**Support grows for mandatory health insurance**

Studies: 10 percent to 30 percent of students on college campuses uninsured

**Love the Long Ball**

*Baseball Tops B-CC*

**Quest for Madness**

Men's hoops aims to make another March run

**7 Plays, 7 Days at UCF Theatre**

*See Sports, A7*

**AIDS a growing threat to blacks**

Men on the 'down low' put women at risk with disease

**Black journalist speaks on desegregation then, now**

Hunter-Gault recalls personal experience as school pioneer

**Diversity source of strength for Senate**

**Mark Justice**

The 7th SGA Senate has seen its fair share of diversity among senators who were elected to represent the melting pot of students at UCF. While pandering over the Senate floor, Speaker Sean Lavin has seen a plethora of different and interesting ideas flow into housed arguments that often lead to the removal of senators.

Although past speakers haven't come as much as (Lavin said), Lavin and others have seen a debate in exchange for this essential diversity within our Senate. It's been a hard one to act as a capable service and accurately representing the students.

**Liza Lowe**

Contributing Writer

**Liz Low**

Managing Editor

**Published Thursday, March 3, 2005**

**Please see College A6**

**AIDS a growing threat to blacks**

Men on the 'down low' put women at risk with disease

**HARRIANN RAYES**

Contributing Writer

The National AIDS Conference, held Tuesday in Philadelphia, emphasized the message that AIDS in America is mostly a black issue.

Phil Wilson, executive director of the Black AIDS Institute, encouraged the black community to face the AIDS epidemic head-on.

"Rather than play the blame-and-shame game, we must support every segment of our community," Wilson said.

The Black AIDS Institute also reported that black women account for 72 percent of all new HIV/AIDS cases in the United States. The New York Times and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that one-third of young black men who have sex with other men are HIV-positive. They say that those 30 percent of them are unaware of their infection.

"It can be very challenging making decisions with their own bodies that, in turn, affect the understanding of the situation," Wilson said.

The widespread epidemic of AIDS has seen a Senate with so much diversity that it allows for a new generation of students to come to this state and are very involved.

"We absolutely agree," Lavin said, "that it makes us an absolutely unique community other men are HIV-positive. They say that those 30 percent of them are unaware of their infection.

"Money's pretty tight, so having new equipment just makes us as we are able to be able to go to a contest and not worry about funding. "It's a good thing for a surfer, but so is the quality of the university," Hunter-Gault said.

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Art inspired by tragedies

Playwright portrays a young man in play derived from police shootings

Marilyn Marino

UCF students and professors studied together in their seats Tuesday as they attended the arrival of a very special guest. In honor of Women's History Month, UCF's Women's Studies Program presented Lorna Limbova, an accomplished playwright, director and actress. Limbova, a theater professor at Queens College in New York, was expected to give a reading of two different plays as part of a presentation called "Black Theatre as Art for Social Change.

"We can talk about it in testbooks, but there's nothing like seeing an actor in person," said Lisa Logan, director of Women's Studies, before linking the audience of students and professors.

The following morning, exclaimed a voice from the auditorium. The reaction because there was a pretty woman stranded too far away in the room and made her way to the stage.

She began to read, with pen in hand, the East Dirt Track, a play by Laurence Fishburne that describes a day in the life of Zoe Nola, a poor young girl. Zoe was the reader, who had been shot by a police officer.

"Just a nice, a script and all," she said, "and I enjoyed it."

When the performance had ended, Limbova was asked if she enjoyed the production.

"I enjoyed it," she said.

Since her arrival last Sunday, Limbova has been working on the play, which is set in Chicago, Illinois, and was written in 1995. She said that she was impressed with the actor's performance.

"I can see the growth," she said.

After the performance, Limbova was asked if she would be interested in coming back to Chicago soon, though, she said that her trip is "out of the country, and I get all my papers to grade.

"I'm enjoying myself," she said of her trip to Chicago. "It's nice to get away from New York for a little while, especially since it's been pulled with storms."
textbooks. "We were happy to have something the white people no longer wanted!" Hunter-Gault said about going to a black school and hand-me-down textbooks with the pages missing from elementary school.

Yet only blacks have to overcome the lack of quality materials, but they were forced to walk miles to receive an education. "Children had to walk several miles to the white schools so they could walk the black school on the other side of town," she added.

In My Place is a necessity by Hunter-Gault that chronicles her experiences in becoming the first black woman admitted to the University of Georgia in 1964. She and another student went through a grueling week-end of interviews and光环s, but Hunter-Gault had not been prepared for what was to come. "The university wanted to close itself by letting two African-American children in," she said.

Within the first week of attending school, she was suspended for her protest. She recalled the riot by other students who didn’t want to be on the same campus.

Hunter-Gault described the most memorable risk that took place on the night the UGA played Georgia Tech in a basketball game. "The cop went to my dorm room and took me out for help," she said. "First I just walked through my window, and went to a Coke bottle. I stood on my room, and I stood on my room, and I asked them what was I going to be like in the future?"

When asked by a student about how she was able to protest through this replaid, "She was not specific, just part of the history putting one foot in front of the other."

Now working as CNN's correspondent, Hunter-Gault's chief and studies in South Africa reveal a strong belief that there is a parallel between apartheid and Jim Crow laws in America. "In Africa, there is not one call an unapologetic affirmative action. South Africa was once segregated, but apartheid is over, racial violence continues in a country where laws are not enforced."

She recalled the story of a medical student in Africa. "He was not allowed to even touch the remains of a white child's system. They were in a jar. Now that school is inapid, even lowering the requirements for blacks to go to it."

Her intensive work in Africa won her a Horizon Award for her work with the Organization of Africa, People, a (PWA) whose footprint is on the 11 year old in South Africa. "She is currently based with the thin of a display knowing her total domination on Ojitos college. The display reads, "Make way for the nigger." Many students were outraged at the news, but it does not lower Hunter-Gault's achievements.

"I am not offended by this word," she said. "When you don't sell the education, I quickly turned to believe the situation and the nigger was because I know I that I was not one," she said. "She has not reported the news of this exhibit!"

"She is grateful for her obsta-" cles and achievements, "I have been through a lot to be able to live honorably, but also to understand."

After her speech, Hunter- Gault opened the floor for questions. One student took a different approach from others and asked Hunter-Gault for what she had done for all blacks, having nothing to gain. "I was familiar with Hunter-Gault's story.

"I heard a guy had actually jumped at her," said record. "I know from her story that with God's help I can accomplish anything."

Tashaisha Stakes, a junior major and television major and E-board member of the National Association for Black Journalists, felt that Hunter- Gault's presence was needed on campus to inspire other young black women in her footsteps. "To hear her speak is priceless because she is evidence that you can work the work and do something."

Stokes said, "Hunter-Gault was in the audience emotional. "Don't let NYP stop you," Hunter-Gault said. "Make yourself unique because you are. Other women are educated about Hunter-Gault's achievements, but were moved for her progress."

"cular Justice: Hamilton wanted to speak to me because I don't believe that there is no rare inspiration, and this is an inspiration to others. She has someone like her here at UCF is amazing!"

"Whether people come for her achievements and entertained, Hunter-Gault pro-""cided true words of encouragement.

"It's possible that blacks are notimitated. "There are 84 mi-"nnor people in Africa, and someone needs to address the ignorance of the white boy. "That is why I do what I do."

One student asked if she thought the nigger insult fails to deter activist.

"Make way for the nigger Insult fails to deter activist.

"Down-low" not easy to prove.

Johannesburg-born human chief and studies in South Africa reveal a strong belief that there is a parallel between apartheid and Jim Crow laws in America. "In Africa, there is not one call an unapologetic affirmative action. South Africa was once segregated, but apartheid is over, racial violence continues in a country where laws are not enforced."

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Higher Education

What's in the news or college around the country

Grand jury looks for football scandal to go back into spotlight

DENVER — The University of Colorado football recruiting scandal was shoved back into the spotlight by a secret grand jury report filed with immigration authorities alleging serial assaults, theft funds and marijuana environments for blue-chip athletes. The leak revises calls for the grand jury report to be officially made public.

Former women's college sees rise in applications

ALBANY, N.Y. — Admission applications have shot up 53% and are at their highest point since 1995 according to administrators at Wells College, a former all-women's school that is admitting men next semester for the first time in its 137-year history.

There were 906 applicants for admission this year compared to Tuesday's deadline, includ­ ing men. Last year, the college received a total of 893 applications. Trustees decided in October to admit male students beginning in fall 2005.

University president documents for future hiring

PULLMAN, Wash. — Washington State University's president has scolded students for harassing Cougar basketball players during an interview asking critical questions toward an Asian student.

An employee in the uni­ versity's Multicultural Cen­ ter said the players were among a group of students who would regularly patrol the campus for other animal noises and gestures. One student told the center of his eyes to make "slant eyes," she said.

Millennium Scholarship Bill introduced in Nevada

CARSON CITY, Nev. — The chairman of the Assembly Education Com­ mittee introduced a bill Tuesday aimed at curbing the number of college stu­ dents who get Nevada's $2,920 Millennium Scholar­ ship if they lose their grants if they lose their grades or take lagging classes.

The scholarship is intended to provide a college degree to Nevada high school students who get a 3.0 grade point average. They are basked by the state's share of a NATO-rich settlement with tobacco companies. The Millennium Scholarship fund may be depleted soon if lawmakers don't make changes.

Promotional aid for agricultural research cause must be reduced

WASHINGTON — Both sides of Congress — and budget committees — are faced with trying to balance a budget that would require cutting the number of college students who get Nevada's $2,920 Millennium Scholar­ ship if they lose their grants if they lose their grades or take lagging classes.

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Science Spotlight

NASEM SOWTI Senior Staff Writer

A UCF professor is ready to come up with a new way for the anthrax vaccine he has "nasty and clearly" developed to work in tobacco plants.

In an article published Thursday, January 4, a professor in the Burnett College of Biomedical Sciences and Institute of Health that has the capability of producing anthrax vaccines, which "so many people are afraid of," in tobacco plants.

"This is the first animal study that has been done using plant- produced anthrax vaccines, and we were ready to do it a few years ago," Daniel said.

Animal is a Category A bioweapon, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Preven­ tion, because of its easy transmis­ sion and its ability to cause mass casualties. It is also one of the government's highest-priority bioweapons.

In the United States, there is only one company in the United States that produces the anthrax vaccine, directly from the bacteri­ um the human vaccine is made from. However, the company does not have a large-scale facility and some of its batches have been contaminated with the anthrax vaccine.

Daniel and his team have come up with a solution for both problems. "We cloned the gene for the anthrax toxin and placed it in tobacco plants," Daniel said. The team then grew the plants, extracted the proteins and purified the anthrax vaccine, which was then injected into mice. Accord­ ing to NIST tests, all the mice developed strong immunity to survive exposure to the anthrax strain.

Another advantage of Daniel's research is producing large quantities of antigens that act as the anthrax vaccine. The team inserted the desired genes into an organism of the type that is called a chassis plant. Each cell has roughly 50 million bacter­ iums, so in essence, we're growing 50 million copies of the gene per cell," Daniel said. The gene of tobacco plants was used because of the possibility of growing large quantities of anthrax vaccines, which "is so expensive," Daniel said.

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Dance marathon kicks off this weekend for the kids

JANESSA SMITH

About 350 UCF students will dance the night away in the annual UCF Dance Marathon, pledging to stay awake throughout the night to raise money for the Children’s Miracle Network.

From 8AM Saturday until 2AM Sunday, hundreds of UCF students will gather in the Student Health Center to dance to raise funds to support medical research and help critically ill children.

ZACH DIGIOVANNI, director of Dance Marathon, said, “We would love to have you there, because we can get you involved in the community, and you can help out.”

Parents of uninsured students faced with medical expenses

TOBACCO use among students who are insured: 18.9%.

The rate of uninsured students faced with a major health issue and unable to afford the treatment was 24.3%.

“UCF does it best,” said Tom O’Keeffe, director of the Student Health Center. “We have an amazing level of support from the community to ensure that students don’t have to go without medical care.”

Dance Marathon remains UCF’s largest student-run philanthropy event, with more than 100 student volunteers helping to kick off this year’s event.

In 2001, the event was held for people to stop by and mingle with the participants, and there is also a free viewing area.

College applicants could be out of luck with no insurance

FAIS A1

rate of uninsured students faced with large medical expenses.

Supporters maintain that requiring insurance coverage would help reduce the enrollment of students who would otherwise be forced to drop out of medical school. It would also help to keep uninsured students from disproportionately taking on the expense of large medical bills and reduce the amount of money that the university is often forced to spend.

UCF students aren’t too fond of the mandatory health insurance issue. Many undergraduates are still insured through their parents.

Senior Rachel Becker, 21, said UCF could possibly do without an insurance mandate.

“I would have seriously been looking into alternate schools,” Becker said.

“I have to pay $1,500 a year for health insurance, and it costs over $500 a year for out-of-state and international students,” said Williams. “It’s a huge expense.”

However, uninsured students aren’t alone in their belief that affordable health insurance is important.

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makes a difference. It’s like a baseball player with a new bat. It has more pop in it.

As far as how the sponsor­ship came about, that was some­what of a mystery to the team. The company was working a few weeks before the season began, but the members never approached Ron Jon Surf Shop.

“It actually came out of left field,” Anderson said. “It was a total surprise. We had no idea that Ron Jon Surf Shop was ever interested. Right before the semester started, our school sponsor approached us. Apparently, they knew about it a few weeks ahead of time after they heard it was Ron Jon. He asked if it was okay with us. After we heard the offer, we fig­ured we really couldn’t go wrong with it.

As far as why Ron Jon Surf Shop chose UCF, Anderson said, “They explained to us that they were trying to get back into the core surf market. By supporting the surf team, they wanted to show that they care about local schools.”

While the team is obviously proud of this achievement, Anderson and his teammates are not letting it get to their heads. “At first, we’re pretty excited, but for the most part we realize that we’re really #1. We have Ron Jon behind us,” Anderson said. “We definitely don’t take it for granted, and we don’t want to ruin it in the other schools because last year we were in the top spot. They look at us as an example to look up to, for the other schools because last year we achieved so much.

The team couldn’t be any happier with this donation. Many Florida beaches will now be home to one of the many voices of the Senate’s greatest strength.

United UCF created to help spread diversity in groups

year. “I’m happy to hear of the forming of United UCF,” she said. “It is a good job of rep­resenting all of the groups on campus.”

“United UCF was formed to ensure a diverse repre­sentation at the SGA level, which will reflect a chorus of the many voices on campus,” she said. “As a result of the ongoing legis­lative process here in Florida, we need to be more diligent in the political force on campus.”

Anderson said that students from a student pro­gram which will reflect the diversity and poorly represent­ed students of individuals that UCF is.

Since its founding, United UCF has grown into a powerful pro­gressive student group. Anderson, who was the chair of United UCF for last week’s presidential election, was appointed by un­animous 69 percent.

“Gaining more than 50 percent in United UCF is a testament to our ability to bring together students from all backgrounds and cre­ate a united voice,” she said.

With United UCF standing behind them, it has won the Orange County Cham­pionship on April 2.

The team will compete in Bethune­twice in the upcoming weeks.

One thing the sponsorship gives is the chance to travel and compete in tournaments on dis­tinct beaches, for instance, while not so distant, the team heads to the Sabine, Texas for the Texas Coast Championship.

After that, the team will com­pete in the Dick Crone in Dana Point, Calif., for the National Champ­ionship. Anderson is pretty­sure about his team’s chances and believes this UCF squad has what it takes to compete with the top five California teams.

“One thing I definitely will do bet­ter,” Anderson said, “is to show the students of those other teams. We’ll do better than in Florida.”
Basketball down to the brackets

This crazy league has legs, baby

"It's going to be the same it has been all year in our league, not much margin for error."

— BOB COCHRAN SPERRY IN THIS WEEK'S A-SUN TOURNAMENT

Power surge for baseball at Bethune

Back-to-back homers propel baseball to a 9-2 victory

ANDREW SHARON

Power hitting has not been one of the staples of UCF baseball this year, but that can change. It may have started changing Tuesday night as the Knights rode back-to-back home runs in the fifth inning.

Junior starter Ray Rodriguez pitched in on the fun, throwing a career-high seven and two-thirds innings en route to his third victory earned on four hits, striking out four Wildcats.

UCF delivered a 9-2 victory on Monday afternoon.

 נ IUI News.com • Thursday, March 1, 2001

Central Florida Future

Sports

Women's tennis eeks out a victory

NATHAN FORBET

UCF women's tennis enjoyed its winning streak to three after a tough win over the Davidson/Collage Wildcats on Monday afternoon.

The Lady Knights (14-20) came off of a 7-6 upset of the ECU Pirates on Saturday and faced a more formidable foe in Davidson (9-9).

Despite the windy conditions, UCF scored off her with the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Kristina Kohanski and Samantha Lissel. The duo defeated Davidson's slate with Kelly and Meghan Plowes 8-3. The Knights claimed the important doubles point after sophomore Becky Gordon and junior Pamela Fernandez edged out Ruby Lintz and Margot Petersen 9-7/7-2.

Freshman Megan Hunter and senior Alex Luczak lost at No.3 doubles 8-6, despite scoring a match point at 7-6. The doubles point the Knights won would prove to be invaluable later on.

Before the singles matches began, UCF Coach Patricia Allison complimented to referees about the hard work on the court and postponed matches on courts 1 and 3 until the courts could be cleared of debris.

UCF avoided the score with a singles win when junior Pamela Fernandez retired at 2-1, and postponed matches on courts 1 and 3.

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advantage over the Knights. UCF’s first game will come that afternoon when it plays No. 7 seeded Mercer. 

Don’t be fooled by the 9-1 start Mercer led this season in the year’s opening game against the Knights, after falling behind 13-0 in the first half. Mercer manhandled the Knights to a 42-39 win. 

In that first matchup, UCF’s average minutes and rebounds, by 22.5 points, 31.5 rebounds, and 31.5 seconds per game. Mercer’s average minutes and rebounds, by 22.5 points, 31.5 rebounds, and 31.5 seconds per game. 

Byrd’s best player, Micah Thompson, was 2 of 3 from the floor and had 14 points to help Mercer take down the Knights by a score of 67-52.

UFC Coach Dan Hurley said in a press conference that the team had a solid performance against Mercer, but it would be important to keep improving. Hurley said, “We need to keep working on our defense and our rebounding to be successful in the tournament.”

The Knights will be facing a tough start to their season against Mercer, but they have shown improvement in previous games. The team has a 2-1 record against Conference USA teams and is currently ranked 15th in the nation. 

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Chaney's actions should make Eustachy angry.

How long will we see an episode of NHL Tonight? The feature ESPN hockey analyst Barry Melrose has been hounding NHL players at their new locker rooms and locker rooms for months. I think there should be a game show called "Japan Wet!" that features contestants trying to kill each other with random objects. I'd really like to know if someone could beat another person to death with a drinking-straw wrapper.

Finally, I'm sure you all saw my new title while you were drooling over my gorgeous mug shot. That's right, the whole paper's mine. Don't worry, my column will keep coming. God knows UCF police couldn't handle the riots that would come if I stopped. I do ask that you take it easy on my good buddy Andy Vazquez when he gets his column-writing feet wet. It was more than a year before the hate mail stopped pouring in for me. Be good to the kid.

So with me as managing editor, expect weekly shots of Maria Sharapova and Natalie Portman on the front page, as well as hard-hitting features on And One darts. You know how you see a commercial for a movie and you think to yourself, "there's a movie I'll never see"? For me it's movies like Super Babies, Kangaroo Jack and The English Patient. Added to that list recently: Million Dollar Baby. I hate boxing. I hate female boxing even more. I like Clint Eastwood, and if he made a movie called Fifty Dollar Baby about mud wrestling than I'd be down.

Rough Weekend?


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Softball puts St. Bonaventure in a pickle

With 3-2 and 5-2 wins, the Knights swept the A-Sun Tournament this weekend. Best continues her stellar play as she has now won six out of their last seven games.

Upcoming

Men's basketball is in Nashville for the A-Sun Championship today through Saturday. Women's hoops closes its regular season tomorrow night at Lipscomb. Men's travels to DeLand today for a match against Stetson. Baseball has a three-game series against Lipscomb starting tomorrow night at Lipscomb. Women's hoops closes its season tomorrow afternoon on campus.

Quotables

"I think that thing is going to be a knock-down, drag-out tournament." — MEN'S HOOPS COACH KIRK SPERANZA

"I am continually worried about it." — MEN'S HOOPS COACH KIRK SPERANZA

"This is going to be a knock-down, drag-out tournament." — MEN'S HOOPS COACH KIRK SPERANZA

"Watch us throw pointy money." — TOUGH GUARD ANDY VASQUEZ
The only goon' is the coach

Skateboarding etiquette is a must while on campus

The most famous juveniles with the benefit from it are those abroad. In the United States, there are no children that are proud to be young. This new ruling-combat got a death sentence into a life-in-prison sentence for 17 of the 18 people across the nation. In Florida, three lizards that are prideful and young tell that this time will never again receive parole. The man that is the former juvenile will now live in prison for life.

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There are many evil monsters running around UCF right now. They look like normal kids, but they're not. If you float around as one of these monsters, almost certainly will not be in a community of skateboarders. For example, the meanest skateboarders around are those monsters almost constantly being on their skateboards while they float around as one of these monsters. In the United States, there are no children that are proud to be young. This new ruling-combat got a death sentence into a life-in-prison sentence for 17 of the 18 people across the nation. In Florida, three lizards that are prideful and young tell that this time will never again receive parole. The man that is the former juvenile will now live in prison for life.

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AURITIONS
For live show performers:
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Exellent Benefits! Find out more. call 813-987-5164 or visit: www.BuschGardensTalent.com

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TAMPA, FL

HOTLINE
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Come for a ‘Mother’ of a music act

Metal and punk icon
Glenn Danzig performs
Sunday at House of Blues

NICHOLAS MARKOVICH
Staff Writer

Let us harken back to simpler times. George Bush was President, there was a war in Iraq and Michael Jackson was having legal problems involving misbehavior with children. No, not last year, silly, the early ‘90s! This was a time when young lads’ metal needs were served by a wonderfully scary group of social degenerates. They even had cool names: King Diamond, Peter Steele and the legendary Glenn Danzig.

Glenn Danzig is bringing his band (creatively titled Danzig) to the House of Blues at 6 p.m. Sunday for $18 to $20 to hold court for all of the true metal soldiers. Don’t expect any rapping, turntable scratching or electro-beats at this show. Danzig has been bringing the fury for almost 20 years, serving up metal the way that the devil intended it: with loud guitars, Satanic imagery and Glenn Danzig’s famous Elvis-goes-to-hell croon. Expect to hear plenty of Danzig’s latest release, Circle of Snakes, as well as past favorites from Danzig’s extensive back catalogue.

Here’s something else that you won’t see at Sunday’s show: the original lineup: After parting ways with renowned guitarist John Christ in 1995, Danzig has become a revolving cast of sinister characters surrounding the band’s frontman and namesake. But don’t underestimate Glenn’s ability to put together a group; the current lineup is a virtual all-star team of metal powerhouses. Prong alumnus Tommy Victor is manning the guitar duties, while Johnny Kelly, formerly of Type O Negative, sits on the drums.

Glenn Danzig has been working in metal/goth/hardcore/punk for almost 30 years now. He cofounded horror-punk legends The Misfits in 1977, releasing some of the most highly influential music of the period (Guns ‘n’ Roses and Metallica have both covered The Misfits). After six years, Danzig went on to form Samhain, a band whose darker music more closely matched the vocal spirit of The Misfits. Samhain imploded after four years, and Danzig decided to start anew. He brought John Christ along from Samhain and formed Danzig, signing to Rick Rubin’s Def American label in 1987.

Danzig has cultivated a loyal fan base ever since. Danzig III: How the Gods Kill raised the band’s profile, with both “Dirty Black Summer” and “How the Gods Kill” featured in heavy rotation on MTV’s Headbanger’s Ball. Greater success followed in 1994, when a live version of “Mother,” a track from Danzig’s first album, went into consistent MTV rotation. The song even charted as a single, almost cracking the top 40, quite an accomplishment for a band that resides so far outside of the mainstream.

Danzig’s newest release, Circle of Snakes, continues in the proud tradition of Danzig albums. With titles such as “Skin-Carver,” “When We Were Dead,” and current single “Circle of Snakes,” Danzig lays it all out on the table. Come out and pay homage to these defenders of the faith.

Check out the first half of our two-part series of the 20 worst cover songs ever. Also, we’re not the only funny guys in the indie this week. We interview Jay Davis, Dane Cook’s opening stand-up act. Check next week’s issue to hear from Dane himself.

—JOHN THOMASON
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HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

CAMPUS

Battle of the Bands
March 3, 8 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-823-6471

Spartacus
March 9, 8 p.m., free
Student Union
Cape Florida Room 316
407-823-6471

EVENTS

Central Florida Fair
March 3 to March 13, various times, free to $10
Central Florida Fairgrounds
4603 W Colonial Drive
407-295-3247

Florida Strawberry Festival
March 3 to March 13
Plant City Fairgrounds
2202 W Reynolds St
Plant City
813-752-9194

Harlem Globetrotters
March 3, 7 p.m., $17
Ocean Center
100 W. Atlantic Ave.
Daytona Beach
386-254-4545

Margaret Cho
March 4, 7 p.m., $25-$50 to $45
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
1000 Universal Studios Plaza
407-351-5483

Lifestyles Expo
March 3 to March 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., free
Orange County Convention Center
9800 International Drive
407-345-9800

Orlando Folk Festival
March 5 to March 6, various times, free
Menefee Museum of American Folk Art
900 E. Princeton St.
407-246-6270

SHOWS

Sleepytime Gorilla Museum, Indorphine,
Hope and Suicide (hard rock)
March 3, 9 p.m., $10-$12
Wally Pub
1850 N Mills Ave.
407-819-5070

Plain Jane Automobile (rock)
March 3, 9 p.m., free
The Social
54 N Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

The Buzzcats (jazz)
March 4, 5 p.m., $5-
The Mall at Millenia
4200 Carling Road
407-363-2555

Riverbottom Nightmare Band (Americana)
March 4, 10 p.m., $5
Copper Rocket Pub
106 Lake Ave.
407-645-0069

Social Distortion, Backyard Babies, The Street Dogs (punk)
March 4, 7-11 p.m., $24
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

M!lka, Gotti 13, iSentNinjas (rock)
March 4, 9 p.m., $6
The Social
54 N Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

1-4 Band (rock)
March 4, 10 p.m., $5
Wall Street Plaza
Wall and Court Streets
407-849-9904

Eden Row (rock)
March 5, 10 p.m., $5
Wall Street Plaza
Wall and Court Streets
407-849-9904

Hand to Hand, In This Day, Last Winter,
Loss for Words (hard rock)
March 5, 9 p.m., $5
Wally Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-819-5070

Big Head Todd & The Monsters, Carbon Leaf
March 5, 8 p.m., $17-$30-$45
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Florgoncim, Blueslegs (rock)
March 5, 10 p.m., $5
Copper Rocket Pub
106 Lake Ave.
407-645-0069

Hand to Hand, Closet Casket Diary,
Beneath These Words, Ballad Reversed,
This Destroyers (rock)
March 5, 5 p.m., $5-$7
Wally Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-819-5070

Jeremy Mix, Amy Corea, Kris Nichols (rock)
March 5, 9 p.m., $7
The Social
54 N Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Please see CALENDAR on 15

SPOTLIGHT

Social Distortion
Long before the O.C. was synonymous with Seth Cohen and Ryan Atwood, it was known as something much more worthwhile: the home of Social Distortion. One of the original gateways of the California punk scene, Social Distortion formed in 1977 and is still making worthwhile music. Although members have come and gone, and sadly, in the case of guitarist Dennis Danell, passed away, the music has remained consistent. The group brings its classic punk rock sound to the House of Blues tomorrow night in support of the 2004 full-length Live, Sex, Love and Rock and Roll. Fellow punk pioneer Matt Freeman (of Rancid) will be joining the band on bass, taking the place of John Maurer. Doors open at 7 p.m. with opening acts The Street Dogs and Backyard Babies. Tickets are $24.

Central Florida Fair
Learn how to milk a cow at the AgVenture Farm Tour, see the Remains Safari Adventure and get your share of hard drinks at the Central Florida Fair coming to Orlando March 3 to March 13 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 W Colonial Drive. Prices range from free to $10. Visit http://www.centralfloridafair.com for more info.

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HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

FROM H

54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Temporally (Indie)
March 5, 10 p.m., $4
The Peacock Room
1221 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0948

Ludic Fly (rock)
March 5, 9:30 p.m., $10-$15
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Troubled Children, Doll House X, Meccanism & Her Ratty Tears, Dirty Ego, Julie Burdons, Orfflamme, Shebang, Episode 26, Ramona Quimby, Announcements, Nunez, Pain Principle, Lucid Fly, Ask Me Later for "Y.A.G.I.N.A. Fest"
March 5, 4 p.m.-2 a.m., $5-$7
The Haven
6700 Homa Ave.
407-673-2712

Jambando All-Stars (rock)
March 6, 9 p.m., $5

Slingpouri
25 Wall Street Plaza
407-849-3904

The Sharp Objects, John Denver's Airplane (rock)
March 6, 10 p.m., $5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Rickey Dickens (Americana)
March 6, 6 p.m., $5
Copper Rocket Pub
100 Lake Ave.
407-645-0069

Danzig, Katakdym, Eyes of Fire (hard rock)
March 6, 6 p.m., $18-$20
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Mezzanine, Kurtz, Asphalt (hard rock)
March 6, 8 p.m., $5
Wells Pub
1804 N. Mills Ave.
407-988-5070

7 Seconds, The Briggs, Champion (punk)
March 7, 5 p.m., $12
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Merauder, Risk Taken, Agents of Man, Closed Casket Diary, 24 Hours to Live (hard rock)
March 8, 6 p.m., $10
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Enon, Swearing at Motorists, Astronauta.tinus (indie)
March 9, 9 p.m., $8
Wells Pub
1010 N. Mills Ave.
407-896-5270

Robert Walter's 20th Congress (rock)
March 9, 8 p.m., $10-$13
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Soulfuly, God Forbid, Death By Stereo (hard rock)
March 9, 7 p.m., $17.50-$19.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Ramona Quimby
407-934-2583

Mai'ch
6, 9 p.m., $5 (punk)

Jambando AH-Stars (rock)
March 6, 9 p.m., $5

 exotic)

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Bikini Contest Saturday!
Part 1 of 2 of the indie’s WORST COVERS EVER

Counting down the top 20 worst cover songs of all time, with extra smarm

With Gwen Stefani crappily covering her way up the charts, we thought it would be a good time to count down the 20 worst cover songs of all time. Gwen didn’t make the list, but rest assured, these choices are just as putrid. Here’s 10 of them; pick us up next week for the other 10.

Fiona Apple — Across the Universe
And you thought that Mark David Chapman did a disservice to John Lennon. Fiona Apple’s remake of the Fab Four classic is a lifeless dirge of musical Valium that would be best put to use in torturing political prisoners for information. For some reason, Ms. Apple felt that it would improve the vibe of the song if she refused to fully open her mouth and enunciate (it didn’t; she sounds like a lobotomy survivor). I decided to listen to this abomination again to remind myself how awful it was, but I couldn’t. I just ... couldn’t.

— NICHOLAS MARKOVICH

Vanessa Carlton — Paint it Black
Initial reaction to hearing this song “Holy Mother of God, Vanessa Carlton is covering The Stones! Hide the children! Run for your lives!” Did anyone know that she was planning on massacring one of their darkest dirges? Certainly someone would have stopped her if she had made these intentions clear. It’s impossible to even describe the song itself, because 30 seconds after it started — once the realization that it was Vanessa Carlton and not Mick Jagger singing set in — the overwhelming urge to attack her with a large, blunt object took hold and the rest of the song was a blur.

— DIANA JISMAN

Guns ’n’ Roses — Ain’t It Fun
Once upon a time, there was a wonderful, dynamic rock group known as Guns ‘n’ Roses. They rocked. They rolled. They kicked ass. Then, oblivious to the hundreds of Behind the Music-style tragedies in rock music history, they got rich, obnoxious, drugged-out and stupid. In 1994, they released The Spaghetti Incident, an album consisting of covers ranging from old Motown to punk rock to Charles Manson. It blew in every sense of the word. Axl and company turn “Ain’t It Fun,” a nihilistic punk classic from The Dead Boys, into a fat, bloated, bar band exercise. There’s a special circle of Hell waiting for you, Axl.

— NICHOLAS MARKOVICH

Jennifer Love Hewitt — Me and Bobby McGee
The “talent” who brought the world “Let’s Go Bang” (choice lyrics include, “Let’s go bang/I wanna go bang/Let’s go bang/I wanna go bang/Let’s go bang/I wanna...”) You wanna what? Don’t leave the audience in suspense like that, Hewitt! In 1995 decided that she was ready to tackle “Me and Bobby McGee” in 2002. Take a moment to process that, sit down and recover. The result is every bit as noxious as it sounds. Her mutlication of this song almost certainly violates the Eighth Amendment. In Hewitt’s claws, the classic loses all the nuances that made the song great in the first place, when she rips it apart and makes it almost ... perky. Janis Joplin is still rolling around in her grave thanks to this one.

— DIANA JISMAN

Whitney Houston — I Will Always Love You
The sound of this song is hideous, which is a must for a list like this, but what really makes the song awful is its barely disguised agenda: “Whitney Uber Alles.” Meaning that, contrary to the reference to love in the title, La Whitney’s performance has absolutely nothing to do with tenderness and respect for the partner and everything to do with how wonderful Whitney is. After all, it’s never the love that’s stressed, it’s always the “I.” Who loves you?

— NICHOLAS MARKOVICH

Avril Lavigne made chop suey out of a System of a Down cult classic. Her cover is one of this week’s 10 crimes against music.

Please see FEEL on 17
JUDAS PRIEST
Age of Retribution
Genre: heavy metal
Label: Sony
Release date: March 1

If you're one of the kids who regrets the fact you didn't jump on the Postal Service bandwagon back when Give Up was released in early 2003, fear not. Here is your chance to redeem yourself. With poppy beats and loveable-out-of-love lyrics, Stars' Set Yourself on Fire will have you dancing in your chair by the time the second track even begins.

With the blending of male and female voices on several of the songs, Stars definitely has the feel of Mates of State, had it more instruments and an amazing synth machine. Amy Milan and Torquil Campbell compliment the record with romantic melodies, while the band actually makes the record more amazing than the lyrics with strings, drum machines and even a well-placed French horn.

Surprising less lyrically affectionate (it was actually possible) than its sophomore release Heart, Set Yourself on Fire is richer and more polished. This band is definitely getting tighter with its music as it moves on, while most bands tend to fall apart. The members do, however, have plenty of experience. Milan, Torquil and Evan Cranley are all in the ever-expanding ensemble band Broken Social Scene, which has been releasing albums since 2001.

Set Yourself on Fire starts with "Your Ex Lover is Dead," with the voice of Torquil's 82-year-old father boldly proclaiming, "when there is nothing else to burn, you must set yourself on fire." Airy strings and Torquil's light whispery voice start it off, and after another set of strings, Milan comes in for one of the best duets on the album.

My favorite releases to albums of the ever-affectionate Heart's stature are riddled with guilt of what lovers should have done, but this song proudly announces that "I'm not sorry I met you/I'm not sorry it's over/I'm not sorry there's nothing to save." Bold lyrics for a band that won critical acclaim in 2003 for a song called "Elevator Love Letter." But don't expect it to move on, while most bands tend to fall apart. The members do, however, have plenty of experience. Milan, Torquil and Evan Cranley are all in the ever-expanding ensemble band Broken Social Scene, which has been releasing albums since 2001.

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The good old days

Emulators can bring back the glory days of gaming

IVAN VELEZ
Staff Writer

Today's games take too damn long to play for many college students. Who has time to log in 80 hours into the latest Final Fantasy when they're cramming for midterms? Older PC games used to give players the freedom to start and stop whenever they wished. Even longer games could be broken down into several brief gameplay sessions when providing the option to save anytime and anywhere.

Back in the '90s and early '90s, adventure games placed gamers in unique, interactive worlds that invited exploration and dialogue, as opposed to just shooting everything that moves. And while many modern games seem to take themselves too seriously, adventure games were never afraid to be funny.

Games like the Monkey Island series and the Space Quest series combined epic heroics such as battling both sea and space pirates with humor revolving around pirate jokes and Star Wars references.

Grim Fandango, one of the most critically acclaimed adventures, followed the quest of deceased travel agent Manny Calavera as he unravelled a conspiracy which Shafted good people out of their train tickets to heaven. Combining film noir grit with character design straight out of Mexican Day of the Dead dolls, Grim Fandango oozed style and elegance.

DOSBox allows modern machines running Windows XP to play games designed for the old command line void that existed prior to the world domination of the Windows operating system. But video game emulators have been around for ages.

These days, gamers can easily find emulators to play on major gaming platforms such as the PlayStation on their home PCs. Some coders have also taken on the challenge of converting existing PC emulators to run on other game consoles. It can be somewhat surreal to play eight-bit NES games on Sega's 128-bit Dreamcast.

Almost all emulators have a feature which makes playing games for a few minutes at a time easier than ever: save states. Most modern console games employ predetermined spots where gamers can record their current progress and return to the same point at a later time.

The problem is that the distance between these save points is often too far for gamers to reliably play for a short time and make progress. Save states eliminate this problem entirely by letting gamers capture the exact second of gameplay that they're saving: enemies killed, player health and even the exact location of everything.

With most emulators employing save states, games that once required being played entirely in one sitting can be broken into minutes of gameplay.

Now what's your excuse for never beating Super Mario Bros?

A friendly retort to Mr. Markovich

MARILYN MANNO
Staff Writer

So I did something naughty. Since this column is new to Nick and me, we haven't really gotten into a groove. Do we write about the same thing? Do we comment on each other's thoughts?

Well, this week Mr. Marko managed to send me his article a few days early, and unfortunately for him, mine is always in about a minute before deadline. What does this mean? Well, umm basically 1 get to comment on all I want about his thoughts, and since I am currently in the process of writing my column, he won't have the same luxury. Can you see my devil horns starting to form?

Readers: If you're reading mine first, stop, read his, and then come back to this sentence.

But before I rip Nick's column apart and he consistently comes over to give me a noogie, let me say that I think that friendship is so important when it comes to forming a relationship. I'm not saying that every friendship should become romantic, but if it feels right, go for it. What are you so afraid of? If you're scared that you might see an annoying side of your friend, then let me allay your fears. They have one. I promise, and no amount of hesitation will erase that. What you have to figure out is whether or not their sense of humor, kindness, or sexy ass can outweigh it.

All right Marko, let me start by buttering you up. You are by far one of the most eloquent and witty individuals that ever put their fingers to the keyboard, but this week's column begged the question...

"What the F?"

What the hell are you talking about, Nick? What about your first column? "Go out and seek love!" you shouted with appreciation. What happened to, "The pain of rejection or loss pales considerably to the lingering sting of regret?" Or, "Greatness is rarely achieved without risk."

MARKO A MANNO

Cross line at own risk

Opposite-sex friendship can lead to doom

NICHOLAS MARKOVICH
Staff Writer

People will never fail to surprise you. Just when you think you know your good friend backward and forward, you happen to get romantically involved with her. Dr. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde... as in "run and hide." This girl that we'll call Alex (Fatal Attraction reference) has morphed from a caring and highly valued friend to a bad soap opera character. I'm not kidding. I sleep with the light on now.

You know the whole "don't ruin the friendship by dating" spiel? Yeah, I never bought it either. I still don't. How about "don't ruin the friendship by acting like you're B and letting your insecurities get the better of you?" I don't believe that romance is a threat to friendship; immaturity, unfair expectations and a lack of honesty, however, will bring things to a quick and ugly ending. The line is there. There's a point in every girl/guy relationship when the line is formed. It's impossible to pinpoint exactly when it forms, but it's inevitable.

FRIENDLY COLUMNIST WARNING: CROSS THIS LINE AT YOUR OWN RISK!

Evaluate the other person beforehand. She might make an ideal friend, but put on your boyfriend hat for a minute. See any red flags? Knife collection? Too much talk of ex-boyfriends? No talk of ex-boyfriends because they've all "gone missing?" most likely hanging out together in the depths of Lake Okeechobee?

You go home and tell your buddies about your fun, string-free hook-up. She goes out and buys Modern Bride. Forget losing a friendship, you may lose your genitals. Everybody needs to be on the same page here. Don't assume anything. "What are you expecting out of this?" may prevent later questions such as "Where are you keeping my family?"

Where am I going with all of this? I don't know. Don't tip your pen in friendly ink. But since we, as men, want to get with every woman (or woman-esque creature/doll/hole in the bed) on the planet, here's the answer: don't be friends with the opposite sex.

Why bother? That's what your buddies are for. Today's workplace is all about specialization and expertise. Make your social life no exception. Your guy friends head up the "Drinking/Sports/TV" division. The opposite sex is especially
Dorks, dorks everywhere
Cosplayers abound at Megacon 2005

ANDREW LEGGETT
Staff Writer

A vertible army of geeks, dorks and anime freaks took to the Orange County Convention Center last Friday through Sunday for Megacon, an anime-sci-fi-all-things-geeky fest.

The indie sent writer Andrew Leggett on a quest to document the insanity. To preserve your mind from the abject madness, here's an excerpt from his journal.

With the convention winding down, I made my way over to the final event for the day, the Anime Contest. Flushing my press pass, I was escorted to the front of the room and seated with the other press members, Witch Hunter Robin and Dr. Girlfriend, who's manly voice yet cleanly shaven legs both bewildered and scared me.

I was assured by my fellow press members that this would be a great event, which was presented by Anime Sushi. Being a Cosplay contest virgin, I really didn't know what to expect, but when the show started I realized that despite all my training, nothing could have prepared me for this.

The contest began with the junior division, in which I saw everything from a 1-year-old dressed like Koemma from Yu Yu Hakusho to a seemingly unhappy girl forced to dress as a Digimon. However, the star of this show was undoubtedly the 4-year-old Starfire, of Teen Titans fame, singing the show's theme song. The shy-yet-resilient young girl sang her heart out, with the entire crowd joining in for the Teen Titans chorus.

After the awards were given and the children ushered off stage, it was time for the "adults," if that's what you call them. Here, many of those seen in the entrance made their reappearance, along with a slew of others that ranged from amazing to shocking to scantily clad angel babes, who may or may not have been lesbians.

Fan favorites like Inuyasha and Ramma were all there, as well as some lesser known individuals like Canti from FLCL (whose costume won best technical achievement) and "infected S.T.A.R.S. member from Resident Evil," who proceeded to bleed his T-Virus all over the stage. The contest was kept flowing by the Paul Bunbuns look-alike announcer and his crew of "stage ninjas," of whom we were told not to exist. After about two hours of watching some of the single weirdest people in existence, the contest came to an end. Awards were given, speeches were made and the auditorium cleared. It was the perfect end to a very strange day, which will most likely haunt my nightmares for years to come.

Comedian stands up to hurdles

BRANDON BIELICH
Staff Writer

To many people at UCF, he may only be known as "the 'caller ID' guy who opened for Dane Cook and was actually pretty funny." But to L.A. and the comedy world, he's Jay Davis.

Unbeknownst to many, this highly energetic, spiky-haired comedian keeps a busy schedule.

He produces two shows a week every Tuesday and Wednesday night in Hollywood, Calif. He plays The Comedy Store every Friday. And every day in between, he tours with Dane Cook.

Davis also hosts The New Dubs Hollywood Comedy Show, which has featured comedians Cook; Dave Chappelle, Andrew Dice Clay, Jamie Kennedy, Darrell Hammond and Pablo Francisco, just to name a few.

Indeed, there are many things you don't know about this Fl. native, originally from Delray Beach. I was able to chill with Davis minutes before he went on to a sold-out UCF crowd. He later contacted me by phone to answer some questions.

BB: How would you rate the UCF performance?
JD: Ah man, it was awesome. Everybody was so cool and respectful. You know, being an opener, normally people are there to see the headliner and stuff. But everybody gave me a lot of respect and seemed to have a really good time with me. The setup was awesome; between the screens, and the sound and the lights, it just was fantastic. It was a great way to end a seven-day tour.

BB: Have you always wanted to be a comedian? How did you get into the business?
JD: Stand-up comedy is something I used to do with my family at family functions, and I didn't even realize I was doing comedy. My cousins used to play instruments and I would get up and impersonate my family members and tell about stories and situations in my life, and my family would be in hysterics.

It was something in my heart that I always knew I was going to do, but I think fear had held me back a long time. When I originally moved to Hollywood, I moved [there] to become an actor. Deep down inside, it was like comedy was something I always wanted to do. I just felt fate that one day I would become a stand-up comedian. I never actually studied comedians [until I got into comedy] because I wanted to find who I was as a comic and come from an honest place.

BB: How did you become a producer?
JD: I was managing a bar in Hollywood, which a lot of celebrities would hang out, one being Dave Chappelle. And I became buddies with Dave there and told him I wanted to be a comedian, and he's like "you just gotta get on stage and do it." Well, I

Please See THE on 112
Seven plays for Seven days

It may not be Fringe time yet, but that doesn’t stop the Central Florida theatre community from bombarding us with plays over the next week. They’re as varied as Neil Simon, vaginas and all of Western civilization.

Tiffany Ford
Staff Writer

California Suite:
"The Helen Stairs Theatre in Sanford has come a long way since its opening in the 1960s, now producing popular shows like Neil Simon’s California Suite. As with many of Simon’s plays, this is a hilarious slapstick comedy piece that will do anything for a laugh. California Suite follows four different stories of couples visiting from various cities and cultures. The sections present couples from New York, Philadelphia, London or Chicago. It is perfect for “a good laugh,” commented actress Christina Jones."

Man 1, Bank 0:
"In the nationally touring solo show Man 1, Bank 0, actor Patrick Combs brings to life the true story of the most famous banking prank in history. A man gets a $935 thousand fake check in the mail and decides to deposit it! Could this actually work? Find out how at the King Center for the Performing Arts. Man 1, Bank 0 was recently presented by HBO in the 2004 U.S. Comedy Arts Festival and has received rave reviews around the country. The show is "hilarious and amazing," commented Orlando City Beat. The Orlando Sentinel also called it "edge of your seat" entertainment."

My’gina:
"March is Women’s History Month, so celebrate by going to see My’gina at the UCF Theatre. Yes, “gina” is short for “vagina.” Last year Victim Services presented a fantastic production of The Vagina Monologues as its annual women’s history play. However, this year’s play, My’gina, is an even more original move for the UCF campus. It is completely student-produced. The show was written by UCF student Ayla Harrison and is also run by students. My’gina follows a 1950s housewife, Rose, making dinner for her husband throughout the entire show. Meanwhile, characters of different decades and attitudes pass through Rose’s kitchen, and tell her her personal stories. My’gina is considered more than just a feminist play. Everyone can relate to the journey of self-discovery that the main character is forced to take."

Man 1, Bank 0 is playing Tuesday through March 13 at the King Center in Melbourne. For tickets and directions, call the King Center box office at 321-243-2219.

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Romantic Comedy:
"If two playwrights click, collaborate and spend every moment together, shouldn’t they be able to fall in love? Find out at the Studio Theatre. The Jester Theatre Company brings Bernard Slade’s Romantic Comedy to the stage at The Studio Theatre in downtown Orlando. The show follows a man who meets his new writing partner on his wedding day. Over a 14-year period, the two become attracted to one another but just can’t seem to get together."

Romantic Comedy is playing Friday through March 20, with a half-price sneak preview tonight. The Studio Theatre also offers student discount. For tickets or more information, call 407-927-5043.

The Summoning of Everyman:
"Mad Cow Theatre presents The Summoning of Everyman. A contrast to the other shows in Mad Cow’s season, Everyman is a late medieval play that deals with the inevitability of death. The main character, Everyman, embarks on a journey to the grave and must try to bring one of his acquaintances with him. All of the characters represent moral qualities, like Strength, Knowledge and Good Deeds. The play shows that everyone must eventually square accounts with God and themselves."

There is no denying that Everyman is a strong morality play that speaks of the afterlife. However, in modern productions it has a more universal appeal, because it shows a man coming to terms with his own death. It’s sure to be a unique and thoughtful experience.

The Summoning of Everyman is playing tonight through March 27. For tickets or more information, call the Mad Cow box office at 407-297-8788.

The Trickeries of Scapin:
"UCF Conservatory Theatre is presenting The Trickeries of Scapin, opening tonight at the Orlando Repertory Theatre. Scapin tells the story of two sons who have both married against their father’s wishes. All the characters strive to fix the situation by tricking others and sneaking around — everyone gets fooled."

The show is in the style of commedia dell’arte, a genre that director Chris Niess compared to sketch comedy show like SNL or Mad TV. It is broadly used in modern sitcoms. "So much of what you are exposed to as contemporary comedy has its roots in this style," Niess said. "It’s one of the most precise styles of acting you can attempt."

Because live stage station on this date a community share a long selves."

Western Civil:
"Orlando will host its first full professional production of the hit musical, Oklahoma! in 100 years. The show a musical style that condenses the story of the old west in less than two hours. The cast and crew will feature local artists to fill the roles."

They are calling it the musical!' The show will take place at the Orlando Repertory Theatre. There is no ticketing at the box office. The show will be a hit.
Scapin is a rehearsed, it is a unique variant. Niess commented, "It cre-

pity in which people feel free to conventions, at others and at ours-

the Orlando Repertory Theatre to

high. The Trickeries of Scapin is playing in March. For tickets, call the UCF

ice at 407-823-1500.

Arte Project (OTP) is producing

ith musical! OTP is a non-profit theater company that has partner-

Orlando/UCF Shakespeare Festi-

Community College. OTP regis-

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box office
The DIY success of Jay Davis

FROM 19

thought to myself, 'If I'm gonna do comedy, probably no one's gonna book me because no one knows who I am.' But I had been in the nightclub and promotions business for awhile; I had a lot of phone numbers and contacts here. So I thought, why not go to a bar, take over the upstairs of this bar and build my own stage. If I'm gonna be an entertainer, I better start entertaining people. I built the stage (and it became Dublin.). I ran into Dave Chappelle again... Chappelle was the first celebrity that came down to my room. Of course, I packed the place out; Dave went out on stage and killed.

BB: And that's where you met Dane Cook?
JD: Because of Chappelle, the word got out on the street amongst other comedians. Other comics, one being Dane Cook, came to the room and said "I wanna do your room." I didn't even know who Dane was at the time (because I never watched comedy) and I actually told him "no" (because I was filled up for the night). He kept saying, "Just give me seven minutes." Then other comics said I ought to put this Dane Cook up because he's really funny. Alonzo Bodden [from Last Comic Standing] said he'd take seven minutes off his set to fit Dane. So finally I put Dane up and within 30 seconds, I'm witnessing the best comedian I've ever seen. [He came back next week] and next thing you know, Dane and I are doing comedy together on a regular basis.

BB: Is there any chance of a CD or something along those lines in the future?
JD: Absolutely. I would say it's at least a year away. Right now, I'm in the process of building all-new material [and getting a full hour of material]. I only five years into the game; Dane's 15 years into the game. I'm really dedicated and passionate about the art of standup comedy. I'm not gonna put crap out there; I'd rather wait two years and come out with a solid, hardcore comedy album that people are gonna run to the store to buy.


If you're ever in L.A., drop him a line for some free tickets. Got a MySpace account? Check him out and add him as your friend to get the latest news & updates.

Be sure to check the indie next week for an exclusive interview with last month's headliner himself; Dane Cook.

FUTURE FUNNIES

The indie now has full access to the Future's archives, so each week we're bringing you an old editorial cartoon. Check out this one from Sept. 15, 1991. The Central Florida Future: Your source for documenting the rise and fall of Communism.

REAL LIFE FOR REAL

by robbie raborn!!

bro, got the "fat ass". It's AWESOME!!

man, I love life! beer, chicks, and I can say "fat ass" at my fav hang out.

Life is just going to keep on getting better and better for us, bro. AWESOME!!

bro, your sign totally says "fat ass"

I'm so money.

preferably a fat ass burger

So YEARS LATER...

I almost broke up with myself.

Ah, but you overlooked one thing, Adam Corolla, I'm your friend. In all your finely tuned ramblings about how men should run for the hills when faced with the prospect of a female friend you forgot that your associate is, in fact, a woman, and you have been known to share a cup of coffee and some conversation with her on occasion.

But don't mind me, I'll just scurry along back to my desk in the "No Pants Dance" Department and stick gum underneath my chair as I thumb up my nose at the idea that I should be confined to this cubicle of male servitude.

"Beware the underbelly of the pretty rock" Listen Buddha, I know you mean well, but telling guys that their independence is in jeopardy should they come in contact with someone who cares for them is just silly. You know you don't really mean that. I miss the old Nick. He was a little mushy, but he made a lot of sense.

Well, now that I think about it, we are kind of a sneaky gender, aren't we? (wink wink)
See Pacino and DeNiro when they were relevant

Heat: Special Edition reissues Michael Mann's classic cop movie with a disc of extra features

MATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

Certain directors have subjects which they show special favor to. Martin Scorsese has New York. Steven Spielberg has The Flintstones. And Michael Mann has cops and robbers.

Even back in his early, sun-soaked, pastel days as producer of Miami Vice, Mann has showed a special knack for portraying the drama of the struggle between law enforcers and law breakers. After researching and working with the subject of crime for more than 20 years, Mann released his magnum opus Heat in 1995.

Heat is one of those movies virtually impossible to describe in terms of plot alone, and any possible description fails to do justice to the actual material. "Al Pacino plays a driven cop who is pursuing an elite team of thieves led by Robert DeNiro and he must stop them blah blah blah ..." It's a deceptively simple, even formulaic, plot that nowhere near hints at the epic size of the story.

Fundamentally, the film is as much about human relationships, both professional and romantic, as it is about crime. At the center of these relationships is the duality of Vincent Hanna (Pacino) and Neil McCauley (DeNiro). Both men are middle-aged, world-weary professionals equally committed to their careers — they just happen to operate on opposite sides of the law. But somehow that doesn't matter. They are able to respect each other — even enough to have coffee together in a famous scene that marked the first time Pacino and DeNiro shared a scene in any movie.

Of course, you can't have a heist film based on human drama alone. Heat is full of great action moments, from the opening armored car robbery to the climactic ear-shattering machine gun shootout in downtown Los Angeles. These scenes are given their weight and power by Mann's choice to focus primarily on character — no character is included in the film simply to be more cannon fodder.

Mann's greatest directorial achievement of Heat, however, is his ability to turn L.A. into a character. Though the city has been used in an innumerable number of films, its lack of history and urban sprawl makes the city feel quite lackluster (see Constantine for most recent evidence). Mann's L.A., however, is a vibrant, living environment bathed in blues and yellows. Last year's Collateral further proved that no one shoots Southern California better than Mann.

Of course, Mann's direction and writing aren't the film's only assets. Heat is a veritable who's who of great actors and character actors. Aside from Pacino and DeNiro, the film also features Val Kilmer, Tom Sizemore, Jon Voight, Dennis Haysbert, Ted Levine, Natalie Portman, Mykelti Williamson, Hank Azaria, Danny Trejo and Bud Cort. It's easily one of the best ensemble casts ever assembled.

Of course, every great movie deserves at least two go-arounds at the DVD trough, and Warner Bros. decided it was Heat's turn. The new special features for the two-disc set include feature-length commentary by Michael Mann, five 20-minute documentaries about the making of the film and theatrical trailers. Also, the cover is shiny.

Mann isn't one of Hollywood's most prolific directors, but he is one of its best known, thanks in no small part to Heat. Time will only tell if Mann will surpass his masterpiece with his next movie, a film adaptation of Miami Vice. Hint: He won't.

Robert DeNiro walks softly but carries a big assault rifle in Michael Mann's superb 1995 film Heat.
BOX OFFICE

U.S. movie revenues for Feb. 25-27
All figures in millions
RANK FILM - WEEKS IN RELEASE - SCREENS
1. Diary of a Mad Black Woman - $21.9
   - Three weeks - 1,483
2. Hitch - $20.4
   - Three weeks - 3,571
3. Constantine - $12.0
   - Two weeks - 3,006
4. Cursed - $9.6
   - One week - 2,805
5. Man of the House - $8.9
   - One week - 2,422
6. Million Dollar Baby - $7.3
   - Four weeks - 2,725
7. Black Hawk Down - $6.8
   - Three weeks - 2,242
8. Baby - $6.8
   - One week - 2,805
9. Man of the House - $5.0
   - One week - 2,422
10. Constantine - $3.8
   - One week - 2,805

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MOVIE TIMES

REGAL WATERFORD LAKES
541 N. ALABAMA TRAIL, 407-977-1107
Are We There Yet! (PG) 12:10 3:00 7:20
The Aviator (PG-13) 12:00 4:00
Be Cool (PG-13) 12:10 5:00 7:30 10:00
Because of Winn-Dixie (PG) 12:10 3:00 6:00 9:00
The Boogeyman (PG-13) 9:00 12:00
Constantine (R) 12:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Curse of the Maniketti (PG) 12:10 3:00 6:00 9:00
Diary of a Mad Black Woman (PG-13) 12:10 3:00 6:00 9:00
Hitch (PG-13) 12:10 3:00 6:00 9:00
The Jacket (R) 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

FILM REVIEW

Man of the House gets only two cheers

Tommy Lee Jones mounts a mascot, and we're supposed to think it's part of his job? He's enjoying it way too much.

Hey hey! Rah Rah Rah! Let's gooooo to see Tommy Lee Jones lose credibility!

JOSH STRASSNER
Staff Writer

A product of Revolution Studios, Man of the House will surprise you by being an entertaining movie. It's actually watchable, if you don't mind horrible plots.

The whole plot is pretty ridiculous, and it's best to go in by thinking, "Don't try to make sense out of a movie."

Tommy Lee Jones plays Roland Sharpe, a tough and gritty Texas Ranger, sort of a cross between Clint Eastwood and Robert Duvall's character in Apocalypse Now, who has trouble expressing his emotions with other people. He is assigned by Ernie Lee, the drill sergeant in Full Metal Jacket, to protect five Texas Longhorns cheerleaders from a killer the girls witnessed committing a murder.

Sub-plots are all over the place, bringing too much food to the table and leaving one choking on fried chicken while trying to chase it down with mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and pumpkin pie. It all ends being spit back up in a messy mixture of predictable cliches.

Sub-plot 1:
Sharpe's tough career, and the cold and calculating temperament that come along with it, keep him from getting close with his daughter, and makes it almost impossible to be intimate with another woman after his divorce.

Sub-plot 2:
The killer the cheerleaders saw turns out to be a Federal Agent that needs to get a key from Jones that can unlock a deposit box full of money. The key was given to Jones by a bank robber (played by Booger from Revenge of the Nerds) whose plan was foiled by Jones in another case altogether. Confusing? Well, it gets worse.

Sub-plot 3:
The cheerleaders help Jones become more "in touch" with his feelings, so that he can reconcile with his daughter.

Sub-plot 4:
Jones talks with a teacher about one of the cheerleader's grades, and they hit it off. The cheerleader who Jones is trying to help also wants to get with him, which is pretty creepy.

(SPOILERS AHEAD)
The ending is about as com-

mon as it gets. The Fed kidnaps Jones' daughter in order to get the key for the deposit box. Knowing this, the cheerleaders band together and come up with a plan to catch the Fed that goes horribly wrong, but they end up catching him almost Scooby-Doo-style when all the wrong moves are righted by the criminal's own actions. Jones ends up solving the case, reconciling with his daughter, marrying the teacher and walking away with a newfound respect for cheerleading.

What salvages the movie from being a disaster is the fact that there are a lot of good actors in it. Not to mention that there's anal lusting and bestiality within the first five minutes of the movie, plus fun with copious amounts of poop. The cheerleaders are really hot too.
Commercial horror's downward spiral started with Scream in 1996

Self-reflexive in-jokes and hip irony have replaced genuine fright

Paul Haynes  
Staff Writer

The release of Scream in 1996 was fairly low-profile. The movie's box-office take on its opening weekend was minimal (just under $6.5 million), but the fanfare grew and after a surprising longevity, the movie closed with over $100 million in U.S. gross and had initiated a change in direction for the horror genre in mainstream cinema.

As with films like Jaws, Star Wars and Pulp Fiction, the film itself is good, but its impact has been negative. While horror is the most cinematic of genres, it's the genre whose reputation seems to have suffered the most, and indeed, the genre that has seen some of the sleaziest and cheapest productions. The very properties that allow horror to be so purely cinematic — namely, disposal or neglect of narrative conventions, favoring the use of sequences, events and suggestion to create mood and a sense of dread — are the properties that make most bad horror films bad. If you were reading the Cliffs Notes for Jacques Tourneur's The Leopard Man, John Carpenter's Halloween and Sean S. Cunningham's Friday the 13th, you would not be able to distinguish what makes the first two films great examples of the genre and the latter film one of the shabbiest. But as Orson Welles told us, the camera should be an eye in the head of a poet, and while Tourneur was a poet, Carpenter and Cunningham are mere enthusiasts, one of whom has a gift and the other of whom does not.

Horror films have come to us in waves, in periods, from the German expressionistic horror of the 1920s, to the brooding Universal haunted house and monster films of the '30s and '40s, to the campy Hammer horror of the '50s, the psychedelic horror of the '60s, the supernatural horror of the '70s and the mad slasher films of the '80s. While it's Halloween that started the most recent of those trends, it's the hip irony of the '90s and Wes Craven's ostensible restlessness with his own genre's conventions (he's an innovator, and this restlessness and tendency for self-reflexivity was already evident with The New Nightmare) have ushered in yet another wave of horror presently co-existing with (and luckily, being eclipsed by) M. Night Shyamalan's own gimmick-driven brand of genre film.

Craven's New Teen Horror film is predicated on irony and deconstruction of genre clichés, signposted in other films by characters commenting on their own predicaments and maintaining an
See Cursed if you’re cravin’ bad Craven

When your closest comparison is Teen Wolf, that’s never good

MIKE FERRARO
Staff Writer

Prepare, if you will, to take a mental trip back to the worst cinema experience you ever took part in.

Not like that time when you were in a theater and some annoying splinter was on his/her phone the whole time or some idiots brought in their screaming baby; we are talking about what actually appears on that mammoth screen in front of you. A film experience so wretched and superfluous, you’ll never forget it. Like when you saw George Lucas’ Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones, a dream-shattering film proving that all the magic of the Star Wars universe was gone, murdered by a bearded man wearing flannel.

While not as disappointing as Clones, Wes Craven’s latest werewolf picture, Cursed, is a movie so bad that the indie should think about changing its rating scale to include “zero star” reviews.

After a car accident sends a girl and her automobile down the side of a hill, a brother and sister duo (Christina Ricci and Jesse Eisenberg) rush to the rescue. As they attempt to pull the girl from the rubble, some sort of vicious creature attacks them. The next morning they discover that they are different somehow: “cooler,” if you will. The brother changes from a geek to a metro-sexual ladies man, and his sister adapts to a new, sexier look, changing over from her plain, executive-looking self.

If 1985’s Teen Wolf taught us anything, it’s that if you are in high school and have werewolf skills, you just became the coolest person in school. Whatever sport you tackle, you will automatically become the all-star. Actually, if Cursed had a character surfing on top of a moving van, it would have been more enjoyable.

This film was written by Kevin Williamson, and for him, this must not have been too much of a challenge. All he had to do was find a leftover script from the series he helped create (Dawson’s Creek) and add some werewolves into the mix.

Wes Craven’s lackluster direction follows the “direct-to-video” playbook step-by-step. Nothing inspiring, or even interesting, is executed on screen. This isn’t the type of work you’d expect from the man who gave us Last House on the Left or A Nightmare on Elm Street. Like John Carpenter before him (another great horror director of the late ’70s and early ’80s), all his originality and creativity stayed behind in those decades, leaving the audience with simply a name.

And what is with this PG-13 business? Remember when horror films were rated R? Audience members don’t go to films like this because we want to see plot, acting or even good dialogue. We want to see people’s heads explode. We want guts and glory, not facial shots.

We here at the indie also feel the need to apologize to our fine readers. By the time you read this review, Cursed will have already cursed the Earth for a solid week. So to those of you who have already seen it, please accept our apologies for not getting this warning out to you last week.
ironic distance from the genre of the film in which they are appearing. The ultimate punishment for their doing so, however, is their demise; the film itself ultimately proves God over the characters. In the end, the movie itself is a game, and it’s not truly frightening because you know it wasn’t being played for keeps.

This was fun in Scream, and if it had ended there, we could all smile and get on with our day, but unfortunately, this new cancer that has eroded the horror genre is perhaps the worst yet, because it contradicts everything on which the genre is predicated, and transforms horror into satire. As can be said for the gothbouts that get off on the pornographically detailed slasher films of two decades ago, admirers of this new wave of horror films have forgotten completely what the horror genre is about. In a way, it’s like laughter as a defense to ward off fright; it’s whistling in the dark.

What’s more amusing is how, with its two sequels, Scream ultimately became precisely what it was satirizing and, by the end of the series, it was no longer aware of itself. In a series that was always playing by its own rules, those rules too became clichés. So much so that the Wayans Brothers saw fit to lampoon a lampoon with their Scary Movie films, which have now moved beyond the Scream series onto gimmick-motivated pictures like The Ring (the Scary Movie films have become like MAD Magazine entries).

In a way, we’ve nearly come full-circle. Horror films are slowly becoming sincere again, with occasional cheeky Monster Mash-off like Van Helsing, relying upon basic premises and gimmicks. Unfortunately, what’s retained from the New Teen Horror Fiasco initiated by Scream is a glossy, soulless slickness that leaves most of these films no scarier or creepier than an evening tour through Walt Disney World’s Haunted House ride. Van Helsing makes a good case study for the genre’s current bankruptcy of imagination: the genre is still recycling old icons, not yet evidencing a renewed imagination or vigor. Horror films are popular again, but if they continue on this path, it’s doubtful they’ll remain popular for much longer, and we’ll have to rely on the independent breed of filmmaker (or international filmmakers like Dario Argento and Takashi Miike) to breathe some life into this walking corpse.
RAMBLINGS

THE GEEK LIFE

Cyberpunks wave of the future
When will virtual reality become the new reality for us?

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Computers sure are exciting, aren't they? They have everything anyone could ever want right at your fingertips, from grumpy porn to astrophysics and everything in between. They are godlike, all-knowing and all-seeing. Very few know how they actually work, the reasons why zeros and ones can magically turn into glorious networks that connect continents and planets. I know some things about them, in a general sense, but to think of the specifics is a dizzying prospect. It bends the mind into crazy places.

If only I was a cyberpunk. I wouldn't want to be a hacker, mind you. The life of a hacker, trapped in front of a computer, accessing files and coding for hours on end, has a lackluster feeling to it. The screen is just too cold and impersonal, a window into a world you can never really touch.

The cyberpunks, however, they can get inside it. In movies at least. Or in the future. I have no idea how long it would take for present day technology to reach the cyberpunk visions portrayed in Ghost in the Shell or The Matrix, but I want to live long enough to see humans gain the ability to enter the virtual world so completely that outside reality ceases to exist.

And I'm not talking about the MMORPGs like Everquest and Neverwinter Nights, though they can seem like that to the addicts. I lost a good roommate to the embrace of Neverwinter Nights. Before long, he only

NATURAL TEXT

Boycott
cut short

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

To honor this year's Lifetime Achievement Recipient Sidney Lumet, I'd quote a line from one of his immortal films, the gripping Network: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore."

That's right, me and my lack of self control decided to lift my Oscar boycott that I had instituted after the Vera Drake-sized abortion that was last year's ceremony, when those hobbits from New Zealand swept up every award. Stupid me. My anger at this year's ceremonies isn't nearly as visceral. But I'm pissed just the same.

First, let's look at the changes. On a positive note, Chris Rock did a fine job as host. Many of the jokes were clever, and his opening monologue was as funny and wild as could be expected from a TV-34 program running on a five-second delay. I don't think he's the kind of host you'd want to bring back more than once every five years, because let's face it, the angry black guy shick gets old fast. I want to see the old guard (Billy, Whoopi, Steve) return, but fresher hosts should be mixed in too. The different approach to handing out the awards, with some winners not even getting up to the front of the stage and some nominees all standing on stage together, was basically harmless. If that's what they want to do, it's fine. It doesn't really hurt the show overall.

What does hurt the show is how slick it's become. Under the helm of producer Gil Cates, the Oscars are becoming a well-oiled machine. They don't feel like the Oscars anymore: Winners are rushed off stage too quickly, and presenters quiver on stage with nervousness. Why did ABC decide to renew the contract for exclusively broadcasting the ceremony if they're so eager to rush it off the airwaves? If I, the casual viewer, am aware that the show is running low on time, then obviously someone is doing a sloppy job. The simple solution: Let the show run longer.

Yes, you heard me. People always gripe about the length of the Oscars, saying it makes Lawrence of Arabia feel like Pieces of April, but really, you've got to think of it this way: It's Hollywood's night to celebrate themselves. Why does everything have to be designed for ratings anyway? I want to see the long speeches, the elaborate musical numbers (without Beyoncé), and a multitude of montages that would make even Trey Parker proud. That's what the Oscars is supposed to be. You want flashy, quick awards? Go to your MTV Awards, your

NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE

So good, you have to share

Curved is a film so awesome it must be spread!

DIANNA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

Sometimes, a movie comes along that is so awesome that, once you see it, you want to go around reemacting it for friends and family so that everyone can experience its awesomeness for themselves. Curved is that movie. This family-friendly fluff-horror film was almost too awesome to stand. So, as a favor to you, beloved readers, I'd like to present a super-duper condensed summary of the film. Why spend your money at the movies when you can experience its awesomeness here for free? Now, be warned: there are spoilers here, but only in the sense that I reveal the entire plot and ending. So, enjoy!

Portia De Rossi: Please, please, please don't let Arrested Development be cancelled.

Shannon Elizabeth: Carnivals are fun!

Mya: My wig itches.

Portia De Rossi: I'm a gypsy fortune teller. You're both going to die. It will be very painful.

Shannon Elizabeth: Bummer.

MEANWHILE!

Christina Ricci: It's lovely.

(pause)

Christina Ricci: I don't want to lose you.

Joshua Jackson: I don't want to lose you.

Christina Ricci: Love is nice.

Joshua Jackson: I like wax museums.

MEANWHILE!

Christina Ricci's Brother: Help! I'm trapped in the Xander subplot from that werewolf episode of Buffy, only with that really annoying Jess guy from Gilmore Girls.

Christina Ricci: Holy crap, we just got bitten by a wolf.

Christina Ricci: Bummer.

MEANWHILE!

Joshua Jackson: I like wax museums.

Christina Ricci: Holy crap, we just got bitten by a wolf.

Christina Ricci: Bummer.

MEANWHILE!
Oh those sexy, sexy cheeseburgers

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

A ll companies advertise. Some use tactics that are more annoying than others, but overall, a few are just plain strange. McDonald's, time and time again, has put hours of crap on my Internet. From the woefully misguided to the simply nonsensical, enjoy this gallery of McStupidity.

McDonald's Asian Pacific Islander Americans
http://www.i-am-asian.com

May is Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, apparently. Who could be in a better position to inform the world about cultural diversity and Asian heritage than a multinational corporate giant? On this page, you can see various Asian people eating cheeseburgers, all to a groovy remix of the "I'm Lovin' It" theme. On the "Fascinating Facts About McDonald's" page, you'll learn how "The sun never sets on The Golden Arches" and "McDonald's opens a new restaurant every four hours."

Pound One Wallpaper
http://app.mcdonalds.com/usa/fun/qpc/dqpc_1024x768.jpg

Visitors to ESPN in the past few months may have noticed a disturbing banner ad that showed, in its first frame, a young man looking at a double cheeseburger. In the next frame, it said, "I'd hit it." Ask anyone you like: "I'd hit it" indicates that you would like to have sex with the object in question. Usually that object is a person, but apparently McDonald's doesn't discriminate. February must be bisexual month, because right after we finished mocking them for that one, they began a campaign for the Double-Quarter Pounder that said, "Pound one. You can download commemorative "pound one" wallpaper from the "Fun" section of McDonalds.com or directly from the link above.

Lincoln Fry
http://lincolnfrypeg.com/

Beginning with a multimillion-dollar Super Bowl ad, McDonald's and Yahoo launched a promotion based around a fake story of a couple finding a French fry that looks like Abraham Lincoln. It invaded the Internet as this fake blog, where "Mike" and "Liz" make posts about their fry. Its posts explain that they disabled comments because "...neighbors read this with their kids" Surely that is the reason and not the hundreds of posts bashing McDonald's and asking, "Is this real?" Finally, there's a link to LincolnFry.com, a site linking to the Yahoo auction where online-gambling site Golden Palace Casino purchased the famous, inedible fry for $75,100.

A Day in the Life of Miss McDonald
http://www.livejournal.com/users/misson

This one is weird enough, but surprisingly it isn't even the company's fault. Here's a woman from the Philippines who posts new pictures of herself on her Livejournal every week. It sounds like normal camwhoring until you find out that she's constantly dressed up as a female version of Ronald McDonald. Perhaps she was influenced by our first link. Perhaps she's just strange. Either way, her entries have a hell of a lot of comments from admirers and hecklers alike.

Give us our five hours of bloated spectacles

From 1/8

People's Choices, your Spike Video Game Awards. Let us traditionalists have our five hours of groan-inducing spectacle. We only get it once a year, is this too much too ask?

And one last thing: For the love of Brooke Shields, give Scoarse the freaking statue already. You'd think with Boston finally breaking its curse of over four score, Hollywood's beloved bowed blowfish could do the same. Granted, I wanted the only nominated film that had something meaningful to say (Sideways) to win, but man, I would've taken The Aviator over Million Dollar Baby any day. The latter film is Scabsuit. If the horse was a chick. And ended up in a coma. It's only fitting I referenced Network at the beginning of this column, since that film, like the films this year, had the pleasure of losing to a schmaltzy boxing film that could've come out of any Hollywood sweatshop. If the Razzies can choose the right (or should I say wrong) film to honor Catwoman, is it really so hard to do the same for the little gold guy.

And the sad thing is, I can't even threaten with a boycott. You know I'll be back next year, Oscar. We've quite the abusive relationship. But we always share the love.

The awesome end!

From 1/8

MEANWHILE!

Scott Baio: I'm Scott Baio.
Craig Kilborn: I'm Craig Kilborn.
Scott Baio: I'm on your talk show tonight.
Craig Kilborn: To promote what, exactly?
Scott Baio: I'm Scott Baio.

MEANWHILE!

Christina Ricci: Joshua Jackson, why did you break into my house in the middle of the night if not to display your "clearly not a werewolf" beard?
Joshua Jackson: I don't want to lose you.
Christina Ricci: I don't want to lose you.
Joshua Jackson: Well, goodnight.

LATER ON!

Joshua Jackson: My whole world is crumbling as my new wax museum opens!
Christina Ricci: We need to kill the head werewolf, or else we may or may not ever change into wolves, as that part isn't very clear, even though this is a movie about werewolves, and it's been pretty wolf-free.
Judy Greer: I'm Scott Baio's publicist, and I'm pissed that he got bumped from the Craig Kilborn show, so I'm going to turn into a werewolf and eat Michael Rosenbaum!

Michael Rosenbaum: Nuts. Scott Baio: Superbabes ruled! Take that, Kilborn!

That Annoying Jess Guy From Gilmore Girls: I'm Gay!
Christina Ricci: I'll kill the head werewolf.
Judy Greer: Agony, for I am slain! (dies)
Joshua Jackson: I'm the head werewolf. See my beard?
Christina Ricci: Oh.
Joshua Jackson: I don't want to lose you.
Christina Ricci: I don't want to lose you.
Joshua Jackson: I guess I'll kill you and your brother now.
Christina Ricci: Or we'll kill you instead. (stabs)

That Annoying Jess Guy From Gilmore Girls: I'm Gay!

THE (awesome) END!
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