Support grows for mandatory health insurance

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

LISA LOWE (contributing writer)

A growing number of college students are already burdened with high expenses, and facing another cost as colleges across the country begin requiring students to carry health insurance.

The University of Connecticut mandates health insurance, and Ohio State University and Montana State University also do. It’s a good idea. All 32 of California’s state universities have also taken the plunge.

At this point, UCF has no such plan in effect. Students pay a health fee of $65 per credit hour per semester, which covers unlimited visits to the Student Health Center and access to various planned and ancillary services. Larry Bridgham, associate director of health and financial services for Student Health Services, speculated that implementation of a mandatory health insurance program at UCF would be feasible.

"A similar program would work at UCF," Bridgham said. "It’s already in effect for international students, so we have the capability and resources to expand. However, it would probably require Board of Trustees approval and possibly even legislative authorization.

UCF has an optional insurance plan through the "ChampEose Life Insurance Co., which offers students a high and low cost option. The low option, which requires a deductible of $500, costs $65 per semester, while the high option requires a deductible of $2,000. The high option reduces the deductible to $500, but increases the annual cost to $1,250.

The majority of the nation’s public universities, like UCF, leave the decision to students, U.S. insurance firm Aetna reported that undergraduates and college graduates make up about a third of the total number of uninsured Americans.

Studies show that 10 percent to 30 percent of college students on any given campus are uninsured and often unable to pay for care. Those who are uninsured often face a serious illness or injury that they are unable to afford.

Many university administrations are discussing an increase in the drop-in rates for students on college campuses uninsured.

AIDS a growing threat to blacks

Men on the ‘down low’ put women at risk with disease

HARRIANN KATES (contributing writer)

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

"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 about 72 percent of all new HIV 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 73 percent of them are unaware of their infection.

"We absolutely know," Anderson said, "that every decade, often by the quality of new treatment. Some of those teams that haven't seen the team before for a long time.

"Money's pretty tight, so having new equipment costs and tournament entry fees. Prior to this season, the team received all new boards and suits, something that the team's sponsor, Ron Jon Surf Shop, is pleased to be a sponsor of!

TEAM WAVE

Jeremy Anderson and the UCF Surf Team were pleased to report that Ron Jon Surf Shop has committed to fund all new boards and suits for the team, like many of its competitors, is responsible for raising its own entry fees and travel costs, and members had to provide their own equipment. Now they can just concentrate on surfing and competing as a team.

The sponsorship means that Ron Jon Surf Shop picks up the cost on the team's brand new custom-made surfboards and wetsuits. The Florida-based surf retail company is also paying for the team's travel costs and tournament entry fees. Prior to this season, the team received all new boards and suits, something that the team's sponsor, Ron Jon Surf Shop, is pleased to be a sponsor of.

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Art inspired by tragedies

Playwright portrays a young man in play derived from police shootings

MARTIN MARINO

UCF students and professors sat riveted in their seats Thursday as they awaited the arrival of a very special guest. In honor of Women's History Month, UCF's Women's Studies Program presented Lorna Littleway, an accomplished playwright, director and actress. Littleway, 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 text books, but there's nothing like seeing an artist in action," said Lisa Logan, director of Women's Studies, before joining the audience of student-producers and -directors.

"I began to read, with rhythm and inflections," the Last Dust Track, a play by Laurence Hitchen, that describes the life of a woman who was kept as evidence by police. She began to read, with rhythm and inflections, with a joy that the audience had not heard before. She was an actress who had been shot by a police officer while trying to escape.

"Just a man, and script and yellow," sang the audience as the performance continued. She was an actress who had been shot by a police officer while trying to escape.

Once she finished, her captivated audience shouted for her to stay. She was an actress who had been shot by a police officer while trying to escape.

Lorna Littleway is an accomplished playwright, director and actress. She has been named the interim sports editor.

Amber Feller is a reporter for the student newspaper Future, which publishes weekly. She was a petite black woman strolled around the stage for a moment and then left the stage for a moment as she awaited the opening performance.
students "were happy to have something the white people no longer wanted." Hunter-Gault said the students hand-me-down textbooks with the pages missing from elementary school.

Not only did blacks have to overcome the lack of quality materials, but they were forced to walk miles to receive an education. "Children had to walk past the white schools to chase the bus to the black schools on the other side of town," she said.

In My Place is a narrative by Hunter-Gault that chronicles her experiences in becoming the first black woman admitted to the University of Georgia in 1961. She and another student went through a grueling weeklong court process with the hopes of making university desegregation come true. "The university wanted to close instead of letting two Atlanta children," she said.

Within the first week of attending school, she was suspended for being pregnant. She recalled the rule by other students who didn't want her there.

Hunter-Gault described the most memorable act that took place on the night the USA played Georgia Tech in a basketball game. "The crowd had been called off to help me," she said. "First a bus came through my window, and next a Coke bottle. I remembered my room, and what it was like to be in the middle of it all.

"When asked by a student why she was there and what was going to happen, she replied, "I was not seeking any part of history, just a part of history putting one foot in front of the other."

Now working as CNN's Johannesburg bureau chief, her studies and her work in South Africa reveal a strong commitment to educate and empower the country's institutionalized political and economic revolution and the Jim Crow laws in America.

In Africa, she said, "It's woman's place to be educated or entertained, Hunter-Gault proposed that most of us assume that our primary concern is being without any injection drugs. The problem is that people are assuming instead of communi-

"Down-low" not easy to prove

Words & Letters Thursday March 5, 2009

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Higher Education

What's in the news at college around the country

Grand jury looks at football scandal

DENVER — The University of Colorado football recruiting scandal was shored back into the spotlight by a secret grand jury report filed with inflammatory allegations of sexual assaults, shady funds and marijuana environments for blue-chip athletes. The leak-revealed calls for the grand jury report to be officially made public.

Former women’s college soccer sees end in applications

ALBANY, N.Y. — Admission applications have dropped by half and are at their highest point since 2003 according to administrators at Wells College, a private women’s school that is admitting men next semester for the first time in its 137-year history.

There were 900 applicants for all admissions by Tuesday’s deadline, including 15 men. Last year, the college received a total of 870 applications.

Trustees decided in October to admit male students beginning in fall 2005.

University president studies ways to increase tuition

PULLMAN, Wash. — Washington State University’s president has scolded students for breaking Cougar basketball players account of making insensitive gestures toward an Asian student.

An employee in the university’s Multicultural Center said the players were among a group of students who would regularly pass by her window and make animal noises and gestures. One told back the corner of his eye to make “slant eyes,” she said.

Millennium Scholarship Bill introduced in Nevada

CARSON CITY, Nev. — The chairman of the Assembly Education Committee introduced a bill Thursday aimed at curbing the number of college students who get Nevada’s $5,000 Millennium Scholarship.

The scholarships are awarded to Nevada’s highest-achieving high school student who gets a 3.0 grade point average. They are banked by the state share of a national high school settlement with tobacco companies. The Millennium Scholarship fund may be depleted unless lawmakers don’t make changes.

Proposed plan to upgrade athletic research causes concern

WASHINGTON — More than $1 billion in federal budget cuts would hit important research programs that examine everything from apples and soybean and dairy production to cattle viruses, agriculture school officials announced Tuesday as Congress started work on the 2006 farm bill.

The schools must find ways to study both national priorities — food security, crop protection, obesity, waste management — and local issues, such as cattle diseases in Wyoming, dairy declining in Pennsylvania, and which pesticides to use at tobacco farms in North Carolina.

Science Spotlight

MASEE SOMTI

Senior Staff Writer

A UCF professor is ready to announce the latest advancement in the battle against anthrax, the bacterium that caused the attacks in 2001.

Scientists have been working for years to come up with better vaccines against anthrax, the bacterium that causes the disease. A research team said Friday that it has developed a vaccine that could be marketed at a fraction of the price of today’s vaccine because it is produced in plants, not in the lab.

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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 Student Center Ballroom for Dance Marathon, a tradition that helps pay for the Children’s Miracle Network.

From 5 to 11 p.m. on Friday, the Student Center will be transformed into a dance floor where uninsured students will be encouraged to raise money for the Children’s Miracle Network, which provides care for sick children.

The event, which began in 2002, is a way for students to support uninsured students and help raise funds for the Children’s Miracle Network.

The marathon will feature live music, food and drinks, and a raffle.

The Student Health Center will also be on hand to provide health information and advice.

“UCF has never been to the Student Health Center. Neither has 350-year-old student Jake Allen. Both say they would have visited when they were sick, but decided to tough it out with over-the-counter medication instead.”

The Student Health Center is the only health provider on campus where many students go when they are sick but decide not to seek help.

Students aren’t that lucky.

It is a concern of many students.

Before adopting its new policy on uninsured students, the university could find a cheap and discounted plan for those who aren’t on their parents’ plan or don’t have a job which provides one, one that could be quite helpful in the future.

The main concern of oppo­nents to mandating insurance is that adding health insurance to the ever-increasing cost of the total college experience will discourage enrollment in the first place.

ZACH DIGIOVANNI, JNO, is a student at UCF.

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College applicants could be out of luck with no insurance

rate of uninsured students flooded with large medical expenses.

Supporters materials that requiring insurance coverage would help reduce the enrol­lement of students who would otherwise be forced to drop out of medical expenses, it would also help to keep future­ly uninsured students free of the ridiculously large medical bills and reduce the amount of costs that the university is often forced to absorb.

UCF students aren’t too fond of the mandatory health insurance issue.

Many under­graduates are still insured through their parents.

Senior Rachel Becker, 21, thinks UCF could possibly do more to ensure students have a way to acquire insurance.

“I’m on my mother’s insur­ance plan that she gets from her employer. As long as I’m a stu­dent, I’m covered,” she said. “As the uninsured students, if the university could find a cheap or discounted plan for those who aren’t on their parents’ plan or don’t have a job which provides one, that could be quite helpful in the future.

The main concern of oppo­nents to mandating insurance is that adding health insurance to the ever-increasing cost of the total college experience will discourage enrollment in the first place.

Zach Digiovanni, JNO, is a student at UCF.

I would have seriously been looking into alternate schools.”

UCF Health Center offers a wide range of services to help uninsured students with large medical expenses.

Before adopting its new policy on uninsured students, the university could find a cheap and discounted plan for those who aren’t on their parents’ plan or don’t have a job which provides one, one that could be quite helpful in the future.

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New boards and suites included in big sponsorship

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

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

"It actually came out of left field," Anderson said. "It was a complete surprise. We had no idea that Ron Jon Surf Shop was even interested. Right before the semester started, our school sponsored us. Apparently we knew about it a few weeks ahead of time after flopping it with Ron Jon. He asked if it was okay with us. After we heard the plan, we fig­ured you 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 26 teammates are not letting it get to their heads.

"At first, you're pretty excited, but for the most part we realize that we're really fortunate to have Ron Jon behind us," Anderson said. "We definitely don't take it for granted, and you don't want to rub it in the other schools because last year we were in their spots. They look at us as something to look up for, but they also realize their social media is out of the way."

The team couldn't be any happier with the timing of this donation. Many Florida beaches are un­favorable to the public due to last year's onslaught of oil. Numerous beaches have put a damper on college contests and canceled Florida competitions.

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 Sebastian Isle for the East Coast Championship on April 2.

After that, the team will com­pete at Walt Disney World, Chill, for the National Champi­onship. Anderson is positive about his team's chances and believes this UCF squad has what it takes to compete with the top five California teams.

"They'll definitely be a lot better, worse in Florida," Anderson said. "Even though the water's colder, it's definitely good for the team to have better waves."

United UCF created to help spread diversity in groups

year, "I'm happy to hear of the forming of United UCF," she said. "It did a good job of repre­senting all of the groups on campus."

Anderson was "certain to ensure a diverse repre­sentation of all groups in order­ing a chorus of the many voices on campus and make it with the outstanding legislative back-up we have here."

Lavin, who was instrumental in founding United UCF last year, said that the party was "very open to the idea" and that the students of UCF from a student government which will ally diversity and poorly represent­ed the unifying aspect of individuals that is UCF."

Since its founding, United UCF has grown into a powerful political force on campus, led by the candidate Uni­ted UCF supported last week's presidential election, won by an unac­counted 49 percent. "Gaining more than 50 percent as United UCF, we have provided a major victory for those students in the firm sup­port of an SGA that embar­races United UCF's founding prin­ciples of the多达 voice," he said.

With United UCF standing behind Bentley's overwhelming victory, SGA has changed for the better," Lavin said. "We established a foundation of classroom leadership and vis­ion that student leaders will contin­ue to strive for."

Many feel strongly that the diversity of this year's Senate is reflected in the programs that they have endorsed, such as funding for the Army ROTC to hold a military roll to study Breagades preservation and a bill that would allow the National Orga­nization for the Reform of Mar­riage Laws to attend a conference in California.

Although the sharply con­trasting opinions of senators appeared to be inconcep­tual at first, it is the diversity which students now consider the Senate's greater strength. Lavin compares the influence of United UCF on SGA to that of our founding fathers on the shaping of America and "oppor­tunities" about the possibilities offered by the future of UCF's Five Star political party and a increasingly diverse SGA.

Student Government Senate Allocations

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Basketball down to the brackets

ANDY VALDEZ
Staff Writer

From day one of the 2004-2005 season, the UCF men's basketball team has been on the road to make it to the NCAA Tournament. Its only opportunity to do that will come this week at the Sun Trust Charities Classic.

If UCF can win the three games required to clinch the A-Sun tournament, it will host in the field of 64 in the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year.

In the tournament, the Knights are unquestionably the hottest team in the A-Sun.

UCF went nine of its last 10 games, including eight of nine in the conference to finish in a tie for first with Gardner-Webb. The Knights also won their last four straight, despite playing short-handed since mid January.

"We just try to play our best basketball at this time of year," UCF Coach Riddick Spraw said. "It's that the reason for our success... Usually at this point of the year, we are playing as well as we have in at any point in the season."

The Knights went without starters Justin Bosse and Will Bakoyak, through most of January and the early part of February. Just when Bosse and Bakoyak returned to the lineup, one of the team's key leaders, senior Marcus Averett, went out with an injury.

Averett has been a defensive presence for the Knights since he put on the black and gold in 2000, but this year he stepped up as an offensive weapon, as well. Over a four-game stretch, he averaged nearly 11 points per game and shot nearly 40 percent from beyond the arc for the season.

On Tuesday, Averett said that he hopes to be back for at least part of the conference tournament, but his status remains in question.

"I am continually worried about it," Spraw said. "You do not take a 6'7 individual who is athletic, long and quick, who can play five positions defensively outside of your lineup and not be affected by a large degree."

While the injuries have hurt the Knights, they may have been a blessing in disguise.

UCF now knows it can play short-handed, as someone has always stepped up when the Knights needed it most this season.

This will be the UCF's final A-Sun tournament, as it makes the transition to Conference USA next season. Despite being one of the top seeds this week, it will be a big challenge for the Knights to come out on top.

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

— RICHARD SPRAW IN THIS WEEK'S A-SUN TOURNAMENT

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

USA next season. Despite being one of the top seeds this week, it will be a big challenge for the Knights to come out on top.

"It's going to be the same it has been all year in our league," Spraw said. "Not much margin for error. Anyone can beat anybody else in a particular ballgame... I think that this is going to be a knockdown, drag-out tournament."

FIRST ROUND MATCHUP

UCF is a No. 2 seed in the tournament because Gardner-Webb held the tiebreaker.

UCF women's tennis

MOUTHING OFF

ASHLEY BURNS

Women's tennis eeks out a victory

NATHAN POCKETT

Women's tennis eeks out a victory

Women's tennis eeks out a victory

Women's tennis eeks out a victory

Women's tennis eeks out a victory

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USA next season. Despite being one of the top seeds this week, it will be a big challenge for the Knights to come out on top.
Baseball improves to 12-2 on the season.

In two at-bats ... John-Michael Howell has half his 20-plus career home runs at home.

Belmont's offense was clearly held in check this season.

It is no secret that UCF has a hard time notching out games, and that cost the Knights in their first matchup with Belmont. In that game, UCF fell by an 11-point first-half lead, but the Knights let the Braves find their game, and Belmont took advantage. They blew by the Knights for a 69-52 victory.

In their 60-point victory the Knights narrowly survived a late second-half lead. First-year defense allowed them to hold on for the victory.

With Belmont being the tournament host, this matchup would be a tough one in front of a hostile crowd. UCF clearly has the talent to beat the Braves. If the Knights are able to get an early lead, as they were in games against Belmont, they cannot afford to let that momentum back into the game.

If the Knights play Georgia State, they can expect a tough controlled defensive game. UCF clearly holds the advantage on the boards, grabbing nearly twice as many rebounds as the Braves. It will be key for the Knights to dominate the glass to bring this one home.

For the preview of the upcoming game, the Tennessee Temple Owls will be a tough opponent, but a win is a must. The Owls have lost 16 of 18 games this season, but a win will not put them over the top in the A-Sun.

UCF coach, Patrick Stiver, has a tall task ahead in heading to the NCAA Tournament.

At home, the Knights return this season.

A-10 tournament host, the Knights for a 67-52 victory.

In the first matchup, UCF's conference opponents struggled, allowing 80 points. Ross Alacqua came off the bench for Mercer and scored 26 points, including six three-pointers.

With two out and no one on, Steve Wade and Jon Cooper accomplished the feat last May.

If UCF's #2UCF basketball, with a No. 2 seed, drew No. 7 Mercer in the first round of the Atlantic Sun tournament in Nashville, Tenn.

If you don't believe the score, look at the box score. The Knights scored 20 runs in the game, and that cost the Knights in that game.

Parity makes seeding deceiving

If you don't believe the score, look at the box score. The Knights scored 20 runs in the game, and that cost the Knights in that game.

Fernandez out with undisclosed injury

UCF's basketball team has been in hot water recently. A-Sun All-Conference third-strike passed ball brought UCF home to enter difficulties, one but bad.

Fernandez was forced to retire in the first set of his match against Richmond's Kristina Lohmos.

If you don't believe the score, look at the box score. The Knights scored 20 runs in the game, and that cost the Knights in that game.

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If you don't believe the score, look at the box score. The Knights scored 20 runs in the game, and that cost the Knights in that game.
Chaney's actions should make Eustachy angry

How long until we see an episode of NUTL. Tonight the features ESPN hockey analyst Barry Melrose hurling down NHL players at their new best-bad-assed jobs? Nutsball, I'd pay a trillion pesos to see him find Nikolai Khabibulin running the drive-through at a Long John Silver's. I think there should be a game show called Is It Fatal? 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 mugshot. That's right, the whole paper's mine. Don't worry, my column will keep coming. God knows UCP 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 Vargas when he gets his column-writing feet wet. It was more than a little bit before the hate mail stopped pouring in for him. Be good to the kid.

So with me as managing editor, expect weekly shots of Maria Shriver and Natalie Portman on the front page, as well as hard-hitting features on And One dates. See that job title, ladies? That's power.

FROM A?

RICHARD E. HORNBY, P.A.
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Who's hot

Larry Eustachy and Josh Peppers were named to the All-Conference and Josh weekend opponent.

Who's not

UCF baseball's hot.

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 hoops travels to Delaware today for a match against Stetson. Baseball has a three-game series with Siena: games are at 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. Softball hosts the ICT Tournament tomorrow and Saturday afternoon on campus.

Quotables

"I think that this is going to be a knock-down, drag-out tournament." — MICHAEL WEE'S COACH KIRK SPIERAN

"I am continually worried about it." — MICHAEL WEE'S COACH KIRK SPIERAN

Softball puts St. Bonaventure in a pickle

Stephanie Fiscus has her opponent in a bit of a pickle today. Fiscus, a senior right-hander, limits the Bonnies to three games games at Lipscomb. Fiscus has a 0-1 record and a 7.77 ERA, while the Bonnies are second in the nation with a 0.71 ERA. Fiscus is 1-0 for the season and has allowed just one run in her last three appearances.

GRAB IT IN MONDAY'S ISSUE!

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INSIDE THE NUMBERS

16-16 A-Sun games in which Josh Peppers scored more than 16 points.
The only goon is the coach

SPOKTS OPINIONS EDITOR

MAY 3, 2005

SPORTS

GAME

OFFICIALS

THE ONE MAN OFFICIALS "GOON" OF THE Ncaa TOURNAMENT

MEMBER OF THE WILDCATS JOEY JOSLIN, ON COURT TO MAKE CALLS DURING THE GAME BETWEEN MICHIGAN STATE AND KENTUCKY, ON MARCH 18, 2005. AS TOUCHING THE GAME TO MAKE CALLS IS A VIOLATION OF Ncaa REGULATIONS, JOSLIN SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ON COURT TO MAKE CALLS. THIS VIOLATION LEADS TO THE QUESTION OF THE GEORGE RETANA ISSUE. DO OUR COACHES KNOW THE RULES AND KNOW HOW TO APPLY THEM?

DO YOU THINK AUTO RACING IS A SPORT?

I am not a fan of motorsports, but I have come to realize that there is a lot to it. It is a sport that requires skill, concentration, and strategy. It can be extremely exciting to watch, especially when you have a favorite driver or team. I would recommend giving it a try if you haven't already, and I hope that more people will start paying attention to this sport.

The only goon is the coach

The Temple basketball coach, John Chaney, became an opposing voice in the debate over juvenile death penalty laws during his career. He was against the death penalty for juveniles, arguing that it is unfair to execute children. Chaney believed that juveniles should be granted a second chance and that rehabilitation should be prioritized. He fought against the death penalty, even when it was legal, and was a vocal opponent of the practice. His stance was based on the belief that juveniles are not solely responsible for their actions and that they should be given the opportunity to turn their lives around.

In his own words, Chaney stated that he believed in the power of redemption and that every human being is capable of change. He argued that the death penalty was a injustice and that it was not fair to execute someone who was still a child. Chaney's influence on the debate over juvenile capital punishment laws was significant, and he remained a prominent voice in the discussion until his death in 2008.
AUDITIONS

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• Biomechanical evaluation

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The skinny on *The Trickeries of Scapin* and six more new plays

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The 20 worst cover songs ever: part 1

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A Megacon 2005 journal entry

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Has Wes Craven killed horror?

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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
Staf 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 scratches 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 on 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.

Raise the goblet with your left hand, put your pan at the top of your lungs— you're sure to hear from Dane himself.

To anyone who says we don't cover enough theater in here... usually you'd be right, but this week we're redeeming ourselves.

Seven plays of varying genres are opening over the next week to fit anyone's budget. So there's no reason not to support the live arts, especially with this shaky spring movie season upon us.

But if not, there's always Danzig, who we feature above. Make sure to go to the show and scream "Misfits" at the top of your lungs — you're sure to get some Danzig love!

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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March 9, 8 p.m., free
Student Union
Cape Florida Rm. 316
407-822-6471

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
101 W. Atlantic Ave.
Daytona Beach
386-254-4545

Margaret Cho
March 4, 7 p.m., $29.50 to $45
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
1000 Universal Studios Plaza
407-351-3483

Lifestyles Expo
March 5 to March 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., free
Orange County Convention Center
5000 International Drive
407-345-9800

Orlando Folk Festival
March 5 to March 6, various times, free
Mennello Museum of American Folk Art
909 E. Princeton St.
407-246-6470

SHOWS

Sleepytine Gorilla Museum, Indorphiune, Hope and Suicide (hard rock)
March 3, 7 p.m., $10-$32
Wi's Pub
1830 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-3070

Plain Jane Automobile (rock)
March 3, 7 p.m., free
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

The Buzzcats (jazz)
March 4, 8 p.m., free
The Mall at Millenia
4200 Conroy Rd.
407-363-3555

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 p.m., $24
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-834-2583

Milka, 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
Wi's Pub
1830 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-3070

Big Head Todd & The Monsters, Carbon Leaf
March 5, 8 p.m., $17.50-$19.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-994-2583

Florgasmic, Bluelegs (rock)
March 5, 10 p.m., $5
Copper Rocket Pub
110 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
Wi's Pub
1830 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-9070

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

SPOTLIGHT

SOCIAL DISTORTION

Long before the O.C. was synonymous with Seth Cohen and Ryan Atwood, it was known as something much more worthwhile: as the home of Social Distortion. One of the original gurus of the California punk scene, Social Distortion formed in 1979 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 its 2004 full-length 'See, Love and Rock and Roll.' Fellow punk pioneers 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 'Ag Venture Farm Tour,' see the Kenya Safari Animals and get your fair of fried foods 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 I4**
  - Slingpout's
    - 25 Wall Street Plaza
    - 407-849-9904
  - The Sharp Objects, John Denver's Airplane (rock)
    - March 6, 6 p.m., $5
    - Copper Rocket Pub
    - 100 Lake Ave.
    - 407-645-0060
  - Rickey Dickens (Americana)
    - March 6, 6 p.m., $5
    - Copper Rocket Pub
    - 100 Lake Ave.
    - 407-645-0060
  - Danzig, Kataklysm, 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
    - Wil's Pub
    - 1804 N Mills Ave.
    - 407-898-5070
  - 7 Seconds, The Briggs, Champion (punk)
    - March 6, 9 p.m., $5

- **Temporarily (Indie)**
  - March 5, 9-10 p.m., $10-$15
    - Back Booth
    - 37 W. Pine St.
    - 407-999-2570
    - March 6, 4 p.m.-2 a.m., $5-$7
    - The Haven
    - 6200 Mims Ave.
    - 407-673-2712
  - Jambando All-Stars (rock)
    - March 6, 9 p.m., $5

- **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, 5 p.m., $10
  - Back Booth
  - 37 W. Pine St.
  - 407-999-2570

- **Enon, Swearing at Motorists, Astronauticus (Indie)**
  - March 9, 9 p.m., $5
  - Wil's Pub
  - 1804 N. Mills Ave.
  - 407-898-5070

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

- **Souffly, 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

- **3 Seconds, The Briggs, Champion (punk)**
  - March 9, 9 p.m., $5

### Special Discounts Available at the Student Ticket Office.

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**53rd Annual Mobil 1 12 Hours of Sebring**
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 vibed 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 ditties? 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 overwhelmingly urge to attack her with a large, blunt object took hold and the rest of the song was a blur.

— DIANNA ZISMAN

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 mutilation 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.

— DIANNA ZISMAN

It may be 2005, but members of Judas Priest are still rockin’ like it’s 1985. The original lineup comes together again for a new studio album for years — at least until this first Priest album to feature singer Rob Halford on lead screams since 1990’s Painkiller.

The album opens with “Judas Rising,” a blend of guitar solos a-flying, screams a-piercing and enough metal bravado to assure Priest fans everywhere that the band is back. Lead single “Revelation,” starts with a guitar, Black Sabbath-like guitar dirge, slightly rocking on toward a lackluster chorus. Rob Halford’s voice is undeniably still as powerful today as it was in the early 1980’s. The lyrics are typical Priest/metal fare — songs about the devil, death, heavy metal and the token song about a love lost.

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 in-love-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 it all blows up in your face and turns the record more amazing than the lyrics with strings, drum machines and even a well-placed French horn.

Surprising less lyrically affectation (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 up 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.

 Along with releases to albums of the over-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/’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”.

Feel like making love? Not if you hear Kid Rock’s rendition of the song

Whitney loves you. Whitney is your everything. Do not anger the Whitney or she will smile ye down. Never forget that. The final insult supplied by this abomination is that it has virtually wiped out any memory of Dolly Parton’s lovely, diaphanous original.

Kid Rock — Feel like Making Love

How can the lovable scamp known as Kid Rock ever go wrong? Anyone? Anyone? Bueller? Okay, now that everyone is stumped, here is the answer: by doing a cover song of Bad Company’s “Feel like Making Love.” So let’s recap here: a hip hop/rock/country artist doing a cover of a song by a classic rock band. Let it settle in. Has blood gushed out of your ears yet? It was bad enough that Kid Rock sampled Metallica’s “Sad But True,” but this is a new low for the kid. What adds the extra creepy factor is that you know he’s singing it about Pamela Anderson. So bad artist, doing a bad cover, with a creepy factor equals a headache from even thinking about it.

Lenny Kravitz — American Woman

Let me start by saying that I’m biased on this one because I can’t stand Lenny Kravitz. This guy oozes cheese like a Philly steak sandwich. He has been pilfering Led Zeppelin, Bob Marley and Sly and the Family Stone for years — but even without his scribbles, this song he is admittedly stealing from an act with more talent. The musical vomit sprawled forth on this track achieves none of the groove or gallop of the Canadian rockers’ original. Kravitz goes for funky/sexy and misses the boat by a mile. He should call up the Guess Who right now and apologize (“Hey, guys, Guess who ruined your song? I DID!”)

Avril Lavigne — Chop Suey!

Normally, with a cover this horrendous, the wise advice would be to avoid it at all costs. This time, however, it’s recommended that you seek out Lavigne’s take on System of a Down’s “Chop Suey!” just to see how bad a song can be. It’s unintentionally hilariously, actually, duration. The parts that are meant to be heard aren’t even apparent to give up and doesn’t even bother trying to say the words. She just makes noises (“Wake up! Gabbaba labba put a little make-up! Marba leeba akee ahee a table! Yeeba abba marba barba roooooooaan!!!”). What’s worse than Avril Lavigne singing? Avril Lavigne making inarticulate grunting noises.

Limp Bizkit — Behind Blue Eyes

Apprentently it wasn’t good enough for Limp Bizkit to butcher just one song. Oh no, they had to take a stab and mutilate a classic. This time it wasn’t a George Michael song but a tune from a band they should have never even thought of touching — The Who. As if the Limp Bizkit rendition wasn’t bad enough, frontman Fred Durst got the brilliant idea that he should cast Halle Berry in the video for it so he can have an awkwardly long make-out session. If Limp Bizkit singing a The Who song doesn’t make you vomit, seeing Fred Durst swapping spit with Halle Berry sure will.
The good old days

Emulators can bring back the glory days of gaming

IVAN VELEZ
Staff Writer

Todays 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 video game emulators have been around for ages. 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 '00s, 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 unraveled 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 any major gaming platform from Colecovision to 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.?

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 BS 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 guy/girl 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 dip 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 veritable 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 mainly 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 Koenna 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” Space-AAA member from Resident Evil, who proceeded to bleed his “Virus all over the stage. The contest was kept flowing by the Paul Rubens look-alike announcer and his crew of “stage ninjas,” of whom we were told did not 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.

Comedians stand 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. Unknown 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, a Dublin’s 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 Fla. 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 was just 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
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 1970s, 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 Christine Jones.

So come out to the Helen Stairs Theatre to see this side-splitting Neil Simon show. California Suite is playing Friday through March 6 and March 11-13. For tickets, call the box office at 407-321-8111. And get ready to laugh!

Man, Bank:  
In the nationally touring solo show Man, Bank 0, actor Patrick Combs brings the true story of the most famous banking prank in history. A man gets a $95 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, 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.

Man, 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 321-242-2219.

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 their 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.

My gina is playing at 8 p.m Wednesday, March 10 and March 11 in the UCF Theatre black box (stage 2). Tickets will be sold at the door for $5, and all the proceeds will go to the Victim Services Assistance fund.

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 a “great chance to see a classic sitcom writer’s work come to the stage,” said manager Diana Hopkins.

- Bernard Slade has written television shows like The Flying Nun and The Partridge Family. He has a quirky style that makes this show "really cute," Hopkins said.

If you love comedy, keep your ears open to The Jester Theatre Company. Their motto states that they’re “dedicated to explore, create, and produce, comedy in all its art forms.”

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 thoughtfully experienced 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 follows 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 action on this date a contains a couple share a lang selfs.

So come have a great tonight through Theatre box

Western Civil:  
Orlando has its first full professional productions with its new Musical Theatre box.

They are a production at The Musical Theatre box. The musical box is considered the most complete box of the box.

From Viktory to Hawaiian, the box will be modeled. There is no show Will do riot.

Western Civil will be perfect for Tupperware and Lock Haven through March. For more information, call the box office at 407-328-20
Scapin is a rehearsed, it is a unique variation. Nies commented, "It creates a situation in which people feel free to play with conventions, at others and at our theatre."

The Orlando Repertory Theatre is producing "The Trickeries of Scapin," a play about people who feel free to play with conventions, at others and at our theatre. The play is being performed at the Orlando Repertory Theatre from March 13. For tickets, call the UCF box office at 407-823-1500.

The Orlando Repertory Project (OTP) is producing "The Trickeries of Scapin." OTP is a non-profit theater company that has partnered with Orlando/UCF Shakespeare Festival and Orlando Community College. OTP engages with students and theater arts education and exploration. The project is being shown as "Western Civilizational Musical" and is their first full show. The show covers a millennium of history, with a very tongue-in-cheek twist on the history of politics. The show is being performed at the Orange County Convention Center. For tickets, call the UCF box office at 407-823-1500.

OTP's Web site claims, "Baywatch, history is the same!" OTP is a non-profit theater company that has partnered with Orlando/UCF Shakespeare Festival and Orlando Community College. OTP engages with students and theater arts education and exploration. The project is being shown as "Western Civilizational Musical" and is their first full show. The show covers a millennium of history, with a very tongue-in-cheek twist on the history of politics. The show is being performed at the Orange County Convention Center. For tickets, call the UCF box office at 407-823-1500.

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The DIY success of Jay Davis

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's). 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'm only five years into the game; Dane's 15 years into the game. I'm really dedicated and passionate about the art of stand-up 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.

Visit http://www.JayDavisComedy.com for more information. 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.

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 forget 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 sleazy gender, aren't we? (wink wink)

‘Beware the underbelly of the pretty rock’

I am writing this column. Good times can go bad, just can turn to jealousy and friendship can fall to dust. Beware of the underbelly of the pretty rock. And, oh yeah, if she starts discussing baby names the next morning—move far away. And don't say that I didn't warn you. Tread carefully and happy hunting.

The battle of the sex columnists

Since when did you change into this woman-hating, cynical episode of The Man Show, frat boy who would rather cut off his manhood then let a girl in? You made me hate myself just for being a girl.
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.
**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 gooooooo to see Tommy Lee Jones lose credibility!

**MANAGEMENT**

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 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 Duval’s character in Apocalypse Now, who has trouble expressing his emotions with other people. He is assigned by Ermie 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 clichés.

**SUB-PLT 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-PLT 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-PLT 3:**

The cheerleaders help Jones become more “in touch” with his feelings, so that he can reconcile with his daughter.

**SUB-PLT 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.

(POILERS AHEAD)

The ending is about as common 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 an amazing casting 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

The first Star Wars Episode III stills

LucasFilm and 20th Century Fox just released the first stills from Episode III — Revenge of the Sith. Here, a wookie wants to give you a big hug. With claws.

Loews Universal Cinemplex Proudly Presents
STARSHIP TROOPERS
The Only Good Bug is a Dead Bug

PLEASE SEE WITH ON 117
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 sphincter 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 viscous 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.
With satire replacing horror, the genre is in need of new life

From 115

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 Scarem, 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 gorehounds that got 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 laughing at 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 it. 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 Mashes 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 a 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.
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

Please see SEE on I19

Boycott cut short

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

To honor this year's Lifetime Achievement Recipient Sidney Lumet, I'll 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 passed 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-14 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 shock 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 way 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 go by so 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.

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Oh those sexy, sexy cheeseburgers

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

All companies advertise. Sometimes the tactics 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 McDonald's.

McDonald's Asian Pacific Islander Americans
http://www.is-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/dpc_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 burgersexual 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://lincolnfry.typepad.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 McDonalds 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/mss.mcdonald/

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 carnworing 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 118

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 Sorceese the freaking statue already! You'd think with Boston finally breaking its curse of over four score, Hollywood's beloved broved 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 Scobsbitch. F 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 couldn't 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 girl 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 118

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"? Scott Baio: 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 dumped from the Craig Kilborn show, so I'm going to turn into a werewolf and eat Michael Rosenbaum!
Michael Rosenbaum: Nuts. Scott Baio: Superbabies 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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