The point of no return

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

MEMBERS OF PI KAPPA ALPHA are facing a new kind of "hell week" after the apparent suicide last fall of a freshman pledge and a heating suspension that severed to sever the Alumni House Corp., searching for another organization to place into their Greek Port residents.

UCF administrators said there was no relation between Yancey's November death and the current suspension of SGA.

In an e-mail, Linda Gorf, assistant vice president of Student Involvement, said the obvious was the discussion of News and Information, wrote, "The immediate suspension of SGA happened before the unfortunate suicide of Ms. Yancey ... and they are in no way related." John Pike, a 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 a break-in that occurred at Yancey's off-campus apartment the night of his death.

Yancey'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 McCaan, director of Student Rights and Responsibilities, wrote an e-mail to the faculty that said the fraternity "feels a lot of violence in a non-violent context and harming for ever, ... on Oct. 31. The current suspension affecting the future prohibits members from participating in any university-related or fraternity-sanctioned activities. The fraternity will be eligible for a vote in August. Despite that review, the campus chapter has informed the Alumni House Corp. responsible for the Greek Port property that the members no longer wish to occupy their house on the outer area of Greek Port Drive and Gemini Bousquet. Steve Montgomery, current president of PI Kappa Alpha, confirmed that they will be losing their lease to another organization.

"Our alumni house corporation and intercollegiate headquarters figure it was a "B" matter," McCaan said, later adding "the house is a huge expense" and "a terrific opportunity for whoever moves in." Dan Conk, executive male estate officer for PI Kappa Alpha, told the Reporter that, "The university has given approval of the Pike house corporation to find another finiteness or/sorority house corporation to which the property can be sold." He also said, "This particular house needs work before it can be occupied, and that will be part of the process in identifying a tenant and negotiating the sale/lease option." The Pike house was vacated due to the suspensions. Though the university was given the opportunity to buy the house, it declined.

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

Frank Sandesa, the father of John Yancey.

Bookstore may accept 
SunTrust debit card

Technology not yet in place to make upgrades possible

NATALIE ZFAT

Efforts are being made by Barnes and Noble bookstores to accept the debit feature on the UCF Smart-Card. However, it is an effort to make debit purchases at the UCF Bookstore.

"It is not at the level where we want to accept it yet," said Denise Bertran, the general manager of the UCF Bookstore.

Barnes and Noble associates from the UCF Bookstore will be attending a trade show in March where they will be educating themselves about making the technology upgrade. The UCF Smart-Card, which can be used at the local McDonald's and Dunkin Donuts, is linked to the UCF Bookstore. No debit cards are accepted at UCF's bookstores, though Stan Frank, a national Barnes and Noble representative, said most college campuses do accept and make payments. "It would be in the company's best interest to get the UCF Smart-Card as well," Bertran said. Enabling the debit feature would reduce the $250,000, a figure that Barnes and Noble is forced to pay for credit card transaction fees.

She said it could be a matter of time before debit becomes available. "There have been two major upgrades in software for the past year for our 300 campuses," though these would be able to show the bookstores to accept debit cards.

The Smart-Card is the UCF's answer to a debit card as a debit card for students who lack credit history. Mr. Barnes and Noble representatives have a Safe-T Card, which links their money to the student's account. It would be effective before the start of the semester.

Paraclus Purvis 4/19

SENATE PLANS TO PASS BOOK RESOLUTION

KATE HOWELL

The SGA Senate is considering a resolution aimed at allowing students $2 million in a year on books.

Resolution 37-05, subsequently passed its second reading at Thursday's Senate meeting. The resolu­ tion calls for the faculty to stick to the required UCF Bookstore under deadlines, with the goal of allowing students to pick up many books for free. According to new books which would be ordered and

The UCF Bookstore only pur­ chases books available through books during the spring buyback, according to a buy-back of $60,000.

The UCF Bookstore, with a total budget of $3 million, only stock books during the spring buyback, according to an estimated $3 million. Headquarters, White, who works with bookstore staff, said that the resolution of faculty book orders would be turned down by the bookstore. The bookstore was not able to purchase books for students. The potential savings for students would reach U.S.

The bookstore is required to order books through UCF Bookstore, allowing savings from that avenue as well.

Patricia Talakala 4/05

2005 SGA Election Coverage

SGA election focus on changing grading system

Presidential candidates discuss need for improving optional plus/minus grade system

KATE HOWELL & MARK JENSEN

2005 SGA election coverage begins this fall

A mixed grading system may be headed for UCF, if the current board of directors for the top SGA executive have their way.

All three candidates for the next SGA president are in favor of passing the administration's decision on a grading system and stick with it. Bill Smith, president of SGA before the new grading system, said the system has been a consistent part of the new grading system. "I'm in favor of the current system, more in favor of the new grading system," Smith said.

According to SGA president Gary B. Smith, the current grading system is "a non-viable system that is unfair," Smith said.

According to Smith, the current grading system is "in the opinion of the majority, more in favor of the new grading system," Smith said.

A statement issued by the Bentley-Woodley campaign said, "while many students appreciate the boost a plus- option in the system, many students would rather have the option of A+ than A.

John Talakala, the Student Alliance president's assistant candidate, and

Winfred Truitt, his vice presidential candidate, want to step further — emphasizing their desire for an A+ option as well as uniting the faculty and staff to the system. They "feel it's important to have a more "A"- type of system," Talakala said.

A plus-grading system is part of the Student Alliance official policy, according to Talakala, who spoke over the phone. Talakala is currently finishing his research in Texas but plans to be back at UCF in the spring. Mark White, the current student president, said his presidential campaign William Berti, who is endorsed by UCF President Frances Goodenough, stressed the negative grading system. He and Talakala have said the current system can feasible students, especially when applying in graduate schools.

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Library trying to catch up

Old building needs new budget, with other colleges

MAKES GROWN-UP PEOPLE SHIVER

The Library, UCF's first and oldest building, sits quietly in its spot and watches the students walk by. As the dance in the Reflecting Pool, its 282,000-square-foot library remains bound to its floor plans, and for its expansion is barely driven. In comparison with other libraries on the UCF campus, it seems that the Library is barely keeping up with the rest of the crop.

"We are in the process of pre­paring an

ization and擅on," said the new librarian at the Library, Bette Orten. "But we don't have the implemen­tion of this because of funding. According to Baker, those..." "I am not convinced that we have a members of the prestigeous..."

"in a million volumes," Orten explains, "and there are the Benzle at the University of..."

"Hence a member of the..."

To meet the needs of the students, the Library was about to..."

"But, he saw this goal in a..."

"The library budget may be cut because of..."

"...that the Library is strong..."

"While different colleges on..."

"Currently, the Library..."

"The Library was about to..."

"The goal," Baker said in..."

"In the state..."

"...and increase the number of volumes..."

"For more information, con­..."

"It will be..."

"...a club, or..."

"The contest spanned out..."

"If available, additional..."

"The paper may, in fact, be..."

"The original paper had a sketch of..."

"It seemed that this propos..."

"...and the increasing pro­jects of jour­nal-ist."
An Evening with Spike Lee

“AMERICA THROUGH MY LENS”

Tuesday, February 8th, 2005
7 p.m. Pegasus Ballroom
This event is free.
Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Catch some of Spike's most critically acclaimed films prior to his appearance at UCF.

Wednesdays, January 19, 2005
11:00 a.m. Libraries Library 202
2:00 p.m. Libraries Library 202

Thursday, January 27, 2005
11:00 a.m. Nova Center Auditorium
2:00 p.m. Nova Center Auditorium

Sunday, January 30, 2005
6:00 p.m. Visual Arts Auditorium
8:00 p.m. Visual Arts Auditorium

In honor of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness and Information Day, REACH Health and Peer Education offers FREE HIV testing for ANY UCF student, staff, or faculty member.

Roxy LET THE MADNESS BEGIN! Roxy

Phat Tuesdays

MARDI GRAS MADNESS

GET YOUR FILL

3-FOR-1 PREMIUM DRINKS TILL MIDNIGHT

2-FOR-1 SHOTS ALL NIGHT

$100 BOTTLES IN THE VIP

18+ welcome

Bringing College ID or Proof of Employment in the City and Get In Free All Night

Girls do the darndest things FOR BEADS!

Guys get free beads at the door!

The girls have to work for them!

Thursday

LADIES GET IN FREE ALL NIGHT!

$100.00 BOTTLES & BAR TAB

LADIES CUT THE TAB OUT AND PRESENT IT TO THE DOOR BEFORE 1 AM AND RECEIVE A $100 BAR TAB.

Minimum of 5 LADIES NEEDED TO OPEN TAB.

Tab must be used by 1 AM.

Get wet!
A new study shows that 65-year olds while driving. The reaction times of the younger group slowed to that of 75-year olds while driving.

Young people driving: Miss Daisy white on cell phone. A new study shows that drivers with cell phones are slower than drivers without phones, and it takes them 17 percent longer to regain speed after stopping.

America's favorite drink: marmy in a bottle. Cola is the best-selling beer in the US. The research, which was conducted at the University of Alabama, shows that people are more likely to drink when they are on a diet.

Minor physical activities, such as walking, are associated with a lower risk of death. Researchers believe that even small changes in lifestyle can make a big difference in health.

Americans in South Africa at higher risk of stroke. Black men in the South have a 41 percent higher risk of dying due to stroke than black men in other parts of the country, the new study shows.

They are also four times as likely to die from stroke as white men living outside the South. The research, which was conducted at the University of Alabama, shows that black people living in the South are more likely to die from stroke than white people.

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

The "stroke belt," which includes the eastern part of the nation's midsection, has long been known by researchers, but the role of race and geography were not well-known.

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Dry fraternities vie for house

Carly Aramada
Jenni Barnes
Alicia Banday
Jenna Clevy
Sarah Collo
Anna Deors
Rachell Falszewicz
Cait Fleming
Katie Frasier
Kelly Frasier
Daniela Gerurin
Maughann Gilchrist
Christine Graf
Jennifer Goldman
Kathryn Hovey
Kristin Kortright
Jennifer Llacun
Rita Martinez
Bryan Martin
Andrea Monroe
Jessica Munsun
Sara Hart
4.0 GPA
Laura Wendler
4.0 GPA
Julia Nada
Liz Quarter
Rori Rugg
Tiffany Scharf
Lauren Shatney
Jamey Smith
Tony Soti
Shanna Stoborin
Marta Tyler
Lauryll Ubbin
Michelle Wasserman
Melanie Wetl
Christine Wintell
Megan Zintemaster

Congratulations to the “smart pants” sisters of Delta Delta Delta!

Stomping on the Yard

Stomps Down at the
University of Florida
16TH ANNUAL FLORIDA INVITATIONAL
STEP SHOW
Saturday, February 12th, 6 p.m.
Universily of Florida

Fieldmaster: J. Wayne Ubbin

Woo Freqen

2005

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$6 STUDENTS
$4 CHILDREN

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2005
TIME: 8:00 PM
LOCATION: WATERFORD LAKES REGAL CINEMA
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: STUDENT UNION ROOM 208

mbna

Theater in overcapacity! ARRIVE EARLY! Seating is first come, first serve!

The screening will be closed captioned. This show is for students only. No layoff guaranteed admission and seats must be purchased open admission. No one will be admitted after the show begins. Please be on time as seating is limited and there will be no admittance once the movie has begun.

ARRIVE EARLY! SEATING IS FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE!

Jennifer Bostman 0.5 GPA
Sara Hart 4.0 GPA
Lauren Wendler 4.0 GPA

Dry fraternity members, dejected at not being able to participate in the Alpha Chi Omega sisterhood, are ecstatic that Theta Chi has finally become a women’s fraternity. A.ua...
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

ELECTIONS 2005
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

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Talent: A Promise Broken

Mike Talakala, left, and Keith Rea are running for SGA president and vice president, respectively. They have several years of executive experience.

Talakala: ‘Promises broken’

Run and Talakala both want to use the SGA president’s seat on the Board of Trustees to drive their plan through. Run described the board as “the avenue of communication.”

Talakala and Run were also extremely communication oriented. “I don’t see enough communication between SGA and the faculty,” Talakala said.

Run added, “I want to push for a better relationship from personal contact.”

Talakala later at the chance to criticize the current SGA president and vice president who lost in last year’s election. “The current administration has abandoned campaign promises,” he said.

Run said that these failed goals was his driving campaign force. “I owe [the students who voted for us] for their support.”

Many of the candidates mentioned advocating a SGA Senate revision that would pressure the administration to unify the grading system. While it is true that the SGA cannot force the administration to act, resolutions are frequently passed with the goal of encouraging the administration down a certain path.

All three candidates have varying levels of leadership experience. Run is vice president under current SGA President Kevin Peters. He has been involved in theLeaf's trial team, John T. Washington Honors Society and the African American Student Union. Also in case appear missed its, Run was this fall’s Homecoming king.

For his part, Wesley is an experienced SGA senator and the current SGA Director of Governmental Affairs.

Run and Edmundson are also experienced in the legislative branch. It’s where they met and where they began a feud so intense it is almost a legend.

They buried the hatchet three months ago to run as a team, but lost the campaign with slightly less than 50 percent of the vote.

For his part, Truitt has been involved in a laundry list of organizations, including the business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi and the Pre-Physical Therapy Club. However, he has no SGA experience.

Talakala has run for president twice and has extensive Senate experience as well, being the founder of United Student Alliance. Last year, he made it to the run-offs but lost the campaign with slightly less than 50 percent of the vote.

For his part, Rea has been involved in a laundry list of organizations, including the business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi and the Pre-Physical Therapy Club. However, he has no SGA experience.
Some have never checked out a book from the Library. "Some of the resources (previously used) have vanished from the Library," Denny said. For the same reason Justin Parberry, a junior in nursing, found a small desk tucked away in a corner of the fourth floor as a good place to study. He too 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 hours after fourth week finals week is the student Academic Resource Center, which can hardly host 90 students. In efforts to serve the students better, the Library participates in an annual national-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 library national average. "I think we do a good job and provide good customer service," Baker said. "We constantly look for ways to improve, and we are planning a focus group involving students to talk about their experiences. 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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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

Books would be in on time

“This is something that the students want to see happen.”

- WHITE

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 labs, printers and laundry machines.

Purse 1 is an academic purse that can be used at the bookstore and for library only. Purse 2 has a $500 limit, is PIN-protected and can be transferred to a new card if the old 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 purse option of the SmartCard is a way for students to budget their money without the fear of overdrafting. The SmartCard also allows parents to restrict their children’s expenses to on-campus or near-campus places.

“Realistically, there are only 2 to 3 percent of the teachers who don’t know they’re teaching next semester,” White said.

An SGA Senate resolution does 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 compliance. He said that it should be possible to sit down with the administration and hammer out a formal date for bookstore submissions.

The 2nd Annual showcase of Diverse Student Research

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

The submission deadline is February 8, 2003.

Visit www.graduated.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 SHARON
Staff Writer

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 bought season 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 out in the top of the ninth, Drew Butera singled to right, bringing home Brown and UCF's first run of the season. Butera was squeezed home with two outs when FIU starter David Asher threw a wild pitch. The Knights scored their first two runs of the season.

Butera's hit was the result of an 11 pitch at bat. "Well, it's better than nothing," Coach Joe Bergman said following the victory. "We've got 15 more games... but it was encouraging.

Junior opening day starter Mike Billek threw six solid innings of two-hit ball, giving up two earned runs, striking out five and walking just two. Sophomore lefty Brian Brooks picked him up in the seventh, getting credit for the win after throwing four scoreless innings. Brooks didn't allow a hit in any of his three innings of work, surrendering just three hits. Billek's effort was especially solid in the eighth inning, with his RBI sac fly driven in Yema, squaring the game.

Butera stepped to the plate with two down in the bottom of the tenth and an 0-1 count. "Butera's a good RBI man... that's a good hit there," said Coach Jay Bascom.

"It's a pitchers' duel the rest of the way," Bergman said. "We didn't know whether to stretch Billek into the sixth or not because he was working so well. The Knights scored their first two runs of the season in the bottom of the tenth, with just over eight minutes remaining. It was a pitchers' duel the rest of the way, until Brown singled through the box with one out in the bottom of the tenth. Brown was squeezed home with two outs when FIU starter David Asher threw a wild pitch. The Knights scored their first two runs of the season.

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Junior opening day starter Mike Billek threw six solid innings of two-hit ball, giving up two earned runs, striking out five and walking just two. Sophomore lefty Brian Brooks picked him up in the seventh, getting credit for the win after throwing four scoreless innings. Brooks didn't allow a hit in any of his three innings of work, surrendering just three hits. Billek's effort was especially solid in the eighth inning, with his RBI sac fly driven in Yema, squaring the game.

Butera stepped to the plate with two down in the bottom of the tenth and an 0-1 count. "Butera's a good RBI man... that's a good hit there," said Coach Jay Bascom.

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COACH GAIL STRIEGLER

Having decided to return to their game plan, the Knights rely on their solid defense to get the win. Striegler said, "When we started to huddle around a fax machine (holy cow), we really dedicated to the anticipation of this holy day of obligation. I think we all in Florida, who have a weekly hour, should be proud of the dedication to the anticipation of this holy day of obligation. Florida is the football talent capital of the world. Heck, I set up my senior year at Nova High School in Fort Lauderdale and done that nothing but hold on extra tight, I attempted at lease received offers from Duke, TCU and half of the Sun Belt.

National Signing Day is nothing but hype and pageantry

"It was one of those games where you grind all the way to get the win.

Men only one game back in tight A-Sun

Houston, Hudson continue to perform well

"The Best Tire Prices in Central Florida" We Will Meet or Beat National Chain

To 46691

DEPUlY CHIEF DEPITI

(ja), the Knights have chalked up back-to-back victories for the 5-a-side by honking their first 12 A-Sun wins.

UCF is tight in A-Sun

The Knights are firing on all cylinders.

"The tires on the game was complete," Coach Don Maestri said. "I didn't think we could out-rebound them, but we at least wanted to close the gap. We have to see if we can get ourselves back into the game after this game."

UCF rallied to take the lead just before halftime, but a temperamental engine gave the Knights a 1-0-1 lead. The second half showed nothing.

The weekend did nothing to clear up the crowded A-Sun standings, as the top eight teams are now separated by two points.

Gardner-Webb is alone in first place as of Saturday night, with Georgia State and Belmont sharing the top spot at eight each. Eight other teams are tied for eight, while the Knights remain slightly above four.
Dominance of 2004 will be hard to duplicate for the Knights this year

47-18-2 in 4-6 Sun Conference, 27-4 in 31-game stretch.

It meant nothing on the night of June 6, when the Knights were dispatched 13-9 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 Bono, the Knights couldn't be further from their dominance of 2004.

Coach Jay Bergman enters his 23rd season in Orlando, 25 wins shy of 1,000 and gold. This year is shaping up to be one of his toughest tests at the helm, as he will command a club wilted with injuries and chock-full of youth.

JAY SHARON

Pitching
Starting Pitching: Tim Buscan, Mike Billik, Taylor Golb, Darren Newlin

UCF's probably wasn't supposed to be this good. Coach John Hart said the Knights' 18 starters were ranked 34-41st, 120-131st in the league with most key players, but when the players came together to play, five starters, three relievers and a closer, struck 13 of the Knights' 20 combined 3-0 victories.

UCF got two different world records recently by virtue of upsets, both Taylor Golb and Matt Bascomb suffered season-ending injuries, in their final, against and after the Golden Knights.

Relief Pitching: Brian Brown, Derek Alabia, Matt Rhodes, Jeremy Thorne, Jaeger Good, Matt McClung, Ray Rodriguez, Dominick Portaceli

This year, relief pitching was one of the biggest surprises. Brown, the closer, could have been fresh in nearly every situation this season with the suspect rotations and relief pitchers not causing any problems that were big in the Project 577 season and were a combination of 13-7 starting and 12-4 relievers. If one reliever was the closer, then baselines had to mean more to the eastern Husker.

Ray Rodriguez was the big surprise in the rotation, but we're going to go through those errors by FIU's Michael Lopez this year. The biggest hit of the season, though, was probably left on the bases with the FIU team loaded with one out.

Best hitter of the season: Matt Horwath

A10 A-10 situation.

"Dee Brown's victory in the Valley League's home-run derby with a wooden bat gave UCF now its 20th all-winner from their dominance of the A-Sun Conference.

Butler's last single legs in baseball are in extra innings

For a 10

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 all expenses paid trip to California for the live taping of the MTV Movie Awards!

For a listing of sports schedules, log onto www.ucfathletics.com

Inside the Numbers

UCF All-American pitchers drafted by MLB teams after last season

Who's hot

Josh Peguero who had 22 points, including 3-pointer in Saturday's victory over Georgia.

Who's not

Ray basketball, the UCF men. UCF swept the season series from Troy, the first time a team has done that since 2003.

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Update

Women's basketball hosts Jacksonville at 7 p.m. tonight at the UCF arena, and they are up in the standings. for the first time this season.

"It's just about relaxing, and not letting the situation get the best of you," said BROWN ON HIS STRONG HITTING AGAIN FOR UCF.

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This Week and Next

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

Homecoming Board applications due to
OSI, SU 208 by 5pm. www.ucfknighmare.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 VUCF Labor by Love.
SU Garden Key #221AB

8pm Dance Marathon Date Auction.
Gator's Dockside

VUCF Arnold Palmer Women’s And Children's
Hospital Orientation Session for new Volunteers.
Email Diam0ndsm0@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 VUCF 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
Discussions about the plus/minus grading system have been going on for many years. It's a method of assigning grades that involves giving students a grade on a scale that includes the possibility of receiving a plus or a minus. The system was designed to give students a better understanding of their performance and to help them improve their work. However, it's not without its critics, who argue that the system can be confusing and that it doesn't accurately reflect a student's abilities.
Your Albumin. This protein is used to treat battlefield injuries including shock, burns and blood loss.

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

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Call or visit our site for a complete list of courses. 407.882.0260 / www.ce.ucf.edu

Call 1-877-500-9552 or www.dciplasma.com for more information.

To Qualify:
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- Make 2 outpatient visits
- Make 2 telephone contacts

Compensation is paid up to $300.00

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www.ocrc.net
Seeking... I...

Landing Apartment

Nice safe townhouse. 3/2 Oviedo home, 5 miles from UCF, share home w/ 2 brothers & fat lazy dog. If incl: all util, includes cable/internet+ 1/4 power. Lg. rooms, back yard $400/mo plus util.


3/2 at Pegasus Landing Apartment

Landing Apartment

Fully furnished & equipped. 1 BDRM/1 BA in a 2/2 @ Alafaya Club. Incl all utl, 1st month FREE. Call Kathy @ 863-409-4196.


Looking to sign lease in 4/4 at Pegasus Landing. Male roommate. $439/mo incl all util, 28000 ABS, only. Call Kathy @ 863-409-4196.


3/2 in 4/4 at Pegasus Landing.

Looking for the best Mid-Pensacola? Call Adam @ 850-441-9617. Non UCF Roomie.

3/2 in 4/4 at Pegasus Landing.

Landing Apartment

Prime Female roommate. $439/mo incl all util, 28000 ABS, only. Call Kathy @ 863-409-4196.

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Internet Coming Fall 2005!

WHEN IT COMES TO BEDROOMS AND CLOSETS!

Private bedrooms and bathrooms
Computer center
Large walk-in closets
State-of-the-art fitness center
Swimming pool with sun deck
Basketball court
Volleyball court
Community center
Ethernet service
Gated community
24-hour management and maintenance
24-hour community assistance staff

Tanning Bed Coming Fall 2005

PRIVATE BEDROOMS AND CLOSETS!

Private bedrooms and bathrooms
Computer center
Large walk-in closets
State-of-the-art fitness center
Swimming pool with sun deck
Basketball court
Sand volleyball court
Local telephone service
Less than one mile from UCF
24-hour maintenance
24-hour community assistance staff

BIGGER IS BETTER!
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 10
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 him.

One of the best films of the past 25 years is no doubt Spike Lee's Do the Right Thing. The film was nominated for only two Academy Awards that year, including Original Screenplay, for which it was shafted by 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.

In 1992, Spike Lee fought ferociously with Warner Bros. to direct Malcolm X. The budget they offered was so minuscule, 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, 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 King does and “Wake up!” Spike Lee is speaking and no matter what he says, it will definitely be worth your attention.
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Spike Lee's coming to campus to talk about the landmark Supreme Court case of Brown v. Board of Education.

IN THE ISSUE

They're multiplying.
Starting next week with our Valentine's Day theme issue, we'll be debating not one but two sex and love columns. For the first time in indie history, a male voice gets to be heard talking about something other than films, music, video games, the Internet and anything else in the pantheon of dorkdom.
Read next week and you might actually learn something.

Marilyn Manno will man the female side of all things sex with her first stint as a love columnist since The Independent Journal.

But that's next week. In this issue, we have a few trade-offs: a couple of early "Worst Film of the Year" candidates chill next to some essential DVD releases, while Neva Dinova rocks us and Sage Francis disappoints us.

— JOHN THOMASON
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

FROM

Arthur Chris McCarty
Will's Pub
Southern Bitch, Holidaysburg (rock)
Feb. 3, 9 p.m., $6

Blue Collar Addict, Furtiolus (metal)
Feb. 4, 9 p.m., $5

Casiopeia (electronic)
Feb. 4, 9:30 p.m., $3

The Hint, After It's Over (indy)
Feb. 4, 7 p.m., $8

Eye Cae, C-Style, Brova Brotha, T- Reax
Blood Bros. (hip-hop)
Feb. 4, 10 p.m., $6-$8

Luke Bailey & The Bonsdmen, Tony Macaluso & The Procrastinators (rock)
Feb. 6, 10 p.m., $4

Eddie Money, Twisted Sister, Robin Zander, Michael Bolton, Loverboy, Brian Johnson, Dickey Betts, Chuck Negron
Feb. 5, 5 p.m., $39.95-$59.75

Reliant (rock)
Feb. 5, 6 p.m., $13-$15

The Evidents, The Inside (rock)
Feb. 6, 10 p.m., $5

Willie Nelson (country)
Feb. 4, 9 p.m., $10

Faun Fables, Sunnny, MeccaNISM (rock)
Feb. 4, 9 p.m., $5

Ryan Cabrera, Ashlyn, Kyle Riabko (rock)
Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m., $19.50-$21.50

Bright Eyes, Jesse Sykes & The Sweet Hereafter, New Dinorua (rock)
Feb. 5, 7 p.m., $17.50-$20

Raw (rock)
Feb. 5, 5 p.m., $5

The Legendary J.C.'s (rock)
Feb. 5, 10 p.m., $7

David Matthews Tribute Band (rock)
Feb. 5, 8 p.m., $8

Voodoo Houdomin (rock)
Feb. 5, 7 p.m., $2

LeTTi, 69 Fingers, The Addictions (rock)
Feb. 5, 10 p.m., free

Reliant (rock)
Feb. 5, 6 p.m., $13-$15

The Social
Feb. 6, 6 p.m., $5

Les Dudek (rock)
Feb. 4, 10 p.m., $5

Luke Bailey & The Bonsdmen, Tony Macaluso & The Procrastinators (rock)
Feb. 4, 9 p.m., $4

The Peacock Room
1121 N. Mills Ave.
407-238-0048

The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

69 Fingers, Union Made, Power Movement Project (rock)
Feb. 4, 9 p.m., free

Willy and Bally's
501 E. 4th St.
407-834-0099

Walt Disney World Resort
Orange County Convention Center
Universal Orlando Resort

SNOOP DOGG

Snoop Dogg was still rapping with Dr. Dre on "San and Latex," but when he was still in the LC, we never knew that in the 21st century he would continue to entertain both with music and movies. From his most recent club favorable, "Drop It Like It's Hot," to his latest hit "Let's Get Blown," Snoop has convinced us of his lasting superstardom. At 7 p.m. today, Snoop dog will hold a concert at Downtown Disney's House of Blues in Lake Buena Vista. This time, he will be putting up with sound producer favorite Philm Williams, but he will be collaborating with Chingy, "Let's Get Blown," and special guest Slim Thug, "I Like It." Prices range from $52.50 to $110.00.

School of Rock (rock)
Feb. 4, 7 p.m., $5

UDP Industries, Kabang (rock)
Feb. 6, 5 p.m., $6

Big Ten, 4-H Club, Cowboys, Soapbox
Grave (various)
Feb. 6, 7 p.m., $7

Skinny McGee and His Mayhem Makers, Rivertowne Nightmares Band (Americana)
Feb. 8, 5 p.m., $5

Rory, This Day & Age (indy)
Feb. 8, 5 p.m., $8

The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

ART

JAA/OCAL Art Show (opening reception)
Feb. 4, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., free

Ceramic Sculpture of a Very Large Scale
(opening reception)
Feb. 4, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., free

Paul Rosenberger (artist reception)
Feb. 4, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., free

University of Central Florida
Millenia Gallery

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MUSIC

TOP 25

Park Ave CDs Jr.: Top 25 for the week of Jan. 23-29

1. Bright Eyes
   I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning

2. The Game
   Documentary

3. Bright Eyes
   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 F

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. Frank Senen/Johnsong
    Love Songs

20. T.I.
    Urban Legend

21. Jay-Z/Linkin Park
    Collision Course

22. Nas
    Street's Discipline

23. Mae
    Destination: B-Sides

24. Diddy Bops
    Diddy Bops

25. Various Artists
    Take Action 4

Collision

Various Artists

20. T.I.

22. Nas

24. Diddy Bops

25. Various Artists

Take Action 4

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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

MARIYLL MANNO
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 GLBSU as most of us do," said Hughart. The UCF Gay, Lesbian,

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

PLEASE SEE EXPECT ON 17
SAGE FRANCIS
A Healthy Distrust
Genre: hip-hop
Label: Epitaph
Release date: Feb. 8

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.

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 twanged 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 for 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 Midwest 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.

— CHRISS BOWERS

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

The British duo is back with the requisite squiggles, bleeps and bloops needed to make a good synthpop album. Relying heavily on the Casio keyboard and a collection of generic endearments (everything from, “Gonna treat you like an angel,” to “What we need is all around us”), Nightbird also features a more somber tone than the previous Erasure albums. Although a buoyant skittering cadence opens “All This Time Still Falling Out Of Love,” a closer listen to the lyrics reveal a sense of despair as vocalist Andy Bell and Vince Clarke lament, “Tis a social disease when I cry.”

However, this is by no means a dark album. “I'll Be There” features both a driving up-tempo rhythm and the passionately hopeful lyric, “The light that we share gonna light up the sky.”

The head-bobbing melodies make Nightbird a great album for either driving around on a sunny afternoon or picking out khakis at The Gap.

— JAME JOSH

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

BOOM BIP
Blue Eyes In The Red Room
Genre: electronic
Label: Lex
Release date: Feb 8

For the most part, and at its best, Boom Bip's Blue Eyes 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 aimless, soundtrack for an afternoon reverie.

The only problems arise when Boom Bip tries to expand his palette. "Doo and Don'ts," 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
Expect Grammy voters to go west — Kanye West, for “Jesus Walks”

DJ: Intolerance is unavoidable

and Bisexual Student Union being “where the homos 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 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 and 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 to Hughart, 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.”

“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 fighters” formula love song. If we were still in the 1980s, this would win hands down.

“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 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.
Forget demos; get the full versions for free

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

IVAN VELEZ
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.

Startsje: 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.
**LIFE**

**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 by 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 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 McNins 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 at 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, we 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."

McNins 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."

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**FUTURE FUNNIES**

The indie now has full access to the Future's archives, so each week we're bringing you an old editorial cartoon. Check out this one from Feb. 2, 1993. This is all the Superbowl coverage you're getting from us. Sorry, but Sports Illustrated we ain't.

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**REAL LIFE FOR REAL**

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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 30, 2003, the grand daddy 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 61 stories into the air and rotates 360 degrees, is one of the only rides to make the cut — though it was the only exception to 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 gargantuan 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 roller coasters, 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 roller coasters, 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 roller coasters 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. "They 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 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.

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 its 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 Pizzam, dean of the Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

"The poor guy [Buescher] has already suffered significant financial losses with the hurricanes and everything else, and unfortunately it doesn't bode very well for him," Pizzam 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-youngster movie

GINA SCANLON
Staff Writer

Its 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 is 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-hosed 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

Please See GET on p15

BOOGEYMAN

You thought it was just a story.

SAM RAIMI and SCREEN GEMS present in association with SEDATOR INTERNATIONAL & GHOST HOUSE PICTURES production: "BOOGEYMAN" BARRY WATSON EMILY DESCHANEL SKYE McCOLE BARTUSIAK and LUCY LAWLESS with JOSEPH LOUCA PRODUCED BY ERIC KRIPEK PRODUCED BY DOUG LEEBER PRODUCED BY JOE DRAKE NATHAN RABANE CARSTEN LORENZ STEVE HEIN GARY BRYMA PRODUCED BY SAM RAIMI ROB TAPERT PRODUCED BY ERIC KRIPEK DIRECTED BY ERIC KRIPEK and JULIET SNOWDEN & STILES WHITE WRITTEN BY STEPHEN KAY

IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 4
MOVIES

A 'menacing' alien-crocodile-thing makes is makes is makes 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

A


All these are synonyms for Alone in the Dark. The only excuse for making a film as staggeringly bad as Alone in the Dark is a desire to supplant. Plan 9 From Outer Space as the worst film ever. And even that isn't a very good reason.

Edward Carnby (Christian Slater) is a freelance paranormal investigator who was run amok at the age of 10. For reasons that remain unclear, he suspects his amnesia may be linked to an ancient race called the Abkani.

Seems the Abkani were into spooky evil vooodoo and stuff — but, in their defense, wasn't every ancient culture? So Carnby sets out to collect Abkani artifacts to try and solve the mystery of his past (note to Carnby: I don't care.)

But he's not the only one looking for the artifacts. The menacingly named Professor Huddgens (Mathew Walker) wants to collect all of the artifacts to open a door to an evil dimension. Why? Why not?

So Carnby teams up with the elite government commando group/Gam models,713, led by Commander Richards (Stephen Dorff). Their mission? Stop Huddgens 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.

What follows is some of the most incomprehensible and insane "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 Garbage 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 a reputation for releasing an unimaginable number of films with bellowing volumes of dialogue and poorly rendered CGI.

"Worst Picture of the Year," "Worst Director of the Year," "Worst Actor of the Year," and "Worst Picture Ever Made" have all been attached to Boll's name. But then, isn't he the man responsible for the film?"

The punches don't stop there though, with more than six featurettes: 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 filming 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 newsworthy footage of the real LaMotta and the original theatrical trailer.

The Last Waltz, Scorsese's documentary about The Band, has been released on DVD and is a very nice inclusion in this box set, as it includes commentary by Robbie Robertson and Scorsese. It includes the featurette Revisiting The Last Waltz, along with archival anecdotes and an eight-page booklet written by Robertson. Last but not least, Martin Scorsese's Roger Corman exploitation flick Boxcar Bertha is included. This is the barest of the bare, including no more than two minutes of footage.
When Will I Be Loved: Find out in this provocative film

Neve Campbell shines in acerbic new take on sexual freedom

JOHN THOMASON

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 decidedly 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 cunning 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, obsessed 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's 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.

Depending on which character in this love triangle the viewer encounters, the film analyzes sex as a bartering tool, a dream fulfillment and a revenge catalyst, and it tackles sex far better than Closer.

Ford's chauvinism accounts for his utter ignorance of Vera's sexual experiences and even her impulses, and during the couple's uncomfortably rough lovemaking session, the polar dynamic between the two characters is stressed by their opposite facial expressions, which Toback lingers on longer than most people would want.

Toback's sad and provocative film packs just enough of a Neil LaBute-style punch at the end to be called a latently feminist picture because of the control Vera has in every second of the experience.

For even the most dedicated cinephile, though, the first 40 minutes may be tough going, as it's basically a lot of loose, unconnected plot threads that convey interesting ideas but also ramble in disjointed directions. One involves a white professor (played by Toback) heading up an African studies program at a university, who tries to communicate with the real Mike Tyson on the street. Another finds Vera running into actress/musician Lori Singer in Central Park, who presumably improves a bunch of lines about her real life. It's hard to tell why, except that Toback just wanted to find a place for Tyson and Singer cameos.

After her brilliant work in The Company, it's still refreshing to see Campbell doing edgier, non-genre pictures, and Weller plays another love-to-hate-him alpha male. The performances and the complexity of the love triangle more than make up for Toback's obvious indulgences.

Get your gangster groove on with Warner box set

From 113 behind Leslie Howard and Bette Davis, Bogart steals the show in The Petrified Forest as the silent, moody gangster Duke Mantee.

Based on a play, the film focuses more on the decline of the self-made intellectuals than gangsters, but remains a seminal mobster, and Bogart film nonetheless.

★★★★★

Angels with Dirty Faces (1938)

Cagney returns as Rocky Sullivan, a fearless hood admired by a group of teenage delinquents.

Angels with Dirty Faces marked the beginning of socio-logically minded mobster films at Warner Bros. — movies that focused more on why someone became crooked rather than what they did.

The film is ably directed by Michael Curtiz (Casablanca) and co-stars 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 ("Top of 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 newreels from the respective year each movie was released.
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 hurts 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 two-bit 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 Zize Gambou’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 Helmlrich’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 have been 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.

CINESCENE

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 than 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 grandiose 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 easy 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 a penny, 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 hypnotic 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 best-director prize at the Academy Awards. 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. With 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 ring before her life takes a tragic turn. Morgan Freeman co-stars as an ex-boxer and resident sage of the gym where Swank's character trains.

Eastwood offered gracious thanks to Swank and Freeman, saying their presence made his job as director a delight. "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 Charles 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 medival drama Something the Lord Made.

Morgan Freeman, Clint Eastwood and Hilary Swank display the Director's Guild of America prize for Million Dollar Baby.
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 olden 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,

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 do I do it but here, and to who else would I speak with but you, my anonymous loyal readers?

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 craziest 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 (2001): Russell Crowe is a good actor, but seeing him Oscar-bait for this entire film took an Oscar-bait for this entire film took an

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 gemmulating 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 trysting around a sinking ship while Billy Zane fires at them. Please, give me The Towering Inferno any day over this garbage.

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 do 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 dopes 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.
**RAMBLINGS**

**WEB LESS TRAVELED**

**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 in the interest of 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.co.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 shaving glue and pink plastic into eyeballs. This is easily the craziest thing I've seen involving eyeballs since discovering that whole eyelash-licking fetish. Have fun giving this to people and watching their face when they realize what it is about 30 seconds into the movie.

**Pimp Your Grill**  
http://www.pimpyourgrill.com/

This one also fits into the department of whacked-out fashion, but it's more from our friends right here. Hip-hop culture seems destined to prove that its "look" can be just as retarded as that of any other societal group, and here's some living proof. If you send this site $300, they'll mail you a kit with instructions to make a mold of your teeth. When you're done, you mail it back, wait, and soon receive your "grill," a set of gold teeth to fit over your regular teeth. Normally, people with gold teeth have, like, one or two. But of course, decking out your entire mouth is just that much more blingin' cool style. Silver and gemstone versions are available too. If you get one of these, it will go perfectly with those "phat rims" wallpapers and Sir Mix-A-Lot ring tones you downloaded to your cell phone for $3 from the Jamster commercials on late-night Comedy Central.

Want to look more "American?" Stick yourself in your grill-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. Awww!

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

From 118

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 knew 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 endearing 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 many others feel the same. Let's try to keep them alive long after they are gone.

**Homeboys took a risk**

From 118

The creators of Homeboys took a risk. They tried to do something different and for that they were persecuted by politically correct morons. Now don't get me wrong, I think the NAACP has done many great things and still has a valid place in society. There are many steps that need to be taken to guarantee the same rights and freedoms for everyone. That's not going to happen by yanking off a harmless space comedy.

You want to really make a difference? Get BET off the air. A network that claims to represent an entire demographic by showing five types of programming. Am I supposed to think that the only things blacks like watching as a people are church services, rap videos, reality show rip-offs, Mario Van Peebles movies from the 1990s and infomercials? Isn't it infinitely more racist to create a network that falsely represents the tastes of its people and instead only perpetuates stereotypes and misconstrued notions than to show two black guys traveling space with their computer Loquatia?

If a show gets cancelled because it's not pulling in its expected ratings, I can accept that. I might be sad that I'll no longer be able to view it each week, but I can rest knowing it was given its shot, and it didn't work out. This, on the other hand, sickens me to this day. You may agree with what the NAACP has done, but let me ask you this — will you still feel that way when a show you like is taken off the air as a means of fulfilling a group's political agenda?

I told you I'd fail this week. But you know what? I don't feel so bad anymore.
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