Alumna's reality TV knockout

Boxer gained experience and friends while he continues to chase a dream

Former Senate speaker sets record straight on resignation

MADE JUSTICE

Former Senate Speaker Sean Lewis is speaking candidly about the circumstances that led to his resignation.

The current senator compares his term as speaker to wearing a pair of "golden handcuffs," an analogy he explains passionately.

"When I ran for Senate in 2003, I had no idea the speaker got $1,400 a month, was issued an SGA ID and laptop or received an extraneous office that would make any executive jealous," he said. "Reflecting on my quick rise to the top of the Legislative Branch, I now realize that all of those luxuries were just tools in the golden handcuffs that ultimately consumed the entire life of the speaker, and while I loved advocating for my fellow students as speaker, the position became my life's top priority, instead of my family, friends and education."

Recently, Lewis removed those golden handcuffs by resigning from the top position after a motion for a vote of no confidence was brought against him by Sen. Stefanie Matthews. A vote of no confidence is less serious than the process of impeachment, in which formal papers are filed against a public figure for corrupt activity if it is proved, an official from office for a full year.

No allegations of improper activity were made against Lewis. However, some senators felt it was time to explore additional candidates for the office of speaker by bringing a vote of no confidence against him.

When questioned about her decision to bring the vote against Lewis, Matthews said, "The Senate has been frustrated for a long time." She added that no one who is better qualified to serve in the role of speaker had been "brought to their attention" until Lewis.

The shortage of possible speaker candidates continued until the March 30 SGA meeting where SGA Former Comptroller Nick Merlo to the position of speaker by the confirmation as a senator. Matthews levied.

Former State Senator Lewis

Library increases patrol for students

List of stolen items include textbooks, purses and laptops

NATASHA ZLAT

UCF Police, along with the help of UCF library management, have initiated safety measures to avoid theft incidents in the campus library.

Every Wilson of Library Customer Services has decided to take action by extending their presence unattended bags and backpacks that he has found at the library.

The notes, which can double as bookmarks, mark "Please do not leave your property, such as bags, purses or books unattended." The note also alerts the phone number for UCF Police, 407-823-0533, which students can contact to report suspicious activity.

Schafer, associate director for Public Service at the Library, said that several times she has seen an unattended bag and placed it until the student returned. Since staff cannot stay with every unattended item, the library has assembled a group of students who are to patrol and monitor the library at all times.

"If the group sees an unattended backpack, they leave a note explaining that they need to stay with their belongings," Schafer said. "I think the students feel secure in our building, but a

Donations help raise billboard

BRUCE RABEN

The Body of Animal Rights Campaigns at UCF successfully raised more than $5000 at Lake Lily Park during its most recent march, held before Valentine's Day.

BARC put its goal of being able to finance a pro-vegetarian billboard to educate people about the horrors of factory farms. The group had a booth at a women's health resource fair to prevent them from being removed from club members as well as to raise additional funds.

The club was joined by its sister club, Animal Rights Action Team, which is a group that coordinates and plans animal rights brochures, environmental literature and vegan food and produce.

Together, about 50 marchers circled Lake Lily by less than an hour, holding

Caribbean sounds resonate throughout campus

Weeklong event displaying tradition

BRUCE RABEN

On Monday, the Caribbean Student Association convened in force on the Student Union patio to kick off CSA Week 2005, its annual weeklong celebration of modern Caribbean culture, with a dedicated Market Day and dance.

At 5:30 p.m., CSA members set up 30 tables filled with Caribbean-style exhibits and toys, and displays to educate fellow students about their respective home- lands. Students represented countries including Trinidad, Tobago, Suriname, Suriname, Curaçao, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Dominican Republic and Panama. Nearly 100 students

Weeklong event displaying tradition
Around Campus

News and notice for students of the University of Central Florida

Jessica Donagh

Washington, D.C.

The UCF women’s rugby team went back-to-back as they won the USA Rugby South Division Championships for the second year in a row.

The ladies will advance to nationals once again this fall at California State University, Chico. For more information, contact Amy Budik at 407-823-2811.

Polar express

Join Hillel and Chabad for a polar express train ride in the Merchants’ Mall. Featuring hot cocoa, reading, free doughnuts, and music at 7 p.m. today in the Live Oak Room, behind the Marketplace. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Noah Sapoznik at 407-362-3372.

Concert band

The UCF Concert Band will present a concert led by their conductor Richard Greenwood at 7:30 p.m. today in the Student Union Auditorium. For more information, contact Richard Greenwood at 407-823-3789.

Fashion show

The International Students Association and the Student Union are presenting "Seasons," a fashion show, "Celebrations Around the World" to help promote cultural diversity on campus. The event is held at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the Student Union Atrium. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Cornelsia Marzole at 407-426-4499 or e-mail cornelsi@ucf.edu.

Volunteer needed

Students are needed to help set up, run games and help distribute prizes for Kids Day at noon tomorrow at the Lake Nona Campus Recreation Center.

For more information, e-mail OLUTS@ucf.edu.

Smashing up is hard to do

The Counseling Center presents a program, Self-Discovery: Knighting Relationships That Block How to Deal with Break-Ups or Break-ups, at 7:30 p.m. today in the Student Union Key West Club.

For more information, contact Whitney Ward at 407-627-2381.

The late night

UCF Cavalier, Mel Weinberg and Bruce Springsteen, from Street Band for an exciting show at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in the Student Union Marketplace. Free admission. Drinks and food will be offered.

For more information, contact John Segovia at 407-782-3551.

Let us know

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Women earn South title

Rugby wins grudge match with College of Charleston for championship

JC Moolt

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Animal rights club will protest at April's circus

SIGNS and posters with some club members dressed in complete animal character costumes. Passersby joined in the march by walking with their pets and children. The event took place at 1 p.m. after the free vegan lunch and ended at 2 p.m. with a rally featuring health food and natural skin care products donated by local merchants.

Afterward, people mingled and discussed common concerns dealing with animal rights, nutrition and the environment.

"People made it, of course, for the animals," said Trey Hayworth, 21, a junior at UCF said, "We made it, of course, for the animals."

Altogether the club raised $1,052, collected in pink piggy banks strategically positioned around town at vegan-friendly businesses.

"Every month, our circus demonstration is coming up," Bernstein said. "Every year at the UCF Arena, the Shriner's Circus comes and forces the animals to perform multiple shows daily for a whole weekend in April. The thing about the Shriner's Circus is that they contract out their animals, and last year, both of the elephants had tuberculosis. People coming out of the show said the animals looked crippled and wore no coats."

Bernstein added, "We like for them to explain to people what goes on behind the circus, how the animals are forced to stand on their legs in unnatural positions and made to do things they would not normally do in the wild for human entertainment. We go and pass out leaflets to let them know what's really going on."
Afghan students also took part in the Washington anti-war rally.

The five are among 900 students taking part in this year's Philip C. Jessup Moot Court Competition in Washington. Afghan students also took part last year in an all-male team.

Police said Wednesday that five men have been arrested a day after the funeral of a 27-year-old man who was found Jan. 23 in his apartment.

Family members of a missing college student have been asked to apply for a job.

Binge drinking can impair cognitive performance and result in plunging moods, shamed, self-conscious and easily intoxicated. He added that women metabolize alcohol capacity and are more likely to engage in behaviors like binge drinking, cognitively and emotionally.

The conventional definition of binge drinking is drinking four or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting for women and five or more for men. But the authors of this study define it as "getting drunk by downing large amounts of liquor quickly, followed by days of abstinence."

According to researchers, this behavior can be considered as "underplaying repeated alcohol withdrawal," which is known to affect the brain and cause negative mood.

The study showed that women try to drink as much as men, not realizing that they have lower alcohol capacity and are more intensively intoxicated. He added that women metabolize alcohol differently — slower — which explains their capacity.

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Discipline, heart gave boxer edge

Week in Health

RUSSELL SOWT

Chemicals in tattoo ink scrutinized

After a closer look at the chemicals present in the inks of tattoo, a group of researchers detailed what close regulations of the tattoo inks need to address. The research team is studying 37 inks from various brands and manufacturers, and their goal is to characterize the range of chemicals in these inks and determine if any of those could be harmful.

Many potential side effects can result from ingested inks. There have been claims of an allergic reaction to ink components, a burning sensation during their application, and the migration of inks to different tissues in the body.

Knowledge of the composition of tattoo inks or how doctors choose their patients could be more effective and less painful. The team has already studied the variety of the presence of metals in some of the tattoo inks and has started more tests to identify these metals.

Nurse suspected to have flu

A second Vietnamese nurse who tested positive for the virus and was hospitalized. Although officials are not sure whether she contracted the virus from her patient or not, they are concerned that the virus could have mutated, allowing it to be transmitted from patient to nurse.

The patient, a 33-year-old man who caught the virus after drinking raw duck blood, a local delicacy. Another nurse also tested positive for the bird flu. So far, no one has died in Vietnam, although the number of people positive for the bird flu has expanded across nearly half of the country.

God is in your genes?

As adolescents grow, they become more important in determining how religions they are, which are the most environmentally factors, and whether recent studies of adult twins who were raised apart show genes contribute about 40 per cent of the variability in a person's spiritual beliefs.

According to other studies, religious belief and other personality traits, although it is not clear whether these arise from genetic or environmental factors.

EHNAMMOUD thought it

"If you don't forget that being driven really pumped me up," he said. "I was excited to see him think and how he was able to go through the experience."

Other contestants were put to the test through a variety of tasks. Mohamad, 20, was excited to see "how he did the most athletic skills," Charlie said. "She worked out all summer so she could be got ready, Charlie said, then he came back the senior year and made the all-star team. It's easy to be in the comman­dicaler between Elmamoud and his brother — both brothers began boxing together, and it made it that family comes together."

His father, mother and youngest brother went back to Lebanon to be with his grand mother, who had breast cancer. His grandmother died a year later and his father and brother returned home, but Elmamoud hasn't seen his mother in six years.

"Discipile's helped me get that far," he said. "We were always close, but we became more close," Elmamoud. "He's a young­er brother, now six years old, came back to the United States two years ago, and Elmamoud has been getting to know him ever since," he showed him baseball, he said. "The future looks bright for Elmamoud. After the show he moved to Miami to train at a local boxing gym for some preparing for his next fight in April.

And boxing isn't all there to Elmamoud. He had a chance to travel to the Grand Canyon and Yosemite for the show and wants to travel more. "I like to see things and experience things," he said. He uses his financial skills to invest in the stock market, and in one year he has completed his MBA and mas­ter's degree in sports management.

When he's ready to hang up the gloves, Elmamoud said he'd like to become a boxing promoter.

He finished his degree he pre­pared him for this next chal­lenge. "You need to understand finances when you put on a show," he said. "You have to make the proper things.

He knows it will be a chal­lenge — getting his name out and building a career will take time. He admitted that he prob­ably in order at first, but Elmamoud has never been afraid to back down from a challenge.

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Dancers moved to soca music while mingling with friends

Fablaus, 19, a marketing major from Trinidad to the Caribbean Students Association because the organization had been relatively inactive. The club evolved to blend with reggae culture and had its first big performance in 2004 with soca music. "People just don't sit down for this kind of music," said Jade Jones, 21, a senior in business management and CSA treasurer from the Bahamas.

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Assistant will patrol library to prevent theft

Thefts in the building," she said. "There are laptops here that they can rent. I guess I just have to watch her belongings and prosecute with either a petty theft charge (stolen property valued at less than $500) or a felony charge (property valued at less than $1,000)."

Sgt. Troy Williamson of the UCF Police said no suspects have been apprehended at this time. Thieves will be arrested and prosecuted with either a petty theft charge (unless property valued at less than $500) or a felony charge (property valued at more than $500).

Williamson advises students who use their laptops to keep their belongings with them at all times and make sure their names are clearly printed in their textbooks. Since all three bookstores in the UCF area ID students who are selling their books back at the end of the semester, having a student's name in a textbook ensures that the student will be the only one compensated for a returned book.

Williamson also encourages students who use their laptop computers outside of their residence to stop by UCF Police on campus and get their drivers license number engraved into their laptops. This service is free and will discourage thieves from stealing laptops that could potentially be left around.

"Community support is the number one key to softening the blow at UCF," Williamson says. "If anything doesn't look right in the library or anywhere else on campus, give us a call."
Softball gets split with Lipscomb

Consistency key as Atlantic Sun season begins

MATT DONAHUE
Sports Editor

The UCF softball team opened their final season in the Atlantic Sun with a doubleheader sweep of Lipscomb on Tuesday afternoon.

"This year we have shown a pattern," sophomore Stephanie Bond said.

The Knights, who lost 3-0 to the Bisons, were able to avoid the sweep thanks to a strong performance on the mound by sophomore Ali Suhl. Suhl pitched a complete game one-hitter in the first game, and allowed only one hit in the second game to improve her record to 3-2.

"I was just thinking, "hit it hard," Bond said. "But they able to score all of us. It was a good way to take sports winner Lipscomb (13-12, 1-1 A-Sun).

The Knights (29-10, 1-1 A-Sun) improved to 17-6 on the year, as the Gators scoreless in his first three innings. The Gators romped past the Knights Tuesday night, 17-6, after Kevin Richmond doubled with none out to help the Gators open the game two when we don't have good hitting."
**Wrestling more than just a club**

Jason Balma, who also wrestles in the 149-pound weight class, said that the Knights are trying to live up to the legacy of its 1990s champions in the last three years. Balma, a senior, said that when the club was founded many of the wrestlers were removed from high schools or to other opponents.

"We need to view ourselves as a team. Regardless of where we come from, we've got to be able to talk to each other and communicate. We need to be able to absorb the good things and not just look at the bad things."

The club, Balma said, has undergone a complete overhaul since 1990. "It's been a long time since we've seen a team like Tennessee go up to the Big Ten and compete. It's a big shocker."

"No matter the outcome, the UCF wrestling team is the best," said Todd Hauser, the Knights' most recent triumph. "With Allen's win came a sense of skill and awareness from seeing a team that was doing those things, but they are also able to do it."

"It's a big step for us," said Todd Hauser, who led the Volunteers to another big test for the Knights. "It's a big step for us."

The solid team performance comes with the word "negative connotation that comes with the word "negative."

"It's a positive connotation that comes with the word "positive," said Todd Hauser. "It's a positive connotation that comes with the word "positive.""

"It's a big step for us," said Todd Hauser. "It's a big step for us."
Defending champs up next

Dolphins looking at Williams again

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Opinions

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Senate losing credibility

What do you think of Buddy Dyer's actions?
Hope should be re-inserted for Schiavo’s loved ones

AUBREY PEARSON

Early Wednesday morning, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals denied the pleas of Terri Schiavo’s parents to re-insert the feeding tube that has kept Schiavo alive since 2005. The tube has been removed for six days now. Schiavo’s parents will now take their case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

So much controversy surrounds this issue. The media has been unusually unbiased in its opinions on the case.

There are two sides to the Jesus. The first side believes that because she is mentally unable to have thoughts or feelings, she is not actually a being. The ability to reason and to have feelings and emotions is what makes us human.

The other side believes that there is still hope and that God will perform a miracle. This side argues that Americans pay billions of dollars in taxes every year, which allow convicted criminals who have been given life sentences to live. They are not part of society, yet we allow them to live. First off, I think it is inhuman to starve a living organism to death. Even though Schiavo can’t think, her body is still capable of reason. If they are going to permanently pull the feeding tube, they should give her a lethal injection and let her go peacefully.

Originally, I felt that Schiavo was not a human being because of her inability to reason or to have emotions. Doctors are very confident that she will never come out of her vegetative state. I believe in a God who can perform miracles. But I reasoned to myself that after 15 years, this just might be her time to go. I thought this subject was more important than the fact that she might be alive. They had a strong opinion that she should be kept alive.

Then I talked to one of my best friends. He felt that she should be allowed to die. Allowed to die. That is an interesting phrase if you think about it.

The problem in this case is that her husband is the person who wants her feeding tube removed. I had an inner conflict when I saw her husband crying on national television pleading with the courts to allow his decision as legal guardian to stand.

To be or not to be, that is the question. Schiavo was not a human being because of her inability to reason or to have emotions. Doctors are very confident that she will never come out of her vegetative state. I believe in a God who can perform miracles.

But I reasoned to myself that after 15 years, this just might be her time to go. I thought this subject was more important than the fact that she might be alive. They had a strong opinion that she should be kept alive.

Many people in this world would do anything, even kill, to have their way. They would do anything for the sake of fun, to gain fame, or to have power. It is interesting to see how much the world is willing to do to please God. I mean, if people are going to do anything for the sake of fame or for the sake of having power, it is interesting to see how much the world is willing to do to please God. I mean, if people are going to do anything for the sake of fame or for the sake of having power, it is interesting to see how much the world is willing to do to please God.
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HAPPENINGS

Dodge dreary days with a dose of the local scene

Dodger, Say Hi to Your Mom, Yip-Yip, Band of the Name, The Crayons and On Cassette all performing

CHRIIS BOWERS
Staff Writer

It was by all standards a dreary week in Orlando. The sunshine connotations of Spring Break were washed away by five straight days of rain and sweater weather. For those of us stuck here in town, perhaps the time was spent making friends with the girls from down the street and realizing you were the only three people left in a deserted apartment complex. Or maybe you made it through the week playing board games and making it through the week playing board games till three in the morning, only to wake up the next afternoon to another day of dark clouds and rain, realizing the new day would again call for more exciting rounds of Encore! or Pursuit: Pop Culture Edition. In times like these you have no choice but to make the best of it, and so that's just what we did. We cheered and hugged like drunken coeds on South Beach when our teammates would correctly identify adrenoleukodystrophy, then we put on our sweaters and raincoats and walked home.

But now Spring Break is over, and just as we were beginning to enjoy our isolation and look forward to nights of what had become a pretty darn good kind of nothing at all, the rest of the world came crashing back. Spring break partiers struck hard and sudden, arriving like an army in trucks that stunk of Natural Light and with their skin toned to a crispy shade of bright pink. Each armed with stories like "dude, bro, you just ... well bro, you'd just never believe it ... there were like these three girls and ..."

As a young Tom Hanks once said, "Ah, home-crap-home."

But fear not, friends, for our time is now, and our reward for braving the break comes in the form of good live music.

This week, there are quality live shows throughout the dampened City Beautiful's many venues, the highlight of the weekend taking place on Saturday night. For a $5 cover, you can catch local favorite Dodger play its brand of indie-pop at 9 p.m. Saturday at Back Booth, along with the nationally touring Say Hi To Your Mom and other familiar names Yip Yip, Band of the Name and The Crayons. The event is a release party for another local up-and-coming band, On Cassette.

The music of Dodger could be just what we all needed, a wake-up call from our dreary reverie, a sound that combines smart lyrics and upbeat melodies in the style of Of Montreal and Saturday Looks Good To Me. Check out the band's Web page, http://dodgerandfriends.com, for a diverse sampling of songs that are equally good acoustically as they are with the addition of electric pianos, string sections and drum machine beats (and for some of the hippest DIY concert flyers your likely to ever see).

So this weekend, re-immersre yourself in the local scene. These are all high-quality musicians who are playing because they enjoy the spirit of what music is about and the community that it brings together. So get a friend and go join that community. Don't worry, Trivial Pursuit will still be there when you get back.

The indie is the Thursday arts and entertainment section of the Central Florida Future, the free independent campus newspaper of the University of Central Florida. Opinions in the indie are those of the individual columnists only and not necessarily those of the editorial staff. All content is property of the indie and may not be reprinted in part or in whole without permission from the publisher.

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IN THE ISSUE

The indie to everyone who sent us feedback recently about how to improve the indie from the Future's free ticket giveaway. We apologize for making you sit through The Ring Two (see the review on page 112) in return for your benevolence.

This week, we have coverage of an important expo at the Memory Mall next week, as well as profiles of a UCF piano wunderkind and one of the best local indie rock shows.

We've also got a review for Orlando's Blue Martini Lounge, the latest expansion of the Florida-based posh martini bar system.

Be sure to check out next week's Life section for a special surprise just in time for April Fool's Day.

For those of you who enjoyed our "worst covers ever" feature, pick us up next week for the start of our more useful "best covers" series.

— JOHN THOMASON
HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

CAMPUS
Reception for artist Anochin E. Maiden
March 24, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., free
Classroom Building 1
Room 307
407-823-6181

Caribbean Concert
March 26, 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-823-0404

Purim Spectacular!
March 24, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Live Oak Room (behind the Marketplace)
407-352-3317

UCF Concert Band
March 24, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Visual Arts Building
Auditorium
407-823-3243

The Rhythm Within
March 24, 7-9 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-823-4832

Hip-hop Elements Culture Jam
March 25, 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., free
Student Union
South Patio
407-823-4832

International Fashion Show
March 25, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-443-3953

Jeff Moore Faculty Percussion Recital
March 25, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Rehearsal Hall

Jeff Rupert Jazz Quintet, "A Night of the Cookers"
March 27, 7:30 p.m., free
Rehearsal Hall
116
407-823-5411

UCF Spring Technology Showcase
March 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom

EVENTS
Hi/Lo Film Festival
March 26 and March 30, 7:30 p.m., $5 to $7
Emac
375 Magnolia Ave.
407-993-1200

Rollins Dance XIX
March 26, 6 p.m., free
Rollins College
Aubrey Ruffin Theatre
1000 Holt Ave.
407-666-2145

Hill Festival 2005
March 27, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Barnett Park
4001 W Colonial Drive
321-229-3071

Short Film Slam
March 27, 5 p.m., free
O-MAC
375 Magnolia Ave.
407-992-1200

Digital vs. Film Photography Discussion
March 30, 6:30 p.m., free
Planet Digital
1414 N. Orange Ave.
407-896-7306

An Evening with the Due Family
March 30, 6:30 p.m., free
Orlando City Hall
400 S. Orange Ave.
407-268-2400

SHOWS
Dixie Dregs, The Steve Morse Band (rock)
March 24, 7:30 p.m., $15-$22.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2533

Radio 4, Supersystem (indie)
The Social
50 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Codeseven, The Snake the Cross the Crown, Decibully (alternative)
March 24, 8 p.m., $5
WBR Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-3500

Large Number, Fashion Flesh, To Esme, Yip Yip (electronic)
March 24, 9 p.m., $7
Scrambles
306 State Road
407-244-0029

Luna Beloved (rock)
March 24, 9 p.m., free
Ballard & Coon
353 W. New England Ave.
407-539-1711

Mint Condition (R&B)
March 24, 7 p.m., $10-$12
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5433

Sugar Oaks (indy)
March 25, 10 p.m., $4
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-6004

C-Style, Urban Legacy, The Blood Brothers, Lawless Warrior, Feez One, Zay, J. Parker, DJ Don Legend, DJ M Squared
(hip-hop)
March 25, 10 p.m., $5
AKA Lounge
68 E. Pine St.
407-899-3707

Dirty Shannon (rock)
March 25, 10 p.m., free
Central Station Bar
109 E. Central Ave.
407-466-4336

Six On Sunday, Fallen Heroes, Fairweather (rock)
March 26, 7 p.m., $7
D-Zone CD
1002 W. Hwy 436
407-862-1002

Stone Ryder, Swansinger (rock)
March 25, 8 p.m., $3
Nature Coffee and Tea

Please see CALENDAR on 14
**HAPPENINGS**

**CALENDAR**

**From 13**

12018 College Way
407-482-5000

Cadillac Recipe, Blue Collar Addict, InTension (rock)
March 25, 9 p.m., free
Holly Hall (Dj Only)
500 E. 58th Ave
407-334-0969

The Sleeping, Before Today, Fire on
Gorgeous (rock)
March 25, 5:30 p.m., $7
W Phi Pub
1530 N. Mills Ave
407-898-5070

Fatboy Slim, The Crystal Method (electronic)
March 25, 8:30 p.m., $29.50-$32.50
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-996-2583

Atmosphere, PDS, Gray Silk (hip-hop)
March 25, 9 p.m., $15-$17
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave
407-224-1419

The Legendary J.C.s, Supervillains, Hindu Cowboys (various)
March 26, 9 p.m., $7-$10
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave
407-224-1419

The Nate Bombs (rock)
March 26, 9 p.m., $5
W Phi Pub
1530 N. Mills Ave
407-898-5070

Voodoo Hodown (rock)
March 26, 9 p.m., $3
Underground Blue UCF
128-129 University Blvd
407-482-4192

Against All Authority, Supervillains, The Corks, Knup (punk)

March 26, 6 p.m., $10
Sevemar
360 State Line
407-244-9299

The Deemzalnoirs (rock)
March 26, 9 p.m., free
W Phi Pub
2501 W. Fairbanks Ave
407-244-7616

O.F. Beadstov, NOIR, Pain Principle, Bleeding Inc. (metal)
March 26, 9 p.m., $5
The Klub
6700 E. Moma Ave
407-673-2712

Mr. Piranha, No Harm Done, The Lush (rock)
March 26, 9 p.m., $7
0 Zone DJs
1020 W. Hwy 436
407-362-1012

The Adorables (rock)
March 26, 9 p.m., $7
Austin Coffee and Film
929 W. Fairbanks Ave
407-975-3364

Franchise (rock)
March 27, 10 p.m., $4
The Intersection
1321 N. Mills Ave
407-226-9048

Tony Brown, Ross Gazpard and the Grind, Tony Hume Collaboration, Mohave, Junkie Rush, Bluelegs, funk1k (rock)
March 27, 4 p.m., free
Wall Street Plaza
Wall and Court Streets
307-849-9090

Fantasie, Libyan Hit Squad, The Uptight (rock)
March 27, 10 p.m., $5
Back Room
37 W. Pine St
407-999-2570

funk1k (rock)
March 27, 9 p.m., free
Sisapoor's
23 Wall Street Plaza
407-849-9090

The Queens, The Independents, Black Halo, River City Rebels, The Bones, Dangerfield (punk)
March 27, 7 p.m., $10
W Phi Pub
1530 N. Mills Ave
407-898-5070

Jedi Mind Tricks, Living Legends, Pigeon John (hip-hop)
March 27, 8 p.m., $15
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave
407-224-1419

Inkwell, The Kick, Band Marino, History (rock)
March 28, 8 p.m., $5
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave
407-224-1419

Straight and Alert, The Tradition, Stop This Fall, Funeral Home Fight (punk)
March 28, 8 p.m., $8
Back Room
37 W. Pine St
407-999-2570

The Eightfold Way, Sonic Playground, Audible Effect (rock)
March 29, 8 p.m., free-$6
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-337-5483

Our Divided Fortune, The Hour Unknown, U (rock)
March 30, 8 p.m., $5
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave
407-224-1419

Nervous Breakdown, Fortitude, Anchors Away, No Roses, On the Outside, Team Effort (punk)
March 30, 8 p.m., $8
Back Room
37 W. Pine St
407-999-2570

**SPOTLIGHT**

**FATBOY SLIM PREVIEW**

From 1988's You've Gone A Long Way Baby to his most recent release Palookaville, Fatboy Slim has ventured his way into a Town for a performance at the House of Blues. Many long-time Fatboy Slim fans have seen the transition that Norman Cook has made from his earliest records to Palookaville. One of the most recent catchy tunes is his "Wonderful Night" single, which plays on numerous TV spots and commercial ads running this season. Fatboy Slim proves that dance music isn't dead. Instead, it just might be making its comeback. Different this time around, Fatboy Slim isn't mixing tracks electronically and digitally exclusively on the computer. This time, he is mixing with actual human beings.

See him tumorous evening with the Crystal Method and DJ Mark Sanchez. Tickets range from $25.50 to $65. Doors open at 8:39 p.m.

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**MUSIC**

**TOP 25**

Park Ave CDs: Top 25 for the week of March 13-19

1. Mars Volta
   Frances the Mute
2. Death Cab for Cutie
   John Byrd EP
3. Iron & Wine
   Woman King EP
4. Jack Johnson
   In Between Dreams
5. Sam Prekop
   Who's Your New Professor?
6. OpenHand
   You and Me
7. Evens
   Evens
8. Stars
   Set Yourself on Fire
9. Kills
   No Wow
10. Interpol
    Evil
11. Kings of Leon
    Aha Shake Heartbreak
12. Anberlin
    Never Take Friendship Seriously
13. Frankenreiter/Johnson
    Some Live Songs
14. Kasabian
    Kasabian
15. Doves
    Some Cities
16. LCD Soundsystem
    LCD Soundsystem
17. Dungen
    Ta Det Lugnt
18. Daft Punk
    Human After All
19. Kaiser Chiefs
    Employment
20. Ivy
    In the Clear
21. Blonde Redhead
    Secret Society of Butterflies
22. Interpol
    Antics
23. Green Day
    Green Day
24. Postal Service
    Give Up
25. Dishwalla
    Dishwalla

**LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT**

**Striking the keys to success**

Alton Terry strikes a chord in the Student Union recently. The 22-year-old English major is preparing for the second-annual The Rhythm Within showcase tonight in the Pegasus Ballroom.

A self-taught piano player has a 'Magnificent' time composing his own tunes

**KATE GOODELL**

In the quiet and secluded back corner of the third floor of the Student union, afternoon sunlight pours in through the windows and onto Alton Terry, a 22-year-old English major. He sits behind a black baby grand piano in the Cape Florida Ball­room hallway, undisturbed by any intrusion into his melodic world of ivory and black. His face is concentrated while his strong hands float across the keys that produce a harmonious ring of chords. He's playing out his own invention; "The Magnificent," a song he composed himself.

After reaching for his sunglasses, he becomes a young Ray Charles, filling the empty halls with his melodies. He's preparing for the second-annual "The Rhythm Within" showcase, which will be held tonight at the Pegasus Ballroom. Not only will the showcase close with his solo performance, but he will also manage the entire production.

Three years ago, a piano had never been graced by his presence. While living in Jacksonville, he first heard singer/songwriter Alicia Keys and was awe-struck by her talent and passion for music. Inspired by her organization, From the Ground Up, he turned her passion into his own and set out to create Never Give Up Your Dreams Inc. at UCF. But his new fervor for music began with his desire to learn to play the piano. The problem was that he was without a piano at home, so his grandmother drove him to the University of North Florida to find access to one and seek lessons.

"I've always wanted to play the piano but never had the chance and never had the money," Terry said.

Although he eventually gained access to a piano at UNF, no one was willing to teach him. This only made him try harder. He first memorized a piece from Beethoven by listening to it and then locating the keys on the piano, but then turned to resources on the Internet for fundamentals and sheet music. He learned how to identify some of the notes from the sheet music and would write the letter of the scale to the corresponding note.

"I played sunup to sundown. I even took a semester off to practice," Terry said. "I was always hearing things. So I just tried to follow my mind literally — what I heard — and

**PLEASE SEE PIANO ON 17**
Isn’t it nice to have an incisive slice of talk with Thrice?

The members of Thrice (from left to right) Teppei Teranishi, guitarist/vocalist Dustin Kensrue, drummer Riley Breckenridge and bassist Eddie Breckenridge are preparing for their new DVD release If We Could Only See Us Now this upcoming Tuesday.

The metal/pop/punk quartet is set to whet our media whistles with a DVD release from out in California, working hard on the follow-up to The Artist in the Ambulance.

Brandon Bielich: You originally came from the independent label Sub City records before signing to mainstream Island Records a couple years back. But I understand you still work with Sub City, donating proceeds from album sales to charity?

Eddie Breckenridge: Yeah, each of the albums that we did with Sub City, which are Identity Crisis and The Illusion of Safety... both of those, as long as they sell them, they donate five percent of the retail costs to the charities that we’ve chosen for those albums. And it lasts as long as they’re releasing those albums. So hopefully, if people are still buying them in 10 years it will still be raising money for those charities... Island did the exact same thing [with The Artist in the Ambulance].

Brandon Bielich: What can we expect to see on the new DVD? I’ve heard you have sorted through years of video footage to provide the ultimate story of Thrice?

Eddie Breckenridge: [Laughs] It’s just like studio footage from when we were recording, live footage, footage of us in a van, traveling and doing stupid stuff; us with other bands. Basically, like a history of where we’re at and where we’re planning on going, kind of. I was a little leery at first of actually doing a DVD since [we’re only six years old]. Usually people do it a little bit later, but I think the thing that makes it better is the fact that it’s not just [a retrospect], it’s also showing where we want to go.

Brandon Bielich: Guitarist Teppei Teranishi has recently been seen fusing keyboards into your new material. Is this something you’ve wanted to add all along or did it just kind of develop this time around?

Eddie Breckenridge: We’ve always been scared to add new instruments just because it’s more equipment on stage and all that. But I think we felt that on this next record, it’s kinda stupid to limit yourself. If you wanna do something, you should do it, while you have the chance, you know? So he’s been playing like keyboards and piano and I’ve been playing a little bit of synthesizer stuff; just kind of things to add texture and a new feel to the music. A lot of the bands we love use keyboards too.

Brandon Bielich: Would you say the new CD will be heavier or softer than your previous work?

Eddie Breckenridge: I would say it’s probably spread out even more like dynamically. There’s some stuff that’s mellow but there was on Artist in the Ambulance... I think it’s a mix of the two extremes. Like dynamically moving from something that’s like really spacious and really quiet into something that is really heavy; we’ve been experimenting a lot with that... It’s a lot more powerful, I think.

Please See THRICE On 17
Piano player founds Never Give Up Your Dreams, Inc.

I just searched for it on the piano and put it together. Within two months I had my first song. It's called The Magnificent."

Currently a student at UCF, Terry has found ways to play. But still unable to read sheet music, he plays by ear. First he began using a piano at UCF's music department, but because he was not a declared music major, he was prohibited to practice. Then he heard about a piano that occupied a hallway in the student union, but because its purpose is for special events only, the Student Union does not allow students to use the piano. Terry thought it best to seek permission from the Student Union Chairperson, Suzie Halpin, who fortunately granted access to Terry, in spite of the 'no student access' rule.

"The nice thing is that Alton has respect for the piano, and he's actually doing us a favor by keeping it in tune," Ed Luther, assistant director of the Student Union said. "He's doing us a service without even realizing it."

In fact, Terry was in the Student Union so often that Luther offered him a job working in event services. On his down time he was allowed to play.

"I practice everyday, and if I could, all day. It's my life, honestly. It's all I do, and all I really know how to do," Terry said.

If Terry is not in the student union, he can be found practicing in the Visual Arts Building auditorium. He was lucky enough to make acquaintances with a friendly custodian who prepares the room so no one will bother him, but it's no surprise that he gets special treatment. He becomes an instant friend to everyone he meets.

Alone in an auditorium that seats 400, Terry sits at the piano with his back to the room. A blue projector light shines from the back, creating just enough light for him to see the white keys. This helps him concentrate on memorizing the music rather than seeing what he is doing. It not only helps him become a better pianist, but these private practices are a stark contrast to a busy university campus.

"I play alone at practice," Terry said. "It's a way to get away from reality. When people come, they come for the same reason. It's thought-provoking and soothing."

He speaks of his followers, those friends he has made over the last few years at UCF who have come to appreciate his new talent, his inspiring ambition and his caring nature. If he is there, they can be found scattered around the dark room, listening. Marques Brantley, a 20-year-old broadcast journalism major, is a close friend of Terry's.

"I feel sorry for someone who has never met Alton, 'cause he's really an amazing person," Brantley said. "Anything he can do to help anyone out, he does, and even sometimes goes above and beyond that. And that's just a great person to have around, period."

But what occupies most of Terry's time is the organization he founded at UCF this last fall called Never Give Up Your Dreams, Inc. It was created to inspire, motivate and instill positive values in any given community at any given time. A large part of the club's focus is centered on reaching out to the community by giving people a chance to display their talents through avenues like the talent showcase.

"Some of the 14 acts to be featured at "The Rhythm Within" include Club Kreyol Dance Troupe, Carl Hamilton's Quintet and Latin Rhythm. The event is free to all, although donations are welcome. Terry encourages people of all talents to participate, although music is his personal way of making a difference with the vision that people will leave a performance with a better perception of themselves.

"We use music as a tool to inspire people because it's an effective way of getting people to listen," Terry said. "I try to evoke peace in a way."

As for the future, Terry only sees himself involved with music. He was recently selected to study abroad with the "Art Under One Roof" program at St. Petersburg College in Italy, after submitting a recording of his piano compositions. He is thrilled to see his dream become a reality.

"I want to perform everywhere, especially Florence," Terry said. "One of the professors in the program wants to train with me as soon as possible, so I've decided to leave at the end of this semester. There's nothing really holding me back. It's one of my dreams."

Maybe someday Terry will accomplish his goals in a big way. In his experiences, music has had a huge effect on people, and he's aware of how music can bring people together. He wishes to do the same with his own talents. After watching the recent movie Ray, which details the life of Ray Charles, Terry appreciates the way Charles transformed music into his own style, even when at first people were uncomfortable with it. "That is what art is supposed to do," Terry said. "Make people uncomfortable."

But what he speaks of is the artist's drive to be different, and to reach the audience.

"I love to play for people. I try to use it to inspire people the way I was inspired," Terry said. "It sends a message in no other way possible. Music is sometimes the only way some things can be heard. If I could have one day where people just get along because they listened to what I wrote, it would be worth it."

Thrice planning tour supporting album coming out in summer of fall

FROM 6

BB: Now you and [drummer] Riley are brothers. Do you ever find it harder to get work done or are you guys pretty tight?

EB: No, we're super-tight. I think it's a lot easier actually, because I think we and him feel like it's really easy to be honest with each other on a critical level, especially when we're writing music or anything like that. I can [give constructive criticism to] everybody else but it's a lot easier with my brother.

BB: Obviously, the new album is a lot of hard work, but can you give us a possible time period for its release?

EB: We're shooting for late summer but maybe fall. I would probably say fall because we're not going to be finished recording it until like sometime in May. What we've been doing scheduling-wise, we've had a lot of songs, more than we can even record. We have to figure out how we're gonna choose what we're gonna use. I hope it's out as soon as possible, but I would say probably sometime in the fall.

BB: After the release of Artist in the Ambulance, it seemed that Thrice toured almost non-stop for a year and a half. Are you planning a similar run to support your new album?

EB: Yeah, I think that's the best way to do it; especially since we've been off for about, more than six months now [with] writing this record. I just think it's really important to get your music out there. Especially because you can tour for two months and [hit] a city in every state, but that's only one show in each of those states, so it's really good to get back there... Then there's also Europe, Japan, Australia and Canada, and pretty much, it's best to be on the road as much as possible.

Pick up the new DVD If We Could Only See Us Now available everywhere this coming Tuesday.
Somewhere down the road people will credit Beck Hanson with being one of the top musical minds of our generation. Throughout the '90s and first half of this decade, Beck's music has served as a cultural barometer, reflecting the overall attitudes of the young people who have grown up with him. Beck first exploded on the scene with 1993's "Loser," a song that became an anthem for middle and high school kids everywhere who didn't quite feel they fit in anywhere. In 1996, he released one of the classic albums of the decade, Odelay, which blended alternative, R&B, hip-hop and soul in a way that wouldn't be duplicated or bettered until OutKast started experimenting with its own hybrid sound.

When the attitudes of Americans everywhere changed after Sept. 11, so did the music of Beck. In 2002, he released Sea Change, his masterfully sad homage to lost love. With its third release, the band combines rock, acoustic and folk in a way that wouldn't be duplicated or bettered until OutKast started experimenting with its own hybrid sound.

An album's opening track is supposed to set the stage for what is to come, to give the listener an enjoyable, if not brief taste of the sounds that will soon be swirling around their ears. Add to this The Decemberists' knack for delivering indie-pop versions of old English sea shanties and mythical tales of phantom cabin boys (which have the ability to convince those who hear them that they are listening to music penned by some of classic literature's greats and not songwriter Colin Meloy), and you get "The Infanta." The opener of Picnic, the newest full-length album from the Portland hipsters, explodes into a tale of an elaborate parade of colorful characters proudly riding into town upon the most elegant of animals to pay homage to the new-born daughter of a king: "five score pachyderms / all canopied and passenger'd," and that is just the opening track! What follows is a collection of vibrant short stories brought to life musically with the help of acoustic guitars, accordions, an upright bass, various percussion and brass instruments, violins, cellos and even a hurdy-gurdy. Within the pages of The Decemberists' newest epic we are introduced to a wide variety of characters, all eagerly awaiting the chance to share their stories.

Early on we meet Eli, the Barrow Boy, selling a curious variety of his personal collection including coal, corncobs and candle waxes. Soon we come across a pair of sexual­ly excited criminal lovers in "The Ragman's Gambit." And in "On the Bus Mail," we are introduced to a set of runaway prostitutes convinced they can find a better life, among the castaways of the towns they traverse in their coming-of-age anthem.

But perhaps the most in-depth and ultimately most memorable characters are the two soul survivors of a vast multiple ship­wrecked, apparently, by a vengeful whale. The two mariners, whom we soon learn have a long violent, intertwined past, will soon wage one last futile battle to the death, inside the belly of a giant whale.

Picnic expands the definition of concept album, and it is as much of a masterful literary work as it is a triumphant musical experience.

If you truly allow yourself to be immersed in the musical tales, soon you'll find yourself transported far from the land of deadlines and final exams.

Hitching a ride via ghost ship, you will find yourself ultimately in a mythical, romantic time that existed once long ago, hidden among the bookshelves of 18th-century lighthouse towns, and that still remains captured in the dusty pages of Herman Melville, James Fennimore Cooper and Washington Irving.

— CHRIS BOWERS

Despite some previous trouble with former record labels and poor promotion, American Hi-Fi continues working hard to prevent itself from becoming "just the flavor of the week."

In its third release, the band combines keyboards and synthesizers with some good old rock 'n roll music to produce a retro-rock record worth picking up.

However, there are some quirks worth pointing out. The single "The Geeks Get the Girls" sounds similar to original hit "The Flavor of the Week," and song "Hell Yeah" seems to throw the listener off track with random drum beats. At times, it's hard to tell if a song is ending or continuing. Whether that is good or bad is for you to decide.

"Something Real" provides a change of pace. A nice piano piece progresses into a catchy chill song. Perhaps American Hi-Fi should have stuck to this format for the other ten songs.

— BRANDON BIELICH

Creating an awkward blend of anthem-like rock ballads and poppy love songs, this fourth album by Superchick is what happens when Simple Plan meets the Spice Girls ... for the fourth time.

Although Beauty From Pain will hit stores late March, the album is more of a re-release of their first three discs than anything else.

To make matters worse, this sextet, composed of four guys and two girls, decided to go even farther than most generic boy/girl bands by attempting to incorporate religious undertones in the album, with lines so cheesy that Creed could openly cringe at them: "If you're out there/ Put your hands in the air/Let the Lord know that someone cares!" sing Tricia Brock and sister Melissa Brock, lead vocals, on "Stories (Down to the Bottom)."

A Christian rock boy/girl band that raps, sings, and dances? Perhaps Superchick needs a friendly reminder that in order to succeed in the music industry, you have to try to appeal to a certain genre of music ... not all of them.

— NATALIE ZFAT
LIFE

Give gays a chance (to adopt)

UCF's GLBSU holds Kids Come First expo

EMILY SCOTT
Staff Writer

If your heart bleeds every time you walk into a Humane Society building and see a plethora of homeless pets, imagine walking into a DCF office and seeing thousands of homeless children being shuffled around in the foster care system. Imagine if something could be done about it, but that solution was gay adoption.

If you stop imagining and happen to wander out to the Memory Mall (the same site of both the Homecoming movie and the Michael Moore rally last October) next Tuesday, you will come to this very realization without encountering a single foster child.

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union will facilitate an event titled Kids Come First: Making a Brighter Future for Florida’s Families on Tuesday, Joe Saunders, president of the UCF GLBSU, stated that this event was created in order to raise public awareness about the problem of Florida’s ban on gay adoption. “There are 4,000 kids in the Department of Children and Families system, 2,000 who are eligible for adoption,” Saunders said. “They are being denied stable, loving homes. [Lawmakers are] hurting the very children they seek to protect.”

Aside from just gay/lesbian/bisexual organizations, social work groups have also gotten involved in the fight. Of the perspective that social work groups bring to the cause, Saunders said, “They realize that in terms of putting children first, this is hurting them.”

This event is supported by not just the campus GLBT group, but also the local American Civil Liberties Union and the Coalition for Fair Adoption. As the latter organization’s Web site states, they believe “Every child deserves a safe, loving home.” This organization’s Web site, http://www.fairadoption.org, features an area where advocates can contribute financially to the cause.

A main feature of this event is a huge display extending between the Classroom I and Health and Public Affairs buildings. It will consist of 2,000 items such as toys, articles of clothing, shoes, and things that “you look at and see as representative of a child,” Saunders said. Each of these items represents a child at the Department of Children and Families eligible for adoption. As

This bear represents one of the 2,000 children available for adoption and currently denied to the gay community.

MARKO A MANNO

Never take friendship seriously?

The poor phrasing of ‘friends with benefits’

Marilyn Manno
Staff Writer

Relax, Nick. Nobody’s punching anybody in the stomach, so don’t get too excited. In reference to this week’s column, even though I’d like nothing more than to engage in another verbal sword-fight, this time I actually agree with you. Plus, you called me pretty again, and I’m weak when it comes to flattery.

Well, I kind of agree with you. There are a few things that didn’t quite sit:

1.) Bad grammar doesn’t banish you to a life of idiocy, and I don’t think Ashley is doomed to be somebody’s Barbie.
2.) Confusing yourself into believing that a relationship is what it isn’t doesn’t make you an idiot either; it makes you human and in college.
3.) Frankly, “Two-Pump Chump” is exactly the right expression for some cases, and
4.) The “friends with benefits” creator doesn’t deserve a blow to the crotch, because I think we all know they were probably male, and I don’t know if bad phrasing merits sterility.

“Friends with benefits” is a BS phrase. I don’t care if you abbreviate it or say it short, (i.e. Friend’s with Ben’s). Although when you say it like that, it kinda sounds like a friend with a Mercedes, and that’s a different story.

It’s right up there with “talking.” You know that “stage” right before you’re actually dating? We had to name it, and that was the best we could come up with, even though at that point “talking” is just about the last thing you are doing with your mouth.

To Ashley and to everybody like her: Is this guy really your friend, or somebody that you get drunk with occasionally? There’s a big difference. Just because the guy you fooled around with in the bathroom of a bar the other night happens to

MARKO A MANNO

Friend + benefits = attachment

It is simply a matter of cause and effect

Nicholas Markovich
Staff Writer

So I got this imaginary letter the other day at the indie offices. Allow me to present some of the highlights. “Dear Nick... Love the column!” (Thanks), “You are truly the greatest blessing to the written world since Gutenberg developed the printing press” (What can I say?), “I have a question for ya” (Ugh. Due to your previous compliments, I may overlook your sixth-grade use of colloquial language in my beloved column), “I have this FWB (friend with benefits for the un-hip) named Steve (Named changed to protect the duped) that I’m starting to develop feelings for. What should I do?” Thanx 4 the advice (Wow), “Your biggest imaginary fan — Ashley.”

Thank you for the letter, Ashley. Good luck with your all of your future endeavors as a trophy wife and continued purveyor of poor grammar. To answer your question, the reason you find yourself in this particular quandary is because you are an idiot. When you combine sodium and chloride, you get salt. Mix flour, eggs, sugar and milk together, and you get cake batter. Add intimacy and romance to a friendship? Voila! You get ATTACHMENT.

Whoever came up with the phrase “friends with benefits” should be punched in the crotch. First of all, it’s one of those annoying not-as-clever-as-it-thinks-it-is terms that makes me want jam a pencil in my eye (see also “butter face,” “two-pump chump,” or half the dialogue on Sex and the City).

Second, it’s all a big lie. People (especially you girls) use this phrase to fool yourselves into thinking you can separate the sex from the intimacy. Guess what? You can’t. Well, MOST of you can’t. To those who can: congratulations ... now put down the paper and invite your friend over for some Marko-inspired lovemaking.

It’s bad enough that people aren’t honest with others, but this is a case of someone lying to his/her own self. I’m not saying you shouldn’t add a little dessert to your friendship cuisine, just be cognizant of the extra calories that come along with it. Eat it proudly — and don’t waste time making excuses or justifying it to yourself or your gaggle of confidants. Friends make

Please See GUEST on 11
A bar for the new Millenia

Mall’s Blue Martini Lounge isn’t cheap, but its high-class luxury is unparalleled

West Palm has it. Fort Lauderdale has it. And Tampa has it. It is no wonder Orlando decided that it needed to do it “Vegas” style as well and add a particularly sophisticated martini lounge to its high-end Mall at Millenia

No jeans allowed

If you partied too hard during spring break, take the time to redeem yourself at this new and upscale Orlando venue. The bar is everything you might expect it to be: intimate outside patio, a VIP area and a stage room. Since Blue Martini just recently opened, its line-up of events consists of a Monday Hospitality Night and a Wednesday Ladies Night. Every other evening is the same, with respect to the different radio stations or alcohol brands sponsoring the venue.

Driving toward this posh cigar lounge, you are warmly welcomed by the blue and purple lighting surrounding the building. Once the black-suited men open and close the velvet rope as they greet you, you are instantaneously invited into the ambiance of the lounge, which holds a soft red and, of course, blue lighting around the walls and bars.

Admission is only $5 after 7:30 p.m. and the line begins to get rather lengthy between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. If you spent all your money on booze during your break, there is no way your Louis Vuitton wallet will afford the $11 per drink (unless you go during happy hour, which is from 4-7 p.m. weekdays, with $6 martinis).

Luckily, they serve your martini with the shaker, which amounts to about a drink and a half. Stand up after two glasses and you will have felt that you have had about three stiff drinks.

There is a myriad of people in the crowd, but your general demographic for this atmosphere is mid-20s to late-30s. Though there are also enough "rents who think they are hip. So whether you are having a few drinks in a more prestigious place before heading downtown for the evening or showing your parents that you party in a very refined and composed atmosphere, the Blue Martini presents a nicer environment from the typical downtown bar.

Currently, the Orlando Blue Martini offers almost 30 different premium martinis. My personal favorite, the Carmel Martini, was one

I had not ordered but managed to snag a sampled sip from a friend, which tempted me to run off with her shaker and never be found again. I did start my evening off with a Cookies and Crème Martini, which left me with a good impression of the rest of their drinks. It was rimmed with cookie crumbs, wonderful to crunch on in the midst of sipping the drink.

Overall, the Blue Martini created a good first impression, especially for the high-class Orlando market. The Blue Martini is even situated on the second floor of the mall, which makes it seem like it is on a pedestal. The scene, food and drinks are first-class. Check it out on the Web at www.bluemartini.lounge.com.
Guest speakers highlight event

From 19

will be adorned with lavender fabric to create an aesthetic effect.
This design was also inspired by Eyes Wide Open, another traveling display that used objects to create a lasting image. This display occupied the same spot on campus last fall and consisted of more than 1,000 pairs of shoes, one pair for each U.S. soldier that had been killed in Iraq since the start of the war in 2003 up to that point.
The Kids Come First display, another traveling display that will be present at UCF with more than 1,000 pairs of shoes, one pair for the war in Iraq that killed in Iraq since the start of the war in 2003 up to that point. The Kids Come First display is designed to raise awareness about the issue of gay adoption.

The Kids Come First display will travel to campuses all across Florida, "hopefully all the way up to Tallahassee and all the way down to Miami," said student participant Danny Coeyman. In terms of the name, "it pretty succinctly gets what we're after."
The event, including a large display and guest speakers, is exactly what it claims: gay, lesbian, and bisexual students and other advocates hoping to raise awareness of how gay adoption helps families in the immediate area.

According to Coeyman, Florida is currently the only state with a constitutional amendment that bans gay marriage. The Web site for Equality Florida, a politically-tinged group seeking to ensure rights of GLBT community members, states that this ban was passed over 25 years ago. As per the form-fill petition on the organization's Web site, found at www.ex1.org, lawmakers said that when these laws were passed, they were "caught up in the hysteria of the times" and now regret their decision. Kids Come First comes at a convenient time as well, because the state government now at the start of the open session of the Florida Legislature.

"We'd like to have this support," Saunders said. "A lot of people are upset with these policies, a lot of people want to see them changed."

In addition to the massive display, there will be guest speakers starting at noon. They include Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan, Equality Florida Central Florida Field Coordinator Vonn Neu, President of the Orlando Gay Parent Group Lisa Gray and attorney with Florida Family Law Michael Morris. A speaker from the National Association of Social Workers will also likely be present.
The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday. Future events will be taking place at the campus of Florida State University in Tallahassee and Florida International University in Miami by GLBT groups at those schools. For more information about the event, please contact its coordinators at kidscomefirst@gmail.com.

Columnist finds self bracing for impact

From 19

great love interests. You already find a majority of their personalities pleasant enough, as indicated by the fact that you are friends to begin with. Add on the fact that they are physically attractive, and WHAM! As Marvin would say: "Let's Get It On."

YOUR WEEKLY FRIENDLY COLUMNIST WARNING:

friends with benefits can't always go back to friends without benefits — just something you should remember. I shall now submit my opinions to the mercy of Marilyn, a woman so lovely and talented that she could melt any objections that I would have to a) the concept of CFW (columnists with benefits). I am now bracing myself for the incoming punch in the stomach ...
This *Ring* feels false and does not shine

The sequel of the remake feels just like the hollow cash cow it was made as

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

T

wo years ago, *The Ring* graced theatres and surprised many by grossing a gross amount of money. And with that, a sequel was born. Not a remake of the sequel of the remake, but a wholly original sequel from the remake of the original.

*The Ring Two* sports the same screenwriter as the original film but changes direction in replacing Gore Verbinski (who is busy forecasting *The Weather Man* with Nicholas Cage).

Hideo Nakata, the director of the original *Ringu* and its sequel, *Ringu 2*, takes the reigns for this film, in which mood is central and logic takes a backseat.

But one can't let logic fall into the way of the mysteries of *The Ring*, for it also had giant gaps in logic. If anything, *The Ring Two* just gives the audience more of what it got in the first film, and in that respect it delivers in spades.

The film picks up not too long after the first film, with Naomi Watts and her strange son picking up and moving to a small town in hopes of escaping the tape that nearly destroyed their lives. As fate would have it though, life is not so simple once again for Watt's Rachel Keller. Samara is back and she's pissed. At some point early in the film Watts destroys the tape that once plagued her and in doing so causes Samara to become uber-pissed and go after Watts' son.

While the tape figured prominently in the first film, it is as pivotal as a stick of gum in this sequel. The filmmakers have decided to go the route of good versus evil this time, pitting the good Watts against the bad Samara. What's more interesting is that neither person has actually done wrong. While Samara's actions from the spiritual world may be questionable (she does kill people after all) she seems to only kill them with images from her world.

Basically this sequel does its best to cash in on the same values and themes of the original without stepping on the film's scares are few and far between, with some of the most haunting moments coming from some of the acting. While Watts, who is usually outstanding in even the smallest role, chews the scenery with a bored stare in her eye. Here she is used as a conduit for the audience, much in the same way Samara wants to use her son.

While *The Ring* had some good scares and a genuinely creepy atmosphere, its sequel feels more like the cash cow it is. Instead of following the story to its next step, this film takes the story of Watts' Rachel and places her in situations that feel not only false but simply out of place.
**MOVIES**

**FILM REVIEW**

Simon Green (Ashton Kutcher) and Percy Jones (Bernie Mac) share an intimate moment in Kevin Rodney Sullivan's racist Guess Who. Fore shame ... yet another cheap homoerotic joke, and this movie wasn't even directed by Brett Ratner.

**GUESS WHAT? GUESS WHO SUCKS. GUESS WHY? READ ON**

You can bet that Guess Who's Coming to Dinner's Tracy and Hepburn are grave-spinning at this revolting remake

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

For the first 40 minutes of Guess Who, one could come to the realization that the characters are actually living in an alternate universe, something straight out of another Ashton Kutcher film, The Butterfly Effect. In this alternate universe, Guess Who takes the first 40 minutes of Meet the Parents and replaces Robert DeNiro with Bernie Mac and Ben Stiller with Ashton Kutcher. Almost without fail, Guess Who attempts to copy a formula that works, and when that formula fizzles out just before the hour mark of the picture, so does the film. That's not to say it was actually entertaining or good before that mark, just that it stops trying after that.

Ostensibly a remake of Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, Guess Who tries to be the answer to a film that asked a question over 40 years ago. While the original film had social value, this film has zero value.

After some brief introductions to all of the characters, in which the audience is meant to be brought to a brisk sizzle while it waits for the moment black people and white people collide, the interactions between Kutcher and Mac are surprisingly flat. While both leads are adequate in facilitating the roles, the timing is off. Jokes that should have a spark fizz, and setups that should pay off (the NASCAR angle) go nowhere at alarmingly casual rates. Mac and Kutcher sleep together, they almost get arrested in little go-cart type vehicles and they dance together ... but it never leads anywhere but the obvious.

And that's what hurts the picture the most: it always goes for the obvious joke. Director Kevin Rodney Sullivan, who previously helmed Barbershop 2: Back in Business, does a poor job of making the jokes and the situation believable.

Kutcher once again fails to meet any acting prowess in a thankless role that gives him range to flex no acting muscle. If this film were comparable to a gym, Kutcher's performance would be comparable to a busted rowing machine.

While Mac has been funny in other roles, his motivation as Percy, the father who apparently just hates white guys who date his daughter, doesn't make a whole lot of sense without making him a blatant racist. To explain: Early in the film Percy tells a co-worker how he had checked into Kutcher's finances and credit history and that they were in great shape, he was happy with this guy on paper. Once he meets him and discovers Kutcher to be white, the trouble begins. But there's something wrong with that picture.

The entire impetus of the film is based on something that is completely racist. And though the original film was about breaking through the barrier of racism, this film actually embraces its racist intentions. Sure, it's all played for PG-13 laughs, and no one is ever "really serious" about anything in the film, but looking past the surface, did the filmmakers really examine what they're doing by reversing these roles?

Guess Who, while cute in premise, is overwrought with problematic execution. It's lazy in its examination of race relations and careless in its intentions. It's a humorless film with no color in it whatsoever.
**MOVIES**

**U.S. movie revenues for March 18-20**

All dollar figures in millions.

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**FILM REVIEW**

**Kevin Costner’s Anger film has many upsides**

**Up-and-coming indie-film teen stars Erika Christensen, left, and Evan Rachel Wood, right, star in The Upside of Anger.**

**GINA SCANLON**

**Staff Writer**

**The Upside of Anger**

**H**

ell hath no fury like a fuming woman who’s had too many martinis. Whoever thought a film like The Upside of Anger, starring Joan Allen and Kevin Costner, which sizzles with contempt and female rage, would be so much fun?

Terry Wolfmeyer (Joan Allen) is the mother of four young women. When her husband mysteriously disappears, she assumes the worst and dives into a deep depression. Denny Davies (Kevin Costner) is a middle-aged, has-been baseball star who befriends Terry while inquiring after her husband. They are both miserable drunks. The story is told through the eyes of Terry’s youngest girl, who is surrounded by a shriveling, estrogen-dominant household and all of its complications.

If you’re wondering where the fun is, there wouldn’t be any if not for the clever script by Mike Binder, who creates a character much like a melodramatic Blanche Dubois (A Streetcar Named Desire) who has tickled her funny bone. Allen and Costner’s parts are so well written that they are able to play off of one another with tension, humor and compassion. Complete opposites, yet both going through a mid-life crisis, they come together by their love of the bottle. Binder’s creation of female characters is impressive. They’re strong, smart and real. The balance of weaknesses between the two sexes makes the film believable. The supporting parts are well developed as well, given numerous layers and plenty of flaws.

Allen puts forth one of her best performances, though she is always strong. Kevin Costner is surprisingly endearing, and the chemistry between the two is perfect for him. The daughters, however, are strangely cast and aren’t too believable as sisters. However, Evan Rachel Wood turns out a compelling performance as the narrator with her wandering vulnerability and perceptiveness on the chaos that surrounds her.

There are some interesting camera techniques and tricks that are cleverly established and make the film stand apart from just another dramedy. The resolution is rewriting, sharp and thought-provoking, leading the audience to rethink the entire film from its beginning, which is rare.

Although the character development is well-done, the story is a little awkward at times. There are strange occurrences that seem to be only used for shock value, which are funny at first, but then leave you wondering what you just witnessed or more importantly, how they move the story along.

Despite a couple of bumpy scenes that could have been cut, the story has a chemically balanced mixture of heart and humor. The perfect cinematic drink, if you will.

**COMING TO DVD — MARCH 29**

**Bigger, longer, and quite uncut**

Trey Parker’s cult classic Orgazmo finally on DVD

**BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ**

**Staff Writer**

**Closer**

One of the better films to grace the theaters last year, Mike Nichols’ film of Patrick Marber’s play, for which two of its four stars earned Oscar nominations, comes to DVD as part of Columbia’s lame Superbit series — in which all extra features are excluded in favor of optimal audio and image. Closer comes to DVD with some trailers for other films ... and that’s it.

**After the Sunset**

A terrible atrocity to both cinema history and to all involved in the making of it, After the Sunset is the latest act of genocide committed by Brett Ratner. The film masquerades as a harmless caper flick, but in reality it is a crude improvisation revolving around how many gay jokes Ratner can squeeze into this feature’s running time. The DVD, being released as a part of the New Line Platinum Series (not Infinitum) includes deleted/alternate scenes with optional director commentary. And if one hasn’t heard enough of Ratner talking about why he cut or changed his movie, there’s a feature commentary with him. Always a must on a Ratner DVD, a blooper reel is included, along with a far-too-cute-for-it’s-own-good titled documentary Before, During, and After the Sunset.

**Orgazmo**

After years of chatter on the Internet, Trey Parker’s little-seen masterpiece is finally coming to DVD with the special-edition treatment leaking from its pores. Orgazmo tells the quaint story of Joe Young, a religious fellow who becomes involved in pornography so he can pay for (among other things) his wedding. The DVD includes no less than three audio commentaries: Track one by stars Matt Stone, Trey Parker; Dian Bachar, Stan Swanson, Andy Kirkendoll and Jason McHugh; track two with crew Maki San, David Dunn, Robyn Rabb, McHugh and Matt Potter; track three with comedy all-stars The South Park writing staff (Pam Brady, Matt Pregger and Kyle McCluloch), Weird Al Yankovic, Dave Foley, Bob Odenkirk and David Cross. Kevin Smith and David Zucker. Also included is the 40-minute documentary The Book of Orgazmo — Another Testament of Trey Parker, 60 minutes of deleted scenes and outtakes, with optional commentary. Rounding out the disc is a behind-the-scenes montage.
Pixar continues to do DVD the right way

Insightful commentaries, hilarious extras and a gorgeous transfer highlight 2-disc *Incredibles* set

**MIKE FERRARO**

**Staff Writer**

Not only has Pixar mastered the art of combining brilliant writing, spectacular animation and a sheer understanding of inspiring imagination, they also know how to properly release a DVD with only one attempt. This new two-disc extravaganza is complete with all the usual extras (trailers, making-of docs and commentary), as well as other great features to make it worth your buck (deleted scenes, animated shorts, bloopers and more).

Amongst the deleted scenes is a storyboarded alternate opening that, while somewhat interesting, doesn’t have the same “oomph” as the actual opening of the film. Each of the deleted scenes includes an introduction by writer/director Brad Bird, complete with explanations as to where he planned on going with the scenes, and why they were ultimately taken out.

There are plenty of “making-of” documentaries on this DVD that chronicle Bird’s journey from his first day at Pixar to the film’s actual completion. They are very insightful, especially when one considers the director’s background. Prior to *The Incredibles*, Bird wrote and directed one of the most under-appreciated, traditionally animated films of all-time, *The Iron Giant*. He mentions how odd of a transition it was for him to enter this new world of computer animation, and he points out (and shows) just how different those two worlds actually are.

The highlights of the extras, however, are the animated shorts. The first one — *Jack-Jack Attack* — illustrates what exactly happened between the youngest Incredible and the crazy brace-face babysitter, Karl. The other — *Mr. Incredible & Pals* — is a perfect homage to the cartoons and comics of old. Shot like it was made 50 years ago, it follows Mr. Incredible, Frozone and a little rabbit sidekick, as they take down a few villains and save the city from a giant stalk of villainous corn.

The only disappointing thing about seeing this film during its theatrical run was the fact that no bloopers were included with the end credits. Where were the infamous outtakes we have all grown to love with Pixar films? Did they really find the perfect animated cast that never flubbed a line or tripped over a prop? Of course they didn’t. *Incred-Blunders* is a very, very, short extra that has about a minute of outtakes. This set of bloopers isn’t as crafty or humorous as the other Pixar films.

Aside from all of these supplements, of course, is the actual feature. The transfer is amazing, as is the sound. If you find yourself stumbling around the video store looking for the ultimate cinema experience, pick up *The Incredibles*. 
From a pompous director far, far away

George Lucas discusses his latest Star Wars film, Revenge of the Sith

DAVID GERMAIN
The Associated Press

Two decades ago, George Lucas pulled off the mask to reveal the face of one of cinema's greatest bad guys. Now, he's to slip the mask back on.

Lucas offered a preview Thursday of his final Star Wars chapter, which spells out the last dark steps the once good-hearted young Anakin Skywalker takes to become the villain Darth Vader.

"It's not like the old Star Wars," Lucas told theater owners at the ShoWest convention. "This one's a little bit more emotional. We like to describe it as Titanic in space. It's a tearjerker."

Opening May 19, Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith brings full circle the mammoth sci-fi saga Lucas began in 1977 with the original "Star Wars," which shattered box-office records and remains one of the top-grossing movies ever.

Reaction was mixed on Episode I — The Phantom Menace and Episode II — Attack of the Clones, many fans grousing that the first one was too much a kiddie flick and the second one too sappy a love story. Calling the latest movie a Faustian tragedy, Lucas said he is unconcerned about whether Revenge of the Sith draws more box office from Star Wars fans.

"I feel that I've made the movie the best I can and it turned out the way I wanted it to be, so I'm happy," Lucas, 60, told The Associated Press in an interview. "I never try to anticipate what the world's going to think or even worry about whether they're going to like it or not. That's not my job, to make people like my movies. They either like them or they don't. That's completely out of my hands."

The intensity of the action and themes in Revenge of the Sith probably will earn it a PG-13 rating, Lucas said. The first five "Star Wars" movies all were rated PG.

Lucas' entry at ShoWest was preceded by a parade of 21 Star Wars stormtroopers in white armor, followed by an actor dressed as Darth Vader.

Along with the trailer, Lucas showed the opening minutes of Revenge of the Sith, featuring the familiar "A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away..." catch phrase followed by the franchise's rousing introductory music.

The film immediately launches into a space battle elaborate even by Star Wars standards as Anakin (Hayden Christensen) and his Jedi knight master, Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), lead a mission to rescue the kidnapped Palpatine, chancellor of the Republic.

The trailer sets up the rest of the scenario, with the suspicious Jedi council assigning Anakin to spy on Palpatine after his rescue, while the chancellor — the future evil Emperor of the original trilogy — plots to seduce the young knight to the dark side of the Force.

"It's very dangerous putting them together," warns Jedi master Mace Windu (Samuel L. Jackson), "I don't think the boy can handle it."

Everyone who has seen the original "Star Wars" knows Mace is right. That film opens in a dark, oppressive age a couple of decades after the action of Revenge of the Sith, when Vader and the Emperor have conquered the cosmos, stamped

COURTESY NEW LINE CINEMA

George Lucas calls Revenge of the Sith a Faustian tragedy. And if anyone knew about making a deal with the devil, it's George Lucas.

Please see LUKE on 117

Two shades of Ryan Gosling

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

A fter holding off on seeing it for what seemed like an eternity, and at the behest of my ex-girlfriend, I rented the film The Notebook. Being the emotional wreck I am, I cried at the end, and so after the film, I decided to instant message my ex and tell her that I thought the film was good and her recommendation was indeed spot-on. Her away message said, "sleeping" and I thought to myself at that moment whether I was tired too. I decided no and popped in another film I had rented: The United States of Leland.

I watched the film and thought it was OK; I had in particular enjoyed a song I heard during one scene between Leland and the junkie girl. I decided I'd look it up on the Internet Movie Database. They have a feature called "Soundtrack Listing" in which the songs featured in the film are listed. When I went to The United States of Leland page I discovered something rather peculiar.

That rather peculiar thing had a name, and his name was Ryan Gosling. You see, the thing that was so peculiar was that Ryan Gosling was the star of The United States of Leland. He, in fact, played Leland. But what I didn't realize was that Gosling had also starred in The Notebook.

While both films were competently made, the most amazing thing about them was Gosling and his ability to seamlessly integrate himself into each role. While an actor like Al Pacino or Jack Nicholson or Edward Norton might earn accolades for being able to integrate themselves into obviously showy roles, Gosling had truly done the actor's job and made it not about himself but about the character. He made both characters so their own that he became unrecognizable behind the naked cinema.

These were true performances, and while not recognized by the Academy (they probably thought it was two different people), Gosling's efforts did not go unnoticed by this young cinephile.

Leland was a shy, introverted and thinner spirit than his Notebook counterpart, who was a bit more buff — an extrovert oozing with romance from his fingertips. And in each role, Gosling is invisible. Unlike Brando or DeNiro, the show isn't about the actor but the character. In this post-Bennifer world, it's amazing to see an actor acting instead of just living up the high life by banging Jennifer Lopez and being best friends with Matt Damon.

Sadly by the time I realized this magical movie moment had happened, it was nearly 4 a.m. I was alone in my apartment and I had had an epiphany about acting. I opened up my iTunes and downloaded the song I had enjoyed ("Undone" by Imperial Teen). I listened to that song alone for awhile, not knowing the next time a magical movie moment like this would happen again.

Please see LUKE on 117
Luke, Leia appear as infants in Lucas’ Revenge of the Sith

From 116

out democratic rule and are hunting down the vestiges of a freedom-fighting rebellion.

Star Wars, The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi recount the rise of Anakin’s farmboy son, Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), who teams with his newfound sister Leia (Carrie Fisher) and brash smuggler Han Solo (Harrison Ford) to take down the Empire and ultimately redeem Vader, bringing him back to the side of the good guys.

Amid the climax of 1983’s Return of the Jedi, Luke takes off Vader’s black mask so father and son can see each other face to face trace Anakin’s downfall from nice little boy to bratty teen to dark knight of the galaxy. Revenge of the Sith presents Anakin in Vader’s black get-up only at the very end of the movie, Lucas said.

“Obviously, fans would love to see a movie about Darth Vader running around killing people,” said Lucas, who also was on hand to receive a “galactic-achievement award” from ShoWest organizers. “I’m not telling that story, and I’m not interested in that. That’s not what the movie is.

“This first trilogy is really about the father, the struggles of a father, or a man, basically, to find himself, and at the same time fall into a trap of wanting certain powers, making a pact with the devil and basically spending the rest of his life regretting it.”

Hayden Christensen stars as Anakin Skywalker in the third volume of the Star Wars saga.

MOVIES

Luke, Leia appear as infants in Lucas’ Revenge of the Sith

MOVIE TIMES

from 114

The Pacifier (PG)
12:30 3:30 7:10 9:30 12:20a
The Ring Two (PG-13)
12:40 3:40 7:00 9:20 12:40a
Robots (PG)
12:00 1:00 2:00 3:30 6:50 7:40 9:20 10:00 12:00a
REGAL WINTER PARK
510 N. ORLANDO AVE., 407-628-0161
Be Cool (PG-13)
12:45 3:55 7:20 10:10
Bride & Prejudice (PG-13)
12:55 3:35 6:40 9:10 12:00a
Constantine (R)
10:20
Diary of a Mad Black Woman (PG-13)
12:00 4:30 7:25
Guess Who (PG-13)
12:00 1:15 4:20 6:40 9:45 10:00 10:40 12:20a
Hitch (PG-13)
1:00 3:50 7:10 9:55
Hostage (R)
1:15 4:30 7:40 10:25
Ice Princess (G)
12:45 2:50 5:50 8:00 10:15
Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)
12:55 6:00 7:10 10:15
Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (PG-13)
11:50a 1:30 2:40 4:15 5:55 8:00 9:45 10:45 12:30a
The Pacifier (PG)
11:55a 2:20 4:45 7:30 9:20 12:20a
The Ring Two (PG-13)
12:30 1:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 3:25 3:55
Romance from a virtual to a real life

Geek ace finds MySpace a place for human race to soon meet face-to-face

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

I have an Internet boyfriend. Well, I suppose he isn't really an Internet boyfriend. I mean, he doesn't exist entirely on the Internet, nor is he made of millions of zeros and ones. He is a real boy and we actually see each other in real life. We just happened to learn of each others' existence on the cybernetic plane.

When I was preparing to leave on my most recent road adventure, I began looking for a place to blog my voyage. As I researched, I stumbled upon a strange site called MySpace. You may have heard of it, being as how it's rabidly popular among the under-30 crowd of slacker Gen Xers and below. It's the next big thing to Friendster, which I loathe. Now we are free to enjoy the excitement of a singles punchbowl mixer and a lager with all our college and high school friends, not to mention our enemies and those kids that were just too cool to exist and would never be our friends in a million years.

After stumbling across the Web site, I decided it might be fun to set up a little profile. Just a few pics of me, a little bit about myself, basically the usual drivel one puts up on such a site. Before I knew it, I was getting all these friends requests. That I was prepared for. What I wasn't prepared for was the number of friends I knew in the real world who were already hooked into this freaky little network. So, since so many people I already thought were cool were signed on, perhaps some of the people that dwell this virtual reality meeting arena might be worth meeting, at least on a chatting basis.

With that in mind, I set out to encounter a few of these folks. Some of them were wretched, and others just sad, while a bare few were actual enjoyable and decent human beings who were worth speaking to. While traveling, we

CRAZED INDIE ROBOT

More like The Da Vinci Blows

For once, listen to Catholic Church

DIANNA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone (who is, apparently, close to Pope John Paul) made headlines denouncing The Da Vinci Code as a "sack full of lies against the Church."

My only response to that is seriously? It's taken this long for bigwigs in the Catholic Church to officially come out against this book? The book was published in March — of 2003. I read it so long ago, I forgot that the book even existed until the good Cardinal brought it up again. Has the Church always been this far behind the times? If so ... damn.

I have to make a confession. I'm strongly opposed to the cardinal's announcement. It's not because I want people to read the book. No, no. Quite the contrary. I firmly believe that if there's one thing people should do this spring, it's not read The Da Vinci Code. If you haven't already read the book, just stay away.

This isn't because I'm stunned by the book's assertion that (spoiler alert!) the Holy Grail wasn't an actual chalice, but Mary Magdalene herself (in that, she held the child — and consequently the blood — of Jesus Christ in her womb). For one thing, I've heard similar hypotheses in the past. For another, getting mortally offended when someone discusses the sex life (or non sex life) of a dude who walked around 2,000 years ago seems a bit silly, but whatever floats your boat, I guess.

No, there are two other, more important, reasons why I'd encourage everyone to keep your distance from the book:

1. It's quite badly written and
2. It goes against the entire premise of Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.

There aren't enough words to describe how horrible an author Dan Brown is. Code can quite accurately be described as Dan Brown's Creek meets Nancy Drew, where Brown attempts to wow the audience with his "research" into the Grail by combining it with a murder mystery. The result is crap.

Sheer crap. There's no other way to describe it, except to say that it just SUCKS, man. Just check out the first line: "Robert Langdon awoke slowly." Wow. Compelling. A few more chapters of THAT and I'll be ready to go outside and stare at the lawn for a couple of hours. And, in true hack-mystery fashion, Brown ends every chapter with a "shocking twist" that is proven meaningless.

The next 10 in the '30 before 30' list 'o doom

This time it's a trip from the library to jazz to supervillainy and more

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

Here are the next 10 entries in my "30 before 30" list, a compilation of 30 things I must do before I hit the age of 30.

11. Spend a whole day, from open to close, in a library.

Warning up to a building of knowledge for an entire day? Mmmmm, sounds good to me. I don't even think I'd go on the computers. I'd go to the eight-story library in downtown Fort Lauderdale and go section-by-section through the different books, trying to learn as much as I could in a single day. The best place there: The Hall of Patents. Rows upon rows of books devoted to human ingenuity and cleverness. Viva le knowledge!

12. Make a 'states' mixtape, with 50 songs, each one representing a different state, based on the order in which they were made a state.

I once made a "months" mix (it was actually 14 tracks, bookended by different versions of "As Times Goes By"). Now onto celebrating my country in a creative, non-jingoistic fashion. Singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens plans on releasing one album per state, which is quite the task. Check out his first one, Greetings From Lake Michigan. It's amazing. This is manageable enough for me. Except I'm already stuck on Delaware. Why should I expect someone to write a song about Delaware in the first place? Sufjan, do Delaware next for me. Please.

13. Design a supervillain, complete with origin and backstory, and go on escapades throughout the city, in character with costume.

What's the worst that can happen? Getting shot or jacked? Why, supervillains have no fear! I'm already anticipating going out to eat and shouting things

P.S. We'll publish the "30 before 30" list online. Check our Web site and give us your opinions. We'd love to hear your favorite things to do before you hit the age of 30.
CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

High school history books totally taught us how badass propaganda can be. Are you not using a car pool on your way to work? You're riding with Hitler! Hyperbole can convince people of anything. Even though we usually think of propaganda as nasty artwork from World War 2, organizations ranging from the miniscule Elevator-Scalator Safety Foundation to the omnipresent Fox News channel continue the tradition today. Sometimes, they even bring their fight to the Internet, where it becomes fair game for our amusement here in Web Less Traveled.

SafeRider

http://www.safet rider.org/

Somewhere in the '80s, old white dudes figured out that only this crazy new thing called “hip-hop” could influence the modern youth. This strange common-law marriage of hip-hop and corporate agendas resulted in such classics as “Don't Copy That Floppy!” a 20-minute rap about software piracy. Google yourself a copy if you haven't seen it. Still following the trend in 1991, the Elevator-Scalator Safety Foundation brought us another example, now with a cut named “SafeRider.” He dresses like Kid Vid from the Burger King commercials and pauses every few moments to dance along with the beats and randomly changing background colors. With lyrics like “Remember, there's a safe way to take the ride. Hold on to the rail and don't touch the sides,” how could it not work? The ESSF even provides study data proving it's efficacy. When the movie's over, don't forget to take the awesome quiz to see what you've learned. Just remember, “We don't act silly when we ride, because a safe rider always keep safety in mind.” Your efforts will earn you an awesome certificate you can print and hang on your wall to show all your friends, who will doubtlessly dub you the king of cool.

Baby Got Book

Courtesy of DJ White Boy and New Life Christian Church, here's a version of Baby Got Back that manages to top even Jamie's train wreck for sheer lunacy. Check these lyrics out, yo:

“I like big Bibles and I can not lie
You Christian brothers can't deny/That when a girl walks in with a KJV/And a book mark in Proverbs/You get stoked/Got her name engraved/So you know that girl is saved/Baby got book.”

In this full-length parody, not a single word of Sir Mix-a-Lot’s classic is unmangled. Watch the video, seriously. It’s just plain law. On top of that, DJ White Boy’s site offers downloadable wallpaper, lyrics, this movie on DVD, and the ability to preorder his upcoming album The Caucasian Invasion. Since he bills his work as a comedy album, at least he realizes it’s worthy of mockery. Thus, we don’t have to feel bad about laughing. Thank God for propaganda.

Net boyfriends ‘wave of the future’

From 118

would stop so I could surf the Internet and write this column, as well as research our next destination, I would log on to my preferred instant-messaging service and chat with my new virtual friends. One of them in particular, a lovely young gentleman who lived nearby to my current base of operations, had a lot of interesting things to say. Before I knew it, I was looking forward to his buddy icon and his text messages.

Then all of a sudden, I was back in town and there was the terrifying possibility of meeting him in the corporeal world.

We became close friends rather quickly, and within the next few weeks we were spending a lot of free time together. Things never seemed to head in any other direction until much later. After three months of being “just friends,” something happened and everything changed. Then myspace.com really a dating site? Could it be that the world

The Indiana Jones trilogy: It's a way of life

From 118

it out.”


“Soylent Green — is people!” It's bad. It's real bad.

But, frankly, the thing that trumps even the bad writing is the fact that I live my life by everything I learned in the Indiana Jones trilogy, so when the Indiana Jones trilogy tells me that the Grail is a cup well, then, it's a cup, damn it.

If we start saying that the Grail isn't that cool cup that healed Indy's dad, then soon we'll be saying that Harrison Ford and Sean Connery can't single-handedly go up against all the Nazis — that Harrison Ford can't put a giant ball o' doom in Raiders of the Lost Ark — that you can't keep your face from melting off if you just shut your eyes really, really tight — that... well, I've blocked out the basic plot of Temple of Doom except for the monkey brains and the dude who could rip your heart out of your chest, but you get the point.

Frankly, a world in which these things can't happen isn't the world where I want to raise my future children. If the Catholic Church Let The Da Vinci Code go in peace.

The more you attempt to boycott it, the more it'll be read. And nobody wants that.

Give him waffles or you will die

From 118

like “I demand waffles, or death!” And then I’ll steal some Equal packets while cackling.

14. Save a life.

I want to do something noble and dignified... don’t we all? And the good thing about this one is that there are many different ways to do this. For instance, I can destroy someone's DVD of Superbabies or have sex with them.

15. Go through a jazz phase.

I can't truly be pretentious until I do. And I'm not talking about going to a few concerts or downloading a couple of albums. I'm going for the all-out Harvey Pekar-esque obsessive-LP-collector jazz phase. Even if it only lasts a week or two.

16. Sneak out of a wedding.

My own swipe at the failed institution of marriage. One of my good friends was recently engaged, so this might not be too far off...

17. Make out passionately in a planetarium.

Love under artificial stars. Yes. There's that distinct place between authentic romanticism and syrupy swell, and somehow this act of affection dangles daringly between the two.

18. Get cell phone use banned in a public place.

That's right, you bastards who feel the need to push your private conversations on the rest of us. I'm coming after you! Your rudeness will be stopped! CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

19. Take a homeless person out to lunch.

Not to some poophole like Arby's, but to a decent, sit-down restaurant. My own way of giving back to the community. And acquiring diseases.

20. Flirt with an obscure religion.

Hello Shakers, hello Jews for Jesus, what's up Scientologists? Holler if you hear me! I want you to want me. I'll end up ditching you like you're a wedding, but we'll have fun while it lasts.
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- Kids Photo with the Easter Bunny
- Hair Care Product Samples
- Hair Care Consultation
- Refreshments
- $8.00 Haircut Special
- Kids Easter Treats

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