental in the process behind the decision to endorse Bentley, said he is “an excellent choice.” Later she described Bentley as a “true leader” and “very dedicated to his position.”

Soon after the party’s search committee found a candidate, its members voted and identified Bentley as the candidate they wanted to support.

United UCF’s decision to endorse Bentley for president and his running mate, McGinn Woolsey, as vice president, put to rest rumors that Sen. Joshua Edmundson would pursue the party’s support in his apparent run for the vice presidency with presidential candidate Keith Rea. Candidates have until 4 p.m. today to formally declare their candidacies by turning in petitions at the SGA office. The SGA election is Feb. 21-23.

United UCF chose Bentley despite Edmundson’s active role in the party when the organization claimed the majority of the seats in the Senate last fall. Some members of United UCF see Edmundson’s apparent decision as an “insult.”

VANESSA FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

With tuition prices increasing for Fall 2005 and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid deadline coming up, now’s the time to start looking for financial aid.

“Financial aid is the only reason for some here,” freshman science major Brenda Mejia said. Mejia has several grants and scholarships that she uses to pay for school, and also has Florida Prepaid. “It was enough to cover my tuition and dorm for this year, but because of changes in my GPA, I’m now $200 behind. It’s hard to keep up, so there is a lot of pressure on me this semester.”

Mejia isn’t alone. Annie Debba said, “Without financial aid, I would have gone to a community college.”

However, some students aren’t sure if they qualify for financial aid or don’t know where to go to find it. Here’s a brief guide.

FAFSA
First things first: Fill out the FAFSA. Students can complete the form online at http://www.fafsa.gov or through Polk Aide at http://www.polkaidede.gov.

The FAFSA must be filled out every year, even if students apply only once, they must reapply this year. UCF’s priority deadline to submit the FAFSA is March 1.

Those who miss the priority dead line should apply as soon as possible, or they won’t be considered for many grants or loans. Those applying later than July may not see aid until well after the beginning of the fall semester and chances are, they will have to pay some of their own expenses.

To Mirrork, an associate professor of the Office of Student Financial Assist ance, UCF sent an e-mail in January to current and prospective UCF students reminding them about financial aid for the fall.

After submitting the FAFSA, UCF students should be sure to check Polk Aid often for updates. Students should respond promptly to any requests for further information. They should also store a copy of their FAFSA, and if they lose their aid folder to keep organized.

Grants
One of the many doors to financial aid open is the grant. Grants aren’t loans that don’t ever have to be paid back.

There are three basic types of grants available for UCF students. The Pell Grant is available only to students who have never received a bachelor’s degree but the amount of this grant changes from year to year depending on inflation.

The Florida Student Assistance Grant is the other two types. Although the Free Application for Federal Student Aid opens the grant, grant money is earned but not awarded that don’t ever have to be paid back.

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Iraqis plan future and count ballots

Democracy may be on its way, but will take getting there, experts say

MARIANNE HAYES

With the last ink yet, ballots in Iraq are being counted by hand. For the first time in decades, the newly liberated Iraqis are taking a vote as democracy.

Saddam Hussein’s fall from grace in 2003, the Iraqi constitution that bars him from the presidency, and the elections next week are providing a test case for democracy.

On Saturday, Iraq held its first election in which 8 million voters cast their vote. On Monday, President Bush referred to the election as a “reounding success.”

More than 2000 candidates running from more than 100 different political parties were on the ballot.

The elections were held two days after the appointment of a new Iraqi president, the first time a new constitution has been written.

According to CNN.com, voter turnout in the Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad was lower than in the largely Shi’ite and Kurdish provinces. Additionally, the International Election Commission of Iraq announced that they will release the election results soon.

“Immediately after the election, a lot of fun was released,” UN student Scott Gurley, 26, said. “It is hard to imagine how the Iraqi people to face the dark challenges imposed by the election.”

Police Beat

Crime doesn’t pay when stealing campus bikes

On Wednesday, police officers found a man on campus looking for a job. At approximately 5:45 p.m., police officers found the man on campus along Libra Drive.

The suspect stated he was looking for a job. At this point, Furnas told Stanek to turn around.

Dale Dennany recognized him because of the break were still closed, and those not closed for the $15,000,000 in proceeds that were copied the hit talent competition American Idol.

The suspect was transported to the Orange County jail.

Looking for something to do and then said he was looking for a job. As the suspect was walking, Furnas noticed he was looking for a job. At this point, Furnas told Stanek to turn around.

Dolan added. “It is hard to imagine how the Iraqi people to face the dark challenges imposed by the election.”

According to the police report, Stanek drove a prizewinner polygram, and was found in possession of drugs.

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Death payouts to increase

Bush proposes giving families of dead soldiers more

SARAH ROBERTS

The number of families of soldiers who died while training or in combat has increased as the U.S. military has expanded its operations.

According to congressional sources, the Bush administration has proposed a $100,000 death gratuity for families of soldiers who died in the terrorist attacks in the United States.

"When the war first started, we told the American people that it would be managed in such a way that we would not lose our tax dollars," said representing congressman John Sang. "I think that American citizens should be able to see exactly how the money is being spent and ensure that we invest more of our tax dollars toward the war."

The administration and public relations officials also said that the gratuity packages are not enough for all who died while serving their country.

"The only problem really is that there's only one gratuity for the family that is left behind," said representing representative Sang. "I'm one of many U.S. citizens who represents the spending people with this."

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is the third largest in the country, after the Gold Scholarship Program and the Stafford Loan.

Some members of the Senate community, however, think the gratuity packages are the necessary step when the student is taking out a loan.

On the first floor of Student Services, there is an unsubsidized Stafford Loan, the government pays the interest on the loan, and you do not have to repay the loan until you have the loan.

"We hate it, and we won't take anymore. They won't have to worry about the loan," said Sang. "We still owe more of our tax dollars toward the war."

According to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, this is the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. There are some things to be aware of concerning this scholarship.

The Florida Academic Scholarship Award (the 100 percent tuition scholarship) is awarded to students from the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, and there are some things to be aware of concerning this scholarship.

For students who received the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Award, the Florida Prepaid plan is also available, after the spring semester is complete.

"I received the 25 percent Bright Futures Scholarship and I used 100 percent of the Florida Prepaid," said Sang. "Having this Florida Prepaid is such a convenience."

Those who don't meet the requirements of the Florida Prepaid plan may still receive financial aid through the Student Financial Assistance Office. The form is also available online, at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

While the Florida Prepaid plan is available, the student can still apply for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Award and the Florida Prepaid plan at the same time.

The deadline for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Award is April 30, 2005. The deadline for the Florida Prepaid plan is April 15, 2005.

Grants, scholarships aren't paid back

Grants are funded by the state of Florida and are available to students who have the required enrollment status. The Pell Grant, the amount received depends on the enrollment status, is available to students during the summer.

For students who received the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Award in the 2005-2006 academic year, the Florida Prepaid plan is also available, after the spring semester is complete.

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Grants, scholarships aren't paid back
HIGHER EDUCATION

Utah tends that he was repeatedly...

...the late 1970s.

...homosexual literature as...

...rapper Nelly and a class on...

...to keep students off the streets...

...bances following this week's...

... rejected moral values, the...

...scored the sense of vulnera-

...mates students pay $1,344...

...costs to Alaska.

...From an Alaska Public Interest Research Group, this was the first time in its history this organization had challenged by the text book publishers.

...to have had alcohol alcohol...
Secretary: No more payoffs

Department of Education smart from recent trials

BEN FELLER

WASHINGTON — Education Secretary Margaret Spellings says she will aggressively oversee the ways a department promises to spend, after steps over a hired media panel to make 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 told The Associated Press on Tuesday, her first interview as secretary. "I mean, we need to have a clearer, brighter line so that we don't discover later in the process that this is what is coming down the pike.

As for the major education developments of the Bush administration, the No Child Left Behind law, she said, "might consider changing if fundamental improvement hasn't emerged." She named such factors as the test scores of disabled children or teacher quality in rural regions. But she said some topics are off the table, including regular testing, which she called "the linchpin of the whole thing.

At 45 Spellings is the new public face of education for the administration, but she has spent a decade as a senior aide to George W. Bush, both in the White House and in his domestic policy chief in the White House.

She is the first woman 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 down contract with Rasmussen, the public relations firm that provides a polling agency.

The Associated Press

"I have never been to the Department of Education," Spellings said. "Now I have a feeling that at any given time there will be many other students in the building.

The Student Health Center appears to be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Center is closed on weekends and holidays.

I will call your questions electronically.

LARRY M. LANGFORD, USA TODAY

If you have questions about the Student Health Center, how do I get a doctor's appointment?

You can schedule a visit to the Health Center by either calling 407-823-1500 or writing an e-mail to askadoc@mail.ucf.edu.

Alternatively, if you are acutely ill, if you can be seen as a walk-in basis by the urgent care provider.

When you schedule a visit, you will be asked to arrive about 15 minutes before your appointment time. There are several reserved parking spaces for patients adjacent to the building. When you check in at the reception desk, you should bring a temporary parking pass to place on your dashboard.

After you have been checked in, the medical assistant will call you for a check of vital signs including height, weight, temperature, pulse, and blood pressure. When the examination room becomes available, the floor medical assistant will escort you to the room and take the reason for your visit into the computer.

Student medical records are electronic and are available from any computer within the Health Center. There may be a need for you to change into a gown, shorts or drape for your examination.

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

The Student Health Center places a great deal of emphasis on privacy issues, but keep in mind that at any given time there will be 20 other students in the Center.

Hours of operation during the fall and spring semesters are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"We have had a pooling society that our attention. From recent trials, the student provides a polling agency.

Congratulations to the "smarty pants" sisters of Delta Delta Delta!

Make a Difference

SCE 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 regarding the Golden Rule from the Activity and Service Fee budget. For more information log on to http://www.sga.ucf.edu

FREE Waffle Potato Fries

With Purchase of Sandwich or Nuggets

Purshase any Chicken Al Aila or Chicken Al Aila with nuggets and receive a free order of Chicken Al Aila, Waffle Potato Fries for FREE. With this coupon. Offer expires 2/24/06.
Spelgings: Parents must deal with lifestyle issues with kids in own way.

Be a Hero to Our Soldiers.
Donate Plasma

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!

New and Return Donors: Bring this ad and receive an extra $5 on your 2nd and 4th donations.

DCI Biologicals Orlando, LLC,
1900 Alafaya Trail, Suite 500
Orlando, Fl. 32826
(321) 235-9100
www.dciplasma.com

Neglected Arboretum will get first scheduled burning soon

The Arboretum sign is surrounded by caution tape. The greenhouse is in the background, and behind that is Engineering E-2 parking lot.

I saw it during a lab in my biology class. There is no beautify the area.

It began to increase as soon as a brush fire on East Gemini and Boulevard and Apollo Circle wiped out between Gemini and 10 acres of the Arboretum. I knew the extent of survival -

We will begin to increase as soon as a brush fire on East Gemini and Boulevard and Apollo Circle, and behind that is Engineering E-2 parking lot.

During state testing in high schools, some members of Congress are balking, but Spellings said support from governors and federal promises of more aid will help build sup­ port. Asked when the administra­tion will push Congress to take it up, Spellings said "in four years. I've learned one thing, and that is you cannot predict the timetable of Con­ gress."
BYE, BYE BISON

MOUTHING OFF
ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

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 house of my all-

together game and my buddy Ryan was

drinking. Our round started off with a

few drinks and everyone was talking

about what they were playing in school.

"I'm playing poker," said Ryan.

"Really?" I said.

"Yeah, we're playing Texas Hold 'Em."

"That sounds fun," I said.

"Yeah, it is," Ryan said.

I decided to give it a try and

everyone was having a great time.

"I've never played before," I said.

"It's easy," Ryan said.

I picked up a deck of cards and

started learning the basics.

"What do I do?" I asked.

"You just follow the rules," Ryan said.

I continued to play and soon

became more comfortable with the

game. I even started winning a few

hands.

"I'm getting good," I said.

"Keep it up," Ryan said.

We played for a while and ended

up spending the night together.

"That was fun," I said.

"Wait until next time," Ryan said.

I'm looking forward to it.

Poker is definitely a game that I want to

continue playing.

O'Leary announces newest recruits

Football welcomes new class of incoming Knights

BRANDON HEDING
Sports Editor

Wednesday's high school football National Signing Day

marked the official signing of letters of intent

to play football for the University of Central

Florida Knights. Coach George O'Leary announced

the signing of 16 players from various high school

programs.

Players often cited the coaching

staff, the new athletic facilities, the

housing on campus and the academic

offerings as key reasons for committing to the

Central Florida program.

"I just felt it was comfortable under

our coaching staff," said Tommy Rodriguez from

the Orlando area.

"Coach O'Leary's a great coach,"

said another player who signed.

The Knights have continued to

build a strong recruiting class in the past few years.

HighSchool

promising players have committed to join the

Knights program.

O'Leary is a former assistant coach

at some of the best programs. If he comes
to us, we're sure to see some big things.

Pittsburgh, Ohio State and Miami

are some of the big programs where I really like

the idea of playing for the Knights.

Pittsburgh and Ohio State are

two of the top programs in the country.

I'm excited to see what O'Leary

can do in Central Florida.

The Knights have made a lot of

moves in recent years to improve their

program. They have new facilities and

a strong coaching staff.

"I'm looking forward to it," said

another player who signed.

The players will be welcomed to

the Central Florida program in the fall.

O'Leary is looking to build a strong

team in the next few years.

The Knights have a lot of potential

and I'm excited to see what they can do.

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Summing up the game

Men send Bison out to the pasture

Jeff Sharok

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 11:26 mark, UCF went on a 7-3 run to get back within one. Then, down six again, the Knights stormed back to tie the game at 54 with 4:06 left. After both teams traded points, UCF got the ball with 1:34 left and the tie game tied at 56. From there, the Knights would score the last 9 points of the game, and winning margin was seven, a game that spanned two halves and nearly twice there. I get shots.

Possession of the game

Lipscomb’s blunder of an offensive possession can’t be any more big as six or seven.

After the game knotched at 98, the Bison again had a chance to go up by a bucketer heading into the fast

Free 47

Peppers’ clutch 3-pointer puts nail in Bison coffin

Jeff Sharok

 touched the ball. I think I only got 12 shots in a game, never twice there. I get shots here.

Williams was key in 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 looked down and a dagger a little deeper. Despite our re-covering the Raptors, they still had to deal with No. 47 on the defensive glass, they shot just 40% from the field and committed 17 turnovers for the game. UCF converted the advantage in the turn-around into a 24-point advantage in minutes, and just to cut it off, Lipscomb failed to score in the final 90 seconds when the game was still well within its reach.

Standing on top of every game at this late stage in the season can’t be understated.

Only a week ago, the Knights had lost three consecutive games and were tied for sixth in the standings.

Now, after winning their last two games, the Knights find themselves in a two-way tie for sixth but only a game and a half behind conference leader Gardner-Webb.

"We know we couldn’t lose," Williams said. "But back is up the wall right now."

UCF now enter the toughest part of their schedule. A three-game road trip starts tomorrow night in Alabama against Troy State.

The Knights then travel 1-4 to take on Mercer, a game and a half behind conference leader Gardner-Webb.

UCF do not return to the Canyon until Feb. 17 when they will host Mercer.

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

"I don’t think that we’ve played our best basketball yet," he said. "I anticipate that will still be ahead of us somewhere down the road.

Game notes

Gary Johnson finished with nine rebounds, six assists and two blocks, and shot a perfect eight-for-eight from the free-throw line. Marcus Johnson was an inside presence scoring 8 points on three-for-five shooting. Williams led all scorers with 17 points on eight-for-eight from the free-throw line. Marcus Johnson was an inside presence scoring 8 points on three-for-five shooting. Williams led all scorers with 17 points on eight-for-eight from the free-throw line.

Peppers’ three has to rank as one of the biggest shots of the year for the Knights and company.

Peppers had a keen sense of timing the other night, scoring a dozen points and making three rebounds off the bench. Although he hit 5-of-11 from the field, the free he did hit were huge and included two 3-pointers.
Referees punished for botched replay

By Robert Koenen

Page 17

Two Florida players are going to be suspended for the Rose Bowl. Their coach is sure the new agreement is kind of like a hidden gem down in the country. I think breathing a little breath. I want to see every flop properly edited. By properly edited I, of course, mean I want to see every math lover it's kind of like a big bas- put it much better. Anything that I can think of doesn't like poker but looks like poker is a game that everyone who doesn't like is going anywhere but up. Anyone can talk about life after college in California, is already enrolled in school and will be speaking on video review only on shots at the men's basketball officiating, said officials are really coachin­ -g their players' rooms and I was like man alive

Thats why ESPN is brilliant for riding the waves of oddly colored clay chips. Bravo has Celebrity Poker Showdown. The Travel Channel has World Poker Tour. Oxygen has Independent-Success- Single-Sexie-Poker-Down­-In-A-Maid-Finding-Black-Poker. Utah State has something that looks like poker but everyone keeps dancing. Poker is a sport. Anything that involves sitting next to or near a far, every man who lacks the ambition to wear deodorant is a sport in my book. These Texas has ten Tyrants put days into these tournaments with very little sleep and the concentration of a Viet Cong. That's how the definition of an athlete. It's a beautiful game and it's not

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

From Florida after he leaves school. He considered leaving the Broncos after his sophomore season. A suspended player with the Knights, he played at Washington for at least this season. He hasn't talked about plans to see next year.

Coach Lorenzo Romar said that athletic­-director Todd Turner had reviewed the gift.

"Rules are in place for reason," Bonair said.

Sugar Bowl working on new deal with BCS

By ROBERT KRAUSE - The Sugar Bowl, along with the Orange and Fiesta Bowls began negotia­­ tions yesterday.

The Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan is near the new agreement will be worked out. He has had them in mind for the past day.

"It's safe to say that, unquestionably, they will be negotiating a bowl-like deal in which both absolutely, potentially the best teams, people who probably have not talked about plans to see next year.

Coach Lorenzo Romar said that athletic­director Todd Turner had reviewed the gift.

When Turner was asked about the different languages tell me how to make a horrible call and put their

There are two quarterback­-turning­-points, and one at least 40 percent of the people reading this might not realize that the

Jessie Evans got little solace Monday from the replay to disallow a 3-­point err by the Dons in a game in which the conference's coordinator of

"It's pure excitement. It's like a big bas­put it much better. Anything that I can think of doesn't like poker but looks like poker is a game that everyone who doesn't like is going anywhere but up. Anyone can talk about life after college in California, is already enrolled in school and will be speaking on video review only on shots at the men's basketball officiating, said officials are really coachin­-g their players' rooms and I was like man alive

Thats why ESPN is brilliant for riding the waves of oddly colored clay chips. Bravo has Celebrity Poker Showdown. The Travel Channel has World Poker Tour. Oxygen has Independent-Success- Single-Sexie-Poker-Down­-In-A-Maid-Finding-Black-Poker. Utah State has something that looks like poker but everyone keeps dancing. Poker is a sport. Anything that involves sitting next to or near a far, every man who lacks the ambition to wear deodorant is a sport in my book. These Texas has ten Tyrants put days into these tournaments with very little sleep and the concentration of a Viet Cong. That's how the definition of an athlete. It's a beautiful game and it's not

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

From Florida after he leaves school. He considered leaving the Broncos after his sophomore season. A suspended player with the Knights, he played at Washington for at least this season. He hasn't talked about plans to see next year.

Coach Lorenzo Romar said that athletic­director Todd Turner had reviewed the gift.

"Rules are in place for reason," Bonair said.

Sugar Bowl working on new deal with BCS

By ROBERT KRAUSE - The Sugar Bowl, along with the Orange and Fiesta Bowls began negotia­­tions yesterday.

The Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan is near the new agreement will be worked out. He has had them in mind for the past day.

"It's safe to say that, unquestionably, they will be negotiating a bowl-like deal in which both absolutely, potentially the best teams, people who probably have not talked about plans to see next year.

Coach Lorenzo Romar said that athletic­director Todd Turner had reviewed the gift.

When Turner was asked about the different languages tell me how to make a horrible call and put their

There are two quarterback­-turning­-points, and one at least 40 percent of the people reading this might not realize that the

Jessie Evans got little solace Monday from the replay to disallow a 3-­point err by the Dons in a game in which the conference's coordinator of
The No Child Left Behind Act remains the main national law regulating secondary education. Secretary Margaret Spellings—or so she says. Reading the head­payoff of Williams became news country with his father, a pilot. The show Teletubbies was called out by a political pundit, was Wick Rowland, president of KBDI, told the Boston Globe. That would make more students would earn 30 credit hours a year for four years before being able to graduate. Kids watch cartoons to educate the masses, but the sta­tion is missing a golden opportu­nity to reach the children. By moving the show to prime time, they might learn some­thing today?It seems shon­dered in the episode despite the condemning.

In November, Armstrong said, "I think think that the students who pay five 6 credit hours will wait to get all college students through the Florida Legislature. Tuition that most of our careers currently will never stand up for the students at UCF again.

The only time when those people are seated is when they know how their actions affect people is when you tell them. Unless you want to be in charge of bearing with the burden when they are studying them, this proposal con­cealed from the increased oppor­tunity to publicize the Governmental Affairs Committee in its advoca­tion of student rights.

So, if you want to choose I agree completely. Her article reminded me of the times more when UCF. Nowadays, we are seeking the support of UCF’s future with the focus on the leader of Focus on the Family in a new proposal as detri­tive to the university's academic health, the students who are part of the century­state politicians. We are organizing to keep student outcomes in the forefront and keep quality higher education affordable — not to see higher education afford­able — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as detri­tive as higher education affordable — not to see a good proposal as 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Welcome to UCF ... home of the rich and insanely gullible

COMMENTARY
NATHAN POERTERT

I understand there are many great advantages to living on campus. You don't have to worry about parking. You've got a backyard. You don't have to share a room. You've got your own bathroom...well, sort of. You do live near a powerhouse marketing major, let me just say that nobody will give you a craps about your program unless you win games and go to a bowl game. Let's talk about building a stadium then, please. Don't get me started on that stupid "most-stylish" pool next to the gym. I gave it four months before UCF realized national headlines for the number of freshmen who drowned in it because they were drunk. Of course the pool is justified because of the new apartments. You can't have a resort-style apartment complex without a resort-style pool, can you?

We are not little kids, President Hur. You can't flash pretty things in our faces like a stadium and a pool and expensive one-bedroom apartments and still think we're going to eat and happily accept higher tuition. I support further tuition hikes for one reason, and one reason alone: If the money goes toward more classrooms, more classrooms and more parking spots.

Preparing you for a 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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mastermail@barry.edu
www.barry.edu/anatomy

Welcome to UCF...
**HELP WANTED: General**

Barbershops needed. Best tips go to the best patrons. Good for students.

Telephone: 407-971-9131. Ext. 115. Weekdays 9 AM - 7 PM.

**HELP WANTED: Now Hiring for Caring Volunteers**

Kelly Services is Hiring Customer Service Reps to work for Caring Volunteers in its UFC Area Catholic Diocese. Full time/Part time. Call Center or Customer Service Experience is a plus. Must be able to work between the hours of 9 AM and Midnight.

**HELP WANTED:)**

CALL 407-366-2100 for more information.

**HELP WANTED: Oviedo.**

Exc. customer skills. We offer excellent benefits for retirement. CDL or CDL training provided. Call 407-971-9131 ext. 122 for more information.

**HELP WANTED: Oviedo.**

Teaching Assistants needed for large preschool in Oviedo. Call 407-588-2300 ext. 2901 for more information.

**HELP WANTED: Orange County Staffing.**

NOW HIRING SALES/Marketing positions

Kelly Services is hiring Customer Service Reps to work for Orange County Staffing. Full time. Call Center or Customer Service experience is a plus. Must be able to work between the hours of 9 AM and Midnight.

**HELP WANTED: Oviedo.**

Kelly Services is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer. Applicants are encouraged to apply online at www.kellyservices.com or call 407-548-2222.

**HELP WANTED:**

Now hiring morning guards and benefit counselors/nurse. Immediate position available. Benefits include medical, dental, and vision insurance. Call or visit www.ucfaffiliated.org/careers to apply.

**HELP WANTED: Summer Jobs**

- $2100
- 6-8 Camp
- Seven Weeks
- Room and Board Included

Get Paid To Play! The Florida 11th Youth Camp (FYFC) needs male and female Summer Camp Counselors ages 18 and up. FYFC is an overnight camp located off of Highway 461 in Simla, FL. The camp runs June 6 - July 31. Please contact Ryan Regalian if interested at 407-628-0440 or ryan@ucfaffiliated.org.

**HELP WANTED: Oviedo.**

CAMP COUNSELORS WANTED

Kelly Services is now hiring for Summer Camp Counselors for a camp located in Lake Wales, FL. The camp offers rock wall/zipline, paintball, and more. Immediate openings available. Call 407-588-2300 ext. 2901 for more information.

**HELP WANTED:**

IT'S EASY TO MAKE THIS TIME EASIER AND MORE FUN FOR YOUR KIDS, JUST VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

**HELP WANTED: Oviedo.**

Call 407-588-2300 ext. 2901 for more information.

**HELP WANTED: Oviedo.**

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For Rent: Apartments

UCP AREA Center for Fun! 3/4 bedroom or larger. $1200-$1300. 30 days or more. Call 802-773-9360.

Area

40+ Rent for sale

Alexandra 1 1/2 bath, 2nd floor. $400/mo. No pets. Call 508-791-6400.

LOOKING FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF APARTMENT SPACE: Please call 706-322-2475.

FREE RENT: Apartments

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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RUNOFFS: Feb. 28 - March 2
https://my.ucf.edu
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

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

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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. 1 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 Nickelback 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!
YOUR MOMMA... never made soup like this.

At Crispers, gourmet soups are a specialty. Since you're taking so many credits and going to so many classes, we want you to try it for FREE. Just show us your valid UCF student ID card.

We've got 12 varieties of soups, gumbo, chowders, and Oriental soups made fresh, every day. Purchase any garden-fresh gourmet salad, hearty stacked sandwich or wrap priced over $4, and get a 12-ounce cup of our incredible soup, FREE.

Got a UCF ID card?

Then, there's FREE SOUP waiting for you at Crispers!

Free soup or $2.99 off chowders and gumbo with purchase over $4 and valid student ID Card. Expires 2-24-05

To see all our menu selections, click on www.crispers.com.

Food! The hot new campus craze!

Eating is okay, but eating gourmet is great. That's why Crispers has been a sensation for over 16 years. Today, we're expanding throughout Florida as the quick, delicious alternative to fast food. All our gourmet salads, sensational soups, and stacked sandwiches are made fresh, every single day.

If you're a sweet freak, our desserts will make your eyes open wide. Creamy cheesecakes, mile-high layer cakes, cookies, brownies... it goes on forever. Then there are the real milkshakes and gooey sundaes made with rich, delicious Publix Premium Ice Cream.

No bad burgers, no pitiful pizza. Just great gourmet food, made fresh. And free soup, too.

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SUN. 11 AM - 8 PM

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WATERFORD LAKES
(407) 482-2773
MON.-THU. 10:30AM - 10 PM
FRI. SAT. 10:30AM - 10 PM
SUN. 11 AM - 8 PM
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

CAMPUS

VLUC Labor of Love
Feb. 10, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., free
Student Union
Garden Key Room 221A
N_flashmonkey@yahoo.com

George Will
Feb. 10, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., free
Student Union
Pregram Ballroom
407-823-0935

Dance Marathon Date Auction
Feb. 10, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Gators Dockside
Dance Marathon
12448 Lake大道
407 - 823-5411

UCF Jazz Ensemble
Feb. 10, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Visual Auditorium
Feb. 10, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free

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

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

Miss UCF
Feb. 12, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Pregram Grand Ballroom
407-823-5411

Chocolat
Feb. 14, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Cape Florida Ballroom Room 316
407-823-5411

Black History Month Brain Bowl
Feb. 15, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Garden Key Room 221A
mcc@email.ucf.edu

Tribute to a Black Artist
Feb. 16, 7:15 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Room 2181D
mcc@email.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
407-298-1167

Twelfth Night
Feb. 12, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., free
Downtown Rosemont
Broadway and Monument Avenues
407-915-5497

IMAGES: A Festival of the Arts
Feb. 12 to Feb. 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Riverside Park
South Riverside Drive and Downings Street
New Smyrna Beach
386-427-4733

Orlando Rumble Car Show
Feb. 13, noon, $5
Cowboy Orlando
11083 Orange Blossom Trail
407-622-7115

The Cocktail Hour
Feb. 14, 8 p.m., free
The Phoenix Room
1221 W. Mil-Ave.
407-228-0048

Valentine Stroll
Feb. 14, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., $18.50
Harry P. Leu Gardens
1920 N. Forest Ave.
407-246-1419

Jane Hirschfield
Feb. 15, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., free
Valencia Community College West Campus
1800 W. Mormon Road
407-599-5000

SHOWS:

Sugar Cult, The Early November,
Hopesfall, Hawthorne Heights, Maxeen
(punk)
Feb. 10, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-839-2583

Doria Roberts, Three 5 Human (rock)
Feb. 10, 8 p.m., 10-11
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-296-1419

Junkie Bush (rock)
Feb. 10, 9 p.m., $5-7
WFSU Pub
1950 N. Mills Ave.
407-818-5070

High Society Pipes & Cigars
"Fine Glass Smoking Accessories"
- Phat Pyrex Pipes
- Wood Pipes
- Metal Pipes
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- Detoxity Cleaners
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SMOKERS WELCOME
CLASS A PLACE
407-277-7665
12727 East Colonial Drive
Orlando, Florida
(At 408 & E. Colonial)

Luna Beloved (rock)
Feb. 10, 9 p.m., free
Ballent & Goran
535 W New England Ave.
407-539-1771

Adam Cohen, Mike Dougherty (rock)
Feb. 11, 9:30 p.m., $1
Nutars Coffee & Tea
13271 College Way
407-382-5900

Kingsbury, Apollo Quartet, Evil
Ballirina (indie)
Feb. 11, 9 p.m., $5
Orlando Island Oasis
2716 N. Forest Ave.
407-387-0347

Vancouver, Six on Sunday, The Black
Rabbits (indie)
Feb. 11, 7 p.m.
6-700 W. Old Hwy 416
407-862-1002

Dead Gospel, Lost in Progress,
Fleshmold, Grunty (metal)
Feb. 11, 9 p.m., $5
The Raven, 6700 Aloma Ave.
407-673-2712

The Band of the Name, On Cassette,
Loaded for Bear (indie)
Feb. 11, 10 p.m., $5
The Phoenix Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

21st Century, Cori Yarckin, The
Morning After, New Crash Position
Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m., $6
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

Please see CALENDAR on 15

FRIDAY
Fab 3rd Ave, featuring Bobby G & Dan G
from Massachusetts with special guest
Chris Lockem
10pm-close
Other Acts Include:
Take out plus Gabriel Mountain
$3 cover

SATURDAY
Roger Lee
10pm-close
$3 cover

GARGAMEL!
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

FROM I4
Gargamel (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.
407-888-5070

Rocket 88, Hindu Cowboys (various)
Feb. 11, 9 p.m., $5-$7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-224-1419

Take Out, Fin, Pretty Ugly, Kristie DeLuca (rock)
Feb. 12, 9 p.m., $5-$7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-224-1419

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.
407-888-5070

Bluelegs, Cadillac Recipe, Mobius, Fat Americans (rock)
Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m., $6
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

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

Florganism (rock)
Feb. 12, 10 p.m., free
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-224-1419

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

funkts, Mohave (rock)
Feb. 13, 9 p.m., $5
Slingapour's
25 Wall Street Plaza
407-849-1994

Summerbirds in the Cellar, Country Slashers, Yip Yip, What's Yr Damage (rock)
Feb. 13, 9 p.m., free
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-224-1419

Via Satellite (indie)
Feb. 14, 9 p.m., $5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-888-5070

Wilco (rock)
Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., $22.50-$25
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2581

Masheen, Abagalone, My Getaway, David Meillilo (rock)
Feb. 16, 8 p.m., $6
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-224-1419

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12 Hours of
SEBRING

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53rd Annual
Mobil 1
12 Hours of
SEBRING

Bikini Contest Saturday!
HOOD
Outside Closer
Genre: indie/electronic
Label: Domino
Release date: Feb. 8

Hood's music is a sort of isolationist-pop deour; gray and unintentionally hookless, 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 synths, half-numbled vocals, somber strings, icy acoustic guitars and slow-moving, nearly trip-hopish beats. Imagine a combination of the melancholic, pastoral pop of The Field Mice, the cold echoing, isolationist minimalism of Main and the downer tri-hop rhythms of Portishead and a pinch of Radiohead circa Kid A.

Outside Closer is, when you're in the right mood, pretty damn 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 "(In)" 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 extravedted 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 77" is one of the best tracks on Outside Closer, starting off very much in the mode of early post-rockers Bark Psychos, 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

DALEK
Absence
Genre: hip-hop
Label: Ipecac
Release date: Feb. 8

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 Dalek (MC Dalek, DJ Still and producer Octopus) prove there's more to hip-hop than dropping 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 railing, "They make caricatures out of us!" and lyrics like, "Bleak circumstance led masses to only want to dance. A bastard child of Reaganomics posed in a B-Boy stance," "Distorted Prose" could very well be The Revolution Will Not Be Televised for a new generation.

While Grammy-courting Kanye West rhymes about how Jesus walks with him, Dalek takes a different approach and grows, "Your precious books are written by hands of human. This Christian Jihad will bleed the poor man," on the track "Opiate of the Masses."

In addition to stirring up religious controversy, Dalek also takes a hard-hitting look at racial strife in America. Opening with a jarring dissonance, the track "Asylum (Permanent Underclass)" features the MG snarling and splitting venom as he questions, "Ironic, we never see ourselves as next prey. What, now we equals cause we have a King's holiday?"

Unlike mainstream hip-hop's heavy reliance on James Brown samples, Dalek explores vast musical territory. "Culture For Dollars" features a distorted metal guitar riff which wouldn't be entirely out of place on a System of a Down album, and "In The Midst of Struggle" features both sinewy strings and white noise.

As avant-garde as Dalek may be, it remains true to their hip-hop roots. Vocal bravado is an intensely crucial part of the art form, and on "Distorted Prose," the raspy-voiced MC boasts, "I swallow razor blades to keep my vocal cords sharpened."

With their abrasive message, wounding lyrics and innovative instrumentals, Dalek is reclaiming hip-hop as a vehicle for social and political change. You want blunts and bling? Pick up a Lil Jon album. You want raw, honest hip-hop? Pick up the new Dalek.

—JAIME JOSHI

ANDREW BIRD
The Mysterious Production of Eggs
Genre: adult-contemporary
Label: Righteous Babe
Release date: Feb. 8

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 "Sway," 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 bouncing "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

THE COUGHS
Fright Makes Right
Genre: noise
Label: Load
Release date: Feb. 15

The Coughs' new CD Fright Makes Right, out on Load Records, runs the gauntlet, going from what sounds like a Peter Pan Marching Band on a terrible, terrible trip to Sick of It All raising Courtney Love in some punk dive bathroom. As soon as the play button is pressed, a rectal-clenching screech assaults your ears. Following the head-splitting intro, a mellow, offbeat stop allows relapse to subside.

The band, after everything is soon afterward (because even if you don't have an E90 mark), more three-rate theatre sound effects (bottles clanging, sheet metal flapping, etc.) and annoyingly crass assaults on some punk dive bathroom. As soon as the play button is pressed, a rectal-clenching screech assaults your ears. Following the head-splitting intro, a mellow, offbeat stop allows relapse to subside.

—JOSH STRASSWER
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


"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.

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MARGARETCHOTO
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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 fifth 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 “starving 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. [They told us] if it was a peer-to-peer line, they would feel much less hesitation and more comfortable calling. So, Kristin Brooks Hope Center took 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 Maxem.

For more information check out www.takeactiontour.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.

However, we know that the Valentine's Day is thought to be a merging two separate Pagan and Christian holidays — Lupercalia and the feast celebrating 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 not-so-subtly like a wedding cake. In this era, cards were handwritten 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:

Oh! Send me, Dear a line,
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.

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 caffeine. 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 dampened 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 those 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 arm 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.

1. 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.

2. 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!

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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!

6. 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).

7. 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.

8. 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.

But perhaps it's not the sole explanation of why you two are attracted to each other. Maybe you want to rely on the fact that you were meant to be, or that you were destined 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 days we start to experience hot flashes and frequent mood swings (some of which, men say, have become a natural occurrence). One day, we are going to get old and die. And before we do, our sex appeal and attraction toward our mates will decrease. This is where this new perfume comes in.

You may have heard of fragrances 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 arm pit sweat," according to New Scientist Magazine. The special "ingredient" in this new perfume is 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 Ramoutar, 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 ugs.

"Don't sweat maturity," said senior and hospitality major Rob Sharkey. "Aspire to perspire."

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 trust 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

I learned that Orlando isn't as metropolitan and swingin' as New York. How profound.

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.
**MOVIES**

**FILM REVIEW**  ★★★★★

*The Wedding Date* is a Will and Disgrace to the cinema

_COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES_

Kat Ellis (Debra Messing) puts on lipstick while an out-of-focus Nick Mercer (Dermot Mulroney) ignores her for a book.

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 every woman's desire. The sound extorted from this drum sounds all too familiar. 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.
Filmmaker Enrique (Fele Martinez, right) tries to piece together the mystery of childhood friend Ignacio (Gael Garcia Bernal).

**EROTIC NOIR BAD EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL ALMODOVAR**

Spanish auteur weaves mysterious tale of transsexual drifter

**PAUL HAYNES**

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 cinematic frankness, threaten to push the character into the farther reaches of melodrama, Enrique tells his assistant afterIgnacio 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 2.35:1.)

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 “Ángel” 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 Alcaine, who has worked with Almodóvar in the past, as well as Bigas Luna, Carlos Saura and Victor Erice. The movie is a joyful 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 Eranian.

**COMING TO DVD — FEB. 15**

**More Darko for your DVD dollar**

Also, 2004's dregs return with Taxi, Raise Your Voice

**BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ**

**Donnie Darko: The Director's Cut**

After receiving a short theatrical run this past fall, Donnie Darko: The Director's Cut continues the long-running tradition of a studio allowing a filmmaker to recut and reimagine his film when it realizes it can make a few extra slices of cheese from it. Director Richard Kelly has added many a minute to this cut, bringing the running time to nearly two-and-a-half hours.

Poring over none of the special features from the previous disc, this completely new two-disc collector's edition features a new commentary by writer-director Richard Kelly and Kevin Smith (Smith is featured in Kelly's new film Southland Tales) and a production diary with optional commentary by director of photography Steven Poster. A documentary examining the strange cult-like following of the film is explored in They Made Me Do It Too: The Cult Of Donnie Darko. This is the winner. Scary. Also included is the Director's Cut theatrical trailer.

**Tad**

A far cry from the lovable TV series of the same name, Tad comes from an entirely different pedigree. Starring Queen Latifah and SNL alumna Jimmy Fallon, Tad is a film that's dead on arrival, a film so vile not even the ravages of DVD can save it. But maybe an extended cut can. This DVD features an extended version of the movie with 15 extra minutes of Taxiness. Also on this two-disc special edition are commentary by director Tim Story and five featurettes, including: The Men's Room & Very Sexy Robber Piece. And along with the choice between widescreen and fullscreen in the same edition, audiences are lucky enough to find deleted scenes.

**Raise Your Voice**

Hilary Duff tries to act again in Raise Your Voice. Apparently it's about her going to some gifted musical school and raising her voice. This exciting DVD release includes a behind-the-scenes featurette and deleted scenes with optional director commentary. Check out a music video for Duff's "Fly" and probably the best special feature ever produced for a Hilary Duff film: the theatrical trailer.
New director Penns an Assassination

Furniture salesmen Sean Penn loses the American dream in Assassination of Richard Nixon movie

PAUL HAYNES  Staff Writer

Appearance is important to Sam Bicke. To each individual of significance in his life, he presents a convenient lie. To himself, he is a "little guy" oppressed by the profit-driven powers that control America, handicapped by the rare virtues of purity and integrity. To his ex-wife, he's the top salesman at the furniture business where he works, making enough money now that he should be able to buy back his marriage. To his boss, who counsels him daily on how to improve his pathetically compromised salesmanship, he has a happy marriage and functional homelife.

In truth, 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.

In the movie, 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. But Hitch 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.

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.

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.

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 findin' dat 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 dullard.

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 heaving as it should be right now, this was not an option. I had been defeated, Joe Schlub 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 sullied 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 troubling plagues 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.

Opens tomorrow at DMAC.
**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 some person, 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 tangles 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

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**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 to you, I’ve decided to do that.

“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 favor 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/Nobody 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

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**The award goes to ...**

MICHAEL LAWRENCE  
Staff Writer

Aside from patiently waiting for the premiere of American Dad, the real reason I watch the Superbowl is to bask in the capitalist glow of America and judge the hard work and effort spent by heartless ad executives. That’s right, it’s the second annual Bowlies, the only award show dedicated to Superbowl commercials. With over $2 million being paid per 30-second spot, someone should give recognition. If actors and advocates of peace are able to get, why not Madison Avenue’s finest? Here we go!

The Big Brother Apple Award for best commercial goes to ...

It was a toss up between Ameriquest’s dead cat and FedEx, but I’m going with FedEx — Burt Reynolds dancing with a bear, plus seven other Superbowl ad clichés. Creative, funny and memorable. It was even better than that other Fedex commercial, Cast Away.

The Frasier Crane, It Should Be Funny but Isn’t Award goes to ...

Career Builder and its series of ads about a man in an office full of monkeys. They’re monkeys. Why am I not laughing? Maybe it’s because this year’s commercials were so tame that putting monkeys in ads seems more like an act of desperation than a legitimate attempt at being humorous.

The Toby Keith Award for turning jingoism into a commodity goes to ...

Anheuser Busch. You’d have to be pretty drunk to accept sincerity from a beer company! I support the troops as much as anyone, but garbage like this makes me wretch. Who’s more manipulative and evil, Busch or Bush? This left a worse taste in my mouth than their crappy beer.

The John Stossel Give Me A Break Award goes to ...

Ford, for its ad in which a group of ravenous bikers flock in terror when it approaches a bar and sees parked outside. The bikers are really scared because they know that those trucks are even more dangerous to the environment than their bikes.

The Matrix Revolutions What the Hell Was That All About Award goes to ...

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**CRAZED INDIE ROBOT**

**The award goes to ...**

**THE GEEK LIFE**

**NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE**
Odds are good, but the goods are odd

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

I f 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 meetme.hotornot.com, specialty sites exist for hooking up couples of millionaires, goats, cowboys, doctors, firefighters, those with sexually transmitted diseases and people who enjoy every fetish out there.

And very wise men 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, ratio here is 10 to 1, with 390 men seeking 340 women. Hot, eligible bachelors had better baring their magic cape of +5 luck and +30 charisma to score despite odds like that.

Meet-An-Inmate.com

http://www.meet-an-inmate.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 who 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.

Meet-An-Inmate.com

http://www.meet-an-inmate.com/

Looking back, I'm not even sure why I agreed. It wasn't even because I was on his side made me 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, I am quite the gentleman and have never 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 yummy 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 intent gamers with a bit of a sadistic grudge against Princess Peach. It's the thought that counts.

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 because I was on his side made me 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

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 rage.

If I was invisible I'd make you love me tonight

See? Just like Hollow Man, Clay now thinks that he can force women to his will. If hearts were unbreakable I could just tell you where I stand

I'm thinking that if he got a chance to tell her where he stood, what he'd tell her is, "I'm over here by the lamp!"

I would be the smartest man if I were 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 dresser 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 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 dressing yourself with cologne 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 The Nothing, 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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