Library trying to catch up

Old building needs new budget, with other books

MAKING SOUTHWEST

The Library, UCF's first and oldest building, sits quietly in its spot and watches the passing dance in the Reflecting Pond. As if, at 2 a.m., two tentative signs of aging here and there through a leaking roof or a few broken windows, low-pitched pages bear the FTU stamp on their corners.

This old gal, which served several purposes, has raided less than half a decade ago, is now the information resource more than 40,000 volumes. And yet, it is hard to imagine that a library that serves one of the top three largest universities in Florida still only averages, according to a recent newspaper review.

While different college campuses are continuously building into their respective buildings and hall, the Library remains bound to its old floor plans, and for its expansion is hardly driven. In comparison with other libraries, the Library is not the largest in the state. The last expansion was in 1968.

"We are in the process of planning various expansions and renovations," said Dr. Margaret Scharf, director of the Library. But, he added, the implement...[rest of text not visible]...of the staff's salaries.

The American Student Union Library in the Black History Month Valentine Hall is at 7 1000 W. Gaskins Road, UCF, 407-823-5646. For more information, contact the Office of Student Involvement at 407-823-6247.

Central Florida

Correction...[rest of text not visible]...

The school paper had an odd list of names to choose SHARON BENNETT

The Florida campus is more than a month behind sending out the name of the forthcoming Library "The Florida campus is more than a month behind sending out the name of the forthcoming Library...[rest of text not visible]...

The editor then followed Dr. Scharf's class...[rest of text not visible]...

We need help keeping the sack bar table...[rest of text not visible]..."The Library budget...[rest of text not visible]...

It was an Orlando Insur-...[rest of text not visible]...

It was an Orlando Insur-...[rest of text not visible]..."The Library budget...[rest of text not visible]...

It was an Orlando Insur-...[rest of text not visible]..."The Library budget...[rest of text not visible]..."The Library budget...[rest of text not visible]..."The Library budget...[rest of text not visible]..."The Library budget...[rest of text not visible]..."The Library budget...[rest of text not visible]..."The Library budget...[rest of text not visible]..."The Library budget...[rest of text not visible]..."The Library budget...[rest of text not visible]...[end of text]
FREE HIV TESTING DAY
Wednesday February 9th, 2005
REACH Peer Education Trailer 617

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

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.

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18+ welcome

THURSDAY
LADIES GET IN FREE ALL NIGHT!

Models & Bottles $100.00

LADIES BAR TAB

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

MINIMUM OF 5 LADIES NEEDED TO OPEN TAB

TABS MUST BE USED BY 1 AM

get wet!
Americans in South at higher risk of stroke
Black men in the South have a 1 percent higher chance of dying due to stroke than Blacks in other parts of the country, new research shows.

They are also four times as likely to die of stroke as white men living outside the South. The research, which was conducted at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health, compared stroke deaths in 15 Southern states to 11 non-Southern states.

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

The “stroke belt,” which passes across 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.

Young people driving like Miss Daisy while on cell phones
A new study shows that college students are on a cell phone while driving to drive like 70-year-olds, whether using hand-held or hands-free cell phones.

In fact, the numbers show that they are more impaired than drunk drivers with blood alcohol levels exceeding 0.10.

Researchers at the University of Chicago compared 14-28 year olds using a cell phone to 65-year-old white while driving. The reaction times of the younger group averaged 10 percent slower than the older group while driving.

Researcher’s report that the extra daily motion by lean people can burn up to 350 calories a day, which adds up to 30 to 35 pounds a year. The study, which is the most detailed of its kind, shows that lack of movement can be one of the cause of the obesity epidemic.

Scientists also believe that certain meat chemicals might be making some people more active than others. Regardless, they encourage people to be more fidgety.

407-277-7005
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What's in the news at colleges around the country

Higher Education

A growing number of public universities are requiring students to have health insurance before they are admitted, to save the uninsured from huge bills and college hospitals from getting stuck with the costs.

Students who lack coverage must buy into a school’s student health care plan or obtain their own insurance. Costs vary among schools. Undergraduate students at UCLA pay $550 for a full year; the price is $2,200 at the University of Toledo, where insurance is required.

Surveys from insurance and schools indicate that anywhere from 10 to 30 percent of college students do not have insurance. Most are covered under their parents’ plans.

Governor to speak at tuition freeze at private universities, colleges

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland said Saturday he will try to hold the line on tuition at state colleges and universities.

He said he proposed the budget that will present to the General Assembly Wednesday will keep tuition changes at current levels for the fall.

Tuition and fees have gone up 39 percent in 10 years. Connecticut’s state government and its community colleges have seen their state payments increase 50 to 60 percent.

Nearly four months after pledge death, cheers ring loud

BOULDER, Colo. — The University of Colorado has closed its student honor code to the criticism that it no longer works. The boiling question was whether to continue the administration statements on Jan. 30 that no order to hold their pledge forensics training and information about the death of a pledge in their fraternity died 17. His body was found in the

Wednesday

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Dry fraternities vie for house

The Phi Delta Theta fraternity at the University of Florida is seeking to become an official chapter at UCF. The Phi Delta Theta fraternity at UCF has yet to become an official chapter at UCF. Phi Delta Theta supports an alcohol-free housing policy, and is the largest of the 40 fraternities on campus. Phi Delta Theta is actively pursuing the Phi house. Members have contacted their international headquarters to get involved with the campaign and to advocate for Phi Delta Theta to assume Phi house. Phi Delta Theta has both the financial resources and a more than adequate membership to occupy the house, but our alcohol-free status is what distinguishes us from the pack. With the recent increase of alcohol-related deaths occurring in fraternities nationwide, we wonder many are supporting alcohol-free housing on campus. Director of Greek Affairs Greg Mosier said, "There are benefits to dry housing," and, on a broader scale, that "any organization would benefit" by becoming alcohol-free. Mosier said he did not know which organizations take over the house, but stated, "For the college, the university has a say in what is done."
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The Library has 1.5 million volumes as opposed to University of Florida’s 4 million volumes.
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 said. "It's something that could easily happen."

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

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_graduate.ucf.edu for details.

Make A Difference

SGA Student Advocacy Open Forum

Wednesday February 9th 1:00 pm

Key West 218 CD

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

JEFF 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 2006 season will be like, then the Knights that brightened 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 10-inning game, with Dee Brown on opening day starter Mike Billek threw six solid innings of one-hit ball, giving up two earned runs, striking out five and walking just one. Sophomore lefty Brian Brookes picked him up in the seventh, getting credit for the win after throwing four impressive innings, allowing just three hits. Billek's effort was especially encouraging to the Knights, as injuries have handicapped the UCF pitching staff so far this season.

"We didn't know whether to attack Billek's fastball or not because of the pitch count, but he went out in the sixth inning and pitched very well," said Coach Jay Bergman.

The Knights scored their first two runs of the season in the bottom of the second inning, without benefit of a hit. After Ryan Bono moved Brown to second on a walk in the bottom of the second ...

Men get key road win over Troy
Peppers continues his clutch play

ANDY VAZQUEZ
Staff Writer

After admirably playing ball in Monday's game against Lipscomb, both Peppers stepped up when their team needed him most to beat the big guy.

He carried that momentum into Saturday's game against Troy and led the Knights with three points, in a 77-73 road victory at Troy.

The Knights now trail A-Sun opponents 4-3 on the season. "We won the game on the road by only one point in the last game," said the head coach. Yeah, remember him? O'Leary's an NFL Draft junkie and rivalled only by the one the coaches and recruiting coaches names lay out for the recruits themselves, and proudly proclaim before them and the underachieving local media that this is his last year.

"The great recruiting class of the history of the program..."

I'm a student at UCF. Last year, UCF finished 9-14 making the Knights the only team in the nation to win a game in a single game. Scottie O'Leary's the head coach. Yeah, remember him? Well, he and the 'lame' pinned car dealers' club had a spring singing Sunday afternoon, at which King George I, as we know, called him, announced his latest class of 19 high-school children. They all sent in their 'race to the alary's offices, and got their names, vital statistics, their homes, and their grades, their fathers, their mothers, their neighbors, their teachers, their bosses, their boyfriends, their girlfriends, all those who bought sea tickets...

"I thought we got what we expected out of him and Brian Brooks, too," Bergman said. "We didn't know whether to attack Billek's fastball or not because of the pitch count, but he went out in the sixth inning and pitched very well." The Knights scored their first two runs of the season in the bottom of the second inning, without benefit of a hit. After Ryan Bono moved Brown to second on a walk in the bottom of the second..."
Softball scores 10 runs in second inning

OSLEY BURNS

UCF softball is off to an average start, as the Knights are 4-6 following their 10-run victory over Georgia State last week.

Saturday afternoon.

"Don't let our conference

~

struggle last year with the

attempts,

Nevada, and done nothing

entire coaching staff would

I suited up my senior year 1 at

the player himself.

went on an 18-2 spurt over the

utes

awaiting their prized letter of

The Hatters (8-10, 5-6 A-Sun)

After splitting a series with

UCF dropped its first two

season.

W/COMPLETl;)N OF

FROM

Saturday that mattered for Coach

struggled tonight against Florida

that you grind

National Signing Day is nothing but

Enders records .first shutout

runs in second

in-state foes dismissing Florida

that you grind

through the win to get the win,

and that's exactly what we did.

The Hatters (8-0, 5.6 A-Sun) started the season with three

on a three by guard Neferti­

in 10761 E.COLONIAL

the piayers

had three hours so that he could

Roberts comes up big as women win again

Houston, Hudson continue

defense to arc

MATT DUNAWAY

The UCF women's basketball

culminated two recent

down, two decisive Florida

6-47 Wednesday night, and
didn't see the end of the
down in Boca Raton against Florida Atlantic, and

could be reached at

Jeff Sharon can be reached at

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NEXT TO BOARDWALK BOWL
Dominance of 2004 will be hard to duplicate for the Knights this year

47-18-24 in 6-4 San Canyon, 27-4 in 21-game streak.
It all means nothing on the night of June 6, when the Knights were dispatched 19-3 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 Faux 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 1000 and gold. This year is shaping up to be one of his toughest tests at the helm, as he will command a club whipped with injuries and doomed by poor pitching.

**Pitching**

Starting Pitching: Tim Buscain, Mike Billek, Tyler Cobb, Darren Newlin

It wasn’t supposed to be this. Bergman had hoped hot Matt Faux and Kyle Bono would further solidify his dynamic 2-3 punch (modern 2-3-4-5) in 2004. But both were as stitches and a 22-strikeout record in the league where Faux played for the FSU program. UCF got the worst possible news recently when it was revealed that both Tyler Bono and Matt Faux sustained season-ending injuries in the first half. Bono, as predicted, and Bono, as all predicted, has left the rotation for the final game(s) of the season.

Their replacements have failed thus far, with Bono day only driving the team to six innings against Birdwhistell and easily fanning 11 batters, and Newlin day only striking out three batters in five innings.

Relief Pitching: Brian Brooks, Derek Alexios, Matt Rhodes, Jeremy Thorne, Jaeger Good, Matt McClung, Ray Rodriguez, Derrick Petracca

In 2006, relief pitching was one of the biggest areas of concern for the Knights. The 10 pitchers Bergman brought in this past winter have been all around. Walker has been another key cog in this system that seems to have reversed the Bono/Brown era of change and constant.

**Outfielders**

Drew Brown, Tyler Azen, Kevin Hickmon, Drake Wade, Courtney Probst

Curiously enough, all 10 outfielders seen in the early part of the season have struggled at some point. The biggest hit of the day was a two-run home run by Matt Bono, who is expected to score one out of every three he is in the lineup with.

**Infelders**

Ryan Bono, Drew Lambert, Matt Lavelle, Chandler Bose, Matt Ray, Matt Harworth, Sunny Kash, Russell Bannell, John Michael Howell

Total slugging off the bench by freshman PFT starter Matt Villarosa. In the bottom of the seventh, an error by PFT’s Michael Lopez and two walks from a rising Villarosa loaded the bases for Drew Bono with two down. Brown stepped through the right side, scoring Chandler Bose and Courtney Probst, and extending UCF’s lead to 3-0. Brown wasn’t reserve for all three UCF runs.

It’s just about relaxing, and not letting the situation get the better of you. It’s just about counting, and not letting the situation get the better of you. It’s just about not trying to do too much.

Thome and Good are responsible for all three runs, and three walks, and leaving the bases loaded in the bottom of the first.

Jeff Shurin

Butera’s late single lifts baseball in extra innings

Face A/O

“We probably left him in a little bit longer than I wanted to, but his pitch count actually wasn’t too bad,” Bergman said following the victory. “If we had a 3-0 lead, I’d have gotten him out after seven, we’re going to go through those with him.”

The Knights stuck in the bottom of the ninth at Brown led off the inning with a single, and two batters later, Ryan Bono drove him in with a single to left.

The tally ended 5-2. Schaff's singles of shallow fly ball by freshman PFT starter Matt Villarosa. In the bottom of the seventh, an error by PFT’s Michael Lopez and two walks from a rising Villarosa loaded the bases for Drew Bono with two down. Brown stepped through the right side, scoring Chandler Bose and Courtney Probst, and extending UCF’s lead to 3-0. Brown wasn’t reserve for all three UCF runs.

"It’s just about relaxing, and not letting the situation get the better of you. It’s just about counting, and not letting the situation get the better of you. It’s just about not trying to do too much."

Jeff Shurin

Things get dicey for the Knights’ defense in the ninth as Roy Rodriguez walks the bases loaded with one out. Rodriguez and PFT’s Cole Jacobs with a five-run spread, bringing in the first Neower in with two outs. Rodriguez walked another, stretching the lead to one. Jeremy Thorne relieved Rodriguez and picked up the first out for UCF before giving way to starter Ryan Rodriguez.

After the play, Bergman was interrupted his outburst Saturday. Cerione was surprisedly content about his blending.

"We’ve got to find out about our lineup, and the only way to do that is to live them out there!"

Notes:
This is the fifth consecutive season that UCF has opened with a pair against the Golden Knights. Last year, UCF swept both games from FSU in Miami. The previous eight meetings ended 6-2 with minimal offense. In the last three, the Knights were 2-1, winning the last two. This year, they face each other in Orlando, the Knights now call the all-time series with FSU 46-42-2 as the Knights are no 3-0 all-time in season openers that go extra innings. Roy Rodriguez, the transfer from UCF went 6-1 in his first three starts last season, but this year, he peddled perhaps the single greatest moment of his career with a 2-0 win. UCF's Coach Jay Bergman and PFT Coach Dennis Petracca have never had a combined 46 years of experience at press conferences. The Knights take on Troy Thursday night before facing the UCF Bergman Field. First pitch will be at 7 p.m.

**Butera's late single lifts baseball in extra innings**

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.ucf.edu/sports
Fall in Love

WITH THE OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

UCF

This Week and Next

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

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

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

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

Thursday, February 10th
11am-12:30pm 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 Diamo0ndsm0@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

Black History Month Events

African American Student Union and the Multicultural Student Center

Feb 9th Black History Month: Valentine's Day Gala 7-11 pm, Pegasus Ballroom
Feb 11th Black History Month Funky Fridays 7-11pm, Cape Florida Ballroom
Feb 15th Black History Month Brain Bowl 8-10pm, Student Union 221 AB
Feb 16th Black History Month Tribute to a Black Artist 7-10pm, Key West 216 CD
Feb 20th Black History Month Gospel Explosion 7-11pm, Pegasus DEF
Feb 23th Black History Month Closing Ceremonies 7-11pm, Key West

For more information on any of these events visit the Office of Student Involvement SU room 208 at www.osi.sdes.ucf.edu/

Miss University of Central Florida Pageant

A Dream Come True

CAB Spectacular Knights cordially invites you to attend the Miss University of Central Florida Scholarship Pageant Saturday, the twelfth of February Five Thousand and Five Pegasus Ballroom 8pm
Discussions about the pluses and minuses of the immigration system have been prevalent among the American domestic community. Many have pointed to the American system as having the ability to train the brightest students from abroad and return to their native lands often to become the economic, educational, technological, and political leaders of the world. The American system has been one of the most successful systems for students seeking to come to the United States.

The European Union understands the importance of a higher education system and has created a mobility strategy for students by offering similar degrees to those offered in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. Some countries have been providing outstanding students from Asia, hoping to diversify their student bodies.

In recent years, the American system has been leading the world in creating a more interactive system. By offering national and international internships, the American system has been fostering a more global perspective among students. The new Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), which has been put into place, overflows the flow of international students and ensures that they are not left out of the system. thinly inflating our borders, has been proven to be a major challenge.

The American university system has put in place a grading system that is based on the American system. The grading system is the basis for The Facebook. The more friends you have, the cooler you are. If you are not, if you do not have a Facebook account, you are a loser. The Internet has provided so many ways to keep in touch with people, especially if you are away from your family. And there wasn’t anything you could do with just any old Internet.

The Internet may be here to stay, but I’m sure Facebook and Twitter will not be the only ways people interact. The Facebook has changed the way we think and does not necessarily mean that it is the best possible interaction.

In this country, we thrive on change and have new programs like SEVIS that are designed to be more efficient. Application to undergraduate schools is distributed by passing a test and enrollment stopped by a head of state, which is a much safer way of doing things. The Facebook is a time of experimentation, but it’s also the time of most people’s lives when they learn how to deal with the simple. How can you benefit from the simple way of doing things when you should be judged on an individual basis. The individual teacher in the university system has so much more freedom in passing grades. It takes away a feeling of objectivity in the grading system. The Facebook is a time of experimentation, but it’s also the time of most people’s lives when they learn how to deal with the simple. How can you benefit from the simple way of doing things when you should be judged on an individual basis.

The American system has been one of the most successful systems for students seeking to come to the United States. Australia, and New Zealand. Some countries have been providing outstanding students from Asia, hoping to diversify their student bodies.

In recent years, the American system has been leading the world in creating a more interactive system. By offering national and international internships, the American system has been fostering a more global perspective among students. The new Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), which has been put into place, overflows the flow of international students and ensures that they are not left out of the system. thinly inflating our borders, has been proven to be a major challenge.
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Do the right thing and see Spike Lee

This Fruit Cocktail is mixed nuts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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 clarified by Dead Poets Society. Sure that is only one of the hundreds of shafts that Oscar is responsible for, but this one is perhaps one of the hardest to get over.

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

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

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

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

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

**CALENDAR**

**FROM 13**

**CHRIS MCCARTY BAND, MATT MACKELAR, ARTHUR WOODALE (ROCK)**
Feb. 3, 9 p.m., $5-$7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

**SOUTHERN BITCH, HOLIDAYSBURG (ROCK)**
Feb. 3, 9 p.m., $6
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-896-5670

**KYNDA (ROCK)**
Feb. 3, 9 p.m., $3
Funk Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

**BLUE COLLAR ADDICT, FURIOUS (METAL)**
Feb. 4, 9 p.m., $5
AKA Lounge
46 E. Pine St.
407-839-3707

**THE HINT, AFTER IT'S OVER (INDIE)**
Feb. 4-7, 9 p.m., $8
0-One Club
1010 W. Hwy 436
407-862-1002

**CARIOPEA (ELECTRONIC)**
Feb. 4, 9:30 p.m., $5
Natura Coffee and Tea
12070 College Way
407-462-5000

**EYE CAE (C-STYLE), BROO BROTHER, T-REXX, BLOOD BROS. (HIP-HOP)**
Feb. 4, 10 p.m., $6-$8
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

**LUCY BAILEY & THE BONDSMEN, TONY MACALO & THE PROCRUSTINATORS (ROCK)**
Feb. 4, 11 p.m., $5
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

**LES DUDÉK (ROCK)**
Feb. 4, 10 p.m., $5
Copper Rocket Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-645-0009

**69 FINGERS, UNION MADE, POWER MOVEMENT PROJECT (ROCK)**
Feb. 4, 9 p.m., free
Molly and Bally’s
505 L. S. 46th
407-844-0009

**FAUN FAUBIS, SUNNY, MECCA NISM (ROCK)**
Feb. 4, 9 p.m., $5
Will’s Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-888-5920

**RYAN CABRERA, ASHDON, KYE RIVKIND (ROCK)**
Feb. 4, 8:30 p.m., $19.50-$21.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-999-3400

**SPOTLIGHT**

**SNOOP DOGG**
50 cent double-o-g to the D-O-double-o-g. Back when Snoop Dogg was still rapping with Dr. Dre or "ain’t hungry, back when he was still in the L.A. we never knew that in the 21st century he would continue to entertain both with music and movies. From his most recent club favorite, "Drop It Like It Hot" to his latest hit "Let’s Get Blown," Snoop has covered a lot of his last decade. At 7 p.m. today, Snoop will host a concert at Downtown Disney’s House of Blues in Lake Buena Vista. This time, he will not be pouring up with sound producer favorite Pharrell Williams, but will be collaborating with Chingy (“Right Thurr,” “Balls Baby”), and special guest Slim Thug (“I Like It A Boss”). Prices range from $15.50 to $18.50.

**COMING UP**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH**

**TRADE**

**DAILY BLEND AT POINTE20**

**EAST COAST OASIS (AMERICANA)**
Feb. 5, 9 p.m., $12
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

**LETTI, 69 FINGERS, TAP ADDICTIONS (ROCK)**
Feb. 5, 10 p.m., free
Café Delfi
11700 E. Colonial Drive
407-249-2526

**RELIANT K (ROCK)**
Feb. 5, 6 p.m., $15-
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-228-0048

**ULS, MACHINE DRUM (VARIOUS)**
Feb. 5, 10 p.m., $4
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

**THE EVIDENTS, THE INSIDE (ROCK)**
Feb. 6, 10 p.m., $3
Duck Bowl
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

**WILLIE NELSON (COUNTRY)**
Feb. 6, 7 p.m., $10
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

**STRIKE ANYWHERE, THE UNSEEN, THE LOVED ONES, KNOB (PUNK)**
Feb. 6, 7 p.m., $10
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

**Graham Colton (ROCK)**
Feb. 7, 7 p.m., $5
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

**SCHOOL OF ROCK (ROCK)**
Feb. 7, 9 p.m., $5
Will’s Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-896-5070

**AMBERLIN, THE KICK, FOREVER CHANGED, FIRELIGHT (ROCK)**
Feb. 8, 6 p.m., $12
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

**AUDIOPHILE, KABANG (ROCK)**
Feb. 9, 7 p.m., $6
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

**BIG TEN-4, HINDU COWBOYS, SOAPBOX GROOVE (VARIOUS)**
Feb. 9, 7 p.m., $5
Lake Bait Shack
9101 International Drive
407-351-5999

**SKINNY McGEE AND HIS MAYHEM MAKERS, RIVERBOTTOM NIGHTMARE BAND (AMERICANA)**
Feb. 9, 7 p.m., $5
Wall Street Plaza
Wall and Court Streets
507-SHOT-0700

**RORY, THIS DAY & AGE (INDIE)**
Feb. 9, 8 p.m., $8
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

**ART**

**CJA/OCAL ART SHOW (OPENING RECEPTION)**
Feb. 4, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., free
Osceola Center For The Arts
2411 E. Hwy. 192
407-346-6257

**CERAMIC SCULPTURE OF A VERY LARGE SCALE (OPENING RECEPTION)**
Feb. 4, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., free
Mills Gallery
4106 Mills Blvd.
407-425-5379

**PAUL ROSENBERGER (ARTIST RECEPTION)**
Feb. 4, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Osceola Center For The Arts
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407-846-6257

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Knightcast serves up fresh Fruit Cocktail

Hilarious UCF twosome transcend sexuality on radio

Marilyn Mannó
Staff Writer

“IT’S GAY-OPERETED,” 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.

“Ameriacan 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,” The Black Eyed Peas: 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,” Lil Jon featuring Usher: 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...
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 Midwestern rock of “A Picture in My Pocket,” the two songs mirror each other beautifully both focusing on the classic coming-of-age theme of leaving the town where we were raised. The former documents the social affects of such a move, while the latter centers on the personal affects, both with image inducing lyrics that flow like the pages of Kerouac.

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

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

— BRYAN COX

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

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

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

From 15

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

Song of the Year

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

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

DJ: Intolerance is unavoidable

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

They both admit, however, that the show is not affiliated with the GLISU 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 a recurring caller that um... did not take our humor lightly," explained Hughart to her listeners while trying hard not to laugh. "He called us threatening our lives and the lives of our listeners, despite the fact that I would say a good 60 percent of you are straight."

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

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

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

"The gay holiday that brings in approximately 100,000 people from all over the country and millions of dollars in revenue to the park each June is not promoted by Disney in any way. According 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 pr0m0s..."

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

Socially relevant issues aside, the show continued with Arthur the Betard 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 "Hi at II," which is a question 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 lighters” formulaic love song. If we were still in the 1980s, this would win hands down.

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

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

Prediction: “They say you can rap about anything except for Jesus,” West angrily says in “Jesus Walks.” He’ll get the award just to prove he’s 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.

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And if you find yourself enjoying Anarchy Online, you can purchase additional content via expansion packs for a low monthly cost.
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. Although the media attention over the matter has died down significantly, there is still one way to get the message across no matter which side you supported — political stickers.

They were everywhere up until Election Day and then just disappeared for the most part. Seems logical enough — show support until your candidate wins or loses. For some out there though, just because it was "over" didn't give cause to remove any certain sticker from their car. Junior Lauren Mayeux kept her Bush sticker on until just recently. "I didn't want to be one of those people who keeps their stickers on for years, but I didn't want to take it off immediately after the election," she said. "So I thought showing my support up to the inauguration would be good."

Mayeux may have kept her sticker on to show support, but that didn't mean Kerry supporters couldn't do the same despite the outcome. Junior Jessica Zietz still has her Kerry sticker on her car. "I'm proud of my political affiliation and the candidate I supported, and I'm not ashamed to be a Democrat just because we lost this time," she said.

There are students on both sides who have kept their stickers and do it to prove that just because it's over, it doesn't mean their feelings have changed. Junior Kathleen 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 "John" is the situation that Zietz experienced. "Had it not been ripped off, I would have just kept it on at least until I got a 'Don't Blame Me, I voted for Kerry' sticker," she said. "I mean, once in a while I see cars that still have Gore/Lieberman stickers on, and I think that's awesome. But since it's basically gone anyway, I'll take it off when I get around to it. It looks stupid, but I don't get embarrassed too easily."

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

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

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."
Staying true to its ROOTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Several flooded paths and felled cypress trees serve as reminders of last year's hurricanes, which delayed the park's opening by several months. Fortunately, the gardens have lost none of their beauty. Trademark garden pieces like the 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 rollercoasters, a water-raft ride, a drop tower and a ferris wheel. Theme park mainstays like bumper cars and a merry-go-round fill out the rest of the assortment.

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

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

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

Guests complimented the park on the attractive environment and natural wonders. "I like it more as a botanical atmosphere," said Christine Gagne of Maitland. "Like that big banyan tree — that was amazing." Others suggested that the new rides lacked sufficient strength to draw return visits — crucial to the park's success.

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

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

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

However, it's somewhat afflicted by this status as well — the park is too sleepy for college students and other thrill-seekers. Still, it's comforting to know that a piece of Florida history has gotten a second chance to entertain.

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**Cypress Gardens success analysis**

Cypress Gardens is open again — but will it stay that way?

Some industry analysts have questioned the new park's ability to draw enough crowds to survive. The park's extreme distance from other major attractions is considered to be the cause of 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 Pizam, 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," Pizam said.

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

One factor that could help the park is its proximity to several 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.

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Matt Hedgecock
Don't Seek out this lazy thriller

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

Gina Sanlon
Staff Writer

It's 2:06. Time to play Hide and Seek. New formula. Take a film legend, the current “in” Hollywood child who can act, the basic writings of Sigmund Freud and you get a trendy horror flick. David Galloway (Robert De Niro) and his little girl Emily (Dakota Fanning) have just moved into the blissfully quiet upstate New York countryside after the death of Emily’s mother. Soon after, Emily befriends Charlie, an “entity” unknown to the audience that begins to perform evil deeds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Buy this gangster box, ya filthy animal!

See 6 Hollywood classics in a stellar set

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

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

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

★★★★★

Little Caesar (1931) - Four Stars

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

The film helped establish the archetypal "American dream" theme that would be present in virtually every mobster film after that. In truth, the film isn't that exceptional.

However, Robinson's masterful portrayal of the power-hungry gangster makes Little Caesar one of the screen's most memorable villains.

★★★★

The 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

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

A 'menacing' alien-crocodile-thing is making a stealthy swipe at an increasingly credibility-deficient Christian Slater. Chomp away!

alone in the Dark another clunker from video-game hack

MATT HEDGE COCK
Staff Writer


All these are synonyms for "bad."

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 got amnesia at the age of 10. For reasons that remain unclear, he suspects his amnesia may be linked to an ancient race called the Ablkanit.

Seems the Ablkanit were into spooky evil video and stuff — but, in their defense, wasn't every ancient culture? So Carnby sets out to collect Ablkanit 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 Hugens (Matthew 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 Gap models, led by Commander Richards (Stephen Dorff). Their mission? Stop Hugens 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 inane "action" sequences ever committed to celluloid. Hard rock blares as buff morons in tight black T-shirts fend off attacks from poorly rendered CGI monsters. Even the worst moments from garbagemike 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 kills 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 audience is none other than Uwe Boll, the man responsible for the war crime known as House of the Dead. Boll has quickly established himself as a modern-day Ed Wood, a reputation that is likely to grow with every single release (the three films he is attached to are based on crummy video games). I suppose providing stoners with a fea­cette on the sound design, music and impact of the film; Raging Bull: Inside the Ring, an in-depth look at the choreography and the shooting of the fight scenes; Raging Bull: Outside the Ring, with behind-the-scenes stories; Raging Bull: After the Fight, a featurette on the ring. Also included is actual unaltered footage of the real LaMotta and the original theatrical trailer.

The Last Waltz, Scorsese's documentary about The Band, has been previously released on DVD but is a very nice inclusion in this box set, as it includes commentary by Robbie Robertson and Scorsese. It includes the featurette Revisiting The Last Waltz, along with archival out­ takes 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 best of the bare, including no more than the trailer.
When Will I Be Loved: Find out in this provocative film

Neve Campbell shines in acerbic new take on sexual freedom

JOHN THOMASON
Indie Editor

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

Now that you're reading this, don't get too excited or you'll be disappointed, Ms. Campbell may indeed be made in the opening shot of When Will I Be Loved, James Toback's latest treatise on the humanity of humans, but it's 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 cunnin' sexual games that comprise this acidic drama.

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

Get your gangster groove on with Warner box set

From '13 behind Leslie Howard and Beette 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 costars Pat O'Brien and Humphrey Bogart.

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

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

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

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

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

MOVIES

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 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* was the movie of the year, two of the most hypnotic trailers of the year, and the *25th Hour* trailer is a personal favorite of mine. Also, 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 on Feb. 25. 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 into overdrive to get it ready for December release to qualify for the Oscars.

The Directors Guilds award is one of Hollywood's most accurate forecasts for the Oscars. Only six times in the 50-year history of the guild honors has the winner failed to go on to receive the directing Oscar. Million Dollar Baby and The Aviator split key honors at the Golden Globes. The Aviator took the Globe for best drama while Eastwood received 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 medicinal drama Something the Lord Made.
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 hand 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 unnoticeable. 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.

Michael Lawrence
Staff Writer

L ast week, I wrote a column in which I joked about tunes 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 miserably.

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

I miss Homeboys In Outer Space. Really badly. I know it's almost been 10 years, but I'm still not over it. I can't find it on DVD, and I doubt we'll ever see it here. 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.keiji-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 eye-ball-licking fetish. Have fun giving this to your friends the next month. Awwww!

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. Normal people with gold teeth have, like, one or two. But of course, deck out your entire mouth, just as 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 rimz” 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.

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

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

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

Well-done bleeps and bloops 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 full orchestra 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 times I have shed playing those damn games. The Zelda franchise, however, isn’t nearly as brooding, and the music Koji Kondo composes for the series reflects that. His music has a purity to it. It’s clean, yet epic all at once. The music these two composers have created are timeless to me, and I am sure I am not the only one. Let’s try to keep them alive long after they are gone.
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