Central Florida Future, Vol. 37 No. 41, February 7, 2005

Recommended Citation
The point of no return

Pike kicked off campus; Greek organizations vie for the uninhabitable house

MARK JACOBS

Members of Pi Kappa Alpha are facing a new kind of "hell week" after the apparent suicide of a pledge and a hazing suspension in severe that the Alumni House Corp. is searching for another organization to place into their Greek house on campus.

UCF administrators said there was no relation between Yancy's November death and the current suspension of Pi Kappa Alpha.

In an e-mail, Linda Gao, assistant vice president of the University Senate and the director of News and Information, wrote, "The current suspension of Pi Kappa Alpha happened before the unfortunate suicide of Mr. Yancy ... and they are not in any way related."

John Yancy, a Pike pledge, apparently killed himself on Nov. 2 after being charged with possession of cocaine days earlier. A Seminole County Sheriff's Department investigation into his death is continuing, as is an investigation of the break-in that occurred at Yancy's off-campus apartment the night of his death.

Yancy's parents are convinced that members of Pi Kappa Alpha and incidents that happened at the fraternity house contributed to the death of their son.

Patricia MacKown, director of Student Affairs and Responsibilities, wrote an e-mail to the faculty that said the fraternity "failed in violation to disruptive conduct and hazing for events on Oct. 31, 2004."

The current suspension affecting the fraternity prohibits members from participating in any university-related or fraternity-related activities. The fraternity will be eligible for review in August.

Despite that review, the campus chapter has informed the Alumni House Corp., responsible for the Greek Park property that the members no longer wish to occupy their house on the corner of Greek Park Drive and Geffrey Boulevard.

Steve MacKown, current president of Pi Kappa Alpha, confirmed that they will be leaving their house to another organization.

"Our alumni house corporation and interfraternity headquarters figured it was just," MacKown said, later adding "the house is a huge expense but a terrific opportunity for whoever moves in.".

Dan Conk, executive council officer for Pi Kappa Alpha, internal, told the Register that, "The university has given approved of the Pike house corporation to find another facility or fraternity house corporation to which the property can be sold."

Noting the house needs work before it can be occupied, and that it will be part of the process in identifying a tenant and negotiating the millstone.

"This Pike franchise is the up-circulation. Though the university was given the opportunity to buy the house, it declined," Conk said.

The house was closed down in January because of numerous fire-code violations discovered by Orange County fire marshals, and its residents were forced to find new housing in scattered locations just days before the start of the current semester.

Frank Sandlin, the father of John Yancy.

Senatorial plans to pass book resolution

KATE HOWELL

The SGA Senate is considering a resolution aimed at allowing students 2.1 million in books, though they are not in any way related.

There are three candidates for the next SGA president and they are in favor of passing the administrative body to decide on a grading system and stick with it.

All three candidates for the next SGA president are in favor of passing the administrative body to decide on a grading system and stick with it.

According to the Register, the SGA Senate has approved a resolution calling for the faculty to stick to the established UCF Bookstore order deadlines, with the goal of cutting down the amount of new books which would be ordered and add to the current semester.

The UCF Bookstore only provides a limited supply of new books during the spring break, such as two-week break on books which would be ordered and add to the current semester.

A resolution was made by the Bentley-Woody school campaign, "While many students appreciate the boost a plus gives to their GPAs, having a minus attached to the grade is especially painful."

Still, how the candidates will accomplish their ideal grading system is another issue. Bentley and Woody were quick to remark that SGA has an "ideal control over the grading system," and they said "without an effort to be a plus-only system in UCF."

Such an effort would include researching and passing a plus-only method with the faculty and staff of UCF to adopt a similar policy.

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Library trying to catch up

Old building needs new budget, with other library issues

A look back into the future's past

The school paper had an odd list of names to choose

Correction

"Don't let TV teach your kids," an opinion column that ran on Feb. 5, incorrectly said that "The Disney Channel Weekly" magazine is distributed to all Disney Park visitors. The magazine is free. Readers are asked to contact "Parents" at 218A Library, University of Central Florida, 3001 Central Florida Blvd., Orlando, FL 32816. 

Let us know

The Future wants to hear from you to see what you think of our organization, event or general point this week. To submit an opinion, send a fax to 407-447-4556 or an email to opinion@centralflorida.edu. Please indicate your interest in the subject line. Deadline for all comments is 5 p.m. Thursday for the Tuesday edition.

Library唯有新预算，旧建筑

过去看向未来的画面

学校报纸上有一个奇怪的名字选择

更正

“不要让电视教育你的孩子”，是一篇意见文章，该文章在2月5日发表。文章错误地说道：“The Disney Channel Weekly”杂志被所有迪斯尼乐园游客免费分发。文章要求读者通过“Parents”联系。读者被要求提交意见。提交意见的截止日期是星期四下午5点，用于星期二的版面。

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Wednesday February 9th, 2005
REACH Peer Education Trailer 617

*1 in 46 Blacks are infected with HIV in Florida, CDC*

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**Models & Bottles $100.00 LADIES BARTAB**

**LADIES CUT THE TAB OUT AND PRESENT AT THE DOOR BEFORE 1AM AND RECEIVE A $100 BARTAB**

**MINIMUM OF 5 LADIES NEEDED TO OPEN TAB**

**TABS MUST BE USED BY 1AM**
Abumber stickers and articles aash raises questions about ordered to appear in court Boulder before it was closed minor five months after a taken to the mountains, given whiskey and wine and told not to leave until it was penalties of a of alcohol poisoning.

Twelve fraternity house the morning after he and fraternity chapter in Southern states to 11 non-

connection with the death of Caffeinated beer is the lat-

Drivers with blood showing a clear voice, a visitor said. But, cell impulsivity and recovering from the flu, the postmortem study showed the brain damage in his name at the Vatican.

Research, which was conducted at the University of Arizona School of Public Health, compared stroke deaths in 10 Southern states to 11 non-

Researchers believe that along with racial and geographic differences, the South's poor general health, tendency to smoke more, overweight and high blood pressure are the leading causes of these differences.

"The stroke belt," pronounced Cl. to lose weight; even minor other group who 

Their braking time, for instance, slowed by 18 percent, to drive like 70-year-olds,

Their reaction times of the longer to regain speed after 

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now available for teens and more complex treatment! STRAIGHT TEETH.

now available for teens and more complex treatment!
Dry fraternities vie for house

By Rosemary Fischer

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Some have never checked out a book from the Library, "none of the resources (previously used) have vanished from the shelves," Shena Howell and Stephen Deng, both juniors majoring in molecular biology. "We have never checked out a book" from the Library yet, they were peaceful working on their assignments on a Friday afternoon, just one hour short of the Library closing.

"We usually study here because it's quiet and we can focus," Howell said.

For the same reason Justin Forbes, a junior in nursing, found a small desk tucked away in a corner of the fourth floor as a good place to study. He thought "it would be cool" if the library were open 24 hours a day.

"They should really have the library open the Friday before the finals, and it would be great if it was open 24 hours during the finals week," Howell said. The only place on campus that is open 24/7 during finals week is the Student Academic Resource Center, which can hardly seat 90 students.

In efforts to serve the students better, the Library participates in an annual nation-wide student survey, which measures the library services in different dimensions. The results showed that the UCF Library placed above average in comparison to the state libraries, but slightly below the non-ARL libraries national average.

"I think we do a good job and provide good customer service," Baker said. "We constantly look at what faculty and staff need and we are planning a focus group involving students to talk more about what they need because the students are an important part of what we do."

A UCFNews.com Poll:
Can you find what you need at the Library?

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Books would be in on time

"This is something that the students want to see happen," White said. "It's something that could easily happen."

According to White, there is no written agreement that requires faculty to meet the bookstore's deadlines, and there is no legitimate reason for the dates to be consistently missed. Last semester only 86 percent of the requested book orders were turned in on time. "Realistically, there are only 2 to 3 percent of the teachers who don't know they're teaching next semester," White said. "As the Senate Sergeant at Arms, I do not have the power to force UCF faculty to adhere to bookstore deadlines. However, White feels that a resolution would put sufficient pressure on faculty members to ensure their compliance. He said that it should be possible to sit down with the administration and hammer out a formal date for bookstore submissions.

Purses allow students to purchase

The money would come directly from financial aid and I would be able to keep better track of it."

- CHRISTINE MULLEN

Christine Mullen, 19, believes allowing a debit feature to be available through the UCF SmartCard at the bookstore would be in the best interest of students. "The money would come directly from financial aid and I would be able to keep better track of it if it was all on the SmartCard," the sophomore said.

The UCF Bookstore became affiliated with Barnes and Noble in 1996, while SunTrust Visa cards were first produced for student accounts in February 2002. The UCF SmartCard holds funds in three separate purses. Purse 1 recently replaced the old library copy cards and serves multiple purposes for on-campus spending. It can be used at campus vending machines, copy machines, computer lab printers and laundry machines.

Purse 2 is an academic purse that can be used at the bookstore and for tuition only. Purse two has a $5,000 limit, is PIN-protected and can be transferred to a new card the next business day if the card is stolen or lost.

Purse 3 is similar to Purse 2, however, if the card is lost, the money is not replaced even though a new card is issued.

The debit feature on the SmartCard is similar to having a SunTrust Visa card that most UCF students already have on them.

"The money would come directly from financial aid and I would be able to keep better track of it if it was all on the SmartCard," the sophomore said.

The debit feature on the SmartCard is similar to having a SunTrust Visa card that most UCF students already have on them.

The submission deadline is February 8, 2005.

Visit www.graduate.ucf.edu for details.

Make A Difference

SGA Student Advocacy Open Forum
Wednesday February 9th 1:00 pm
Key West 218 CD

The Student Advocacy Unit hosts several open forums throughout the semester to give students the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns on issues ranging from the Golden Rule to the Activity and Service Fee budget. For more information log on to http://www.sga.ucf.edu
Dee Brown and UCF baseball are picking up where they left off by taking two from FIU

Jeff Sharbin (Staff photo)

There's only so much you can tell about a ball club in its first two games of the season. But if the Knights' opening series against FIU is any indication of what the 2005 season will be like, then the Knights that fought weekend series tickets will definitely get their money's worth.

The Knights took care of business on the home field in typical small-ball fashion on opening weekend, defeating FIU 2-1 in both games.

In Saturday's 8-inning game, with Dee Brown on second and two outs in the top of the ninth, Dave Butera singled to right, bringing home Brown and UCF's first run of the season.

The Knights scored their first two runs of the season in the bottom of the seventh, without recording a hit. Four walks by FIU starter David Auber precipitated a walkoff victory by the Knights. Butera and senior Fabricio Michael Howell came in to close the game out.

After Ryan Bono moved Brown to second on a hit and a walk in the seventh, getting a key hit and a sacrifice fly to score Rafter Butera,Peppers matched his season high with 22 points, which included five 3-pointers, as the Knights built a 12-point second half lead and went on to win.

Men get key road win over Troy

Peppers continues clutch play

Andy Vasquez (Staff photo)

Peppers matched his season high with 22 points, which included five 3-pointers, as the Knights built a 12-point second half lead and went on to win.

After admittedly playing "like a player trying to get by month to month," Peppers stepped up when his team needed him most and delivered the game-winning hit.

"Our team composires were very good," Berginan said. "We're getting great defense from the seniors, and our pitching has really been good.

Beams finished the day 2-for-3 with the RBI hit and run scored. It was the second time in as many years that he tailed a game-winning hit against FIU.

Pickthorpe to be the dominant theme in Sunday's game, as Tan Bovon set a 7-3 innings of three-hit shutout ball in his first career start, giving up only one run and one walk.

Jeff Sharbin

Wednesday was National Signing Day. God help us all.

Well, I'm not done yet. I still have to talk about the Knights' win over Troy.

And then there's signing day... the day when all and-all and everything Division 1-A football programs strive for recruiting and winning awards. Under coach Jay Berginan, the Knights are one of "friends of the university") to the alumni center, wine and dine them with a spread revealed only by the one the coaches and recruiting coaches native lay out for the recruits themselves, and proudly proclaim before them and the undaunted local media that this is the best event ever.

The greatest recruiting class in the history of the program.

I'm a student at UCF. Last year, UCF finished 6-1, making the Knights the only team in Division 1-A football programs to win six games.

Friday afternoon, Troy came into the game as the clear-cut favorite to win the Sun Belt Conference.

The Knights won the game, 61-49, over Troy; a 56-point lead and a big win.

The Knights now trail A-Sun conference play after UCF's 72-70 victory over Troy on Tuesday.

The Knights are 10-1 on the season and 5-1 in the A-Sun (1-1 in the conference) on the season.

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Softball scores 10 runs in second
inning Saturday

OSLEY BURNS

UCF softball is off to an
average start, as the Knights are
20-16 overall and have a 3-4 mark
in the Atlantic Sun Conference.
"It was one of those games
that you grind through to
get the win, and that's exactly
what we were," coach Gail
Striegler said. "It was a huge
thing was about to
don the table."

I suited up my senior year at
Florida to be the football talent
that everyone knows and has
exactly their performance as
their performance in
the classroom is their
rankings in the
girls that are doing the
day against Troy.

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day against Troy.
Dominance of 2004 will be hard to duplicate for the Knights this year
47-18-2 4-1 in the 6-Run Conference, 27-4 in a 1-Game Streak. It was nothing on the night of June 6, when the Knights were defeated 19-9 by the Florida State Seminoles in the NCAA Regional final, a game short of the Super Regional.

Now, a year removed from one of the most successful seasons in recent memory, a season when it seemed the ghosts of UCF pitchers past rode on the shoulders of Matt Fixx and Kyle Borges, the Knights couldn’t be further from their dominance of 2004.

Coaches Jay Bergman erred his 23rd season in Orlando, 21 wins shy of 100 and gold. This year is shaping up to be one of his toughest tests at the helm, as he will command a club whitlled with injuries and shot­

full of youth.

Jeff Sherrard

Pitching
Starting Pitching: Tim Boscan, Mike Bilk, Taylor Gob, Darren

Rounds.

Bergman hadn’t expected the outing, he had expected Matt Fixx and Kyle Borges to toe the rubber behind him, but he held his own. Just two batters later, and two walks, he walked two, striking out two batters to end the first before giving way to Fields. Bono was up 5-0 lead, but had a perfect game up to this point.

Relief Pitching: Brian Brooks, Derek Allen, Matt Rhodes, Jeremy

Thorne, Jaeger Good, Matt McClosk, Ray Rodriguez, Dovale

Pettis.

In 2004, relief pitching was the biggest部份 of the UCF game plan. This year, you have Fixx and Borges at the top of the rotation, and you really should be seeing relief pitching the way this year, off of the pitching staff that we’ve been able to use. It’s just about not trying to save a roof, and Dee put the lift of baseball. To enter, valid UCF

ID required for all three UCF games.

UCF’s Matt Fixx

UCF Invitational at

Deland to take on Stetson Thursday night... Men’s basketball hosts Bethune-Cookman tomorrow at 3 p.m., then LeMoyne comes to town Saturday night’s Quotable s

Catching

Drew Butera, Ryan Bone

Being the only shortstop of the club’s top three returners to the

UCF, Butera has the best arm of the pair, but it was Bono who

batted .403 in the top of the inning and one-two-three list of the

He’s got a 7-9 record and is one of the most experienced and

... The Knights are now 14-13 in 2005-06, but have made the move to the mound. Bono's bat won't be

compete for the everyday spot, but has an impressive .327 batting average and is one of the most experienced and

able to throw a pitch due to injury. Billek will be heavily

counted on more this year, as he

has made the move to the mound. Bono has the best arm of the pair, but it was Bono who

Butera has the best arm of the pair, but it was Bono who

Drew Butera has the best arm of the pair, but it was Bono who

Rounding out the

Outfielders

Ryan Bone, Daren Lambert, Matt Leclaire, Chandler Rose, Matt Ray, Matt Harworth, Sunny Kash, Russell Burnham, John Michael

These kittens are one of the most experienced and solid
cats on the club in 2005. Bono, Ray, hos has made the move to the mound. Bono has the best arm of the pair, but it was Bono who

Bono, the Knights’ best returning performer was

Expected pitchers. Thome and Good may compete for the job of

Quotables

Who’s hot

Josh Pegnatiu had 22 points, inking 5-three pointers in Saturday night’s victory over UCF.

Textured

Inside the Numbers

Years Jeff Bergman has been the coach of UCF Baseball

23

25

UCF Baseball

10 UCFs national ranking in Earned run average in 2004

Who’s hot

Josh Pegnatiu had 22 points, inking 5-three pointers in Saturday night’s victory over UCF.

Who’s not

Tony basketball, the UCF men’s UCF swept the season series from Pegnatiu, the first time a team has done that since 2000.

Upcoming

Women’s basketball: Takeback 7:00 p.m. tonight on the UCF arena, and tonight on ESPN

Sunday night... . Men’s Golf hosts the NCAA Regional at University Golf Club today and tomorrow. Baseball, hockey, tennis, basketball, gymnastics... . .

Two Free tickets to the MTV Movie Awards!

To enter, swipe your valid UCF student I.D. in at least 15 UCF home sporting events* between now and the end of Men’s Basketball Season. One lucky student and their guest will win an all expenses paid trip to California for the live taping of the MTV Movie Awards!

For a listing of sports schedules, log onto www.ucf.edu/sports/
October 7, 2005
WITH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

This Week and Next

Monday, February 7th
2:30pm-5:30pm UCF Arthritis Foundation.
Carpool 2:30pm, Millican Hall

Homecoming Board applications due to
OSI, SU 208 by 5pm. www.ucfknightmare.com

Tuesday, February 8th
8-10pm Tuesday Knight Live Open Mic Night.
Wackadoo's

Wednesday, February 9th
8pm CAB Special Events Lego Knight,
Cape Florida SU 316

Thursday, February 10th
11am-12:30pm UCF Labor by Love,
SU Garden Key #221AB

8pm Dance Marathon Date Auction.
Gator's Dockside

UCF Arnold Palmer Women's And Children's
Hospital Orientation Session for new Volunteers.
Email DiamOn0ndm0@aol.com for more info

Friday, February 11th
Late Knights board applications due by 5pm, SU rm
208. Visit http://osi.sdes.ucf.edu/ for more info

Saturday, February 12th
7:30pm VASA (Vietnamese Student Association)
Tet Festival. Celebrating the Lunar New Year. VAB rm 132.
www.ucfvasa.org for more info

8pm CAB Spectacular Knights presents
Miss UCF Scholarship Competition.
Pegasus Ballroom

Sunday, February 13th
8:15am UCF Xtreme Yard Makeover with Hands
on Orlando. Help beautifying the yard of a low
income senior citizen. Everything supplied!
Contact Steven at skay99@tampabay.rr.com.
* Carpool meets at 8:15am at Millican Hall.

Monday, February 14th
11am-2pm Get Carded. Love Life.
Share Life: Student Union Patio

8pm CAB Cinema and the Chocolate Club
present the movie "Chocolat" with a chocolate
fountain and fondue. Pegasus Ballroom

Black History Month Events
African American Student Union
and the Multicultural Student Center

Feb 9th Black History Month: Valentine's Day Gala
7-11pm, Pegasus Ballroom

Feb 11th Black History Month Funny Fridays
7-11pm, Cape Florida Ballroom

Feb 15th Black History Month Brain Bowl
8-10pm, Student Union 221 AB

Feb 16th Black History Month Tribute to a Black Artist
7:30-10pm, Keywest 218 CD

Feb 20th Black History Month Gospel Explosion
7-11pm, Pegasus DEF

Feb 25th Black History Month Closing Ceremonies
7-11pm, Key West

For more information on any of these events visit stop by
the Office of Student Involvement SU room 208 or visit
http://www.osi.sdes.ucf.edu/

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cordially invites you to attend the
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Scholarship Pageant
Saturday, the twelfth of February
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Pegasus Ballroom 8pm
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pros and cons of make an impact on the way stu-

dents are graded. It showed that American the world sit by and watch

dents. In Gordon Rule classes - the required writing and

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"I’d do anything..."
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- Consumer problems confronting individual students.
- Traffic cases
- Criminal law
- Uncontested dissolution of marriage
- Bankruptcy

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Internet Coming Fall 2005!
Samurai, rides and more await in revamped Cypress Garden state

Do the right thing and see Spike Lee

This Fruit Cocktail is mixed nuts

Da DVD goods is in da box ... set, that is

—— PAGE 2

—— PAGE 8

—— PAGE 13
You have to say, he makes a good point

Director Spike Lee is on campus to talk about the Brown v. Board case

MIKE FERRARO
Staff Writer

Hey Spike Lee fans, guess what? Spike is making an appearance on campus this coming week. This should really attract any fan of the cinema world, especially when one looks at his extensive resume. Love him or hate him, he is one of filmmaking's most unique gems, and it would be a shame to miss.

One of the best films of the past 25 years is Do the Right Thing. The film was nominated for only two Academy Awards that year, including Original Screenplay, for which it was shafted by the hundreds of shafts that Oscar is responsible for, but this one is perhaps one of the hardest to get over.

In 1992, Spike Lee fought ferociously with Warner Bros. to direct Malcolm X. The budget they offered was so miniscule, Lee went on Oprah and pleaded for financial help from celebrities, and many were happy to oblige. The film is one of his best, and helped Denzel Washington get his first Best Actor nomination. The film did not get a picture nomination or even one for direction, yet Gladiator and Chicago somehow received nominations (even wins for some) for both categories. There truly isn't any justice in the Academy world.

That doesn't seem to bother Spike, though. He puts out films more frequently than a lot of directors and he doesn't appear to be running out of things to say.

With 25th Hour, he became one of first filmmakers to tackle life in New York after Sept. 11. Not only were the characters in the film dealing with the tragedy, but the audience was also still coping, making the film that much more cathartic.

Last year, Spike Lee released perhaps his most misunderstood film, She Hate Me. Critics and the few audience members that saw it, pretty much ripped it apart limb from limb. Was that necessary? The film does have flaws but it's better to sit through a movie like She Hate Me, so passionate and full of ideals, than a bad Hollywood movie that has too much computer-generated crap or an army of talking Superbabies.

The film did have Q-Tip (of A Tribe Called Quest fame), an Enron-like scandal, lesbians being impregnated, stabs at Bush and even some leftover Watergate talk. You don't see this kind of stuff in the new M. Night flick now, do you? At least Spike isn't remaking anything or continuing already terrible action franchises.

The greatness of Spike Lee is measured by the fact that he still makes movies like She Hate Me and Bamboozled. That is proof enough that he isn't about to lay down to Hollywood standards. We need more writers and directors like him to break up the monotony of Hollywood. Let's just hope he never decides to slow down.

So at 7 p.m. on Feb. 8 in the Pegasus Ballroom in the UCF Student Union, do what Larry Fishburne says and “Wake up!” Spike Lee is speaking and no matter what he says, it will definitely be worth your attention.

Spike Lee's coming to campus to talk about the landmark Supreme Court case of Brown v. Board of Education.
You have to say, he makes a good point

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Spike Lee's coming to campus to talk about the landmark Supreme Court case of Brown v. Board of Education.
## HAPPENINGS

### CALENDAR

**FROM 13**

**Bright Eyes, Josie Sykes & The Sweet Hereafter, Nevin Dinoura (rock)**
- Feb. 5, 7 p.m., $17.50-120
  - House of Blues

**House of Blues Downtown Disney West Side**
- 407-934-2583

**Raw (rock)**
- Feb. 5, 9 p.m., $5
  - Copper Rocket Pub, 100 Lake Ave.

**Copper Rocket Pub**
- 407-695-0069

**The Legendary J.C.'s (rock)**
- Feb. 5, 10 p.m., $7
  - Will’s Pub, 1850 N Mills Ave.

**Will’s Pub**
- 407-898-5070

**Dave Matthews Tribute Band (rock)**
- Feb. 5, 8 p.m., $8
  - The Social

**The Social**
- 407-246-1419

**Voodoo Hodown (rock)**
- Feb. 5, 7 p.m., $2
  - Chapters on Park

**Chapters on Park**
- 310 N Park Ave.

**Johnny Mac’s**
- 407-644-2880

**Eddie Money, Riverbottom Nightmare Band**
- Feb. 5, 6 p.m., $14-15

**Chaw Palace**
- 225 W. Washington St.

**The Bold Cha**
- 407-846-6257

**Ruby’s Bait Shack**
- 407-452-1665

**A Place to Be**
- 407-351-5483

**John’s Pavilions & Beaches, Strawberry, Sunset (rock)**
- Feb. 7, 9 p.m., $35-40

**John’s Pavilions & Beaches**
- 407-999-2570

**Willie Nelson (country)**
- Feb. 6, 7 p.m., $36-56

**Hard Rock Live**
- 407-846-6257

**Snoopy Dogg**
- Feb. 5-6, at Social Pavilion

**Social Pavilion**
- 407-898-5070

## SPOTLIGHT

**SNOOP DOGG**

50's floor dance to the D-O-D-O-g. Back then Snoop Dogg was still rapping with Dr. Dre on "Endless Love" and "Lil’ Romeo," back when he was still in the UK, we never knew that in the 21st century he would continue to entertain both with music and movies. From his most recent club favorite, "Drop It Like It’s Hot" to his latest hit "Let’s Get Blown," Snoop has collaborated with the superstars. At 7 p.m. today, Snoop will hold a concert at Downtown Disney House of Blues in Lake Buena Vista. This time, he will be partnering with sound producer favorite Julian Williams, but will be collaborating with Chingy, "Right Thru," "Ballin Baby," and special guest Slim Thug ("Like A Boss"). Prices range from $52.50 to $110.00.

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   Digital Ash in a Digital Urn

4. Plain White T's
   All That We Need

5. Ani DiFranco
   Knuckle Down

6. ...And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead
   Worlds Apart

7. John Legend
   Get Lifted

8. Soundtrack
   The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou

9. Killers
   Hot Fuss

10. Ben Folds
    Super D

11. Kenny Chesney
    Be As You Are

12. Ludacris
    Red Light District

13. Mario
    Turning Point

14. Lil Jon
    Crunk Juice

15. Jimmy Eat World
    Futures

16. Straightlight Run
    Straightlight Run

17. Green Day
    American Idiot

18. Fall Out Boy
    Take This: Director's Cut

19. FrankeneWriter/Johnsong/Love
    Some Live Songs

20. T.I.
    Urban Legend

21. Jay-Z/Linkin Park
    Collision Course

22. Nas
    Street's Discipline

23. Mäe
    Destination: B-Sides

24. Diddy Bops
    Diddy Bops

25. Various Artists
    Take Action 4

Knightcast serves up fresh Fruit Cocktail

Will Erdmann and Emily Hughart make up the devious duo of Fruit Cocktail, an adult-themed Knightcast show that uses its lack of Internet censorship to push the radio envelope.

Hilarious UCF twosome transcend sexuality on radio

MARIYLN MANN
Staff Writer

"It's gay-operated," said Emily Hughart. "It's not a gay show." The 22-year-old UCF senior and English major is one half of a Fruit Cocktail, Knightcast's newly popular variety show that broadcasts over the Internet from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. Tuesday nights.

Last Tuesday at 9:45 p.m., Hughart sat in the Knightcast studio joined by her partner-in-radio Will Erdmann, 22, making no preparations for their show, which is done entirely off-the-cuff.

"We prank call people," said Erdmann, who answers only to his nickname "Sonic." The Interpersonal Communications major is clearly the comic relief on a show that allows a much more adult brand of humor than you would find on most radio stations. And since the student-run Knightcast is a station that broadcasts solely from the Internet, the rules on curse words and politically-incorrect lingo are a bit more relaxed.

"Are you gonna do Arthur-the-retard tonight?" asked Hughart, referring to one of Erdmann's skits, in which he prank-calls randomly selected Blockbuster Videos and pretends to be a mentally handicapped man trying to find a particular film to rent.

"Of course," said Erdmann, who was already responding to instant messages from listeners on their in-studio computer. In the skit, which has become a favorite among their listeners, Erdmann describes a movie to an unfortunate Blockbuster employee who desperately tries to guess which one he is referring to.

"Sonic can't be in the room when he does it," said Hughart, as she giggled and glanced at Erdmann. "I laugh so hard that I give it away, so he has to take the phone outside."

The UCF seniors, who are only a few short classes from graduation, have been friends since they met, according to Erdmann, "at a huge gay party."

"We met through the GLBSS as most of 'us' do," said Hughart. The UCF Gay, Lesbian, ...Pleasing DJ on 17

Another round of wise-ass Grammy predictions

Breaking down Record of the Year and Song of the Year — they are different

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

Last week we covered Best Video and Best New Artist. This week, it's Song of the Year, which honors the songwriters (not the performers), and Record of the Year, which awards the best single on all aspects. Next week will close with Best Male, Best Female and Album of the Year.

Record of the Year

"Let's Get It Started," The Black Eyed Peas Ugh. As a way of not offending a group of people who wouldn't even know how to be offended, The Black Eyed Peas took the song "Let's Get Retarded" from their album Elephunk and changed it to the friendlier "Let's Get It Started." There's only one way to describe that: retarded.

"Here We Go Again," Ray Charles and Norah Jones: Voters tend to tie success into this category, and although Charles has had a resurgence in popularity because of his biopic and death, the single didn't get much play or chart status outside of its little niche.

"American Idiot," Green Day: Political songs can be effective and win, but it helps if the stance you're taking proves to be the successful one. An anti-Bush song in a year that Bush won feels defeating and pitiful.

"Heaven," Los Lonely Boys: A song about religion that isn't very religious and was able to cross over. It's a magnificent achievement, but one which will be overlooked.

"Yeah!" Usher featuring Lil Jon and Ludacris: How long was this song No. 1 the Top 40? Ten weeks? Thirteen? No matter how dumb the song actually was, it proved to be a massive hit and a brilliant career move for all involved.

Prediction: Grammy voters will say...
SAGE FRANCIS
A Healthy Distrust
Genre: hip-hop
Label: Epitaph
Release date: Feb. 8

The Hate Yourself Change, from Omaha, Neb.'s Neva Dinova, is to first find someone you care about and have them list all the qualities they can think of that they find wrong with you. Then find a quiet spot and hit play.

What will find your ears is 11 songs of self-introspection, 11 songs about the longing in all of us to be something better than we are, and 11 songs swanged with alt-country sadness, mixed with melodies that seem born in the heyday of the 1990s alternative scene that will appeal to even the most dedicated Ryan Adams fan.

What singer Jake Bellows does here is take all his flaws and sadness, as well as all his hope and craft a brilliantly written album that seems to play on well after its 39 minutes.

The album opens simplistically, with an acoustic guitar and Bellows' voice setting the stage for what is to come with the line, "He wears his hat o'er his eyes / And he's trying to keep it on / Says he's sick of living his life / And he's tired of being alone." What follows is a record rich in metaphor, equal parts sad about the present and hopeful for the future, each track expanding upon the previous one while at the same time hinting at what is around the corner.

Never is this more apparent than on the centerpiece to the album, the somber "Can't Wait to See You," which would seem right at home on a 1990s mixtape sandwiched between Mazzy Star and The Cranberries. Next to the up-tempo Midwestern rock of "A Picture in My Pocket," the two songs mirror each other beautifully, both focusing on the classic coming-of-age theme of leaving the town where we were raised. The former documents the social affects of such a move, while the latter centers on the personal affects, both with image inducing lyrics that flow like the pages of Kerouac.

By the time the chorus fades on "I've Got a Feeling," marking the end of The Hate Yourself Change, Bellows has successfully taken the listener on a turbulent ride through the ups and downs of the human spirit. And as it is with all great songwriters, from Woody Guthrie to Bob Dylan, you can't help but find a piece of yourself at every stop along the way.

Catch Neva Dinova on Saturday with Bright Eyes and Jesse Sykes & The Sweet Hereafter at the House of Blues.

— Chris Bowers

NEVA DINOVA
The Hate Yourself Change
Genre: indie rock
Label: Sidecho
Release date: Feb. 8

For the most part, and at its best, Boom Bip's Blue Eyed in the Red Room is pastoral electronic music in the vein of Boards of Canada. Mild electro-tinged hip-hop beats are overlaid with warm, chiming synths playing slowly unfolding melodies. It lacks the refined aesthetic perfection of Boards of Canada, sure, or the icily austere experimentalism of early Autechre, but it's genuinely pretty, a perfectly serviceable, if inessential, soundtrack for an afternoon reverie.

The only problems arise when Boom Bip tries to expand his palette. "Do's and Don't's," for example, goes sequentially through chanting, jazzy finger-snapping, a circus-like melody and an electric bass part straight out of The Pixies to no discernible purpose. "The Matter (Of Our Discussion)" is basically a female-sung ambient ballad, and while not totally terrible, would've been better left off the record.

— Bryan Cox

ERASURE
Nightbird
Genre: synth-pop
Label: Mute
Release date: Jan. 25

There are a few things that make a good hip-hop record: passion, an intelligent emcee and beats provided by some of the best up-and-coming producers. A sample or two from the GodFather of Soul doesn't hurt either. Yet, even though white Rhode Island native Sage Francis provides all of these things in his new album, A Healthy Distrust, he lacks the most important component: creativity.

A Healthy Distrust is released on premiere punk provider Epitaph, with the label allowing its punk rock followers to branch out to hip-hop. Francis does share several ideals with the more traditional Epitaph alumni, such as a healthy distrust of our current right-wing government, and he attacks with a ferocity that even Fat Mike could appreciate.

However, the label could have found a better emcee to represent its new advances in musical diversity. Though his rhymes are quite skilled, his songs don't seem to carry a single idea — they're more a string of similar themes usually connected to a one-line hook. Despite the fact that he is proclaimed a genius by many and has even created a valuable amount of street credibility, winning several big-name rap battles, it doesn't change the fact that he isn't putting out an album with worthwhile songs. The beats and accompaniment, produced by Danger Mouse and others, create a dark and bleak canvas for his words, very similar to one of his Caucasian contemporaries and obvious influences, Eminem.

Yet most of the beats, with a few exceptions such as the breakdown on "Crumble," are unimaginative and repetitive. Spread all over the album are old tricks such as the over-use of piano or distorted electric guitar to set the mood, all of which have been done by the real Slim Shady and others countless times before.

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— Bryan Cox

BOOM BIP
Blue Eyes in the Red Room
Genre: electronic
Label: Lex
Release date: Feb. 8

He promises an "utter and absolute obligation to never do anything bad, ever" at the end of "Product Placement." However, this album, regardless of the potential contained in his previous album, 2002's Personal Journals, fails to live up to that promise. The sixth track, the very amusing "Voice Mail Bomb Threat," contains a voicemail message from a very angry rival emcee put to very peppy music reminiscent of a Bing Crosby Christmas Special. The speaker tells Sage that, "[his] s*** was cool, but now it's not." Unfortunately for Sage, who featured this on his album as a joke, most would agree with the ranting — especially since after this track the album begins to fall off ever more over the next nine songs. Another joke within the album is a prank call where Sage asks, "Is this a hoolypop factory?" If you pick up this album you'll be the butt of the joke's punchline.

...Because you'll a bunch of success.

— John Wagner

SAGE FRANCIS
A Healthy Distrust
Genre: hip-hop
Label: Epitaph
Release date: Feb. 8

The best way to fully appreciate the new full-length album, The Hate Yourself Change, from Omaha, Neb.'s Neva Dinova, is to first find someone you care about and have them list all the qualities they can think of that they find wrong with you. Then find a quiet spot and hit play.

What will find your ears is 11 songs of self-introspection, 11 songs about the longing in all of us to be something better than we are, and 11 songs swanged with alt-country sadness, mixed with melodies that seem born in the heyday of the 1990s alternative scene that will appeal to even the most dedicated Ryan Adams fan.

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— Chris Bowers
MUSIC

Expect Grammy voters to go west — Kanye West, for “Jesus Walks”

From 15

“Yeah” to the lucrative and catchy “Yeah!” Sometimes it’s best to go with popular consensus.

Song of the Year

“Daughters,” John Mayer: A lovely little ditty with a catchy and well-written chorus. If we were still in the 1960s, this would win hands down.

“If I Ain’t Got You,” Alicia Keys: A strong female confidently singing a ballad with style and grace. If we were in the 1970s, this would win hands down.

“The Reason,” Daniel Estrin and Douglas Robb: A rock band does a complete 360 and wears its heart on its sleeve by singing a “stick upon your lighter” formulaic love song. If we were still in the 1980s, this would win hands down.

“I Live Like You Were Dying,” Tim Nichols and Craig Wiseman: A country artist breaks out of his genre, sings a personal song he didn’t write and has a crossover smash that saturates the light FM stations of the world. If we were still in the 1990s, this would win hands down.

“Jesus Walks,” C. Smith and Kanye West: With a vocal beat that harkens back to spiritual hymns of slaves, this song about choosing spirituality over popular opinion may be considered controversial, but really it’s an anthem for the Bush times.

Prediction: “They say you can rap about anything except for Jesus,” West angrily says in “Jesus Walks.” He’ll get the award just to be proven wrong and because he’s the golden child of this year’s awards. And this category is the one that can legitimize someone as a serious musician.

DJ: Intolerance is unavoidable

From 15

and Bisexual Student Union being, “where the homose collect,” according to Erdmann.

They both admit, however, that the show is not affiliated with the GLBISU in anyway. “This is just us, this is our show,” said Erdmann.

“Us reaching out to the people,” said Hughart jokingly as she signaled to her partner that they were about to go on the air.

The show begins and within a few minutes the phone rings.

“Fruit cocktail,” chimes Erdmann. A man on the other end mumbles something inaudible and hangs up.

“Was that Jethro?” Erdmann laughed into the microphone as he hung up the phone. “Jethro, we love you!”

“For those of you who don’t know, last semester we had this recurring caller that um ... did not take our humor lightly,” explained Hughart to her listeners while trying hard not to laugh. “He called us threatening our lives and the lives of our listeners, despite the fact that I would say a good 60 percent of you are straight.”

The music started to play, and both DJs shut off their mics.

“When he first started calling, he and his friends would threaten our lives and tell us that they were going to come shoot us while we were sleeping,” said Erdmann with a half-hearted chuckle. “We laughed it off on the air, but we got freaked out a couple times.”

The anonymous caller, nick-named Jethro by the radio duo, is representative of one of the reasons they started Fruit Cocktail.

“They’re out there,” said Erdmann, referring to all of the people, like Jethro, who are violently intolerant to the gay lifestyle. “We tolerate him, and we actually look forward to him calling.”

“It shows people that these kinds of people do exist,” added Hughart. “People who are straight will email us and say ‘I never knew you guys had to go through this kind of stuff’.”

“We could have done any kind of shows,” said Hughart as her eyes grew serious behind her glasses. She maintains that while their sexualities are not the focus of the show, they are used in a way to touch upon certain issues that, in their eyes, haven’t gotten enough publicity. And even though most of the show is fun and games, it has become an important mouthpiece for issues in the Orlando gay community — issues like Disney’s refusal to recognize the annual “Gay Days” as a real event.

The gay holiday that brings in approximately 100,000 people from all over the country and millions of dollars in revenue to the park each June is not promoted by Disney in any way. According toHughart, however, there’s been a recent development in regards to this issue.

“Universal has come to the Gay Days committee,” said Hughart with an optimistic smile. “They promise banners and flags and promos.”

“And a red carpet down the middle,” joked Erdmann in a sarcastic tone.

Socially relevant issues aside, the show continued with Arthur the Retard making his much-anticipated appearance that left an employee of the Winter Park Blockbuster confused but correct in his guess that Arthur was looking for the film The Other Sister.

There was also “11 at 11,” which is 11 questions that Erdmann and Hughart promise to answer honestly at 11 p.m. The questions range from anything to their favorite movies to what a gay person on campus and in the closet should do, and come from what has become an army of loyal listeners.

Since its first show at the beginning of the fall semester, Fruit Cocktail has been dubbed “Must-see TV” by Knightcast station manager Nick Markovich, and has listeners responding from as far away as Maryland and Boston.

“We’re out there for everyone to listen to,” said Erdmann as the show began to wind down. “It’s gay-operated but it’s for everyone gay or straight; even Jethro.”

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The Internet brings free — and legal — video games right to you

IVAN VELZ
Staff Writer

Game demos and shareware have been around longer than a lot of gamers have, but in today's age of broadband connections and warez (pirated software such as video games), the attractiveness of demo-ing a game seems to have dropped significantly. Some question the point of game demos when illegally downloading full games is so much easier — albeit riskier.

Fortunately, some publishers and developers have adapted to this trend rather than firmly standing by the sinking ship of obsolete game demos. In preparation for the launch of a new game sequel, these companies have taken a different approach in letting gamers build hype. Rather than releasing an extremely crippled version of the new game under the guise of "demo," these companies release the previous entries in the series for free — the entire games.

Grand Theft Auto
Wild Metal
Grand Theft Auto 2
http://www.rockstargames.com/classics

Rockstar currently offers three free full games on their "Rockstar Classics" page. Whether or not Wild Metal qualifies as classic is debatable, but no one can deny the impact the Grand Theft Auto series has made in recent years.

Gamers can now revisit the humble beginnings of the GTA juggernaut — before Samuel L. Jackson, before Michael Jackson — before Rockstar had a budget. The grassroots graphics and audio may not be as impressive by today's standards, but the gameplay has remained surprisingly similar.

Starsiege: Tribes
http://www.fileplanet.com/promotions/tribes

Before Unreal Tournament 2004 and even before Halo, Tribes was the true granddaddy of sci-fi team-based combat — and it included vehicles. Started originally as a spin-off to the mech-combat Starsiege series, Tribes took the epic scope of outdoor battlefields and added the frenetic gameplay of first-person shooters. What resulted was one of the most overlooked yet significant multiplayer games ever.

Vivendi Universal Games had also originally offered Tribes 2 for free but the overwhelming amount of interested gamers quickly gobbled up all the available CD keys. Luckily, the offer for the original Tribes still remains.

Don't let yourself miss out on one of the games that literally changed the landscape of multiplayer shooters.

Anarchy Online
http://www.anarchy-online.com

There's always been a great divide with gamers over paying monthly subscriptions for massively multiplayer online games. Combine a monthly investment along with deliberately slow-paced game progression and some gamers stand adamantly against such money vacuums.

But what holds these gamers back if they can play such a game for free?

Anarchy Online currently offers anyone capable of downloading 800+ megs the opportunity to play online with thousands of other players for free until Jan. 15, 2006. Potential players have the opportunity to become part of one of the first MMORPGs that broke the mold of Tolkien-esque fantasy worlds of knights and dragons. Anarchy's futuristic, sci-fi world Rubi-Ka ditches magic and hairy-footed hobbits in favor of nanotechnology and the bulky, pro-wrestler-like Atrox.

And if you find yourself enjoying Anarchy Online, you can purchase additional content via expansion packs for a low monthly cost.
Sticking to your political
guns, one bumper at a time

Students show support
long after Election Day

RICKY SURILLO
Staff Writer

It's been nearly three months since the presidential election, and now most people are sick of talking about it. Bush was just inaugurated for his second term, and while 60 million Americans are cheering him on, 51 million are turning the other cheek. Though the media attention over the matter has died down significantly, there is still one way to get the message across no matter which side you supported — political stickers.

They were everywhere up until Election Day and then just disappeared for the most part. Seems logical enough — show support until your candidate wins or loses. For some out there though, just because it was "over" didn't give cause to remove any certain sticker from their car. Junior Lauren Mayeux kept her Bush sticker on until just recently.

"I didn't want to be one of those people who keeps their stickers on for years, but I didn't want to take it off immediately after the election," she said. "So I thought showing my support up to the inauguration would be good.

Mayeux may have kept her sticker on to show support, but that didn't mean Kerry supporters couldn't do the same despite the outcome. Junior Jessica Zietz still has her Kerry sticker on her car.

"I'm proud of my political affiliation and the candidate I supported, and I'm not ashamed to be a Democrat just because we lost this time," she said. There are students on both sides who have kept their stickers and do it to prove that just because it's over, it doesn't mean their feelings have changed. Junior Kathleen McNmis kept her Kerry sticker on for two reasons: "John Kerry is still doing things that I politically agree with, and it's a way of being anti-Bush without being obnoxious about it, like those 'F*** Bush' stickers. I may not like Bush, but there is no need to be ridiculous about it.

Was it arrogant for Bush supporters to keep their stickers on their cars, and should Kerry supporters accept the loss and take their stickers off as well? Mayeux provides her insight on the Bush side of the sticker situation. "I don't personally think that [people are arrogant] when I see the stickers, but I could see how people could see that," she said. "I think people do it out of a little bit of gloating, a little bit of pride and a little bit of laziness to take it off."

For instance, some students just haven't gotten around to taking it off and don't see a reason to, like junior Josh Carroll. "I'm too lazy to take it off," he said. "I like Bush, and I don't feel like scrubbing the adhesive off of the glass."

Zietz looks at it as more of a support issue rather than a gloating issue. "Why should [Bush supporters] be any less entitled than I am to display their support? But they need to accept that the Democrats aren't going to crawl into a hole and hide for four years, and the Kerry supporters need to accept that, this time, we lost, and those who got what they wanted have every right to proudly display it."

Pride can come in many forms and can sometimes even turn to hatred for the opposing side. In this case, ripping a John Kerry sticker off a car to the point where it only says "job" is the situation that Zietz experienced.

"Had it not been ripped off, I would have just kept it on at least until I got a 'Don't Blame Me, I voted for Kerry' sticker," she said. "I mean, once in a while I see cars that still have Gore/Lieberman stickers on, and I think that's awesome. But since it's basically gone anyway, I'll take it off when I get around to it. It looks stupid, but I don't get embarrassed too easily."

Avoiding random acts of vandalism, no matter how big or small, are something both sides can agree on. "They're just stickers, I don't know why they cause people to get so mad," said Mayeux. "I've seen and heard about it on both sides, and I've heard of people's cars being keyed too."

Carroll agrees with Mayeux and adds, "It's pretty immature, [you] might as well get over it."

McNmis has a similar view. "I don't think it's right; I mean it can be funny but when you get right down to it, it's wrong. I would be upset if someone ripped my Kerry sticker off, so I wouldn't rip off anyone's Bush sticker. Treat others how you want to be treated and what not."

Zietz offers her own view on the culprits: "Some people are dicks, plain and simple."
Staying true to its ROOTS

After hurricane setbacks, Cypress Gardens returns with dozens of new rides but keeps its original spirit intact.
For 67 years, Cypress Gardens dazzled visitors from around the globe. The park's lush gardens, Southern belles and water-skiers became symbols of Florida fun and helped to define the state as a tourist mecca. Stories and photos by Matt Hedgecock.

Then, on April 10, 2003, the granddaddy of Florida amusement closed its gates. The water-skiers and belles packed up their skis and gowns and the gardens came under the eyes of hungry land developers. Fans of the old park feared the end was nigh.

However, thanks to the intervention of Georgia entrepreneur Kent Buescher, the historic attraction has received a new lease on life. Boasting a $50 million upgrade, 38 new rides and a slight name change, Cypress Gardens Adventure Park is open for business again — but are the upgrades enough to keep crowds coming?

Upon entering the park it becomes apparent that for everything that has changed, just as much has stayed the same. The main drag of food and shops are the charming buildings from the old park, albeit with new offerings of food and merchandise. The beautiful landscaping — a quality synonymous with the park itself — is ever present, as is the beautiful view of Lake Eloise.

A handful of classic rides and attractions survived the transition. The Sunshine Sky Adventure, a tower that rises 16 stories into the air and rotates 360 degrees, is one of the only rides to make the cut — though it was the only exceptional ride the old park had. Other attractions, like the gorgeous Wings of Wonder butterfly garden and the intricately detailed model train diorama, still marvel.

Of course, it wouldn't be Cypress Gardens without the gardens. Fans of flora could very well spend hours exploring the flourishing habitat rich with orchids, camellias and chrysanthemums.

Several flooded paths and felled cypress trees serve as reminders of last year's hurricanes, which delayed the park's opening by several months. Fortunately, the gardens have lost none of their beauty. Trademark garden pieces like the gigantic banyan tree survived with little damage.

But enough about the old — what's new?

Most obvious are the new rides added by Buescher to help liven up the park's image. Among them are four rollercoasters, a water-raft ride, a drop tower and a ferris wheel. Theme park mainstays like bumper cars and a merry-go-round fill out the rest of the assortment.

All of the rides are fun, particularly the rollercoasters, but upon viewing them, one word comes to mind — small. Some of the rides seem to be miniaturized versions of those found at larger, bigger-budget theme parks. Others are only a step or two above what one might find at a traveling carnival (though these are undoubtedly safer).

This is not to say that the rides are bad. However, tourists coming fresh from parks like Islands of Adventure with its roaring, soaring rollercoasters and 3-D hologram technology may be disappointed by this somewhat quaint assortment of rides.

Other additions are several new shows, as well as new versions of the classic water-ski and ice-skating shows. Again, the new shows (a Wild West comedy show and a country-themed magic show) are small in scale but enthusiastically performed and very funny. The ski and ice shows are still not-to-be-missed classics.

Guests complimented the park on the attractive environment and natural wonders. "I like it more as a botanical atmosphere," said Christine Gagne of Maitland. "Like that big banyan tree — that was amazing."

Others suggested that the new rides lacked sufficient strength to draw return visits — crucial to the park's success.

"The rides aren't anything special," said An Marie Stewart, also of Maitland. "I wouldn't come here again for them."

It should be noted that the park is not yet complete. Upcoming attractions slated to be completed by spring include a midway, three new shows and a several animal habitats.

Cypress Gardens Adventure Park is a great family-friendly park in every sense of the word — clean, fun and affordable.

However, it's somewhat afflicted by this status as well — the park is too sleepy for college students and other thrill-seekers.

Still, it's comforting to know that a piece of Florida history has gotten a second chance to entertain.

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Cypress Gardens success analysis

Cypress Gardens is open again — but will it stay that way? Some industry analysts have questioned the new park's ability to draw enough crowds to survive. The park's extreme distance from other major attractions is considered to be the cause of past failure and the biggest obstacle to its future success.

"I think that had Cypress Gardens been closer to central Florida — because it's so different from any other tourist attraction — it would have made it," said Dr. Abraham Pizam, dean of the Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

"The poor guy (Buescher) has already suffered significant financial losses from the hurricanes and everything else, and unfortunately it doesn't bode very well for him," Pizam said.

Though exact attendance figures are not available, park representatives have described attendance as "thrilling." A job fair was held in early January to help add extra employees to meet the greater-than-expected demand.

One factor that could help the park is its series of concerts, held at the new Star Haven Amphitheater. Parking facilities had to be expanded in January to help accommodate the crowds.

With more shows, animals and a separate water park opening this year, it's safe to say that park officials certainly see a bright future for the revived attraction. Time will tell if their dedication will pay off.

Rides:
Small but enjoyable. The Triple Hurricane rollercoaster is especially fun.

Shows:
Energetic and entertaining. The Ski Show Spectacular is not to be missed.

Food:
Average theme-park fare. Good variety, average price, OK taste.

Atmosphere:
The landscaping and gardens are immaculately tended.

Service:
Abundant, generally friendly staff. Knowledgeable and helpful.

Overall:
The epitome of a family amusement park. Clean, wholesome and enjoyable, but just a little too dull for most people 18-35.

— Matt Hedgecock
Don't Seek out this lazy thriller

Hackneyed technique, well-worn horror clichés mar this supernatural, creepy-youngerster movie

GINA SCANLON
Staff Writer

It's 2:06. Time to play Hide and Seek.
New formula. Take a film legend, the current "in" Hollywood child who can act, the basic writings of Sigmund Freud and you get a trendy horror flick.

David Galloway (Robert De Niro) and his little girl Emily (Dakota Fanning) have just moved into the blissfully quiet upstate New York countryside after the death of Emily's mother. Soon after, Emily befriends Charlie, an "entity" unknown to the audience that begins to perform evil deeds.

After a checklist of tired horror clichés like kitchen knives, bathtubs, big-breasted blondes, shadowy hallways and creepy little children with secrets, the writer seemed to forget to add one thing: motive.

The biggest gap in this film's plot is the fact that there seems to be no apparent reason why these bad things are happening. Not to mention it takes an hour before anything substantial does.

The one who suffers continuously throughout the film is little Emily. Her experiences seem illogical. The fact that the writer uses the childhood game, hide and seek, as this girl's way of trying to cope with her surroundings is not only disgusting, there's no reason behind its wannabe psychological sickness.

The writer's idea of irony is also terribly clichéd — the fact that David is a practicing psychologist who, in theory, should be able to help people with their problems but can't seem to decipher what's going on in his own daughter's psyche.

The problem with thrillers like this is that there seems to be a predetermined rhythm that the audience has been exposed to so often that we can all predict when the next scare is coming, who's behind the closet door and who is going to be the killer's next victim. In recent films like this, there is also a noticeable trend of timing when the next dreaded incident should take place with a recurring clock shot. In this case, the time is 2:06 a.m. It's almost like the director is trying to set a circadian ring in our heads. Time to get scared. Talk about defeating the entire premise of surprise.

As far as the characters go, none really matter except for the two leads. This is far from De Niro's best performance, which becomes less and less convincing until it totally plummets in the end. However, there are some amusing moments, thanks to Fanning, like when she comes out dressed like Lydia in Beetlejuice, set out to ruin her father's evening. Nonetheless, it isn't enough to save the film's endless bordello of disappointments.

The film fails to please up to the very end. The climax has so many poor The Shining references that one almost pleads for De Niro to yell, "Here's Charlie!"

My advice to filmmakers who spit out these movies; give the audience more credit next time. Don't rely on boring twists and cheap screams created by sound effects to carry the story. Rely on content.

**Buy this gangster box, ya filthy animal!**

See 6 Hollywood classics in a stellar set

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

The American public has always been fascinated with gangsters, so it's no surprise that films on the subject have been so popular for so long. From Howard Hawks' *Scarface* to Brian DePalma's *Scarface*, the mobster has held a prominent place as one of the silver screen's most popular archetypes.

So, in its continuing effort to completely shame every other studio's DVD release, Warner Bros. has hauled out six classic films from the golden age of the Hollywood mobster. The Warner Gangsters Collection is a must-own set for anyone who considers themselves to be a serious movie fan.

****

*Little Caesar* (1931) – Four Stars

Edward G. Robinson stars as Caesar Enrico Bandello ("Rico! Little Caesar, that's who!") in the film that would define the gangster genre and make Robinson a major star.

The film helped establish the archetypal "American dream" theme that would be present in virtually every mobster film after that. In truth, the film isn't that exceptional. However, Robinson's masterful portrayal of the power-hungry gangster makes Little Caesar one of the screen's most memorable villains.

*****

*The Public Enemy* (1931)

James Cagney made a strong career out of playing hard-nosed hoodlums, starting in his breakout movie *The Public Enemy*. Cagney plays Tom Powers, a violent, amoral baddie who isn't above plugging his enemies or shoving a grapefruit in his girlfriend's eye. Expertly directed by William Wellman, *The Public Enemy* remains one of Cagney's best films.

****

*The Petrified Forest* (1936)

Before he became Hollywood's most desired leading man, Humphrey Bogart got his start in the movies playing heavies in various crime pictures. Though he is third-billed...
A 'menacing' alien-crocodile-thing is makes a stealthy swipe at an increasingly credibility-deficient Christian Slater. Chomp away!

If you think this Uwe Boll movie sucks, you're not Alone

Alone in the Dark another clunker from video-game hack

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer


All these are synonyms for "bad."

Assemble your team of H.R. Giger alien rip-offs and some infected from 28 Days Later. Whooppee.

What follows is some of the most incomprehensible and inane "action" sequences ever committed to celluloid. Hard rock blares as buff morons in tight black T-shirts fend off attacks from poorly rendered CGI monsters. Even the worst moments from garage-like Van Helsing were infinitely more entertaining than anything in Alone in the Dark.

The acting is equally as terrible as the direction. Slater does his best impersonation of Generic Action Hero No. 2, while Dorff yells every single one of his lines. And just to hammer home what level of "talent" we're dealing with, Tara Reid is the film's third star.

It's not surprising the film's auteur is none other than Uwe Boll, the man responsible for the war crime known as House of the Dead. Boll has quickly established himself as a modern-day Ed Wood, a reputation that is likely to grow with every single one of his films.

Boll, the man responsible for the war crime known as House of the Dead, Boll has quickly established himself as a modern-day Ed Wood, a reputation that is likely to grow with every single one of his films.

But he's not the only one looking for the artifacts. The menacing named Professor Hเงgås (Matthew Walker) wants to collect all of the artifacts to open a door to an evil dimension. Why? Well, why not?

So Camby teams up with the elite govern-

ment commando group: Gap models 713, led by Commander Richards (Stephen Dorff). Their mission? Stop Egyptians and save the world from the ancient evil that dwells within the spooky dimension.

Turns out the ancient evil is a bunch of H.R. Giger alien rip-offs and some infected from 28 Days Later. Whooppee.

BRET T RY AN B O N O W I C Z
Staff Writer

The Martin Scorsese Film Collection

As a consolation prize for the surprise victory of Clint Eastwood over Martin Scorsese at the Director's Guild awards, MGM has pressed out a new Scorsese box set that combines some old DVDs, a new one and a previously released DVD in a four-disc special edition.

First up is New York, New York, Scorsese's homage to musicals of times past. The DVD includes commentary by Scorsese and film critic Carrie Rickey, an introduction by Scorsese, plus 25 minutes of alternate takes and deleted scenes, a photo gallery and the original theatrical trailer.

Previously released as a bare-bones disc, the new two-disc Raging Bull: Special Edition includes no less than three commentary tracks, the first with Scorsese and editor Thelma Schoonmaker, the second with director of photography Michael Chapman, producer Irwin Winkler, music producer Robbie Robertson, producer Robert Chartoff, actress Theresa Saldana, actor John Turturro, casting director Cis Corman and supervising sound effects editor Frank Warner; and the third by writer Mardik Martin, writer Paul Schrader, box-office author Jake LaMotta and LaMotta's nephew Jason Lustig.

The punches don't stop there though, with more than six features: Raging Bull: Before the Fight, a documentary on the writing, casting and preproduction of the film; Raging Bull: Inside the Ring, an in-depth look at the choreography and the shooting of the fight scenes; Raging Bull: Outside the Ring, with behind-the-scenes stories; Raging Bull: After the Fight, a featurette on the sound design, music and impact of the film; The Bronx Bull, a making-of documentary; and De Niro vs. LaMotta, a shot-by-shot comparison of De Niro and LaMotta in the ring. Also included is actual unused footage of the real LaMotta and the original theatrical trailer.

The Last Waltz, Scorsese's documentary about The Band, has been previously released on DVD but is a very nice inclusion in this box set, as it includes commentary by Robbie Robertson and Scorsese.

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It includes the featurette Revisiting The Last Waltz, along with archival outtakes and an eight-page booklet written by Robertson. Last but not least, Martin Scorsese's Roger Corman exploitation flick Baxar Bertha is included. This is the barest of the bare, including no more than the trailer.
When Will I Be Loved: Find out in this provocative film

Neve Campbell shines in acerbic new take on sexual freedom

JOHN THOMASON
Indie Editor

A Neve Campbell nude scene... what? Why didn't I know about this?

Now that you're reading this, don't get too excited or you'll be disappointed, Ms. Campbell may indeed be made in the opening shot of When Will I Be Loved, James Toback's latest treatise on the humanity of humans, but it's definitely de-eroticized. She takes a mundane shower, masturbates with the shower head with just as much banality, gets out and goes about her day of casual lesbian trysts and running sexual games that comprise this acidic drama.

Campbell plays Vera, the bored daughter of an affluent family, who shares a New York flat with streetwise businessman Ford (Fred Weller, somehow playing an even bigger dick than his Shape of Things character). In the opening 30 minutes, they commit infidelities more times than most people jaywalk. Vera does it with a random girlfriend, obscured from us by living room blinds — Toback denies the pleasure often associated with such images in film, ensuring that Wild Things this ain't. Meanwhile, Weller has a four-way with three potential actresses/models that so over-the-top it feels like it was shot for an aborted Caligula remake.

But all this is just trifling nihilism, and just such malaise-filled observations about our fickle, animalistic nature do not make a good film. The movie really takes off in its final third, when it becomes an indie spin on Indecent Proposal, with Ford treating his wife as another bling-bling commodity to sell to an Italian mogul.

Get your gangster groove on with Warner box set

The film is ably directed by Michael Curtiz (Casablanca) and costars Pat O'Brien and Humphrey Bogart.

The Roaring Twenties (1939)
The Roaring Twenties marked the close of the 1920s gangster genre as well as Cagney's last tough-guy film for 10 years — and a fitting close it was.

The film is a masterpiece of acting and filmmaking. Director Raoul Walsh handles the film with a documentary-style realism, which paints a wondrous picture of the decade.

More complexity is demonstrated in the characters. Different degrees of evil are examined, and the film is a refreshing break from straight-forward "good-evil" approach of previous films.

White Heat (1949)
The box set is capped off by what most film scholars consider to be the last Warner Bros. gangster movie, White Heat.

A true, legitimate classic film, White Heat showcases James Cagney in perhaps his best role — Cody Jarrett, a murderous looney with a severe mother complex.

The film is rife with classic lines and scenes — Jarrett's exit is easily one of the best in the history of cinema ("It's the world, ma!").

Each film in the set is supplemented with a commentary by various film scholars and a short documentary about the importance of the film. Also included for each film are Warner's Night at the Movies features — a collection of shorts, cartoons and newsreels from the respective year each movie was released.

Neve Campbell is a disillusioned housewife exploring her sexual impulses in When Will I Be Loved.
MOVIES

Forty Shades of Blue a Sundance winner

Why We Fight, Murderball, Brothers also take top honors at Sundance Film Festival

DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press

The family drama Forty Shades of Blue, centering on a modern Oedipal triangle involving a music producer, a Russian wife half his age and his son, won top dramatic honors at the Sundance Film Festival.

Why We Fight, examining the chronically militant stance of the United States over the last half century, took Sundance's grand jury prize for documentaries.

Awards were presented Saturday, with top winners screening one last time on Sunday as the 11-day independent film showcase ended in Park City, Utah.

Directed and co-written by Ira Sachs, Forty Shades of Blue stars Rip Torn as the aging husband, Dina Korzun as his Russian bride and Darren Burrows as the estranged son whose visit hurls their lives into turmoil.

Why We Fight was directed by Eugene Jarecki, brother of Andrew Jarecki, whose Capturing the Friedmans won the Sundance documentary prize in 2003.

The audience award for dramatic films, chosen in voting by Sundance filmmakers, went to Hustle & Flow, the tale of a twobit pimp and drug dealer (Terrence Howard) who enlists an odd assortment of allies in a bid to break into the hip-hop music scene. Written and directed by Craig Brewer, Hustle & Flow was produced by John Singleton.

Sundance moviegoers chose directors Henry Alex Rubin and Dana Adam Shapiro's Murderball, a portrait of the competitive spirit of wheelchair-bound athletes, as the audience award winner for documentaries.

Filmmaker Zeze Gamboa's The Hero, set in the aftermath of decades of civil war in Angola, earned the grand jury prize among world-cinema dramatic contenders.

Shape of the Moon, Dutch director Leonard Retel Helmrich's portrait of a Christian family in Muslim-dominated Indonesia, took top honors in the world-cinema documentary category.

Danish director Susanne Bier's Brothers, about two siblings whose lives are drastically altered when one is deployed on a United Nations mission to Afghanistan, received the world-cinema audience honor.

Canada's Shake Hands With the Devil: The Journey of Romeo Dallaire won the audience award for world-cinema documentary. Directed by Peter Raymont, the film centers on the Canadian military man who had to stand by helplessly during the Rwandan genocide because the token U.N. force he led was too small to intervene.

Special jury prizes for acting were given to Amy Adams, who plays a childlike Southern waif captivated by her worldly new sister-in-law from up north in Junebug, and to Lou Pucci as a teenager whose oral fixation for his thumb causes a ruckus among his family in Thumbsucker.

Features that aren't so special

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

I buy DVDs by the bucketful. Yearly, I probably spend more money on DVDs then I do on food, rent and prostitutes combined. They're my livelihood (the DVDs, not the prostitutes).

One day, I'll probably have to re-examine my life and the grandsize amount of funds I lump down monthly on these small, round, pie-shaped hellions, but until my line of credit runs out, I'm going to continue to buy myself happy in a DVD-covered frenzy. There's only one small problem. For a business that is constantly saying it's booming, DVD manufacturers are beginning to cut corners, make things on the cheap. And this is causing enthusiasts like me to scream "Bloody Murder!" For when it comes to DVDs, it's not just business; this time it's personal.

A few weeks ago, I purchased Mean Girls on DVD. I remember it vividly, it was the same night that Star Wars came out on DVD, and I was the only person at Wal-Mart that was not there for said DVD. I was there for another masterpiece, this of the Lohan form.

After waiting an extra 45 minutes for all the Star Wars geeks to pay for their DVDs and masturbate all over the packaging, I bought my film. I went home a happy camper. But the moment I went to open up the package I noticed that the case wasn't opening as easily as it should have. There were these two extra tabs, one above and one below, that prohibited me from opening the case. Since then, I've purchased nearly 50 of these DVDs and I still can't figure out for the life of me exactly what these devices might do to make better the product. I'm pretty sure that answer is nothing.

Another of the things that has been conspicuously left out of more and more DVD cases is the chapter insert. In fact, one of the only releases that did include an insert was Harold and Kumar go to White Castle. Sadly, Harold and Kumar also included coupons and ads, which many companies are now including in place of the chapter insert. I can't imagine the insert costing more than some, so it's hard to think why films like 21 Grams, Lost in Translation and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind include no insert and look pretty bare inside. You have to ask yourself a question: If you were wearing a tuxedo, would you intentionally not wear a bow tie because you saved a dollar or two? No is the answer. You'd look like a cheap moron.

On the more mind-boggling side is the new trend of leaving out the theatrical trailer from an otherwise stellar DVD release. To name a few, Garden State, Minority Report, Catch Me If You Can, The Terminal and 25th Hour have all decided to leave their trailers on the floor, missing the boat of their DVD release. It used to be that even if there were no special features on the disc, you could at least count on the trailer. It's just not the case anymore, and it's a shame. Garden State had two of the most hyped trailers of this or any other year, and the 25th Hour trailer is a personal favorite of mine, now lost to the ashes of time.

I don't know, maybe people prefer their DVDs this way. Maybe I'm just the one square guy, living in a rectangular DVD world, trying to buy happiness of the circular variety, fearing change and complaining at will.
Eastwood and Weeping Camel honored, while Scorsese gets shafted again

DAVID GERMAIN
Staff Writer

 Clint Eastwood was declared filmmaker of the year by his peers on Saturday, winning the Directors Guild of America honor for the boxing saga *Million Dollar Baby.*

The award solidifies Eastwood's prospects to win his second-director prize at the Academy Awards on Feb. 24. He previously won the Academy Award and guild prize for 1992's *Unforgiven,* which also was that year's best-picture champ at the Oscars.

Eastwood's triumph dashed fellow nominees Martin Scorsese's hopes yet again. While the Howard Hughes epic *The Aviator,* Scorsese earned his sixth guild nomination for best director, but he has lost every time.

*Million Dollar Baby* stars Eastwood as a curmudgeonly boxing trainer and reluctant mentor to a scrappy fighter (Hilary Swank) who becomes a champion in the life of her character. Morgan Freeman co-stars as an ex-boxer and resident sage of Mongolian nomads.

"I've just got to say that this is a real pleasure," Eastwood said. "I've worked with Hilary and Morgan, just fabulous people to be making a picture together. All I have to do is just sort of stand there and guide it."

All three performers earned acting nominations for the Oscars.

*Million Dollar Baby* emerged as a last-minute awards contender. Eastwood did not begin shooting the film until early last summer, and distributor Warner Bros. had expected it would not be ready for release until 2005.

When Eastwood showed a cut of the film last fall, studio executives loved it and went on to receive the directing prize for *Million Dollar Baby.*

The *Aviator* is considered the nominal front-runner for best picture at the Oscars, and before the guild awards, Scorsese had been viewed as a sentimental favorite for the directing Oscar. But a similar split between the two films is possible on Oscar night, or even a sweep of both the best-picture and director honors for *Million Dollar Baby.*

Scorsese received a lifetime achievement honor from the guild two years ago, the same year he had been considered the sentimental favorite to win both the guild's directing prize and the Oscar for *Gangs of New York.*

First-time feature-film director Rob Marshall wound up winning the guild honor for Chicago, while the Oscar went to Roman Polanski for *The Pianist.*

Scorsese has been nominated for the directing Oscar four times previously, losing each time, and his films also have never won a best-picture Academy Award.

In other guild directing honors, the *Story of the Weeping Camel* won the documentary prize over Michael Moore's political hit *Fahrenheit 9/11,* Directed by Byambasuren Davaa and Luigi Falorni. The *Story of the Weeping Camel* chronicles a crisis over a camel calf belonging to a family of Mongolian nomads.

Ray director Taylor Hackford lost the feature-film contest for his Ray Clark portrait, but TV winners included Bruce Gowers, who won the musical variety honor for *Genius: A Night for Ray Charles.*

Among other TV recipients were Walter Hill, honored for series drama for the pilot of the Western, *Deadwood,* Timothy Van Patten, chosen for comedy series for the *Sex and the City* finale; and Joe Sargent, winner of the small-screen movie prize for the medigal drama *Something the Lord Made.*

MOVIE TIMES

From 114

**HIDE AND SEEK (R)**
12:10 1:50 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:30 10:10 11:40

**HOTEL RWANDA (PG-13)**
1:10 4:20 7:20 11:20

**IN GOOD COMPANY (PG-13)**
12:20 2:00 4:00 7:00 9:30 11:20

**MEET THE FODGERS (PG-13)**
12:20 2:40 5:30 8:20 11:20

**MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG-13)**
12:20 2:30 5:30 8:30 11:20

**OCEAN'S TWELVE (PG-13)**
1:20

**RACING STRIPES (PG)**
12:10 2:10 4:00 6:00 9:40

**SIDWAYS (R)**
12:30 2:40 5:30 8:20 11:20

**THE WEDDING DATE (PG-13)**
1:00 3:00 7:00 9:20 12:00

**WHITE NOISE (PG-13)**
4:10 7:20 10:15 12:50

**REGAL WINTER PARK**
5100 N. ORLANDO AVE., 407-628-0163

**ALONE IN THE DARK (R)**
10:20

**ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13)**
12:40 1:30 2:30 3:30 5:30 6:30 7:30 8:30 9:30 10:30 11:30

**IN GOOD COMPANY (PG-13)**
1:10 4:20 7:20 11:20

**KINSEY (R)**
3:45 6:05

**MEET THE FODGERS (PG-13)**

**ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 (R)**

**THE AVIATOR (PG-13)**
12:20 4:00 7:40 11:20

**BOOGIEMAN (PG-13)**
11:30a 1:30p 3:30p 5:30p 7:30p 9:30p 11:30p

**THE COACH (PG-13)**
1:10 4:15 7:20 10:20

**FINDING NEVERLAND (PG-13)**
1:15 4:05 6:55 9:15 12:05

**HIDE AND SEEK (R)**

**Hotel Rwanda (PG-13)**

**IN GOOD COMPANY (PG-13)**
1:10 4:20 7:20 11:20

**KINSEY (R)**
3:45 6:05

**MEET THE FODGERS (PG-13)**

**ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 (R)**

**Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)**
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:20 10:20 12:00

**National Treasure (PG)**
12:20 4:20

**Racing Stripes (PG)**
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:10 10:10

**SIdeways (R)**
1:05 4:25 7:40 10:40

**The Wedding Date (PG-13)**

**WHITE NOISE (PG-13)**
12:00a 1:30p 4:00p 6:30p 9:00p 11:30p

**REGAL OLEO MARKETPLACE**
1500 OLEO MARKETPLACE BLVD., 407-677-1107

**Alone in the Dark (R)**
3:00 9:00

**ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG-13)**

**Are We There Yet? (PG)**

**Assault on Precinct 13 (R)**

**The Aviator (PG-13)**

**The Boogeyman (PG-13)**

**National Treasure (PG)**
12:20 4:20

**Racing Stripes (PG)**
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:10 10:10

**Finding Neverland (PG-13)**
1:05 4:00 7:00 10:00

**Hide and Seek (R)**
1:05 4:00 7:00 10:00 12:00

**The Wedding Date (PG-13)**

**In Good Company (PG-13)**
12:10 4:10 6:10 9:10 12:20

**Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG)**
1:00 4:10 7:10 10:10

**Meet The Fodgers (PG-13)**
12:30 2:30 5:00 8:00 10:30
**RAMBLINGS**

**THE GEEK LIFE**

**Listen to the sounds ... of gaming**

The geek says great video-game music connects with listeners of today

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ  
Staff Writer

I have never been much of a fan of classical music. Jazz I can listen to for long amounts of time as long as it isn’t too depressing, and I adore hyperactive big band music. It’s the chamber music I can’t mind, the long drawn out foreign operas, the real serious stuff without lyrics that I can understand, and especially the music without a human voice to draw the ear.

Of course, I’m no musician and have never claimed to be. Quite the opposite, in fact. I am not a connoisseur and I know it. I mean, Mozart is wonderful and all that stuff, and Bach is not without his charms, and who could forget the “Ode to Joy”?

Yet, the music of the older times always seemed so far away and so untouchable. They just feel like they have little to do with me. The supposed timelessness is lost on me.

I doubt I am the only one who feels this way. It can be hard for many people to listen to that stuff sometimes. Not that I don’t see the genius behind it. The famous composers that call out to us from the mists of ancient times are gods who will live on into the dark future of humanity and perhaps beyond.

Who will carry on this torch? Who will continue to create the masterpieces that will echo through out the history of humankind? Many of the old symphonies were written for specific purposes and events, but in this day and age it seems the only things written with specific purposes are for stage, Hollywood, and of course, video games. My very dear obsession. My lust, and my love, my teacher

**CRAZED INDIE ROBOT**

**Overblown American cinema**

The robot ranks the top five most overrated films from these parts

DIANNA ZISMAN  
Staff Writer

Shut Up, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The announcement of the Academy Awards nominations brings with it a number of fine traditions, from fans griping about the overlooked (Paul Giannatti lovers, I’m looking right at you... and in a mirror, ‘cause I’m one of you, but that’s neither here nor there), to Oscar predictions and pools.

But my favorite post-announcement tradition has always been to reminisce on the Academy’s — and the public’s — poor cinematic choices. Here it is, then, my ever-changing list of the top 5 overrated American films.

The English Patient (1996): The memory of this crappiest winning Best Picture over Fargo haunts me to this day.

One of the biggest lessons that the Academy has yet to learn is that movies about the terminally ill, or the badly injured, or condemned prisoners, or nuns, or nuns trying to save the souls of condemned prisoners are not automatically Oscar-worthy.

However, movies — written by the Coen brothers and starring Steve Buscemi, William H. Macy, and Frances McDormand — about a guy hiring people to kidnap his wife for the ransom money are, by their very nature, awesome and should get all the Oscar nods they can handle.

A Beautiful Mind (2000): Russell Crowe is a good actor, but seeing him Oscar-bait for this entire film took an average overrated movie and made me hate it.

You could almost hear him thinking “look at me! I’m crazy! Woo! Look at my crazy eyes! Aren’t they just the craziest? And, also, have you noticed? I’m not particularly hot in this movie. ‘Cause, see, normally I’m smokin’ ... smokin’ like the shrimp I put on the barbe just this morning, in fact. Have I mentioned that I’m Australian? Couldn’t tell, could you, between my fine American accent and my crazy eyes?”

Forrest Gump (1994): There aren’t words enough in the English language to express the hatred I feel for this movie.

Many people see it as a harmless movie about a guy who succeeds in life, despite his handicaps, by always attempting to “do the right thing.” I see it as a movie in which bad things happen to the only two interesting characters in the entire story (Lt. Dan and Jenny).

What’s the message here? That if you’re somewhat cranky and conflicted (Lt. Dan) or an experimenter and conflicted (Jenny) you’ll either have your legs blown off at the knee or you’ll get AIDS and die?

That this tripe was considered better than Quiz Show, Pulp Fiction (!), and The Shawshank Redemption (!) only adds to my ire and makes me want to punch Tom Hanks in the face every time I see him.

**Citizen Kane (1941):** The only non-Oscar winner in the bunch. Kane is nonetheless widely considered the greatest American movie ever, thanks to Welles’ innovations (deep focus, non-linear storytelling), most of which are still being improved on to this day.

But I didn’t enjoy Citizen Kane until I realized that I should stop genuflecting toward it as a Great Work of Art.

When I did that, I was able to recognize how much fun everyone had while putting it together.

Critics and academics who promote Citizen Kane as a solemn work to be mentioned in hushed and reverent tones do it a disservice by causing it to be forever overrated.

**Titanic (1997):** This movie winning Best Picture over L.A. Confidential is the eternal idiocy of the Academy Awards distilled to one perfect example.

It’s a disaster movie that’s bogged down by a boring, melodramatic love story.

In fact, if Cameron had given us two hours of a sinking ship without all the crap between Leo and Kate, Titanic would have been an infinitely more enjoyable flick.

But, no. Apparently, the sinking of a huge ocean liner and the loss of 1500 people wasn’t dramatic enough for Cameron, so we had to see the two lovebirds tramp around a sinking ship while Billy Zane fires at them. Please, give me The Towering Inferno any day over this garbage.

**NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE**

**This one’s for my homies**

MICHAEL LAWRENCE  
Staff Writer

Last week, I wrote a column in which I joked about tsunamis and violent lesbians. I have to admit, I wasn’t the least bit fearful when I typed it out and shipped it off to the editors in chief. I can stand by my opinions and have always relished my dark sense of humor. Somehow, I don’t think it’s going to be enough this week. As negative as it sounds, I’m going into this week with the preconception that I’m going to fail. Fail miserably.

I’m going to discuss a touchy subject about which I have strong convictions. Based on the way I was raised, I’ve been told it’s best not to express these convictions, but where else would I do it but here, and to who else would I speak with but you, my anonymous loyal readers?

I miss Homeboys In Outer Space. Really badly. I know it’s almost been 10 years, but I’m still not over it. I can’t find it on DVD, and I doubt we’ll ever see it there. The show, for those of you who don’t remember or choose to forget, followed the adventures of two dudes traveling across the galaxy in their broken-down “space hoody!” They hung out at the local space bar trading drinks and stories with Pippin (played by James Doohan, aka Scotty) while being chased and harassed by gruff bounty Vash and still finding the time to go off on different adventures throughout the galaxy. It was a mix of sci-fi parody and urban humor, which, let’s face it, hadn’t really been done before outside of that Wrath of Farah-Khan spoof on In Living Color.

But the NAACP got preachy, and the show was yanked off the air. It wasn’t cancelled because of low ratings but at the behest of a self-interest group. The same group that made it so that the Disney film Song of the South can’t be released in the U.S. It was ridding the world of entertainment for their own benefit. How admirable.

They claimed that Homeboys’ portrayal of blacks was stereotypical and therefore racist. I can see how it can be interpreted that way, but it was a comedy! Comedy revolves around stereotypes. That’s what makes it funny. If the Three Stooges were only stupid enough to get a paper cut and not dumb enough to beat the ever-lovin’ crap out of each other, it wouldn’t be funny. The show never took itself seriously. It was 22 perfect minutes of escapism. You know, the kind of thing people look for in a sitcom.

Please see HOMEBOYS on 419
New and shiny, just like your grill

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

Sometimes, I actually pay enough attention to the Internet to receive its blessings in a timely manner. This week, I was actively working on my research paper almost exclusively, which means I was at my computer and in the position to be easily distracted. Thus, I have links that are reasonably new. The downside is they don’t fit into any kind of theme. But I’m interested in your not receiving the standard “Oh man, that was so last month” when you send them to your friends on AIM, I present my current sites of the moment.

How To Use Eye Talk
http://www.koji-honpo.eo.jp/makeup/movie/eye_talk_300.html

Our friends to the Far East have once again blessed us with a dose of insanity for our amusement. This Flash video demonstrates how to use an amazing new product with two components: glue and a hook. What are they for, you might ask? They’re called “Eye Talk.” The point is to manually glue your upper eyelid onto itself so that your eyes will be more round and less “Asian.” Unsurprisingly, societal fashion trends have completely disregarded both health and racial identity in favor of showing glue and pink plastic into eyeballs. This is easily the craziest fashion, but it’s more from our retarded sense of humor than an effort to fit in with the “Asian” stereotype. Want to look more “American?” Stick yourself in your glue-covered eyelid with a pink, plastic fork. It works every time.

Clean Your Screen For Free Now
http://www.clean-your-screen-for-free-now.com/

Occasionally, I like to give you a link that you can send to Grandma. In this one, a short Flash movie plays of a kitten “cleaning” your screen from the inside. Granted, it seems to be dirtying it up more than actually cleaning, since cat spit is hardly the most sanitary of substances, but Grandma won’t mind. She’ll tell you how it’s incredibly cute and send it to everyone she knows, meaning that through the chain of mail forwarding, you’ll receive it from your girlfriend next month. Awwww!

Want to look more “American?” Stick yourself in your glue-covered eyelid with a pink, plastic fork. It works every time.

Well-done bleeps and bloops make the most of 16-bit music

and father and mother all rolled into one. Not to sound overly dramatic or anything, of course.

It makes sense that some of the greatest composers of this current generation, the Japanese composers, anyway, should devote at least part of their art to creating the soundtrack for the lives of animated sprites fighting in life and death situations. They really know how to bring out the best in 16-bit sound, and for that the earliest video game music composers have my undying respect and affection.

Nobuo Uematsu, for example, the famed composer of the incredible music for the always enduring and oh-so-wonderful Final Fantasy series, makes music so complex, touching, and eternal that if heard on its own one would never think a mere childish game that I played in middle school could have such incredible tonal complexity. Uematsu always has at least three different layers to his music, almost as if there were three distinct songs or melodies playing at the same time that harmonize like a ballroom full of synchronized dancers, which happens to be another repeating pattern in that much beloved series. His music seems to spread everywhere when you listen to it, because there are so many patterns dancing all at once. It feels so vast and all encompassing.

Other video game composers attempt that legendary feel in other ways, of course. The Zelda series is almost, if not more, well known than Final Fantasy and has legions of followers and sequels, but it has a different feel. The Zelda games have an innocence about them, a lightheartedness, that the FF series lacks. Final Fantasy games are so great and dark and dramatic, like an opera really. They are dangerous, too. Anything can happen and anyone can die. I can’t even tell you how many tears I have shed playing those damn games. The Zelda franchise, however, isn’t nearly as brooding, and the music Koji Kondo composes for the series reflects that. His music has a purity to it. It’s clean, yet epic all at once.

The music these two composers have created are timeless to me, and I am sure I am not the only one. Let’s try to keep them alive long after they are gone.
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