Struggle for accreditation

NADIM BINGER & AMANDA SODR Staff Writers/Columnists

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.

Chevron, 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 on campus to review the Music Department for accreditation renewal.

NASM members visited classes and individual lessons, met with the Music Department Chairmen Johnny Phibbs and held a students-only forum to get student opinions on the music program. The Music Department and other accredited programs at UCF have to renew accreditation every six years.

Accreditation may be a term you've heard or read about briefly in the UCF catalog, but many students don't grasp the meaning of it.

Technical Paul, who is majoring in exceptional education, said he has heard of accreditation, but "[did] not know the specifics.

Because UCF is accredited, your degree — no matter what your major — is legitimate. This means your normal graduate school or transfer to another university more easily than if you were attending a non-accredited university.

Programs within the university, however, fall under another type of accreditation: "specialized" or "programmatic." Think of it as an umbrella — UCF's accreditation is more general and covers all programs or majors, but underneath, your major may not be an accredited program.

These majors are usually accredited by a professional organization, made up of professors from other schools and professionals in the business, according to Paul. For example, the American Bar Association is a specialized accreditation, and American Medical Association is an example of programmatic accreditation.

In contrast, the College of Natural and Health Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts are university-wide accreditations, which is why you pay for the health sciences.

"If the program lost its accreditation, you would lose your ability to attend the University of Central Florida. It would not be a severe problem. It would just be a matter of time until the program would get accredited again.

Another advantage is that schools accredited by universities usually have a broader perspective. They are often part of a university system, which means that UCF's accreditation is more likely to be renewed.

A second advantage is that accredited programs are more likely to attract funding. This means that UCF's music program will be more likely to receive grants and other financial support, which can help to improve the quality of education.

A third advantage is that accredited programs are more likely to attract students. This means that UCF's music program will be more likely to attract students, which can help to improve the quality of education.

A fourth advantage is that accredited programs are more likely to attract faculty. This means that UCF's music program will be more likely to attract faculty, which can help to improve the quality of education.

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President: Skateboarding is a fast, easy way to get to class.

Police Beat

To share your information, please contact UCF Police at 407-823-5878 or police@ucf.edu.
Four schools accredited on campus

Wes Al

Matthew Green, a sophomore, plays his tenor saxophone in his part of a song by the composer Alexander Glazounov during the music forum. Through the Music Forum, students are given the opportunity to be part of a campus-wide musical gathering. It is a chance for students to showcase their talents while promoting the school's music program.

When you think of accreditation, you might not think of it as something that is important for you. However, accreditation is very important for students because it gives them a sense of security and stability. Accredited programs are known for their high standards and rigorous requirements, which can give students a competitive edge when applying to graduate school or for jobs.

The process of accreditation is complex and involves several steps. The first step is for schools to apply for accreditation. Then, the accreditation body will review the school's programs and make a decision about whether or not to grant accreditation. Finally, the accreditation body will monitor the school's progress to ensure that it adheres to the standards.

In conclusion, accreditation is a crucial aspect of higher education. It ensures that students receive a high-quality education and that they are prepared for the workforce. As a student, it is important to understand the role of accreditation and how it affects you.
What's in the news at colleges around the country.

Spending quickly, pilot creates dorm for homeless

TUSCALOOSA – Automatic sprinklers quickly knocked down a fire in a dorm room at Drew University, preventing any further damage being caused.

A 2000 fire in a Seton Hall University dorm killed three students and injured scores of others, leading to legislation requiring sprinklers in all college dorms across New Jersey.

Madinah Fire Department Chief Dolfin Louis Monday night the fire could have been as damaging as the Seton Hall blaze had it not been for the sprinklers.

Morris County Prosecutor Michael Bimbachen said the fire was caused by a student smoking a cigarette.

Colorado campus-goers thousands on Square form

DENVER, Colo. — The four University of Colorado campuses spent more than $100,000 at liquor establishments and on alcohol at about 10% of the events during the last few weeks, state records show. In the State Auditor's Office said this was beyond accepted practices for a public agency, a report expected Friday.

The study found that undergraduate students at the University of Colorado - Boulder, Colorado College, University of Colorado - Denver and University of Colorado - Colorado Springs spent $1,000 on alcohol last year.

Students find way to help in famine

ST. LOUIS — When Washington University students realized that some immigrant workers in the city were starving, they set up a weekly food program to help.

The group, calling itself "We Help Our Neighbors," has more than 45 student volunteers who offer food in offering writing and even conversational English.

The program is called "Teach English as a Second Language." 87.9 FM.

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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
caused block tuition to be dis-
cussed. "We're not just going to oppose it, we want to find a
solution," Talakala said.
Bentley and Woolsey are
also willing to find common
ground. McClain said they "looked into having an option" for non-traditional stu-
dents.
Rea and Edmundson, who
described block tuition as "completely wrong," gave an
example of a single mom working her way through
school. They said that for stu-
dents like her, block tuition
would guarantee a late gradua-
tion. It's their job to fight
blindly," Edmundson said.
Looking for a
GREAT vet?
$50 OFF
A Dental
Checkup or
Wellness Plan
Membership

Scott Swetnam, DVM
Chief of Staff
Jacqueline Narayansingh, DVM
Veterinarian

"We Treat Pets Like Family"
Ask a doc

About 90 years ago, a screening test for cervical cancer was developed. This screening tool is called the Thin Prep. Its use led to a 75-percent reduction in the incidence of cervical cancer. The conventional pap smear — which is now known to have the “gold standard” for cervical cancer screening — is replaced by a relatively new liquid-based pap smear called the Thin Prep.

The Thin Prep provides an abundance of clearly defined cells that are of much higher quality than those collected from the conventional pap smear, therefore 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 sampling. This is called liquid-based technology, and screens for the DNA of the human papilloma virus (HPV).

The Thin Prep can also be done without doing a Thin Prep.

Besides identifying those women who are positive for HPV, it can also determine which of these women have low-risk or high-risk types of HPV.

This information, along with the recently released cervical cancer screening guidelines, will help us decide who require further evaluation or more frequent cervical cancer screening.

This is extremely important to us so that we can target women who are at increased risk for cervical cancer and develop an early intervention strategy for women at high risk for cervical cancer. It allows us to suggest more frequent cervical cancer screening before the cells become pre-cancerous or cancerous.

Conversely, if these tests are normal, one may need to be screened less often.

What is HPV?

First, I would like to give you some good news. Cervical cancer is a preventable cancer. As I stated before, it is now known that the primary cause of cancer of the cervix is the HPV.

High-risk types of HPV cause 95 to 100 percent of cases of cervical cancer. HPV is a sexually transmitted virus and is contracted by having sexual contact with someone who has the sexually transmitted infection in the sexually active population.

Approximately 75 percent of the sexually active population has been exposed to this virus, whether they know it or not. There are more than 100 types of HPV.

It is a skin cell virus that can cause common warts on our hands and feet.

Approximately 30 types are found in and around the anal and genital tract of females and males.

Unfortunately, approximately 12 are considered high-risk types. These high-risk types have the potential of causing cancer of the cervix and the genital tract.

Fortunately, HPV is usually a transient infection in young women under 30. It also takes a persistent high-risk type of HPV to cause pre-cancerous and cancerous changes of the genital tract.

Fortunately for us, our amazing immune system fights off the virus. And, for most women who remain monogamous, the virus clears the body and the abnormal changes go on the pap return to normal. High-risk types usually cause no visible changes.

Some women will develop visible warts on the genital or oral area, but these are usually caused by low-risk types of HPV.

Some women may develop vulvar, vaginal or anal cancer caused by high-risk strains of HPV.

Look forward to the next Ask a Doc article for a brief overview of the new Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines.
Any moron can write a book lately

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

McQVEXQZ

Andrew Hoegberg 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 golf games, he showed them the way.

On Tuesday he shared them to finish at 3-under-par, and 3-under-par for the tournament.

The victory was CUF'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.

"It's huge for our confidence," Climard said. "Winning breeds winning, and success breeds success."

The only senior in the lineup this week, Hoegberg led his four freshmen teammates to victory on Tuesday with a dazzling 4-under-par 68. The younger players dealt with the pressure well, as the UCF men's golf team maintained their 3-shot lead over UNF/Wilmington after two rounds to capture the title on its home course of Rio Pinar.

In the process, Hoegberg, ranked 35 in the nation, also captured his first-ever collegiate medalist honors, and with him in the same bag with a little thing in the gate. The victory was worth it for the little things.

"It's huge for our confidence," Climard said. "We're going to win again this year."
Williams and Peppers important in the stretch

Nick Clenard.

Critical in these situations" leading to a conference championship. "The guys that have stepped up have been a big help and we're going to see a determined team in the next games," Arant said. This year, Arant, who transferred from Northwest Missouri State University to Florida Atlantic University, has been FAU's leading scorer in the past two years. This season, he became FAU's leading scorer after scoring more than 15 points per game. Arant said that when he saw the visor, he added an extra point to the Knight's already perfect record. Hartung's arthritis is good enough for 16th in the NCAAs rankings. Lutz said, "It's tough when I think about it, like the first time I walked on the court, guiding our team to execute in the half-court offense. The Knights will also match up with Campbell (74-5 A-SuA) at 3 p.m. today at the UCF Arena in the first round to capture his first ever tournament title.

Grammar Awards could have used a Greener touch

even though arbiter, his career turned into a comedy of errors. A fly ball bounced off his neck, giving him an extra base, with two outs. But he continued to hit, and was driving in runs...enough to drive the visitors out of the game. And John Mayer winning Album of the Year for his album was a surprise.

Grady's Awards could have used a Green touch

et. If summer turns around and I see the difference in Miami, it will be a sign of an end for a baseball season. Rich Quinn or anyone whose name three months before the Masters, the cruelty, the cruelty of the hanging will be tough for me to deal with, for the fans to understand the pain I've been through. The results of the tournament show how much chasing these elusive checks means to the players and the fans.

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The awards announced Friday by the National Football Foundation support the athletes who have been out of the spotlight. The players receive the awards for their achievements on and off the field. Arant said that when he saw the visor, he added an extra point to the Knight's already perfect record. Hartung's arthritis is good enough for 16th in the NCAAs rankings. Lutz said, "It's tough when I think about it, like the first time I walked on the court, guiding our team to execute in the half-court offense. The Knights will also match up with Campbell (74-5 A-SuA) at 3 p.m. today at the UCF Arena in the first round to capture his first ever tournament title.

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Freshmen carry weight in victory

OPEN LATE • OPEN LATE • OPEN LATE

FLAVOR VARIETY DELIVERED • 26 OF FLAVORS

Jumbo Wings
Pick your Flavor Pick any Flavor in the Flavor Zone
$4.29
$4.99

Chicken Sandwiches, Chicken Finger Sandwiches & 1/2 Pound Burgers
Pick your Flavor Pick any Flavor $7.29

Add to any Wing order $1.99

Buffalo Wing Basket
Top it up with Buffalo Wing Sauce $7.79

Fresh Chicken Salads
Pick your Dressing
Coleslaw, Blackened Ranch, Low Cal Marinade, Low Cal Bleu Chese, Lite Bleu Chese, Lite Blackened Ranch
$6.99


BUFFALO WING BASKET
Pick your Flavor
Plain
$5.49
Plain or any one of our 23 Sauces
$6.99

Chicken Fingers Pick your Flavor
Plain
$5.29
Plain or any one of our 23 Sauces
$6.79

Chicken Fingers Basket
Plain or Wing Fries
7.49

20 WINGS & Regular Fries (any Flavor)
$10.99 / 10% off any Item

$9 minimum order • $1 Delivery charge on all deliveries

State & Nation

The Knights were the only team in the field to finish under par, as they closed out the third round at 2-under-par. They're starting to look like scoring plays, pass plays were not eligible for review.

The four freshmen all had minimal impact on the college football, whether you're thinking.

The four freshmen all had minimal impact on the college football, whether you're thinking.

Under the Big Ten's system, officials of life in prison if convicted.

Weis speaks to his team.

A judge on Texas - A judge on Texas - A judge on Texas - A judge on Texas.

The winter, the conference's winter, the conference's winter, the conference's winter.

Joel Moten reviewed the call video, using video from the television feed, using video from the television feed, using video from the television feed, using video from the television feed.

Weis speaks to his team.

The reasoning is that the use of the Big Ten this past season removed very positive reviews and had minimal impact on the flow and length of the game. Weis is the incredible aroma and find Smoked round Steak.

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The current crop of student senators believe that the Kyoto Protocol is a significant step in the effort to scale back greenhouse gases thanks to its requirement to counter it. Kyoto represents a concrete example of effective international cooperation. The rest of the world seems to approve of the club's new direction, but fully endorse the Protocol was only the first step.

The Kyoto Protocol was the first concrete example of effective international cooperation. The rest of the world seems to approve of the club's new direction, but fully endorse the Protocol was only the first step. An international treaty that sets limits on the emission of greenhouse gases by individual countries to combat the so-called "greenhouse effect." Kyoto is a concrete example of effective international cooperation. The rest of the world seems to approve of the club's new direction, but fully endorse the Protocol was only the first step.

In response to Amy Smith and her letter, "Norman Bloomers," published Feb. 4, Smith states that she was "extremely disappointed" in a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disregard of a political science professor's negligent disreg...
Tuition a block-headed idea

Up ahead in the spring, Maggie Dickerson, who夏as
classified as a sophomore majoring in English, will
be taking three courses. Dickerson said that she
already has a weighty load, and she knows that
next year will be even busier for her.

"I don’t want to take too much because I’m
already getting a little stressed out from school,
"Dahong said. "I just want to take what I can handle.

Some students have had this experience
before, and they know that they need to pace
themselves. Others haven’t, and they need to
learn how to manage their time.

The issue of block tuition has been a hot topic
for a long time. Many students and faculty
believe that it is a good way to ensure that all
students are taking the same amount of courses
and that the system is fair. Others believe that
it is not effective and that it should be abolished.

Regardless of where you stand on the issue,
it is important to be aware of the implications
of block tuition and to consider the impact
that it may have on students. It is also important
to remember that each student is different,
and what works for one may not work for
another. Therefore, it is important to be flexible
and to adapt to the needs of each student.

In conclusion, block tuition is a complex
issue that requires careful consideration.

It is important to remember that each student
is different, and what works for one may not
work for another. Therefore, it is important
to be flexible and to adapt to the needs of each
student. It is also important to consider the
implications of block tuition and to ensure
that it is fair and effective. In the end, the
decision of whether or not to implement block
tuition should be made with the best interests
of students in mind.

Jeb Bush is the reason U Can’t Finish
In six months, Jeb Bush and the Florida
Education Board could quite possibly ruin my
life.

My strategically planned schedule of classes
for the next three semesters will be turned into
a nightmare if the Bush Administration
decides to implement block tuition.

What travesty could do this to me?
Two sinister words: "block tuition.

If you’ve been living under a rock, or in case you
called through the Florida and just
may have missed it, fraternity boys are
bumping into each other, saying things
like "block tuition, block tuition.

This horrible idea didn’t disappear
(Throw up a block to tuition plan, Feb. 3)
when the state government declared that
it was not going to happen. The Florida Board
of Governors’ Web site states that block
 tuition would equal a “revenue increase
for UCF.”

I ask: Is it ever going to be
enough for them?

It’s sad to see how a suicide of
someone we all loved has turned into
the ongoing nonsense from this paper, Mrs.
Yancy-Sardinha is hurting us that he was depressed or thinking about sui
cide, I can guarantee that any brother would
never do such a thing.

Do you think it’s not hard enough for us
to have a friend, and now the state
government wants to take away
our only voice on block tuition
implemented, block tuition.

Do you honestly believe that we do
not want to hurt him.

He had ever contacted one of us and
told us that he was depressed or thinking about sui
cide. Is it not to make friendships
that will last a lifetime? We all loved John, and
they’ve got their facts right.

Obviously Mrs. Yancy-Sardinha is hurting
himself, I don’t know what to say.

They should only charge you
$25 per hour, because each state university
with block tuition, I have
seen two. I am also involved in
several groups and organiza

tions at UCF.

For more information visit us at: www.megaconvention.com
email: info@megaconvention.com phone: 727-796-5725
THE DREAM EVENT: STOP BY DREAMWORKS PICTURES BOOTH #814 TO MEET AND GREET "THE RING" DIRECTOR WIT
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GUARANTEED AUTOGRAPH FROM DREAMWORKS PICTURES BOOTH #814 STOP BY DREAMWORKS PICTURES BOOTH #814 TO MEET AND GREET "THE RING" DIRECTOR WIT
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GUARANTED AUTOGRAPH FROM "THE RING"
FILM CREATOR, M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN. Ask business graduates who are working at
restaurants as waiters and waitresses.
Ask most students who graduated from UCF recently and
they’ll agree Orlando does not have many good jobs.
That’s from a graduate who bloods black and
gold and loves Central Florida but has to
have the pathetic Orlando job market for a
more lucrative one 200 miles away.

Students will have to deal with students who
are overworked trying to pay for this
tuition increase and virtual
ly they can then handle.

Block tuition is a horrible idea that has negative conse
quences if implemented statewide. If this idea
ever comes to fruition, I think that the
state government will be taught a lesson
that they should never interfere with the
state’s higher education system.

And for UCF, they should only charge you
15 credit hours.

As a student at UCF, I
know I could handle 15
credit hours.

In block tuition, I have
no idea why I am going
graduate now. The block
tuition plan was created to
encourage students to gradu
ate in four years. What it actu
ally does is cripple opportun
ities.

My dad pays for my educa
tion, he is a monumental GPA in
Beagle. An amazing accomplishment, however, there’s no way I’m going to pay for 15 credit hours.

I am taking 15 credit
hours. It’s just the way he
thinks not on his blame him.

What he might not under
stand is that as a student, my
classes are just a snack-bite harder than Composition and
Career and Life Planning.

I hope I would handle 15
credit hours at a freshman or
sophomore. I took 20 credit
hours in the spring of 2008.
What if I didn’t push myself
and just graduated in
three years? That’s to say,
that I can handle 15
credit hours in the spring of 2008.

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February 14 - Flower Sale
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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 — PAGE 2
Celebrate Pet Dental Health Month — PAGE 10
Hell hath no fury like bad cinema — 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 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.

IN THE ISSUE


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

Robbie Raborn 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.

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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.

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HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

From 14

Spam Allstars (rock)  
Feb. 18, 9 p.m., $8-10  
The Social  
54 N. Orange Ave.  
407-246-1419

George Strait, Dierks Bentley,  
Amber Dotson (country)  
Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., $45-$59.50  
TD Waterhouse Centre  
600 W. Amelia St.  
407-849-2020

Eddie and the SOBs (rock)  
Feb. 18, 9 p.m., free  
Wing Shack  
6644 E. Michigan St.  
407-381-4796

Kevin Lyttle, Spraggga Benz,  
Triniti (reggae) for "Bob Marley  
Reggae Fest"  
Feb. 19, 7 p.m., $25-$42  
CityWalk at Universal Orlando  
407-363-8000

The Four Tops, Herb Williams &  
Gibralter (pop)  
Feb. 19, 5-7 p.m., $39.95-$59.75  
Universal Studios  
1000 Universal Studios Plaza  
407-363-8000

Danny Spears Band (rock)  
Feb. 19, 10 p.m., free  
Rolly & Dolly's  
301 E. US 41  
407-634-0067

Heebostank, Three Days Grace,  
Letter Kills (rock)  
Feb. 19, 7 p.m., $17.50-$19.50  
House of Blues  
Downtown Disney West Side  
407-934-2583

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, 9 p.m., $5  
Copper Rocket Pub  
106 Lake Ave.  
407-645-0069

3rd Limb, Milka, The Kill (hard  
rock)  
Feb. 19, 9:30 p.m., $8  
WIR Pub  
1850 N. Mills Ave.  
407-888-5079

In This Day, Dark Blue Sun,  
Bastard Pie, Skrape (hard rock)  
Feb. 19, 9:30 p.m., $12  
WIR Pub  
1850 N. Mills Ave.  
407-888-5079

Cowboy Mouth, Jason Isbell Trio,  
Diablo Canyon, The Legendary  
JC's (various)  
Feb. 19, 6 p.m., free

George Strait, Dierks Bentley,  
Amber Dotson (country)  
Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., $45-$59.50  
TD Waterhouse Centre  
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407-849-2020

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1000 Universal Studios Plaza  
407-363-8000

Danny Spears Band (rock)  
Feb. 19, 10 p.m., free  
Rolly & Dolly's  
301 E. US 41  
407-634-0067

Heebostank, Three Days Grace,  
Letter Kills (rock)  
Feb. 19, 7 p.m., $17.50-$19.50  
House of Blues  
Downtown Disney West Side  
407-934-2583

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, 9 p.m., $5  
Copper Rocket Pub  
106 Lake Ave.  
407-645-0069

3rd Limb, Milka, The Kill (hard  
rock)  
Feb. 19, 9:30 p.m., $8  
WIR Pub  
1850 N. Mills Ave.  
407-888-5079

In This Day, Dark Blue Sun,  
Bastard Pie, Skrape (hard rock)  
Feb. 19, 9:30 p.m., $12  
WIR Pub  
1850 N. Mills Ave.  
407-888-5079

Cowboy Mouth, Jason Isbell Trio,  
Diablo Canyon, The Legendary  
JC's (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 Bulls*** 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.

“IT’S A RARE RIPPLE IN AN OTHERWISE SERENE, SMOOTH LAKE.”

“He’s like, ‘It’s a rare ripple in an otherwise serene, smooth lake.’” Owens said. “If you 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 its 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 Seagrast 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 Owens had previously talked so highly about supporting came back to support the band.

When 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,
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 styly titled Awake is the New Sleep, an album filled with catchy pop ditties, tripe musings on love (as heard on the track "Game 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****** 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 mutated 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 guitarist, 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.

— JAMIE 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 inspired It's hard 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 anytime 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 days 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 STOKES
Laying down the Unwritten Law in alt-rock

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

BRANDON BIELICH
Staff Writer

Remember that song that hitTRL in the fall of 2002 — "Seam" Red or something-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 indiem via telephone.

BB: Although Unwritten Law surfaced mainstream in 2002, the band has been around for a lot 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 "Seam" 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 [We chose 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 getting 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, and it was just old songs that we did acoustically. That's basically all it was in its rawest form. It's kinda like, you know, like artists — there are 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 believe 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 switching 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, you know? 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 this 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 Natty Light 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 actress.”

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 Portrait Jenkins, but luckily his wife talked him out of it. Considering the choice, Misty Malarky Ying Yang is much better.”

JA: “Right...”

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?”

JA: “Everything is so dark and dreary all the time. I wish he would open a 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 Zoloft.”

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 Nos­tradarnes.

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, fifteen, Tuesday and Meow Mix. Now I gotta go. I'm out like the dead kid in musical chairs.”

JA: “That is the coolest cat ever.”

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

Foo: “That dumb blonde keeps stepping on me. I dunno, I guess she just doesn't see me over those triple DM'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 Misty.

“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

Step by step pet care

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

MATT HEDGEOCK
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 pet's 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 puppies. 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 jab an animal's mouth with a whirling electric toothbrush. That's the sort of act that causes the thought of "TERROR! BITR 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 try and keep them comfortable.

Use as little restraint as possible. Getting a ball-massaf in a headlock and puking 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

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," Breslin said. "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, a dog. I don't have the mental capacity or the necessary vocal mechanisms to form coherent human speech."

Sadly, his owner's crock 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 get them off with a stick. Or a frisbee, or a squeaky 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 special discounts and tips on dental care

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 typically 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 many 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 PETSMART 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

A
s a video gamer for 17 years, I've experienced my fair share of games I obsessed about for weeks and months 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 and 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, trouncing 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 performance, the usual graphics and gimmick technology, the developers set lower system requirements and instead designed a vibrant, highly stylized world rather than compete with the ultra-realistic resource-hogging graphics engine of Everquest II.

For those craving a Mythic and Magic kick, you can't do much better than WoW. Just don't let it 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

C
heck 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 NORML 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: 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. F***" 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 2005 NORML conference. You have to be a UCF student, a paying member of NORML, and you have to be involved in promoting 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 j2

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 in dollars 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 755,000+ marijuana-related arrests. That's more than any other crime. The cost to the public for arresting these f'ing 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: What is the platform for any other crime. The cost to the public for arresting these f'ing 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.

RR: Did they mention anything about gay pot smokers?

MC: I don't remember.
MOVIES

RUSSU: WEEKEND ELOS
GROSS TO DATE
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In case you couldn’t tell from those Matrix sequels, Keanu Reeves proves here that he’s all washed up. Rachel Weisz is in the tub.

FILM REVIEW

Reeves’ latest Constantine is a constant piece of crap

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

BRET RYAN BONOWICZ

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 cliches, 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. 

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

BRET RYAN BONOWICZ

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 celophane.

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, his additional scenes, three theatrical trailers and five 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: Wiseagys and Dolls, and Deleted Graveyard Scene. Danny’s No-Cut Day outakes 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 but not 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 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 amount to anything. Not only did Malcolm 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 times. 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.
**MOVIES**

**DVD REVIEW**

**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 spoils 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.

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**CINESCENE**

**Gooding, Foxx switch souls**

**BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ**  
Staff Writer

Jamie Foxx made four movies that were released in 2004. Cuba Gooding Jr. made one movie in 2004. This year, Jamie Foxx is nominated for two Academy Awards, one for Best Actor in *Ray* and one for Supporting Actor in *Collateral*. In 1996 Cuba Gooding Jr. made a movie called *Jerry Maguire*. In the film he played football star Rod Tidwell and won an Oscar for it. At first glance the two actors might not seem to have very much in common. Both are black. Both can be funny. And I think that at some point, right around 1999, they swapped careers … and possibly souls.

Cuba Gooding Jr. began his career making serious films like *Boyz N the Hood* and *A Few Good Men*. While he did dabble in the occasional comedy, like *Lightning Jack*, he was taken as a serious actor.

Jamie Foxx began his career as a stand-up comic. His first films included *The Great White Hype* and *Booty Call*. At some point, right around the time Foxx was making *Any Given Sunday* and *Cuba Gooding Jr.* was making *Chill Factor* with Skeet Ulrich, that the switch was made.

Gooding would now make the new bootie calls and they would have names like *Snow Dogs* and *Boat Trip*. Foxx, on the other hand, would get the prestige pictures like *Ray* and *Collateral*. He would still do the occasional comedy, but the critics would let that slip by; a serious actor needs a break; every now and again.

It's as if a genie came out and pulled a *Trading Places*-type switcheroo. It just makes too much sense. The timing is just right. The careers have almost completely swapped. Though I do not know if these men have ever met before in a restaurant setting or party atmosphere, I could see the plot of the film of this theory played out much in the way of *Freaky Friday*, only Cuba's plight would be titled *Freaky Decade*.

Truthfully, even a hex on his soul doesn't begin to explain the decisions that Cuba has made in the last decade. *Snow Dogs*, *Radio*, *Innerekt*. *Chill Factor*. *Pearl Harbor*. These are the choices of a desperate man. This is a man who has lost his essence and needs to make a choice about who he is at this point in his life. A year younger then Jamie Foxx, Cuba Gooding peaked a little bit too early, but the good news is that Oscar loves a comeback. I'm sure somewhere down the pipe lies Gooding’s own *Ray*, a film that will inspire the masses and cause old white men everywhere to cast their ballot in a Gooding way. Let's just hope his next film is in the Ray caliber and not Ray-Dio 2: Blind Football.

This is a warning to Jamie Foxx. You have something good right now. More than once you've said this is the best year of your life, and that it just keeps getting better and better. Well, if fate has anything to do with it, or if another genie has a wish to grant, I'd start watching the projects I take. That or I'd do like Cuba should've done a long time ago: Fire my agent and burn every last copy of *Radio*.
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 1970s, 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 entertainment figures (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, who don't know about Rudy Ray Moore, here's a little something about him.

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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 Dolemite.

But don't be a no-business, born insecure, rat-soup-eating muthaf***a. Go get this set!
Today’s Idiots Making News

Behold a week’s smorgasbord of blatant stupidity

DIANA 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 [Kutch­ er] 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 Jude,’ 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 Jude.” And, I don’t know who the hell Nivana is, but I’m guessing she’s some tall, Scandinavian model/singer. The forgotten member of (N)ABBA, perhaps?

My favorite headline of the past two weeks: “White House Seeks Ban on Religious Tea.” See, apparently there’s a church in New Mexico that believes that their Brazilian

NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE

Mmmmbop: A V-Day horror tale

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

As 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 “Don’t Stop Believin.” 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 Believin.” But this is much worse. That was the mullet-tinged cheesiness of the ’80s, a time when I was but an infant. After 10 seconds of those elevator keys pounding in my cerebral cortex, it’s not enough to stop believing. What 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. Someone actually sat 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.

‘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? I didn’t even register on my radar as something that should upset anyone sane 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 (sac, 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.

Anyhing but those Hansons!

From 118

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’s 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.

Hanson’s..._

FROM 118

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 fostered a hole, and will stay there, rotting everything decent within me. Why? That’s a question for next week. To be continued.
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