Struggle for accreditation

SGA hopefuls vow to fight block-tuition movement

Full-time students will have to pay for 15 credits

KATE HOWELL & MARK JUSTICE

When this year's Student Government Association presidential candidates discuss lobbying for student block tuition inevitably surfaces. The Florida Board of Governors endorsed block tuition last October. The state legislature is now debating it. Block tuition requires students to pay a fixed fee for 12 hours of classes, whether they are enrolled in the classes or not.

President John Hitt and the Board of Trustees have suggested that students be able to roll three of those hours over to the summer term, which solves one problem. Still, it presents a challenge for students on Bright Futures Scholarships, which don't pay for summer classes. No final plan has been decided as of yet.

All of the candidates running for SGA top positions are adamantly against block tuition.

"It's up to the student government to take a stand against it as a whole," said McCain Woodley, the vice presidential candidate running with Willie Bentley Jr. He said that while Hitt had the "best plan out of all the universities in Florida," he and Bentley are still planning consistent lobbying against the idea as a whole.

They aren't the only ones. Keith Bras, presidential candidate, and Joshua Edmundson, vice presidential candidate, plan to stand against block tuition too. Edmundson has been "sitting in" on the SGA's Senate Government Affairs Committee to help map out a strategy against block tuition. He also claims credit for having $3,000 for legislative travel to lobby in Tallahassee.

Presidential candidate Patryk Talabis and his running mate Winward Trott were eager to jump aboard the block tuition wagon. "We are totally against block tuition," said Talabis, who described the plan is as "sense that's burning across the state." He said that there will be enough help in other Florida schools to take a united stand against the plan.

In addition to fighting block tuition, the candidates had ideas on how to alleviate parking woes and the high price of parking fees.

Talabis said that his ticket is willing to work with the university administration and SGA leaders to help find a solution to the problems that plague UCF's campus.

Page 76 BATTLEGROUND A6

A shley Chavarria was only a little nervous as she bowed to the audience. She looked at her group, and on cue the ensemble launched into its flute piece.

Chavarria, a music major, and 19 other students performed for a special music recital forum Tuesday afternoon. Their group, known as the National Association of Schools of Music, were an opportunity to review the Music Department for accreditation renewal.

NAMDI RINGER & ANNA SODIR Staff Writers and Photojournalists

Accreditation may be a term you've heard or read about before in the UCF catalog, but many students don't know the specifics.

"Because UCF is accredited, your degree -- no matter what your major -- is legitimate. This means you can transfer from one university to another without having to retake classes," said Hitt. "It's not to say that we are not accredited, it's more general and covers all programs or majors, but under no circumstances may your major not be an accredited program."

There are majors usually accredited by a professional organization, made up of professors from other schools and professionals in the business, according to Hitt. "For example, the National Association of Schools of Music, College of Engineering and Computer Science."

In fact, of the seven colleges in the university, only four have all of their programs accredited by a professional organization. They are the College of Engineering and Computer Science, College of Business Administration and Rosen School of Hospitality Management.

Music and chemistry are the only accredited programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, which is the largest college at UCF.

Programs in other colleges, such as sociology or math, are not accredited -- not because the department chooses not to, but because there is no option to become accredited.

"There are no national organizations that currently award accreditation programs in sociology," said Bhram Ahmadi, chairman of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Science. "My own viewpoint is that it would be helpful for the discipline if accreditation was possible, but I would look at a program where accreditation is available in the future."

On a broader scale, accreditation has two purposes. It can create a level playing field, because it helps ensure the quality of education from one university to another. It also identifies room for improvement. Universities have to apply to an accrediting agency which identifies the standards for an education. The road to becoming accredited isn't easy, either; the process takes initial application, self-study, a site visit, and often the accreditation agency and ongoing reviews of the school.

Page 77 LOCAL INDIE ROCK

Skateboards go mainstream

Different set of wheels alleviate parking woes

With a limited number of spaces and the high price of parking fees, skateboarding is a popular way to get around campus.

"UCF is notorious for not having any parking," said former Sk8 Club president Mike Moraitis, who has been skateboarding for more than 10 years. "Skateboarding is a really good choice of transportation because it is quick. Not to mention the tuition around UCF is really good!"

Others claim bicycles or the on-campus shuttle for a board. "The biggest reason I ride my skateboard around UCF is to get to class," said David Meives, a hospitality management major. "People complain about walking; they don't realize how easy it is to skate board."

The first step, says Meives, is finding your balance. "Once you get your balance down it is not hard to learn to skateboard, it is a fact, you will fall. You will trip and fall and people will see you. It only takes a few weeks if you are really lucky when it happens in front of attractive girls." But an increasing number of women can be seen skateboarding around campus.

Freshmen Learn Acrobatics said "Females can skateboard just as well as guys. It is just like any other sport." At first, it was a negative view about being a female skateboarder. "I was nervous at first because I kept thinking everyone would see me and go 'bad girl skaters can't skate.' But I heard from a lot of people that I picked it up a lot quicker than most people," she said. "I just had to find my balance." Meives, who has been skateboarding for more than a year, said "I was able to stand on the board after the first day, but it took me about a month to be able to ride it." According to Moraitis, "in addition, there is a lot to do with your friends and people you know. The more people you have skateboarding with your confidence is not a problem. I've been skateboarding for so long, it just feels natural." Moraitis is on a skateboard team that competes at various events.

But skateboarding isn't
Dancing through history course
Instructor O'Shea entertains students while teaching about the past
Class Act

VANESSA FERNANDEZ
Cultural Consultant

America's history is a general education course where half the students are usually asleep. History is in the past and some students think it shouldn't play a song that way. However, if you are a student of Visiting instruction Dennis O'Shea, 26, this is not the case. 

"There are no good or bad ways to teach, but I always liked active teachers," O'Shea said. "You have to stay awake in the class because your eyes are going to wander." 

For call her an active teacher would be a suitable description. In the classroom O'Shea moves and bounces around from the left to the right, speaks loudly, promotes successful discussions and sometimes even performs a little dance.

"It's better for students to think I'm crazy. It's a good way to introduce students to new ideas," O'Shea said. "Classes can make history easier for them, and it makes the class more lively." O'Shea said.

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Four schools accredited on campus

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Matthie Green, a sophomore, plays his trombone in his part of a song by the composer Miscellaneous during the music forum. "I got to hear about them, and I'm excited," Green said.

No matter about whether they will be accepted to graduate school based on whether or not their program is accredited.

Florida State University Graduate Admissions Coordinator Kay Holland, who got a degree from UCF, which is regionally accredited, said she wasn't distinguish between an accredited program and a non-accredited program.

And if you're thinking about going out-of-state, most graduate admissions agree that it won't hold you back, according to University of California-Berkeley and Ohio State graduate admission advisors.

Then why do some programs choose to undertake this rigid process?

"Accreditation is a sort of approval," Pherigo said. "It does not mean that the Music Department is perfect, but it does mean that the program adheres to certain standards that are accepted as important to having high-quality music programs.

Increased funding may be another benefit, according to Mary Alice Shaver, director of communications, radio/television, public relations, and film. Shaver said that accreditation increases chances for music scholarships or grants. Accreditation does not always pay a play in whether a student receives extra scholarships because it may be more about the individual rather than the program.

Pherigo said he did not know if accreditation increased chances for music scholarships or grants. Accreditation does not always pay a play in whether a student receives extra scholarships because it may be more about the individual rather than the program.

For students thinking about transferring to another school, enrollment in an accredited program can make the transition smoother, but it doesn't guarantee all their credits will be accepted. "Decisions about transfers of credit are made at the discretion of each college and universities," the CHEA Web site states.

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Graduating students should not worry about whether they will be accepted to graduate school based on whether or not their program is accredited.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky - Nineteen.

MADISON FALLS, Ky. - Monday night's fire quickly could have become so dangerous as the Seno Hall blaze had a lot more fuel for the flames.

Missouri County Prosecutor Michael Bledsoe said the fire was caused by a student smoking a cigarette.

Colorado campuses spend thousands on fire sprinklers

LINCOLN, Neb. - Lincoln.

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where the state Board of Regents has held a secret ballot to vote on the replacement of Somali-American student Abdul-Hamid al-Musawi, is in the process of selecting a new president. The new leader is expected to have significant experience in higher education and to be someone who can help the university maintain its diversity and excellence.

The news at NewsMax.

WASHINGTON - Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan on Wednesday urged a go-slow approach on personal Social Security accounts, saying that while he embraces the idea central to President Bush's proposed overhaul, he is concerned about viability in financial markets.

"If you are going to move to private accounts, which I approve of, you have to do it in a gradual, cautious way," Greenspan said in response to House Republicans and Democrats in an appearance before the Senate Banking Committee.

Bankruptcy law.

WASHINGTON - Congress approved a measure to limit the ability of student loan borrowers to get debt discharged in bankruptcy, in a victory for creditors who argued it is needed to avoid a "national catastrophe." The measure was passed by the Senate on Wednesday, two counts of attempted murder.

Local pride.

Washington - Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan on Wednesday urged a go-slow approach on personal Social Security accounts, saying that while he embraces the idea central to President Bush's proposed overhaul, he is concerned about viability in financial markets. Greenspan said he was in a "serious dilemma" because of the looming retirement strains with the looming retirement.
I like to sit in coffeehouses drinking cup after cup of regular, no decaf! I like music – indie rock, punk rock, EMO, which is a contemporary folk kinda deal. I'm constantly checking out what's going on around town – that way I do exactly what I like.

**COFFEE HOUSES**
**MUSIC REVIEWS**
**EVENTS & FESTIVALS**

*What's it to you?*

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**SHOWCASE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**
Celebrating undergraduate research and creativity across the curriculum.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 5 PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2005**

**ACHIEVEMENTS IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

The **SHOWCASE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE** is a poster-format forum for UCF undergraduates to present current and recently completed research and creative projects to the entire university community.

Undergraduates from all disciplines—from engineering to the life sciences, from visual arts to theatre—who are or have been engaged in significant research and creative projects are invited to apply to the **SHOWCASE** to be held Friday, April 15 at the Student Union, Pegasus Ballroom. Deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Friday, March 11, 2005.

For more information regarding eligibility, the online application process, and selection criteria, please visit: [www.undergraduatestudies.ucf.edu/research/home.html](http://www.undergraduatestudies.ucf.edu/research/home.html) or call the Office of Undergraduate Studies, 407-823-4197.
caused block tuition to be dis-
cussed. "We're not just going to op-
oppose it, we want to find a
solution," Talakala said.

Bentley and Woolsey are also
willing to find common ground.
McCain said they would "look into having an op-
option" for non-tuition stu-
dents.

Truitt and Edmundson, who
described block tuition as "completely wrong," gave an
example of a single mom work-
ing her way through school. They said that for stu-
dents like her, block tuition
would derail their plans for a
life graduation. She managed to gradu-
ate in four years, Truitt said.

"We don't want to be lob-
ying blindly," Edmundson
said. They outlined a SGA-
administered Web site, saying it
would provide a more effective system but that there is
no assurance for students to send
their opinions in.

Talakala and Truitt also
electominated at the current SGA
Web site's unpopularity. They
wished for a system where students
would be able to communicate with the
administration via online polls set
up on the site and
https://sga.ufl.edu and kiosks
placed around the school. "This is a key aspect to
getting what the students want," Truitt said.

Woolsey also discussed plans to place a link on
MyUCF in a site where students
could fill out an advo-
cy form. He said SGA could
then go on with lobbying
"armed with the actual opinions
of our students."

Both the Talakala and Truitt
team and the Bentley and Woolsey
team want to shift SGA around to further facili-
tate lobbying.

Bentley said that he wanted
to create a position solely
dedicated to finding out what
students are concerned with and what services they
want. "It's really easy to go in-
down with a group of student
leaders and figure out what issues
they want," Bentley said. "We don't
want that." 

Bentley later backtracked,
saying that he wasn't entirely
certain if this would require creating a new position or if the
responsibilities of the chief
student advocate could be
enhanced.

Woolsey summed up the
duty of the Student Advocacy
Union. "Representing a student has
never been to represent the
administration. It's their job to fight
for that student," Talakala added.

Talakala said he wanted to
expand the scope of the Gov-
ernmental Affairs Committee.
"We want to have GAC work
more practically with the legis-
lature."

Each team has its own
lobbying projects.

In addition to block tuition,
Truitt and Edmundson want to
lobby for the environment and
more money for recycling.

While working toward this
goal, they have started a line
of communication with the
Physical Plant.

According to Edmundson,
they hope to have multiple
small campaign signs and cre-
ating "positive litter" they are
"holding true" to a campaign
they describe as focusing on
the "heartbeats of UCF".

As for Talakala and Truitt,
they want to give the students
votes by factionalizing the value
of their UCF cards. As far as
Talakala is concerned, there is
no reason why student should-
not get more say on community
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Can you provide me with information on the new liquid-based pap test and human papilloma virus screening?

About 90 years ago, a screening test for cervical cancer was developed, which was the Thin Prep. It is used to lead to a 75% reduction in the incidence of cervical cancer. The conventional pap smear — which is recommended for all women over the age of 15 and who are sexually active, during their normal 9–12 grain exam — which has been the "gold standard" for cervical cancer screening for years, is now being replaced by a relatively new liquid-based pap smear called the Thin Prep.

Both the pap smear and the Thin Prep collect cells from the cervix, which are later screened for pre-cancerous and cancerous changes of the cervix.

The method of collection is the same, but the way the lab transports and prepares the test has changed. The Thin Prep provides an abundance of clearly defined cells that are of much higher quality than those collected from the conventional pap smear, thereby giving us results that are more accurate.

If the Thin Prep is abnormal, another test approved by the FDA in 2003 can be performed on the same sample. This is called the Thin Prep.
Title hunt closing in for women

Two wins for Roberts and Co. means crown

MATT DUNAWAY
Sports Staff

With two wins this weekend, the UCF women’s basketball team clinched the A-Sun regular season title for the third consecutive season.

The Knights are 1-0 since the beginning of 2005, and received a vote in this week’s USA Today Top 25 poll.

“We’re excited about getting some national recognition, but there is still work to be done,” Coach Greg Stirewalt said. “We are playing some good basketball right now, but we can’t get too comfortable. Teams are gunning for us this season, especially the two coming in this weekend.”

UCF (16-2, 12-1 A-Sun) has already secured a spot in the A-Sun championship with five games remaining in the regular season, while Campbell and Gardner-Webb are fighting for their tournament lives.

“We are focused right now on getting that No. 1 seed,” Stirewalt said. “This week the team has had some strong practices, and I think they are locked in right now to achieving that goal.”

Guard Celeste Hudson is averaging 19.5 points per game, and is coming off tying a career-high scoring in a 98-point performance at Georgia State on Feb. 10.

“When Celeste is hot, teams begin to key on her,” Stirewalt said after the Georgia State victory on last Thursday. “And that opens up the floor for the other players.”

Final St. Top 25

Any moron can write a book lately

Carasco’s clams are as big a joke as his career

MOUTHLING OFF
ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

My buddy Steve asked me the other day why I’ve been doing two columns a week lately.

First, I told him that I’ll do whatever I please and I’m not afraid to hit the mouth. When he was done arguing, I told him it’s because I’m bored. True. Two years into this gig and not much has changed.

Writing about a whistle football team can make a guy stir crazy. So, to mix it up a little bit, I thought I’d devote my Monday columns to the big game, will never be absent again due to fear of losing my job. Or at least the most of the week in sports and entertainment.

With news in this edition, there are four columns, though Jose Caraballo and his new book, Assorted Wild Times, Rampant ‘Roids, is a sure classic. And time baseball Carl B. will tell his story of all baseball’s slumber party.

The only news, this week’s edition, that Jose Caraballo and his new book, Assorted Wild Times, Rampant ‘Roids, is a sure classic. And time baseball Carl B. will tell his story of all baseball’s slumber party.

Hoeberg leads men to win at home course

Lone senior shines as men’s golf wins Rio Pinar

Invitational by six strokes over rest of the field

ANDY VASQUEZ
Sports Staff

Anndrew Hoeberg has shown his young teammates a lot this year.

When they needed help adjusting to college, he was there. When they needed some tips on their golf game, he showed them the way.

On Tuesday he showed them how to finish at a-under-par and 5-under-par for the tournament.

“I think’s a great experience for him to do this, especially to come out on top,” said Hoeberg’s first on their home course since March of 1990.

“The victory was UCF’s first time capturing the Atlantic Sun Conference championship in April of 2004 and the Knights first on their home course since March of 1990.

“For me, he’s a true Ironman poster boy was Marcus Avant. That is, until last week.

Last Thursday’s win over Stetson marked the first time in two seasons that UCF men’s basketball played without Avant. Saturday night’s loss to Jacksonville marked the second time the Knights played without their senior forward. Prior to that game, Avant started in every game this season. Now he might not play again.

“Avant has been sidelined for at least the remaining five games of the Knight’s regular-season schedule, pending amiracle, he’ll likely miss the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament come March. That’s not good news for the man, who looks to Avant as a leader both on and off of the court.

“Not having him the last couple of games, I really respect how important he was defensively,” fellow senior Gary Johnson said. “He helps and he recovers, and that’s really important when you are playing defense. He’s cut down on his mistakes these last five. We also miss him on the rebounds but we’ve got a lot of young players that can make it back.

The loss of Avant is a huge hit for the injury-riddled Knights, who find themselves in a tie for fourth place in the A-Sun standings. The men are a half-game behind third-place Jacksonville and two games behind first-place Gardner-Webb.

Someone needs to call for pest control, Says Ashley Burns

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Top seed in tournament target for first place women

UCF's women's basketball team is a top seed in the A-Sun tournament, setting up a possible matchup with North Carolina A&T in the semifinals.

The Knights enter the tournament as the conference's regular-season champs and the league's top team. They have won 12 of their last 13 games, including a regular-season sweep of the Hatters. UCF is the only team in the A-Sun to win back-to-back regular-season championships.

UCF's head coach, Sarah Mangano, said of the bracket: "It's a tough draw, but we're confident in our ability to compete at a high level. We've been practicing hard and are ready to make a run in the tournament."

The Knights will face a tough test in the semifinals, as North Carolina A&T is one of the league's top teams. But Mangano said her team is ready for the challenge.

"We've been preparing for this moment all season," she said. "We're excited to face a strong team and see what we can do in the tournament."

The winner of the semifinal game will advance to the A-Sun final, where they will face either Georgia State or Mercer.

UCF won the regular-season series against Mercer, 69-56, but lost to Georgia State, 73-70, in overtime.

"It's going to be a tough challenge," Mangano said. "But we're ready to take it on and see what we can do."
Freshmen carry weight in victory

bested the 18th hole to reach 6-under-par for the round, but struggled on 26th to trek to the clubhouse.

Preston Brown shot rounds of 71, 70, and to finish 6-under-par in the field for the first time. Gowan shook recovered from a frustrating first round of 77 to post an even-par total of 68 in the second round; his third round 71 tied for 5th and won. Bas Lensing made par on every hole Tuesday, and finished the tournament tied for 30th at 6-over par. Chris Anderson ended out the field, finishing at 7-over-par in a tie for 78th place.

"I was interested to see how the freshmen would handle the course," said Robert. "And they handled it out well. I think that the next time they get in that situation, they can do even better than they did yesterday."

"It was a learning experience for them, they’re growing up quickly. They’re starting to learn how to pace the schoolwork, the golf, the practices and the working out."

The Knights were the only team in the field to finish under par as they closed out the round 3rd round of 10 under 142, finishing with 62 total strokes. Besides the competition with other schools, there is a healthy competition going on within the UCF men’s golf team. Some of the more experienced players have struggled lately and lost their spots to the incoming freshmen. Expectations seem to remain high.

"They’re great athletes, and they’re determined," said Robert. "Before we went out, they have a lot of confidence in their game, and they think they’re going to be back in the lineup. I honestly believe it."

UCF continues its spring tour on Sunday when it travels to Ponte Vedra to compete in the Meridien-Boca College Championships.

State & Nation

ACC courts to be in Big 10

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The Minneapolis Star-Tribune is using instant replay in the 2005 football season, according to a report on the one college football, whether you are a fan, coach, player or official. The decision was made by the Big Ten sports, a technical adviser watched the game from the press box and notified the official on the field via paper. The real-time feedback was instantaneous. Play was halted while the adviser watched the tape and used the video from the television feed. Calls could be overturned only if it was a "clearly evident error," and only calls like scoring plays, pass interference and number of players on the field could be overturned. The procedure was used in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Penn State and Iowa for special situations like block in the back and facemasks, and a number of other judgment calls like false starts and holding on the side. The ACC decided not to use the system.

"We’re not saying that this is the way to do it," said ACC Commissioner John Swofford. "We’re just trying to see how it looks and if it helps." The league announced the move Tuesday after a proposal was approved unanimously by the conference’s winter meetings. The NCAA Football Rules Committee voted last week to allow conferences to use instant replay on an experimental basis for the 2005 season.

Under the Big Ten system, a technical adviser watched the game from the press box and notified the official on the field via a piece of paper. The real-time feedback was instantaneous. Play was halted while the adviser watched the tape and used the video from the television feed. Calls could be overturned only if it was a "clearly evident error," and only calls like scoring plays, pass interference and number of players on the field could be overturned. The procedure was used in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Penn State and Iowa for special situations like block in the back and facemasks, and a number of other judgment calls like false starts and holding on the side. The ACC decided not to use the system.

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Bentley’s the man for the job

Some of the most important questions center on the position proposal and vote to be held this spring through the Florida Legislature. The three students also agree that the grading system needs to be reformed. They have also taken their research a step further and a plan is needed to help students balance out the minuses, and to force students to rise to the challenges that Bentley has set as his goals.

Amid Alabama’s debate over the ozone layer that has caused a greenhouse gases thanks to its policies, Bentley has taken his research a step further and a plan is needed to help students balance out the minuses, and to force students to rise to the challenges that Bentley has set as his goals. Benefits such as these provide a means for students to rise to the challenges that Bentley has set as his goals.

The Senate president has worked closely with both the administration and students. His ideas have been varied, but at the heart of the matter, Bentley seems to embrace this kind of thinking. He has even made his ideas public and has been himself a political student. He has also made it clear that he is not sure if he will support students. In the recent election, Bentley supported a immediate parking system in which $50,000 would be sufficient. He had also agreed to raise parking rates up to $50,000. A plan is needed to help students balance out the minuses, and to force students to rise to the challenges that Bentley has set as his goals.

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Who Controls The Democratic Party?

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The Exercise Physiology Laboratory at the University of Central Florida is currently conducting a 26-Week WEIGHT LOSS STUDY.

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To qualify you must be healthy and between the ages of 25 to 70. This study does not involve any invasive procedures

Please call 407-823-5163

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**TECHNICAL CAREER PANEL**

Tuesday, February 22, 2005  
1:00pm - 2:30pm  
Great Hall, Engineering I

Hear What Professionals In Your Field Have To Say About "Life After Graduation"

**Who Should Attend?**

All Majors from the College of Engineering and Computer Science and "Undecided Majors" Who Would Like to Learn More About Technical Careers.

**Who Will Be On The Panel?**

Our Panel Will Include Professionals From The Fields Of Engineering And Computer Science. Employers Participating Include: The Boeing Company, Dynetech, Lockheed Martin, Rinker Materials, SAIC, And Seimens Westhouse

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Public Notice: This is a Notice of an Application for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a mobile home at 1700 Windermere West Dr., Orlando, Florida, for temporary seasonal occupancy. The Application may be viewed at the Office of Planning, Development and Code Enforcement. Written comments on the Application may be submitted to the Planning, Development and Code Enforcement Office, 1275 S. John Young Pkwy. Suite 100, Orlando, FL 32839. Comments must be received in writing by 12/1/05 and will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at their January 3rd, 2006 meeting. Comments: None

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Crossword

ACROSS

1. Word of eight letters or less
2. seventy letters or less
3. forty letters or less
4. twenty letters or less
5. ten letters or less

DOWN

6. thirty letters or less
7. twenty letters or less
8. ten letters or less
9. five letters or less
10. letter
11. letter
12. letter

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Cruise to the Galapagos islands, one of the world's great nature wonders. 23 days, $8225, includes round trip airfare.

MARCH 1-22, 2006

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MARCH 1-22, 2006

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NEW EVENTS AT THE UCF BOOKSTORE
SOMETHING NEW EVERY WEDNESDAY 10:00AM - 2:00PM!

February 14 - Flower Sale
Carnations and Roses will be on sale outside the UCF Bookstore

February 16 - Sidewalk Sale
Holiday merchandise will be on clearance outside the UCF Bookstore

February 23 - Baseball Merchandise Sale
Support the UCF Baseball team with baseball merchandise on sale outside the UCF Bookstore.

March 2 - Cap and Gown Pre-Order Week
All diploma frames will be on sale 10% off

March 23 - Easter Celebration Sale
Stop by the UCF Bookstore for an Easter Egg with a gift from us inside!

March 30 - Pastel Sale
Buy 2 or more pastel clothing items and receive $5.00 off your entire purchase.

April 6 - Supply Stock Up Sale
Save on selected supplies outside the UCF Bookstore

April 13 - Knight Knock Out Sale
Buy 2 or more "KNIGHTS" clothing items and receive $5.00 off your entire purchase.

April 20 - Sidewalk Sale
Selected merchandise will be on sale outside the UCF Bookstore

April 25 - Cap and Gown Pick Up Week
All frames will be on sale

Visit us online for a complete list of all events at the UCF Bookstore. www.ucfbookstore.com
The New Roman Times:
Orlando's hottest musical export

Thanks a billion, Theatre UCF
Celebrate Pet Dental Health Month
Hell hath no fury like bad cinema

PAGE 2
PAGE 10
PAGE 14
Play about temptation and greed opens tonight at the UCF Conservatory Theatre

TIFFANY FORD
Staff Writer

What would you do for $1 billion?
Most of us like to believe we are ethical people. We trust that greed would never cause us to do anything unjust or harmful. But if $1 billion could save your business, your family, your town and yourself, how far would you go? Would the ends justify the means?

These are some of the questions that Friedrich Durrenmatt asks in his play The Visit, opening tonight at the UCF Conservatory Theatre. In a way, this show is similar to Greek tragedies, since it raises serious questions about justice, morality and other related personal issues.

"Although we view ourselves as a moral society, every one of us might reach a breaking point... what we see clearly as right and wrong may become blurry," commented director Mark Brotherton. Anyone would jump at the chance to grab $1 billion, but The Visit makes us question our moral priorities.

The play tells the story of a small town that has fallen upon poverty. Their only hope is sparked when an old woman and former citizen, Claire, returns with the fortune she has gained in her time away. Claire offers the crumbling town $1 billion to rebuild itself, but only if they meet one demand. They must seek revenge on a man from her past, a well-respected citizen.

"There is a comic touch that makes this show realistic and modern. The play's humorous moments bring it closer to real life," Brotherton said. "I think it's more absurd than funny... depending upon which side of the joke you're on."

But the most intriguing reason to see the The Visit is to witness how people can act on their most secretive desires. It's not just about money and how people react to temptation. The Visit confronts a need for revenge. Everyone regrets something they have done in their life. But we have also all experienced an event that has hurt us, "that we would like to see someone else regret," Brotherton said.

So come out to the UCF Conservatory Theater to see what happens when $1 billion comes to town. The Visit is playing tonight through Feb. 20, and Feb. 23-27. Stop by the box office for tickets, or call 407-823-1500.

THE INDIE


We really hope we scooped everyone with our massive feature on Pet Dental Health Month, While Black History Month and Valentine's Day deservedly got the most attention in February, even Groundhog Day outshines Pet Dental Health Month, and there's something terribly wrong with that.

Robbie Rabon interviews the president of NORML in this issue, but he's already preparing for his next club spotlight. If you want your club featured in the indie, e-mail Robbie at robbie@theindie.com. Real Life for Real will return next week; that much Robbie in one issue would be too awesome for mere mortals.

Both love columns will return next week. Also, pick up next week's issue for a feature on Oscar humor and thoughts on the Razzies (Go Superbabies!).

— JOHN THOMASON
AUDITIONS

Walt Disney Entertainment is seeking qualified dance or theatre professionals for a unique opportunity. This role teaches existing choreography to performers involved in Walt Disney World® Shows or parades, on and/or off property. This role maintains a current library of scripts, blocking books, rehearsal tapes, videos and music scores to use as tools to maintain show quality in conjunction with the Show Director, Choreographer, or Dance Captain. Also, this role stages and gives performance notes to all levels of performers.

Required Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in dance, related field or equivalent
- Proven strong background in teaching dance
- Demonstrated coaching and leadership skills
- Demonstrated strong organizational and time management skills
- Demonstrated strong written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to handle confidential information
- Ability to be flexible with work schedule, including weekends, nights and holidays
- Demonstrated ability to maintain personal flexibility, strength of movement, and excellent physical fitness to effectively demonstrate dance skills
- Demonstrated ability to learn and retain professional choreography quickly, as well as demonstrate a variety of styles of choreography or direction clearly and accurately
- Demonstrated ability to stay current with the latest dance styles and techniques
- Demonstrated ability to accurately notate and maintain choreography and blocking documentation as well as observe and document performers' execution of choreography and blocking

Apply online at: www.disneycareers.com
Job Search: Staging Specialist

Or by mail at:
Administrative Recruitment/Staging Specialist
Disney Worldwide, Services • P.O. Box 10,090
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Resumes must be received in our office by February 28, 2005.
Qualified applicants will be contacted to participate in an audition and interview. All applicants must be available on March 8th and 9th to be considered.

Walt Disney Entertainment
EOE • Drawing Creativity from Diversity • ©Disney
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

CAMPUS

UCF Wind Ensemble Concert
Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Visual Arts Building
Auditorium
407-823-3243

UCF Symphony Orchestra Concert
Feb. 19, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Visual Arts Building
Auditorium
407-823-3002

Late Knights: Mardi Gras
Feb. 19, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., free for UCF students
Student Union
407-823-6471

Black History Month Gospel Explosion
March 19, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Auditorium
407-823-6471

Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom

EVENTS

African Americans in Golf
Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., $10
Orange County Regional History Center
Heritage Square
65 E. Central Blvd.
407-836-8500

Circle of 101 Antiques Show and Sale
Feb. 18 to Feb. 19, noon to 9 p.m., free
Orlando Museum of Art
2416 N. Mills Ave.
407-899-5790

Birthday Bash with Paris Hilton
Feb. 18 to Feb. 19, 7 p.m., various prices
Club Paris
122 W. Central Ave.
407-992-1200

Orlando Latin American Film and Heritage Festival
Feb. 18 to Feb. 20, various times, $5 to $15
DMAC
37 S. Magnolia Ave.
407-903-1200

Cookin'
Feb. 19, 8 p.m., $30 to $40
King Center for Performing Arts
3601 N. Wickham Road
Melbourne
321-247-2219

International Food and Culture Festival!
Feb. 20, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., $10
Forest Lake Academy
3909 E. Semoran Blvd.
407-862-0411

SHOWS

Pepper, Authority Zero, Beautiful Girls (punk)
Feb. 17, 7 p.m., $10
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-993-2503

Leave Calmer, Plain Jane Automobile, Megaphone (rock)
Feb. 17, 9 p.m., $7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-303-1419

SNNMMRM, Band Marino, The Go Aways (indie)
Feb. 17, 9 p.m., $6
Will’s Pub
1820 W. 420 N. Mills Ave.
407-806-5070

Willtown (rock)
Feb. 17, 10 p.m., free
Central Station Bar
100 E. Central Ave.
407-426-0336

Kristie DeLuca (acoustic)
Feb. 17, 8 p.m., $10
Central Station Bar
100 E. Central Ave.
407-426-0336

Union Made, Snafu (rock)
Feb. 18, 5 p.m., $5
AMA Lounge
60 E. Pine St.
407-839-3707

The Corks, 69 Fingers, Fish Pocket (indie)
Feb. 17, 7 p.m., $5
O-Zone Cin
1002 W. Hwy 436
407-862-1002

Buddy, The Evidents (rock)
Feb. 18, 10 p.m., $34
The Peacock Room
1121 N. Mills Ave.
407-226-0048

Blue Collar Addict, InTension, Dysphor (hard rock)
Feb. 18, 10 p.m., $5
William's Pub
12727 East Colonial Drive
407-801-2219

The Used, My Chemical Romance, Senses Fail, Killswitch Engage, Bleed the Dream, A Static Lullaby, Opale for the Masses (punk)
Feb. 19, 7 p.m., $22.50
The Edge Concert Pavilion
100 W. Livingston St.
407-885-1258

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SPOTLIGHT

DANE COOK

Dane Cook is coming to the UCF Arena on Wednesday, but don't worry—he really is coming this time. Dane was supposed to be here last spring but had to cancel in order to tape the pilot for his show Cooked.

If you don't know who Dane Cook is, then you might want to get your head out from under that rock and check out his CD/DVD Hard Hat Swallowed before his performance. The show is free for UCF students and limited tickets will be sold (if not yet sold out to non-students for $20). The doors open at 6:30 p.m., but be sure to get there early; comedy fans love a good seat.

ORLANDO LATIN AMERICAN FILM AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Helping downtown Orlando with its lack of culture is the Downtown Media Arts Center (D.MAC), and from Friday to Sunday it will be the home of the first-ever Orlando Latin American Film and Heritage Festival (OLA Fest). The event is being co-produced by both the D.MAC and AWAKENING Art and Culture, a non-profit Florida organization.

The opening night reception will include a screening of two films (Maria Full of Grace and Almost a Woman), and following each will be a Q&A session with the filmmakers. Three more films will play throughout the weekend (A Day Without a Mexican, The Take, and Voices in Winter), but the festival isn't all about films.

The OLA Fest also includes music and dance groups (including many different cultures), poetry discussions and conferences. Not only will some of these events take place at D.MAC, but also at downtown parks. So if you enjoy the downtown atmosphere, but you can never find anything to do, take a journey to D.MAC this weekend and get in on some cultured action.

Bennink Dus (eclectic)
Feb. 21, 7 p.m., $10
WCB Pub
1830 N. Mills Ave.
407-896-5070

Horizen (rock)
Feb. 22, 7 p.m., free
Central Station Bar
100 E. Central Ave.
407-426-8336

Arteys, Scars of Tomorrow, Unearth, Norma Jean (metal)
Feb. 22, 6 p.m., $15
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-999-2570

Our Given Day, Shadow Agency, Stole Your Woman (rock)
Feb. 22, 7 p.m., $5
WCB Pub
1830 N. Mills Ave.
407-896-5070

Bleep Bleep, Fashionista, The Zax (indie)
Feb. 23, 8 p.m., $8
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

CALENDAR

From 14

Spam Allstars (rock)
Feb. 18, 9 p.m., $5-$10
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

George Strait, Dierks Bentley,
Amber Dotson (country)
Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., $49-$59-$69
TD Waterhouse Centre
600 W. Amelia St.
407-849-3729

Eddie and the SOBS (rock)
Feb. 18, 5 p.m., free
Wing Shack
6464 E. Michigan St.
407-381-4798

The Four Tops, Herb
Gibralter (pop)
Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., $39.95-$59.75
Universal Studios
1000 Universal Studios Plaza
407-363-8000

Danny Spears Band (rock)
Feb. 19, 7 p.m., free
Holly & Dolly's
301 E. 5th St.
407-834-0099

Heебebastank, Three Days Grace,
Letter Kills (rock)
Feb. 19, 7 p.m., $17.50-$19.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-994-2503

New Roman Times, Spacebar,
The Party People (indie)
Feb. 19, 9 p.m., $5-$7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Mercy Seat, Mobius (rock)
Feb. 19, 10 p.m., $5
Cowboy Mouth Pub
106 Lake Ave.
407-645-0069

3rd Limb, Milka, The Kill (hard rock)
Feb. 19, 9:30 p.m., $8
WCB Pub
1830 N. Mills Ave.
407-896-5070

In This Day, Dark Blue Sun,
Bastard Pie, Skrape (hard rock)
Feb. 19, 9:30 p.m., $12
WCB Pub
1830 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Cowboy Mouth, Jason Isbell Trio,
Diablo Canyon, The Legendary
JCs (various)
Feb. 19, 6 p.m., free
ORLANDO INDIE DARLINGS GO NATIONAL

The New Roman Times, now with a permanent lineup and a national record, provide hope for Orlando scene

Chris Bowers  Staff Writer

In the past, Orlando and the indie rock scene have gone together about as well as a discussion between Sean Hannity and Al Franklin. Sure, there have been a few blips on the independent radar that have registered from Central Florida, the brightest being the release of Modest Mouse’s *Baron Von Bullets*** Rides Again*, the Baron in this case being a live concert recorded at the Social and released nationally. That, however, was a rare ripple in an otherwise serene, smooth lake.

The fact that there has never really been an established Orlando scene, however, doesn’t mean the city isn’t home to quality musicians. Enter Josie Fluri and Dan Owens. The two provide the vocals for a band attempting to break the stereotypes associated with our fair city.

The band is New Roman Times, and after a year that saw them opening up for some of the biggest names in indie rock today, including Death Cab for Cutie, Cursive and the Rapture, they now stand ready to take their step onto the main stage with the national release of their full-length album *International Affairs*, released just last Tuesday everywhere. After numerous lineup changes and shows in too many cities to count, the now-solid quartet seems ready to break free of the Disney mold.

Owens further elaborated on what it’s like trying to make a name for yourself when you come from a town whose last major musical export was O-Town.

“There is a lot of prejudicial sentiment about Orlando,” he said. “The automatic connotation is with Disney, and it’s hard to get past that preconception. You kind of have to be willing to have some kind of backbone; you see people and bands from here that are willing to slag Orlando... and be like, ‘Yea, Orlando is OK,’ and roll their eyes... but you have to have some kind of civic pride.

“It’s just like your family. You want to be represented the same way you feel about it, but when people find out you’re from Orlando, they’re shocked, and we’re like, ‘Yeah, it’s really just like any other place, except it’s hot as s*** in the summertime, there are hurricanes and we have bugs the size of people.’ But other than that it’s just like any other place; there are a bunch of kids here who want to hear good music and a bunch of people who want to be in bands.”

Owens and Fluri have been playing music together for the past eight years in various projects, but they have spent the last year-and-a-half playing as New Roman Times. In that time the band has seen members come and go, but with the addition of Shane Laden Brown on drums and Ryan Seagrist on guitar, they’ve found themselves a firm quartet. With the new additions fully signed on, New Roman Times has gone from two people with a handful of songs to a tight multifaceted group on the verge of its first national release — in less than two years.

“At the Death Cab show we played in front of 1,400 people,” Owens said. “It really opens your eyes to how many people are into music. You see it here on certain scales, but to see it there, it shows that you really have to be willing to take it up a notch; you have to have your stuff together. Overall, with bands like this, they all like having a good time, but when it comes to playing, everything gets really focused and you see a lot of continuity.”

With a solidified lineup and an album’s worth of songs recorded in studios stretching from Orlando to Los Angeles, all that was needed was a label to put it out. That’s when the town’s own Downtown Orlando fixtures Michael McRaney and Gerard Mitchell, owners of both the Social and Gerard’s hip-hop production label Eighth Dimension, wanted to start an indie version of the label,
MUSIC
THE MONTH IN SHOWS

Clockwise from the right:
On Feb. 5, Conor Oberst's eyes were bright at the House of Blues. On Jan. 27, David Bazan roared like a (Pedro the) lion at the Social. On Feb. 8, Anberlin's Stephen Christian got all emotional at the Social.
I popped this album into the CD player as soon as I got into my car. By the time I got out of the parking lot, I was already singing along to Lee's interminably infectious hooks.

Hipster wunderkind Ben Lee is back with the stylishly titled Awake is the New Sleep, an album filled with catchy pop anthems, tripe musings on love (as heard on the track "Gambling Everything For Love"), odes to girls who smell like apple candy and one nine-minute long experimental opus entitled "Light."

The first single "Catchy My Disease" is a hand-clapping, feet-stomping, head-bobbing number which sounds like whitewashed Motown. Whitewashed, because try as he might, Lee can't seem to lose that lilting Aussie accent and also because the song contains a shout-out to pop-punkers Good Charlotte — "They play Good Charlotte on the radio and that's the way I like it."

With Lee coming fresh of the heels of a very public breakup with longtime girlfriend Claire Danes, one might expect Awake is the New Sleep to be his breakup album, filled with stinging lyrics and a jarring emotional catharsis. However, the album's overall vibe is actually quite sunny, with references to Lee's relationship popping up only sporadically, on "The Debt Collectors" and "Close I've Come," a jangly, upbeat number where Lee laments, "You broke my f---ed heart, but I want you."

Flirting with spirituality is part of being a musician. Just as The Beatles studied under Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and Madonna throws herself into ancient Jewish mysticism, Lee explores a more vague universal connection on "We're All In This Together." This chugging mid-tempo track features Lee singing, "I'm made of atoms. You're made of atoms and we're all in this together." He goes on to say, "I love you and you love her and she loves him," but instead of going on to rant about how much love stinks, Lee just quietly declares, "We're all in this together."

Straying from the pop-rock vibe of the album is the country-inspired "No Right Angles," and Lee's decadently long "Light," a muted jam session which comes alive with squealing horns, is seven minutes too long. Lee has said that Awake is the New Sleep is an album about waking up, but the length of this track has rather the opposite effect on the listener.

If you want an Australian guitar-slinger, check out Angus Young of AC/DC. If you want pretty acoustic pop melodies tailor-made for The WB, pick up Awake is the New Sleep.

— JAIME JOSHI

Longtime fans of Tori Amos have said that previews of The Beekeeper sound a bit on the "adult contemporary" side. If fans didn't get those notions from 2002's Scarlet's Walk, then the quieter, gentler Amos is further reinforced on this latest album.

The Beekeeper does not provide much of her old edge, but rather a sense of divergence. Amos appears to be going in a lot of different musical directions with this album — to be specific, one great, one oddly experimental and one rather uninspired. It's hard to get a cohesive grip of the work as a whole unless the listener is willing to give it a few go-rounds. Like all of her work, Amos's sense of the female identity pervades, but this is one of the few connective tissues of the album.

One direction Amos takes on this album points to her past with some tracks that are either sparse and make the listener pleasantly uncomfortable or structured songs that are excellently arranged. Cult fans will be pleased with many of these tracks, such as "Parasol," "Barons of Suburbia," "Witness" and "Martha's Foolish Ginger."

Other tracks come off as mediocre, uninspired and entirely forgettable, such as the first single released, "Sleeps with Butterflies." This paradox contributes to a difficult listening experience — so it is any time a listener feels tempted to skip tracks on an album.

The Beekeeper also takes a turn toward the Caribbean and Latin America with some Latin percussion and smooth calypso rhythms. Yes, that is correct — Tori Amos singing over syncopated, slow reggae beats. Just as Scarlet's Walk reflected on a journey throughout the United States, it seems that songs like "Jamaica Inn" reflect on some experience south of the border.

However, these stylistic experiments are a little hard to swallow. An exception to this is the percussive, bluesy "Hoochie Woman."

Overall, the biggest difference we hear between this album and many of Amos's earlier works is that she is continuing to mature. No more is she the redheaded dancing girl breaking her silence in Little Earthquakes. Now she speaks as a mother and a storyteller, spinning the tales of others rather than defiantly asserting her place. In essence, she has lost her edge — however, it's impossible for any artist to keep up an edge like she once had for over 13 years. But The Beekeeper is still a worthy venture. The songs where Amos writes songs with lyrics like "I believe in peace, bitch" are long gone, but what we still have is worth hearing.

— EMILY JANE SCOTT

Quirky songs about sex and drugs can hold a listener's attention for only so long, and Adam Green milks this cow for every drop it is worth. Unfortunately, the lyrical content on Green's newest full-length Gemstones begins to sound repetitive and juvenile by about the seventh track.

Gone are the violins and cellos that helped make "Jessica," Green's odd homage to Jessica Simpson, a college radio hit in 2003. On Gemstones, the strings are dropped in favor of an organ and electric piano. They pair with Green's acoustic guitar to give the album a variety of throwback rock 'n' roll sounds.

Herein lays the album's saving grace, the overall variety of music which changes style within each song, covering everything from 1960s doo-wop to early country/western. Green even uses the organ to add some 1970s psychadelia to 13 tracks whose lyrics could benefit from the same variety that makes the music truly enjoyable.

— CHRIS BOWERS

With the initial echoic twang of guitar, Iron & Wine's second EP Woman King delivers haunting melodies that are sad yet comforting. Featuring some of Sam Beam's best-written material, every song tells of admiration and his dependence on women, both Biblical and real to the artist. The songs read more like a poem dissected in an English class, with clear examples of concrete imagery and symbolism, seemingly written by an early Southern poet.

The music throughout the album transitions from alt-country to almost bluesy to a straight-up jamboree, all with the help of a talented clan of musicians who sneak in the perfect touches, including an electric guitar that will send shivers up your spine. Blending his voice with his sister Sarah's on a few songs, he creates a harmonious mixture of voices that will break your heart but mend it back together with the actual words. Expect melancholy.

— SARA STOCK
MUSIC

Laying down the Unwritten Law in alt-rock

San Diego group's fanbase grows larger by the year, but band is still humble

BRANDON BIEUICH
Staff Writer

Remember that song that hit TRL in the fall of 2002 — "Seein' Red" or someth ing-else-or-other? Remember the band who wrote it? Well, if you answered yes to at least one of these questions, chances are you've heard of San Diego's Unwritten Law. But if you thought this group was a one-hit-wonder, you better think again.

After "Seeing Red" in 2002, chances are you'll be seeing — or at least hearing — plenty more from Unwritten Law. The band's new album Here's to the Mourning just hit stores, and the first single "Save Me" is already racing up the charts. Bassist Pat Kim was nice enough to answer some questions for the indie via telephone.

BB: Although Unwritten Law surfaced mainstream in 2002, the band has been around for a long time longer than that. Can you briefly describe the jump from the independent scene to the mainstream crowd?

PK: It's not like we really jumped from crowd to crowd ... we're playing music indiscriminately ... we're just doing what we wanna do ... it doesn't matter if it's [an] indie label or major label. Whatever happens happens.

BB: Upon initial release, did you think "Seein' Red" was the song that would put you at the top of the charts?

PK: Our expectations are high, but we don't go into [it] expecting any song to be a 'smash hit,' although we might personally feel it should be ... It did really well [though]. I think that song as Elva's first single because it kinda covered a lot of ground. It's kinda mellow and then jumps into rock ... it represented the band very well.

BB: You did the live Yellowstone acoustic performance for Music in High Places. Although some of your "softer" songs include acoustic parts, I've heard that you don't want people guessing the wrong idea about your heavier sound.

PK: Yeah, absolutely; we went into that — first of all, we were asked to do it, and second, it was a challenge for us to do it. A lot of people were thinking it was a new album, but it was just old songs that we did acoustically. That's basically all it was in its newest form. It's kinda like, you know, like artists — there's artists that paint or sculpt, or do it all. It's just a different medium to get a different result, to create a piece of artwork using different mediums.

BB: This being your sixth album (fifth studio release), what was the main thing you were hoping to accomplish with Here's to the Mourning?

PK: Just finishing it, really. We went through such a tumultuous year with losing our drummer and just a whole lot of stuff going on within our camp, like [guitarist] Rob having a baby. There was just so much emotional stuff happening at the time, it was an outlet to us to focus on music, and at the same time it was a big challenge for us just to finish it. We didn't know what state we'd be in after losing [original drummer] Wade. At the same time it was a driving factor for us trying to complete this thing, because we all believed in this project.

BB: As mentioned, you had two "guest drummers" come in for the making of this album, and one is now part of the permanent lineup.

PK: Yeah, we had Adrian Young from No Doubt. Our manager is really good friends with No Doubt, and we've done [some shows with them], and we've just known them for a long time. We actually wanted him to do some live shows, but he had No Doubt stuff going on.

But then No Doubt was kinda done, and he jumped at the opportunity to record. For him, it was a different outlet; he was able to do stuff he wouldn't be able to do in No Doubt. He came down and laid down eight delicious tracks. Then Brooks Wackerman, [the drummer] from Bad Religion, recommended Tony Palermo. He came in and we ended up snatching him, because he fit in great with what we were doing.

BB: The new video for "Save Me" was done in a style similar to Japanese anime. What was the making of that video like?

PK: We went through that because, first of all, we hate doing videos! We wanted to do something different where we wouldn't even have to show up — it would've been great. We went through a Japanese animation company, but they were lagging on their part, so we jumped to a different animation company, a German one. They just finished it up and it came out great.

BB: I've heard stories of some pretty wild antics taking place on the road. Do any particular ones stick out in your mind?

PK: There's just so many. Every tour, there's always something wacky that happens; there's not really one certain one I can think of. At the same time, [laughs] I'm in a crazy drunken haze [during the events], and I don't remember stuff, and I can't [laughs] sit here and choose one. Basically, we just like to go out and have fun with the bands we're touring with and amongst ourselves.

BB: What's next for Unwritten Law? Any current plans for a tour?

PK: Yeah, we've got a big tour coming up in April with Sum-41, our little brothers in arms, our Canadian brothers. And just a bunch of [late-night shows] and radio shows before we hit the road.

Here's to the Mourning is available everywhere on Lava Records.

It's finally the Times' time

From 16

they turned to their friend Josie Fluri (who in her spare time is a manager at The Social). The two asked if they could put out the record by New Roman Times, both to help their friends and establish a new part of their label. So not only does International Affairs mark the first national release for New Roman Times, but also the first release for the new Social Recordings label.

"It goes back to what Owens was talking about, civic pride," Fluri said. "I'm pretty sure I speak for everybody when I say we are pretty excited that the label is from Orlando, and that they are people we know and who have been bringing great music here for years and years. If Michael wasn't booking the Social, the whole city would be completely different to me, so I feel real lucky to be a part of it and to be a part of something coming out of Orlando that's not a boy band."

In a town synonymous with major corporations and overproduction, a story like DIY is a breath of fresh air. For the story of New Roman Times is not just the story of a band on the rise. It is a story of the testament of friends working together. A story of people who know that their city is more than just a mouse and hair gel. It is a story that ends with a beginning. For the release of International Affairs marks the birth of a new scene, but more importantly it proves to those who may have begun to lose hope that good music will always find a way.

The New Roman Times are performing Saturday at the Social with The Party People and Spacebar. Doors open at 9 p.m. and tickets are $7.

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Famous pets give two cents in their special month

JOE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

In celebration of National Pet Dental Health month, or what we here at the indie call February, this reporter sat down and talked with a few of the world’s most famous pets, both past and present. How did this reporter actually talk to the animals? Well, it’s kind of a secret, but let’s just say there was heavy consumption of Taco Bell involved.

First we sat down with the world famous Taco Bell Chihuahua, known to his owners as Gidget.

JA: “So Gidget, do you get all the free tacos and delicious bean burritos you want?”

Gidget: “You know, I wish people could see past the whole Taco Bell thing. I am a serious actor.”

JA: “Oh of course, So what is your next project? Something with George Clooney, maybe?”

Gidget: “Well, sort of. I am doing a Doritos ad with this chick that kind of looks like Cindy Crawford.”

JA: “Very nice.”

Next we interviewed Jimmy Carter’s cat, Misty Malarky Ying Yang. Yeah, we thought the name was weird too.

JA: “Hey Misty, how are you? OK, I don’t really care, it’s just kind of a formality. Anyway, what’s up with your name? It’s pretty long for a cat.”

Misty: “Well, Jimmy Carter is from Georgia and he wanted to call me Potent Jenkins, but luckily his wife talked him out of it. Considering the choice, Misty Malarky Ying Yang is much better.”

JA: “Right ... um ... I gotta go”

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Edgar Allen Poe’s cat, Catarina.

Catarina: “Tell us Catrina, what is it like around the Poe household?”

Catarina: “Everything is so dark and dreary all the time. I wish he would open a damn curtain once in a while. I mean, it is one thing to write poetry of the macabre, but for God’s sake would it kill you to at least pretend there is a sun?”

JA: “Are you ok?”

Catarina: “Listen man, I gotta go take my Zoof.”

The next interview was pretty hard to set up on account of this animal has been dead for almost 500 years, but that magical Natty Light came through yet again. This next piece comes from Grimalkin, the cat of all seeing and all knowing Nostradamas.

JA: “So Grimalkin...”

Grimalkin: “Dude, I already know what you are going to ask me, and I am a fairly busy cat so I wrote down the answers to all of your questions. Here you go ... four, eleven, Tuesday and Meow Mix. Now I gotta go. I’m out like the deaf kid in musicals.”

JA: “That is the coolest cat ever.”

The final interview we did was with Pamela Anderson’s pug, Foo.

Foo: “I am pretty cool, yeah. Why would you think that I want what’s with the cast on your leg?”

JA: “Wrong. You are a blonde Keeps me humble.”

Foo: “That dumb blonde keeps stepping on me. I dunno, I guess she just doesn’t see me over those triple D’s.”

JA: “Yeah, that’ll happen. What else is going on?”

Foo: “Can I say something?”

JA: “Sure, go ahead”

Foo: “I want to tell Bob Barker he can kiss my little furry ass. That whole spay and neuter thing is really killing my sex drive.”

JA: “Wow, so much anger for such a small dog.”

So that concludes our feature on interviews with famous pets. It would have been a little more expansive, but two of our interviews didn’t work out. The first was Michael Jackson’s pet monkey (we are not making this up) Bubbles, who declined our interview request due to a gag order issued by a California judge. The second actually materialized, but nothing notable came of it. Here is a clip from the interview with Whitney Houston’s cat Marilyn Miste.

“Marilyn ... Marilyn ... HEY MARILYN, will you sit still for a minute so I can ask you a few questions? OK, cool. So what’s it like living with Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown? Hey, where you going? Is that powdered sugar on your little kitty nose?”

It went on like this for another 15 minutes before Marilyn started crying and stormed out of the room.

So overall, this reporter had a good time hanging out with his case of Natty Light and several famous pets. Until next time, I am out like the French in a war.

Step by step pet care

With these steps, your pets’ teeth with shine like new

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

So you’ve decided to brush your pet’s teeth. Are you insane? No! Oral hygiene is just as important with our furry companions as it is with humans.

In fact, according to the Veterinary Oral Health Clinic, periodontal disease affects 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats over the age of three. Problems associated with these diseases include tooth decay, bleeding gums, tooth loss and even damage to internal organs.

Of course, these sorts of issues arise because neither cats nor dogs have opposable thumbs. Does that make them inferior beings? Yes, yes it does. That is why as their superior lords and overseers we must take it upon ourselves to ensure that their teeth and gums are shiny and gummy respectively.

After all, would you lick your butt with a dirty mouth?

There are some simple ways to keep your pets teeth clean — regular visits to the veterinarian for cleaning help. There are also certain types of dog food that help control tartar buildup.

Those solutions are for pansies. For adventurous people who aren’t afraid of getting their hands dirty to save a few bucks, cleaning your pet’s teeth can be done in the comfort of your own home! No more sterile, tomb-like vet offices for you!

Step No.1: Select an appropriate time

Choose a quiet, relaxing time of the day when the animal is not stressed. Conversely, it is not a good idea to try and brush your animal’s teeth after letting them run around in the backyard for five hours. Even worse is trying to do so while they are running around.

Step No.2: Accommodate your pet with the process

It is not a good idea to forcibly jam an animal’s mouth with a whirring electric toothbrush. That’s the sort of act that causes the thought of “TERROR! BITE AND PEE!”

It is a good idea to get your pet used to having your face and hands around its mouth. Start by rubbing the outside of its mouth with your fingers. Later, introduce the toothpaste you will be using to allow them to smell it.

Step No.3: Use the appropriate equipment

Crest Multicare with Fresh Mint Burst (etc.) may be fine for humans, but to animals they are poison. Well, probably not literally poisonous, but they won’t like it.

Pet dental kits with specialized brushes and meat-flavored toothpaste can be purchased at all fine pet stores (and some not-so-fine ones).

Step No.4: Brush!

Be gentle, you idiot! Dogs and cats have claws, and if you aren’t easy with them they won’t be easy with you. Go slow and easy and keep them comfortable.

Use as little restraint as possible. Getting a bull-mastiff in a headlock and pouting its gums can mean a one-way trip to the emergency room. Hold onto the pet gently but firmly to keep it from running away.

Step No.5: Reward

Pop open a cold beer and watch 24. You’ve earned it.

Oh, and a tartar control treat for the pet is recommended too.

Next week in the indie — training the pet to brush your teeth!
A hard-hitting pet dentistry confessional

NICHOLAS MARKOVICH
Staff Writer

Three months ago, Breslin was king of the neighborhood. A loyal pack of dogs always hung at his side. The finest bitches on the block would constantly vie for his attention. The compliments are all over the place — "adorable," "cute," "sweet." Now, you can replace those words with "shunned," "ignored," and "disgraced." Breslin has been recently diagnosed with lymphocytic gingivitis.

"You'll never understand how it feels when your friends turn their backs to you," Breslin said, his voice crumbling under the emotional weight of his experiences. "One day, we were all wrestling together on the ground. Next day, they wouldn't even share a bone with me. Just like that. I haven't even sniffed a backside in three weeks."

Upon receiving the news, Breslin went into shock. "I never thought it could happen to me. I mean, this is the kind of stuff that you only read about. I refused to accept it. Only low-class mutts get hit with this. This vet doesn't know what he's doing."

It didn't take long for the sting of reality to set in. "I came home from the office and found my friends," he said. "I told them about this clown trying to tell me that my grill was messed up. They all started looking away. Couldn't even look me in the eye."

It was time for Breslin to take action. "Being a dog, with limited motor skills and no regular access to a toothbrush and toothpaste, I had to get creative with my approach."

Breslin attempted to communicate his frustration to his owner — UCF student and aspiring barbecue mogul Christopher Moody. "I grabbed his toothbrush off the bathroom counter and brought it to him. He was real impressed with my dexterity, but he missed the underlying message I was trying to convey. The next day, I snuck into the UCF library disguised as a Board of Trustees member and snuck out with Pet Dental Health For Dummies. When he came home and found it on his bed, he grumbled something like 'where did this come from?' and tossed the book aside. Finally, I just went up to him and bit him in the testicles. Not to you, know, convey a message or anything, just out of frustration."

Why doesn't Breslin speak to his owner directly about the problem?

"I thought about doing that," he said. "But, once again, I am a dog. I don't have the mental capacity or the necessary vocal mechanisms to form coherent human speech."

Sadly, his owner's crotch is the only place Breslin's lips are going these days. "All the neighborhood bitches stay away now. A couple of months ago, I couldn't even beat them off with a stick. Or a frisbee, or a squeeze toy, for that matter. And keep in mind: We drink toilet water."

Unfortunately, Breslin's story is not unique. Research, consisting of getting licked by numerous dogs, has demonstrated that we as pet owners need to take a serious turn on this issue.

"Every single day I wanna cry, but I can't," said Breslin. "All I can do is chew on things, bark, and relieve myself on my owner's best furniture. I just hope that he'll get the hint eventually. I can't live with offensive breath anymore."

Local pet vets get involved

Pet stores, hospitals offer specials and tips on dental care

EMILY JANE SCOTT
Staff Writer

Many argue that Valentine's Day was created solely to promote the greeting card industry if this is the case, then maybe Pet Dentistry Month, which is supposedly the same month as Valentine's, was created solely to promote the pet dentistry business.

Of course, creating awareness is the purpose for any month of celebration. Just as clever commercials on VH1 surely make people more aware of Black History during this month, deals on pet dental plans are likely to make people pay more attention to their pets' teeth.

"This is a promotion for the month of February," said Carissa Whitley of the Chickasaw Animal Hospital. This particular veterinary practice is offering a 10 percent discount on pet dental plans during the month of February. The plans include teeth cleanings for all pets.

But the savings don't stop there. This hospital is also offering a 10 percent discount on a tartar control diet. These pet food products help to prevent tartar in animals.

A search on petsmart.com reveals that most dog biscuits, including the popular Milk-Bone brand, can help reduce and prevent tartar for dogs, but this tartar control diet is an entire line of food products designed to help reduce tartar.

It seems as if many pet owners are taking full advantage of this month of awareness. On separate occasions, the friendly folks at Banfield Pet Hospital at the PETS-MART in Waterford Lakes were too busy treating animals to answer questions about what they're doing to celebrate the month.

As with most other celebration months, the promoters of Pet Dentistry Month don't want awareness of pet dental health to end on Feb. 28. When asked if there were any other promotions for this month, Whitley said, "It depends on the doctor; sometimes the discounts are extended through other months." So while it's always a good idea to participate in savings and awareness months like this, even if you wait until March, you might still get in on the joy that is Pet Dentistry Month.
This is what it's like when worlds collide

IVAN VELEZ
Staff Writer

As a video gamer for 17 years, I've experienced my fair share of games. I assessed 600,000 games a month at a time. But until World of Warcraft, I had never experienced a game that forced itself into my life. When I rock myself awake in a dull lecture class, I turn to find a classmate playing WoW on his laptop. When I grab something to eat in the student union, I find four guys playing WoW together, huddled around a table covered with laptops. When I read my regular Web comics, I find strips of news posts devoted to WoW. When I walk past my roommate's desk, I see elves, tiny bears and mechanical squirrels — more WoW.

The gaming industry is also buzzing about the success of World of Warcraft. According to a Blizzard Entertainment press release, the game sold more than 600,000 copies and had more than 200,000 simultaneous players during this past holiday season. It has become the fastest-growing massively multiplayer online role-playing game, touting the Everquest behemoth. Although WoW has received numerous accolades including game of the year awards, it is the first MMORPG Blizzard has attempted. But Blizzard's past reputation with hits like Starcraft, Diablo and Warcraft ensured a strong fan base, despite dabbling with a foreign game genre.

The Warcraft universe consists of familiar fantasy staples such as elves, dwarves and, of course, orcs. The central conflict surrounds a war between an alliance of humans, elves and other good characters against a horde of orcs, trolls and other evil creatures. Sound vaguely familiar?

The Lord of the Rings influence is certainly there, but solid gameplay is what made Blizzard and Warcraft famous. Blizzard has taken one of the most slow-paced, cumbersome and inaccessible game genres and retooled it the only way they know how — by making it fun for everyone. WoW adds the structure and pacing of a single-player RPG but maintains the freedom and community appeal of any good MMO game. Gamers can travel epic journeys and battle alongside their allies for hours, or they can fish for a few minutes and chat with a friend in-between classes. Unlike other MMORPGs, gamers finally get to decide how long they wish to play — the game doesn't force players to sit down and play for hours before they can progress and call it a day.

To top everything off, Blizzard developed an amazingly scalable engine that lets average computer users play the game as well as hardcore gaming machines. Rather than bogging down game performance with top of the line graphics and gimmick technology, the developers set lower system requirements and instead designed vibrant, highly stylized art rather than compete with the ultra-realistic resource-hogging graphics engine of Everquest II.

For those craving a Might and Magic kick, you can't do much better than WoW. Just don't let take over your life.

Leading a NORML life with marijuana reform

In the fight for pot legalization, the stakes are high.

Very high.

ROBBIE RABORN
Staff Writer

Check this out: I totally got to do this sweet interview with Matt Coyle, the president of the marijuana laws reform club of UCE To sum it up in a dime bag, NORML. (The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) is a lobby group that claims to fight for human rights involving the responsible use of marijuana. Matt and I met at the Lazy Moons eatery for what I like to call "An interview with the president of NORML." Pretty clever, huh?

RR: What are your top three responsibilities as president of NORML?
MC: I run the meetings. I oversee what other officers are doing. And I work to create awareness for the club.

RR: What is your least important responsibility?
MC: I guess to make the group fun.

RR: Are you, as president of NORML, issued secret service protection?
MC: Nah.

RR: About how many UCF students are currently involved in the club?
MC: We have 40 to 50 paying members ($15/semester), and about 50 more students randomly show up to meetings.

RR: When and where does the meeting meet?
MC: Usually every other Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Student Union. The next meeting is February 23. On Sundays, we meet at 3 p.m. on the Memory Mall lawn for Ultimate Frisbee.

RR: Are you going to introduce yourself as "M.C. Dirty Cletus" upon meeting with the Florida congressmen?
MC: Probably that wouldn't be a good idea. Oh, we're also taking 10 members to California for the NORML conference. You have to be a UCF student, a paying member of NORML, and you have to be involved with the club.

RR: Do the "high" ranking members receive nicknames like "Ganja Slave" or "Hemp Fairy"?
MC: Well, my nickname is "M.C. Dirty Cletus." There's also "D. P****" and "J. Tits."

RR: Are you going to introduce yourself as "M.C. Dirty Cletus" upon meeting with the Florida congressmen?
MC: Probably that wouldn't be a good idea. Oh, we're also taking 10 members to California for the NORML conference. You have to be a UCF student, a paying member of NORML, and you have to be involved with the club.

RR: ...and you have to smoke a lot of pot?
MC: Not necessarily.

RR: Let's pretend that NORML announces "Mission Accomplished" — the laws have
Too many pot smokers stay in the closet

from 112

been reformed. What will you do then?
MC: If marijuana is legalized? I guess change NORML to the "UCF Weed Club."

RR: What is the platform for NORML?
MC: Three things: recreational use, industrial hemp, and medicinal use. The latter two are what we try to focus on.

RR: I'm sure that industrial hemp and medicinal use are significantly important to college students.
MC: Yeah. Well, some probably.

RR: If I sold you two kilos of cannabis and you, in turn, divided that into 450 joints at which you sold for $10 apiece, how much would Doritos and Hungry Howie's pizza profit?
MC: First of all, I would never sell drugs. Aside from that, it would be a lucrative market for the munchies merchants.

RR: What do you say to someone who is opposed to changing marijuana laws or who does not understand your plea for reform?
MC: One thing is that last year there were 775,000 marijuana-related arrests. That's more than any other crime. The cost to the public for arresting these f*cking people is crazy. Also, this 19-year-old guy got arrested for pot possession, and this dude raped him the first weekend he was in prison. That should open skeptics' eyes.

RR: I'm sure it will. Do you plan on having children?
MC: I guess.

RR: What age do you want them to start using marijuana?
MC: Well, 18 sounds about right. I like how Johnny Depp says he's going to have his kids smoke it at home with his supervision.

RR: How many Bob Marley t-shirts do you own?
MC: Actually, I don't own any, but I do have a lot of other pot shirts.

RR: Does UCF NORML have a minimum GPA requirement?
MC: No, but that probably wouldn't hurt. We have geniuses and RAs in our club. Even a former member of our club is currently running for SGA vice president.

RR: Any final thoughts?
MC: Just realize that NORML is a lobby for people who use marijuana. The AARP, the retired people, have the power to change laws because there are so many members. Thirteen million Americans are daily pot users. If one-third of them would join NORML, then the marijuana laws would be reformed almost instantly. I was at a conference for NORML in San Francisco two years ago, and a speaker talked about how pot smokers are like gays and lesbians who are in the closet. They need to come out of the closet and join.

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MOVIES

FILE REVIEW

Reeves’ latest Constantine is a constant piece of crap

But when Keanu says ‘Go to hell,’ he literally means it!

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

Constantine is an epic mess of a proportion so large Warner Brothers will be counting the corpses left by this film long past its theatrical run. It's a painful film that is sorely filled with genre clichés, bad dialogue, uninspired direction and a production so massive it needed seven credited producers.

In the midst of this mess, Keanu Reeves stars as John Constantine. John gets his kicks by removing demons from bodies. He had some sort of experience as a child that led to him realizing his great place in this lonely world.

In the middle of all the hellraising, Constantine has lung cancer and is friends with a little boy. While these two elements are introduced in the opening 10 minutes, they are left by the wayside for almost an hour before being conveniently picked up again in the climax and conclusion of the film.

For a man who should never speak at all, Reeves is given entirely too much dialogue. Every word out of his mouth is meant to be a zinger but instead comes across as a bit of a zanger. Rachel Weisz, who must have taken in to a wall every time it is flung open.

Constantine is a studio film trying to be edgy but desperately wanting to be politically correct. A perfect example is a scene where Constantine puts a glass over a spider, then proceeds to breathe smoke onto the spider. Thinking the spider to be dead, the scene continues. Later in the scene, the spider is seen alive and well. Morals of the scene: smoking keeps spiders healthy?

That microcosm of Constantine perfectly closes a glass house around the rest of the film, where good battles evil but nothing ever really happens.

Director Francis Lawrence and cinematographer Philippe Rousselet create a hell that, while interesting in concept, is lacking in execution. Shown as hotter than hot, the hell Reeves must sometimes travel through does not seem to affect him at all physically. There are glimpses at what the devil has at work here, but in many ways hell is actually less intimidating than Earth is in this film. Rousselet, who has been Tim Burton's cinematographer for a number of years now, knows how to work with special effects, but in Constantine nothing on screen is ever that special; it's placed solely there for effect. Screenwriters Kevin Brodlin and Frank A. Cappello have written a screenplay that would have been served better left to rott on a shelf or to keep a door from slamming in to a wall every time it is flung open.

With its Chinatown-esque poster, Constantine reminds one of the films of yesteryear. Though probably not intentional, Constantine is proof that the story is what should always come first in filmmaking. Without a good story, a cast and crew can be revealed for the people they really are sometimes, and that's not what anyone is paying for.

COMING TO DVD — FEB. 22

Heart Huckabees more on new set

Also, turn up the Heat for a deluxe edition of Mann film

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

I Heart Huckabees: Special Edition
One of the more interesting entries from 2004, I Heart Huckabees, a film that deals with issues of consumerism is coming to DVD in two editions: one a single-disc version and the other a full-fledged two-disc special edition.

On disc one, Huckabees fans can expect to hear audio commentaries, the first by Director David O. Russell and the second with Russell joined by stars Jason Schwartzman, Mark Wahlberg and Naomi Watts. Disc two includes alternate scenes, deleted scenes, outtakes and a featurette called Inside Look (In Her Shoes).

Also on disc two: a Charlie Rose Show excerpt with cast and crew, behind-the-scenes footage and the featurette I Heart Huckabees Production. The requisite trailers, TV spots and photos from the production wrap up this set in the finest cellophane.

Heat: Special Edition
Ten years after its initial release, Michael Mann's crime epic Heat comes to DVD for the second time in this two-disc special edition.

The disc includes commentary by Mann, 11 additional scenes, three theatrical trailers and five new making-of featurettes. The featurettes include True Crime (inspirations for the movie), Crime Stories (the history of the screenplay), Into the Fire (Pre-and post-production), Pacino and De Niro (Anatomy of the on-screen conversation scene) and Return to the Scene of the Crime (Revisiting Los Angeles 10 years later).

Get Shorty: Special Edition
Just in time for the theatrical release of its sequel Be Cool, Get Shorty comes back to town in a new special edition. This DVD includes commentary by director-producer Barry Sonnenfeld and three new featurettes: Get Shorty: Look at Me, Get Shorty: Wiseaguys and Dolls, and Deleted Graveyard Scene. Danny's No-Cut Day outtakes are sure to be a blast, as well as a Get Shorty party reel.

More enlightening should be the "Page To Screen of Get Shorty" Bravo special and, last and always least, the theatrical trailer. Buying this double dip also includes a free movie ticket to Be Cool (valid thru Mar. 25).
A new DVD of the original X-man

Malcolm X 2-disc edition is an essential purchase

MIKE FERRARO
Staff Writer

In honor of this month's Academy Award ceremony, let's talk about 1992, the year the Academy slept. Just as Malcolm was one of American History's most important and influential African American leaders, Spike Lee's Malcolm X should be considered equally as important in cinema history. The Academy, however, thought otherwise. The film was denied both Director and Picture nominations, and of the two nominations it actually received, Denzel lost the Actor category to Al Pacino's blind performance in Scent of a Woman. Not only was Pacino's character blind, but so was the Academy, which may be the exact reason why it was he they looked up to.

Malcolm X begins with one exuberant crane shot of downtown Boston, setting up the film perfectly. Lee transforms into a Steadicam shot that follows Shorty, played by Spike himself, walking through downtown Boston. It is a bold and ambitious shot that couldn't begin this epic story any more perfect.

Malcolm Little (Denzel Washington) is then introduced, at a point in his life when he was drug addict, pimp, hustler and thief. At that time, he didn't think he would ever lose both parents at an early age (his father was beaten to a bloody pulp and left on street car tracks, and his mother was put in an asylum), but he was also put in an all-white school. It was the 1940s, and while he got some of the best grades in the class, Malcolm lost motivation after telling his teacher he wanted to be a lawyer, to which his white teacher replied that a lawyer just wasn't an accomplishable goal for a black man.

Shortly after that, he drops out of school and begins a carefree life of drugs and crime. It doesn't last long, though. When Malcolm is in his early 20s, he and Shorty get arrested for burglary and sentenced to 10 years. It is in prison where he meets Baines, a man dedicated to the teachings of Elijah Muhammad, and he teaches Malcolm about the Nation of Islam. Malcolm becomes enraptured by the knowledge. He changes his last name to X, a name symbolizing the history and culture both he and every other African American was robbed of when they were stolen from their home land for the use of slavery.

The rest of the film follows Malcolm as he goes from one extreme (claiming there could never be a smooth integration between whites and blacks in this country) to the other. Near the end of his life, he journeys to Mecca (the holiest city of Islam) and discovers that people of all races are joined together without hatred and prejudice. Malcolm never saw anything like this; he just came from a country that was going through one of its most ignorant and hateful time periods. He returns a changed man and from then on he is eager to work together with all groups of people looking out for equal rights for African Americans. Unfortunately for Malcolm and the rest of us, this transformation comes too late; he is assassinated, proving our country just wasn't ready for an integrating change.

The DVD is also chock full of extras — the 1972 Oscar-nominated documentary Malcolm X, deleted scenes, commentary with Lee and other members of the crew and By Any Means Necessary: The Making of Malcolm X, which includes interviews with Lee, the late Ossie Davis, Martin Scorsese and others, chronicling Spike Lee's determination to tell this story in full, an idea Warner Brothers wasn't exactly susceptible to — making it worth every penny.

Do yourself a favor. If you only buy one DVD or view one picture this year, strive to make it Spike Lee's powerful and epic biopic of Malcolm X. Reading the biography it is based on, The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told to Alex Haley, would also prove beneficial. We should never forget the ignorance of our country that only took place a mere 40 years ago. Everyone should know the story of Malcolm X, by any means necessary.
The bull may rage ... better than ever

Raging Bull still potent in loaded, much-needed DVD re-release

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

The 77th Annual Academy Awards has yielded yet another Best Director nomination for Martin Scorsese, this time for The Aviator, his wonderful biopic of Howard Hughes. This will either be Scorsese's first golden man or his fifth snub.

 Appropriately timed with this occasion is MGM's re-release of Raging Bull in an attractive two-disc set.

Raging Bull is a dramatized account of the life of boxer Jake La Motta (portrayed by Robert De Niro). La Motta is physically tough but emotionally self-destructive. Every time he succeeds he immediately spells his achievements by physically or verbally assaulting the people closest to him — usually his brother Joey (Joe Pesci) or his wife Vicki (Cathy Moriarty).

The film traces La Motta's career through the Middleweight Championship bout and his ultimate decline into a life of gluttony and dysfunction. De Niro, against all advice, packed on 60 extra pounds to accurately portray the aged, portly La Motta. Though all of the acting in the film is first class, De Niro steals the show, giving a career-defining performance.

However, the best aspect of the film is Scorsese's flawless cinematography, which flawlessly captures the grace and brutality of the sport. Great pains were taken to ensure that every shot of every fight was perfect, and it shows. Every drop of sweat, every spurt of blood, every jaw-shattering haymaker is experienced by the viewer via Scorsese's camera. It is an outright crime that he was not awarded an Oscar — the fights in Raging Bull are the best ever put on film.

Perhaps the innate greatness of the fights lies in how Scorsese storyboarded them. As he is admittedly not a sports fan, Scorsese opted to write the fights as he would a piece of music. The result is a film that is extraordinarily violent, yet also poetic and lyrical.

Aside from boxing, Raging Bull is also a period film which pays homage to the boxing culture of the 1940s and '50s. The entire film is shot in glorious black and white — partially because color prints from the late 70s and early '80s faded notoriously fast, but also to evoke the old boxing telecasts, which were always in black and white. Scorsese also brings his first-hand knowledge of postwar New York to create a truly immersive environment for his characters to interact within.

Though some double-dips can be painful exercises of crass commercialism, Raging Bull has been long overdue for the fancy treatment. MGM has been kind enough to provide three commentaries — one with Scorsese and editor Thelma Schoonmaker, one with cast and crew and a third with writers Mardik Martin, Paul Schrader and the real life Jake La Motta (now very old).

The second disc has four featurettes on the making of the film as well a full-length “making of” feature that seems to have been imported from the British DVD release.

Raging Bull is arguably Scorsese's finest film, but there's no room for argument about the new DVD — it's a must buy.
Put yo’ weight on this classic Blaxploitation DVD box set

Dolemite and The Human Tornado highlight zany urban humor and action

JOSH STRASSNER
Staff Writer

Put yo’ weight on it!” For those who don’t know about Rudy Ray Moore, here’s a little something about him.

Moore put together a stand-up act where he played Dolemite, and with his infamous “toasts” became the “King of Party Albums.” In the mid 70s, he put together enough money to make Dolemite. Cinematic history was made.

A boxed set, dubbed Officially Disapproved by the Man, came out a few years ago and contains seminal Blaxploitation films such as The Human Tornado, Petey Wheatstraw, the Devil’s Son in Law, The Disco Godfather and of course Dolemite, along with others.

Moore’s work is defined by comic strip action scenes of exaggerated martial arts and terrible dubbing. His representation of black urban characters and colorful language encapsulate an era emulated by many of today’s entertainments (Snoop Dogg, Beastie Boys, Blink 182, SUBLime, and more).

Dolemite, named after the main character, features classic toasts (early rap) and a storyline definitive of race relations in urban America during the 1970s. Dolemite is framed and later released under the order to stop Mean Willie Green, a rival pimp who took over Dolemite’s club, The Total Experience, from destroying the streets with drugs. Along the way, Dolemite unravels the crooked local government devised to keep his community oppressed. Dolemite is filled with enough crazy sayings to have you and your friends busting on each other for months.

The Human Tornado is considered the sequel to Dolemite, and is just as good, if not better. Dolemite is chased from a small Alabama town after the white sheriff catches his wife with Dolemite. He narrowly escapes and jacks a car to drive to Los Angeles, where his club, being run by Queen Bin his absence, is being taken over by Cavaletti, the local mob guy. The rest of the movie involves Dolemite and Hurricane Annie saving his club and kung-fu hookers from Cavaletti. The stunts are all done by Moore, including a naked dive off a hill, which he shows again to make sure the audience sees it. You have to see how Cavaletti gets his in the end.

Petey Wheatstraw, the Devil’s Son in Law is based on an old folk tale. Petey is granted wishes from the Devil by way of a magical cane. When the Devil comes to collect Petey’s Soul as payment, Petey tries to fool the Devil by making a mask of himself and putting it on an old drunk. The Disco Godfather revolves around disco, crime and good ol’ angel dust. It’s not as groundbreaking as the others, but still amusing.

Rude is entirely devoted to Moore’s stand-up act, and it’s funny as hell. It’s badly dubbed, horribly produced and the lighting is terrible, but the jokes are right on.

Though Moore can sing, Live at the Wetlands is definitely a filler to round out the set, as is his bio, The Legend of Petey Moore. But don’t be a no-business, born insecure, rat-soup-eating muthaf**a. Go get this set!

MOVIE TIMES

From T4

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
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COURTESY LEXON PICTURES INC.
Today's Idiots Making News

Behold a week's smorgasbord of blatant stupidity

DIANNA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

When I'm bored, I like to play a little game called "reading the news." It's amazing how entertaining simple news stories can be when you realize that the world is, as far as I can tell, inhabited by Idiots. With that in mind, I'd like to share just a few recent examples of Idiots Making News.

What would have been James Dean's 74th birthday was a few days ago and the 50th anniversary of his death is nearing. Apparently, there's to be some sort of "worldwide celebration" of Dean (it all sounds pretty flimsy to me). Something about cities staging theatrical versions of his movies. Pretty lame. Part of this "celebration" will involve putting his image on two NASCAR racing cars this year. Images of a man who died while driving too fast? On multiple racecars? Wow. Classy. Almost as classy as a ham sandwich named after Mama Cass.

I recently saw a quote from good ole P. Diddy attempting, perhaps, to explain his "Adopt A Honky" program: "Bruce [Willis] is a member of the Rat Pack with me, Ashton [Kutch­er] and Jamie Foxx." Uh, no. Dude, you can't just up and call yourself the Rat Pack. That's the kind of nickname that other people should give you. It's up to the general public to decide, "you guys are suave, talented, and sophisticated. We dub thee ... the Rat Pack?" What you did, Diddy, is akin to some schmuck off the street taking a tour through the White House and suddenly deciding that he's president. Hmm. Bad example ...

In a case of morons writing, instead of morons in the news, one of my favorite paragraphs ever from a news story was one from Yahoo! about Rolling Stone's list of the million greatest songs: "Rounding out the top ten are 'Vibrations' by the Beach Boys, 'Johnny B. Goode' by Chuck Berry (news), the Beatles' 'Hey June,' Nivana's 'Smells Like Teen Spirit,' and Ray Charles' 'What'd I Say.'"

Now, nowhere previously in the article did they mention "Good Vibrations," so I guess I'm to assume that the Beach Boys have a long, lost song called "Vibrations" that is bloody brilliant. Same for the Beatles and their until now unheard-of "Hey June." And, I don't know who the hell Nivana is, but I'm guessing she's some tall, Scandinavian model/actor. The forgotten member of (N)ABBA, perhaps?

Please see "FIND" on 119

NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE

Mmmbop: A V-Day horror tale

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

A s defined by Marcel Proust in his voluminous opus Remembrance of Things Past, involuntary memory is that memory which we have no control over, and therefore is more powerful than voluntary memory, which can be easily distorted and rewritten. Involuntary memory is an absolute truth and can't be easily removed. When you hear a word and associate it to a moment, or think of your grandmother when you smell a cookie, that's your involuntary memory kicking the ass of your consciousness.

My involuntary memory works in weird ways and is musical in nature. I hear a particular song on the oldies station and I am automatically taken back to those Tuesday night therapy sessions. The Les Miserables original Broadway soundtrack takes me back to being 10 and scrubbing my mother's toilet. There are days a few sedatives and a shotgun would be nice to make this madness stop, but what can you do? Your involuntary memory is a part of you and helps define the unique way in which you view the world.

I view the presence of my involuntary memory optimistically, that is until THAT ALBUM comes on. When those 13 affectionate songs of bubblegum start playing on heavy rotation in the depths of my cerebral cortex, it's not enough to wrestle with the idea of being Ernest Hemmingway, if you catch my drift.

How ironic that the first song be titled "Thinking of You." The mere thought of thinking of it is like sipping from the cup of insanity itself. That keyboard solo to start immediately brings to mind the pedestrian melodies of Journey's "Don't Stop Believing." But this is much worse. That was the mullet-tangled cheesiness of the '80s, a time when I was but an infant. After 10 seconds of those elevator keyboards, the song jumps starts with some simple drumming and a guitar riff that pulled itself out of Don Johnson's bowels, and shortly after, those first vocals chime in: "Have you ever stood outside a pickle fence/You could see through but you can't get to the inside/I sit there and wait/I look at you and anticipate/What we could be and what we could do."

I can't help but sit there and think of what I could do if I weren't so weak. Turn off the CD player probably. But I can't. Not now. Not ever. This is my curse. The
The Internet! Now with more religion

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

Generally, this column takes a look at the most bizarre, depraved corners of the Internet. Still, sometimes we have to turn around and take a look at the right side of things too. Religious folks congregate online as much as everyone else, sharing the medium also inhabited by pornography demonstrating the violation of more "holiest of holes" than they ever knew existed. A little religion in peoples' lives can sometimes be a benefit, but when things get overly fanatical, they become the target of mockery for the more normal citizenry's amusement.

CAP Alert
http://www.capalert.com

CAP has long been another mainstay link of Internet comedy, generating new amusement on a timely basis. The Childcare Action Project exists to analyze movies and other media, posting reviews of their content from the Christian perspective so parents can find the most wholesome films to show their kids. Ultimately, parents aware of what their children are watching should be lauded, but clicking on any review in the collection finds the fanaticism lurking within. Let's check out Blade: Trinity, now out on video. It contains 69.5 examples of violence and 35.3 examples of foul language per hour. Someone actually set there and used a tally sheet and a stopwatch to find a per-hour rating of swear words in a movie. Its lowest-scoring movie, American Psycho, includes "two abbreviations of 'Christmas' without 'Christ.'" That obviously deserves to be on the list with equal placement to "chasing prostitute with a chainsaw." It also lost points for "punk dress" and "homosexual presence," obviously on par with cannibalism. How about Lilo and Stitch? It has "revealing swim wear" and "pushes dress inhibitions." OK. In other news, Star Wars includes "offense to God" because "The Force" challenges God's Will.

The Watcher Files
http://www.thewatcherfiles.com/

- Ever notice how many crazy conspiracy theories are based in religion? This site reveals "bible codes" that tell of the coming UFO invasion. In large fonts that constantly change color, it details how the Grays and the Reptilians are possessing world leaders. Apparently, Ted Kennedy is a shape-shifting alien and Hillary Clinton is "the next clone project." I don't know what that means, but there's a bad Photoshop of her head on a cow. It also features photographic evidence showing how the wrinkles in Bill Clinton's cheek indicate that he is also shape-shifting before our very eyes.

According to this, the current war in Iraq has something to do with an alien transport device called a "Stargate," buried in one of the Iraqi deserts. Also, Sept. 11 was orchestrated by some guy called the "Black Pope," who controls the CIA, the NSA and the Freemasons. Still, the main question plaguing me is: Why do all conspiracy sites have the worst Web design ever? It sounds like some sort of conspiracy.

I think I will fire up FrontPage and make a terrible Web site about it.

Anyting but those Hansons!

Chains I forged in adolescence have turned into catchy hooks that grip at my ears as if they were rusty pirate earrings.

On to track two. As has been mentioned by the song's writers, the incomprehensible title signifies a transition in time. Every time they sing that magic word it's a shift from one place to another. This was the first song of theirs I heard. The one that plucked away most of our innocence. The sloppy virgin kiss. The one we'd like to take back.

But the acid taste of nubile lips will always burn. And the song will always take me back there. Keep me from moving forward. Try moving. Try progressing. I build up my hopes, my aspirations. MMMBOP, they're gone. I find that strength, overcome the fate of Sisyphus and push that boulder down the hill, once and for all. MMMBOP. It rolls back.

As you might have surmised by now, the album in question is Hanson's Middle of Nowhere, and because of it, I'll never have a peaceful Valentine's Day. I'll never be truly happy. And, like all great curses, I'll get used to it to the point that I go to it. It doesn't come to me. It doesn't have to. It has festered a hole, and will stay there, rotting everything decedent within me. Why? That's a question for next week. To be continued.

‘Find religion’ with hallucinogenic tea

hallucinogenic tea is central to their religious practices and rituals. Hey, if a couple hundred people want to get stoned — es, I mean, “find religion” — by drinking some voodoo tea, or whatever, more power to 'em. But trust our esteemed president to keep our nation safe from the evils posed by...tea consumption.

And now, can someone please explain to me why some people would seriously complain about Paul McCartney's halftime show for referencing "California grass" in "Get Back"? Does our society have nothing better to do than become outraged over a song that's over 35 years old? Personally, the only time I got nervous with the show was when he started taking off his jacket. And when he handed his guitar to a member of the audience... what if they got a wood-grain splinter? Who would explain that to the children? The grass thing, though? Didn't even register on my radar as something that should upset any sane person in the viewing audience.

The only thing that comes to mind when hearing that people have complained about something so trivial, is that they're looking to get themselves in the paper. They can then show the press clippings to all of their friends and have a warm, self-righteous glow about how they oppose "immoral material" in all of its guises (sag, innocent song lyrics and special tea). You know, because serving humanity by volunteering at a soup kitchen would involve cleaning up chicken broth. And that would be sticky.
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