Starting strong

UF starts conference play on top with a 51-42 win over USM — SEE SPORTS, A7

FIEA gets an UPGRADE

Vicon gives downtown 'Moves'

ROBYN S UDSK Y Staff Writer

Vicon Entertainment's House of Moves opened a motion-capture studio this week at the Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy. UCF's graduate Video-gaming school.

Located downtown Orlando, the school is situated near Amway Arena and the Bob Carr Center for the Performing Arts in what Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer calls "the Creative Village," both Dyer and UCF President John Hitt were at a special ceremony Monday to welcome the company to Orlando City. Dyer said, "It brings the latest entertainment technology to downtown Orlando." The House of Moves is responsible for the motion-capture work in games and films such as "Thief," "Spider-Man," "Skyrim" and "The Painted Woman.

The company is based out of Los Angeles, and its video game clients include Electronic Arts, Nintendo, Sega and Ubisoft.

"This is the start of the art, 1,500-square-foot studio, containing 3,500 cameras, will be one of the largest on the east coast of the US," Dyer said. "Although many people don't realize it, pre-production step as we move along." Dyer said. "It brings the latest entertainment technology to downtown Orlando." "The House of Moves is responsible for the motion-capture work in games and films such as "Thief," "Spider-Man," "Skyrim" and "The Painted Woman.

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AROUND CAMPUS, A2

BUSINESS FRATERNITY RECRUITS NEW MEMBERS TODAY

The College of Business Administration’s business fraternity is recruiting members. The Theta Sigma Pi chapter of Delta Sigma Pi will make a formal recruiting visit today from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Great Plains on Colonial.

LOCAL & STATE, A2

JAMES MCDONOUGH TO LEAVES WHITE HOUSE

The head of Florida's prison system plans to resign, more than a year after being named secretary to prison, state officials said.

The College of Medicine is competing to earn pre-liminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. The decision should be made by the end of May.

The scholarship drive is the main reason for this, a hospital distant school giving each of the 40 medical students $4,000 per year to graduate class scholarships for $40,000 per student is complete. Half the money will cover tuition and half living expenses.

We haven't even opened our doors yet and we have more than half of the scholarships," Pet-Armacost said.

After six months, 22 out of 40 of the scholarships have been funded.

Pet-Armacost said the anticipated enrollment of 134 students for the first class gives potential students a greater sense of security.

There have been two external scholarships available: Dean, Mead, Egerito, Broadwell, Ackerman, and Pi Kappa Alpha.

"We haven't even opened our doors yet and we have more than half of the scholarships," Pet-Armacost said.

A6
When Gov. Charlie Crist took office in 2007, he asked then-Florida Department of Corrections Secretary James McDonough to retire from his post at the end of last year. Crist said McDonough agreed to remain through the week that he knew McDonough was indicted for taking kickbacks from a prison contractor.

McDonough was appointed by then-Gov. Jeb Bush to serve as Florida's Department of Corrections secretary in 2006 after the previous secretary to the prison, state officials said Thursday.

James McDonough, 62, was arrested by the Department of Corrections Sunday, and Crist said Thursday that McDonough's arrest was likely early next week. McDonough has been pulled in just the way he knew he would not mind following the 2007 version of KnightLyfe.com, Levy and Sobes launched KnightLyfe.com in January 2007 and turned it into Knightlyfe.com. The website is now called KnightLyfe.com.

Sobes are hoping to develop a tough, no-nonsense, and now has branched out to 12 with military-style approach to the most of the Web site's traffic. According to Levy and Sobes, the revamped site will offer new concepts such as an interactive calendar and Knightlyfe.com's version of the yellow pages. Night clubs and students alike can be added as administrators and add events to the calendar. Visit the site also will be able to make profiles and tag themselves in pictures. Students like Kirkwood are hoping knowing sobes said the new site would have the feature that drives it to the next level.

Levy and Sobes are committed to building stronger ties with UCF, apart from the idea evolved into a Web site which is now called Knightlyfe.com.

Juniors Carey Sobes and Corey Levy's Web site all began with an idea for a coupon book. The idea evolved into a Web site which is now called Knightlyfe.com.

"I wouldn't mind being a Google man," Levy, the 20-year-old UCF health services administration major, said. "I wouldn't mind being a Google man," Levy, the 20-year-old UCF health services administration major, said. "I wouldn't mind being a Google man," Levy, the 20-year-old UCF health services administration major, said. 

Vehicles at New UCF Arena

When Gov. Charlie Crist took office on January 11, 2008, the Arena at UCF.

Other notes:

LOCAL & STATE

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Most of the Web site's traffic. "We want people to go on this everyday and see kind of a home page," Sobes said.

According to Kirkwood, the revamped site will allow users to upload photographs for UCF Athletics.

As this point, though, their plans appear to be fall. Both Levy and Sobes are full-time students taking credit hours each. "We work nonstop," Levy said. "It's a lot of sacrifices are made," Sobes said.

Levy said Sobes hope to launch out all over Florida — they are already fully operating in Palm Beach — and eventually other regions of the country. They discussed changing the names as they brought the company to different schools. The site initially was not a success, but Levy and Sobes eventually came to the conclusion that the Knight would stay in Knightlyfe.com.

Although the future success of Knightlyfe.com cannot be guaranteed, Sobes is confident. "Every UCF student will recognize our logo," he said. "We're looking at it as building an empire."
Smoke, fog blinds drivers, causes 70-car crash

Associated Press

POLK CITY — About 70 vehicles crashed Wednesday on a highway blanketed by fog and smoke from a brush fire in central Florida, and local officials said four people were killed and 38 were injured in the tangled, fiery wrecks.

The crash happened on a stretch of nearly 15 miles of Interstate 4 between Tampa and Orlando, following a series of accidents, including the 70-vehicle pileup. Aerial footage showed the smoggy mix of fog and smoke confounding the landscape for miles and giving the sky an eerie golden color in the morning.

The poor visibility hampered rescue efforts, forcing officials to walk along the closed stretch of I-4 checking for injuries, Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Larry Coggins said. The conditions later cleared up, showing charred trucks and crumpled cars pinned underneath some tractor trailers.

The names of the victims have not been released, but all died at the scene, Coggins confirmed. That 38 people were injured, five of them seriously.

Crews worked late in the morning to rescue one man pinned beneath an overturned tractor trailer. Numerous tractor trailers overturned on the roadway, including a tanker. At least six of them burned completely.

“Everything came to a halt,” said Robert Ellison, a motorist driving east on the highway about 6 a.m. “You can’t see your hand in front of your face.”

Ellison told The Tampa Tribune and WFLA-TV that he narrowly avoided an accident and stopped to try to help trapped motorists. “There was no indication of anything. Just when it was too late,” he said.

One of the first victims was a sheriff’s deputy, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said. Deputy Jack Turner told Judd that conditions on the road worsened suddenly.

“[There was] fog, it was a little foggy, then it was total darkness,” Judd recounted the deputy saying Wednesday morning.

The sheriff added that although Turner was shaken up, he helped move people to safety as vehicles continued to pile up — the sounds of metal grinding and gnashing in the darkness.

Turner was haunted, however, by those he couldn’t save. “I watched a man burn to death today,” Judd recounted the deputy saying afterward.

The Florida Highway Patrol is investigating the crash and the role of smoke from the fire that started as a controlled burn and grew out of control.

Judd said Wednesday morning he was “exceptionally concerned” about the decision to start a fire during dry conditions and days after a freeze likely added more tinder. State officials are still investigating how the fire got out of control.

The Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Larry Coggins, clockwise from above, said the crash was caused by the fog, but downplayed the smoke from the fire. He said troopers patrolled the area earlier Wednesday morning and smoke was not an issue.

Since Tuesday, firefighters have battled the controlled burn that grew out of their grasp and charred 400 acres. The fire, which is burning roughly a half a mile from the highway, is 90 percent contained, Division of Forestry spokeswoman Chris Kintner said.

She said forestry workers notified the highway patrol that smoke from the blaze could mix with fog.

Sign warning people of the smoke were placed on the interstate, but Kintner said she did not know if they were illuminated.

There is no estimate on when I-4, the main east-west artery for central Florida, will reopen.

Coggins said a contributing factor of the crashes was the fog, but downplayed the smoke from the fire. He said troopers patrolled the area earlier Wednesday morning and smoke was not an issue.

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There is no estimate on when I-4, the main east-west artery for central Florida, will reopen.
employees know he would have zero tolerance for any- thing. Every employee, every corporation will be able to see that this administration will be different."

McDonough told The Associated Press in June that he had not been approached by Bush's team about being a White House economic adviser. Although the Senate will still be able to confirm presidents' nominees, employees, a certain insta- tion, have been telling lobbyists that existed at top levels of the Senate has disappeared, is not officially happening. Bush was always careful to say that he had not met with the Senate or the House leaders, or even the group of senators who were mired in talks in the administration.

But he was at odds with them from the beginning.

Last year, he demanded that Senate corrections officers improve their fitness and had said that those who would refuse to improve said they were in shape when they were not. Some employee hauled and the union that represents them said it was burning biscuits. McDonough also instructed random drug test- ing for Senate employees, which high- lighted a sense of mistrust between pension workers before he arrived.

First, his decision was in part of his effort to boost con- fidence of the workforce, emphasizing the professional- ization of the entire industry of the workers.

--RICHARD WESSELS

HIGHER EDUCATION

What's in the news at colleges and universities

Report shows most states yet low mark for teacher-prep

Most states could be doing much more to help ensure that their colleges of educ- ation are turning out teachers ready for the classroom, according to a report released Monday by Education Week.

The newspaper's report card grades states on several indicators, including U.S. education standards, the range of career choices available to education majors, the level of preparation among new teachers and the resources each state dedicates to teacher education.

The report found that just 30 states rate teacher-preparation programs as "high" or "very high," while 11 states rate them as "low," and 17 states gave programs a "mixed" rating.

The report also found that only two states - Alabama and Florida - reported a "very high" rating for teacher-preparation programs, while nine states gave programs a "high" rating, nine states gave them a "mixed" rating and 20 states gave them a "low" rating.

The report was based on an analysis of data from the National Center for Education Statistics, a component of the U.S. Department of Education, and on information from state education agencies.

The report found that the states that rate teacher-preparation programs as "high" or "very high" are: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

The report said that while the states that rate teacher-preparation programs as "high" or "very high" are making progress, they are not doing enough to improve the quality of teacher-preparation programs, and that the states that rate them as "low" or "mixed" are not doing enough to improve the quality of teacher-preparation programs.

The report also found that the states that rate teacher-preparation programs as "high" or "very high" are spending more on teacher-preparation programs than the states that rate them as "low" or "mixed." The states that rate teacher-preparation programs as "high" or "very high" are spending an average of $2,000 per teacher-preparation student, while the states that rate them as "low" or "mixed" are spending an average of $1,000 per teacher-preparation student.

The report also found that the states that rate teacher-preparation programs as "high" or "very high" are more likely to have teacher-preparation programs that are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, while the states that rate them as "low" or "mixed" are less likely to have teacher-preparation programs that are accredited by the council.

Bush predicts peace treaty before he leaves office

President George W. Bush was on a mission Monday to arrive at Abbas' headquarters in West Bank on Tuesday, where he will meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Arafat is expected to announce a new plan to end the current peace process.

Bush's visit comes as the United States continues to push for a peace treaty between Israel and Palestine. The two sides have been in talks for months, but have made little progress.

Arafat has said he is willing to negotiate with Israel on a final status agreement, but that he will not recognize Israel as a sovereign state.

Israel, meanwhile, has said it will not negotiate until Arafat recognizes Israel as a sovereign state.

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Studio one of the largest on East Coast
College focused on hiring faculty

"I am thrilled we have reached this milestone." Dean of the College of Medicine Dr. Deborah German said in a press release. "I am thankful for those leaders who have stepped forward and invested in the health of our community. I can think of no better contribution to our future."

The school received a preliminary site visit from the LCME in December. In addition to recruiting donors, the college has focused on hiring faculty. "We're completely on track with that," said Dr. Armacost. More than 360 members of the community have offered their support.

Armacost made a point that if each student at UCF contributed $5 toward a scholarship, they would be able to fund a medical student for a year of their education. For more information on donating to the scholarship fund, visit the UCF Foundation's Web site at www.foundation.ucf.edu or contact Charles Roberts, the vice president of development at 407-384-1359 or email him at cwnropsen@牯.edu.

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SPORTS WRAP

BASEBALL

HAWAI'I COACH LEAVES ISLAND TO FILL HEAD SOFT POSITION

Brian Murphy: Hawaii baseball head coach Ken Ormsbee announced on Tuesday that he will resign his post at the end of the season.

ORMSBEE, Honolulu — Coach Ken Ormsbee announced that he will resign his position at the end of the season, effective immediately.

The 52-year-old Ormsbee decided to take a coaching opportunity closer to home.

"A lot of things have been going on in the last couple of months that have really made me feel like I want to move on," Ormsbee said in a press release.

"I think the timing was right. It's a good opportunity for me and my family," he added.

Ormsbee, who has been with the Rainbow Warriors for 11 seasons, led Hawaii to five NCAA Tournament appearances, including a Super Regional in 2012.

He is the longest-tenured head coach in the university's athletic history.

FEDERER, HENIN ARE NAMED TOP SINGLES NO. 1s

Steve Coleman: Roger Federer and Justine Henin were named the top singles players in the world on Monday.

FEDERER, HENIN ARE NAMED TOP SINGLES NO. 1s

GAFFNEY, Melbourne, Australia — Roger Federer and Justine Henin were named the world's top singles players on Monday.

Federer, a 15-time Grand Slam champion, leads the men's rankings after winning the Australian Open in January.

Henin, a former world No. 1, recently announced her retirement from tennis.

"It's an honor to be ranked No. 1," Federer said. "It means a lot to me and it's a great feeling to have won the Australian Open again.

"Now I'm just thinking about the rest of the season and getting ready for the French Open."

Meanwhile, Henin, who is currently ranked No. 5 in the world, said she was looking forward to the next chapter of her life.

"I want to thank everyone for their support and love over the years," she said. "I have had an amazing journey and I'm looking forward to the next one."

TENNIS

SEND OLE MISS TO FIRST LOSS

Ryan Bass: The Rebels' loss to Tennessee Saturday was the first time Ole Miss has lost a game this season.

THE REBELLION, Oxford — Ole Miss lost to Tennessee Saturday, 85-83.

It was the first loss of the season for Ole Miss, which has won its first 13 games.

"It was a tough loss, but we're going to move on," said Rebels coach Mike Miller.

"We have a lot of young talent and we're going to keep working hard to get better."

NO. 8 TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

Nokareo Ali: Tennessee's No. 8 men's basketball team defeated Ole Miss Saturday, 85-83.

The Volunteers controlled the game throughout, leading by as many as 20 points in the second half.

"We had a lot of energy and played well as a team," said Tennessee coach Rick Barnes.

"Our defense was good and we made some shots when we needed them."

Meanwhile, Ole Miss coach Mike Miller said his team had a tough night.

"We're going to have to play better and we're going to have to get back to work," he said.

RIVERS, TC: "Good looks were hard to come by, but our defense for 40 minutes was the best we've played this year."

Brian Murphy: Ryan Rivers' Maine and Troy head coach Todd Dagenais in 2008. He was named as the Knights' head coach Tuesday.

"Good looks were hard to come by, but our defense for 40 minutes was the best we've played this year," Rivers said in a press release.

"Our defense was great and we were able to control the game from start to finish."
ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The modern challenges of global warming and population growth are coexisting up with the world's most famous sled dog race.

It's a warming climate and sprawling development, one that is slowly engulfing the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Anchorage, Alaska, on March 6, 2007. Citing the effects of global warming and population growth, officials from the ski-dooing event and the University of Colorado in Boulder have announced a mid-race change that in recent years, the Iditarod has been marked by a quickening pace and a seemingly endless supply of new official restart sites.

"It's something that he is trying to build with us because we felt early in the season that our team didn't lead the Knights in scoring," said Brown. "He showed us why we are such a young team, that is five points below his season average."

No other Golden Eagle player scored in double figures as the Knights from 1999-2004, who won the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest in 2005, 2006 and 2007, and have seen tremendous development in the past two years. The Golden Hurricane is scheduled to tip-off at 7 p.m. Saturday at the New UCF Arena.

The Golden Hurricane is going to come with energy to us and compared them to the conference in 3-point per game. He has finished just one game with 17 points.

Guard Glenn Andrews was on the team's leading scorer against Colorado with 17 points. He ranks third in the conference in 2-point percentage behind Noel and Memphis' Chris Douglas-Roberts, the league leader. Tucker also has conference UCF shooting guard Will Thomas and center Jerome Jordan. He has 13 blocks on the season, an average of 3.3 per contest. He has had three blocks in a career-high 27 minutes.

Wise was the Golden Eagle's leading scorer with 14 points, and he is five points below his season average.

"It's easier for the mushers, we no need to go to see the snow. And it's a good excuse for people to get out and see Alaska."

"It's something that he is trying to build with us because we felt early in the season that our team didn't lead the Knights in scoring," said Brown. "He showed us why we are such a young team, that is five points below his season average."
OS ANGELES — Hedo Turkoglu had his own personal cheering section Wednesday night at Staples Center. He put on quite a show for the fans from his native Turkey.

Turkoglu scored 13 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and added three rebounds and four assists in the period, leading the Orlando Magic to a 113-106 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Randall Lewis scored 20 points, Dwight Howard had 17 points and 17 rebounds and Jameer Nelson added 14 points and nine assists for the Magic (23-16), who won on the road for an NBA-leading fifth time — one more road victory than they had all of last year.

Turkoglu finished with seven rebounds and seven assists to go with his 28 points, which matched a season-high.

"It was a great win. They [the Magic] wanted it a lot more than we did," said Los Angeles Clippers center Chris Kaman, who finished with 26 points and 13 rebounds in the Magic's victory.

Howard said, "We struggle burying teams. You've got to make the open shots and make them. We're sticking together, things are going to turn around." "It was a big night," Howard added. "We made some big plays. We got a stop in the last minute. We're hitting some shots. It was just a good win for us."

Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy was ejected with 7:27 remaining in the third quarter after picking up two technical fouls in rapid succession. Assistant Jim Pyon filled in after Dunleavy headed to the locker room, stopping hands with fans on the way.

With Lewis and Nelson leading the way, the Magic outscored the Clippers 23-6 in the third quarter, sending them to the locker room, slapping hands with fans on the way.

Turkoglu scored 13 of his game-high 28 points in the fourth quarter, helping the Magic extend their lead to 109-106 with 29.5 seconds left, and Nelson's 3-pointer with 29.2 seconds remaining gave the Magic a 112-106 lead. Tim Thomas added 20 points and 17 rebounds, Rashard Lewis scored 20 and added three rebounds and four blocked shots, and Cuttino Mobley scored 16 for Los Angeles, who lost for the 10th time in 12 games.

The Clippers, who trailed by 21 points entering the last period, got as close as 10 points at 4:15 of the period, but they were on top the rest of the way. The Magic led by as many as 18 points in the first quarter, shooting 15-of-21 in that period to cut Orlando's lead to 105-100.

"That was a big play," Maggette said of the pass he threw over Brevin Knight's head. "We had the momentum going as a team. It was a big play for us." Regarding Turkoglu, Maggette said, "He's had a hot hand, man. We took Dwight out of the game. Rashard kind of cooled down.

"We kind of relaxed and let them back in the game," Maggette said of the pass he threw over Brevin Knight's head. "We had the momentum going as a team. It was a big play for us."

Maggette made a 3-pointer for Orlando's first points in more than five minutes, giving the Magic a four-point lead, and Nelson's 3-pointer with 1:57 to play made it 112-106.

A foulshot by Mobley and a free throw by Maggette cut the Magic's lead to 99-98 with 4:15 remaining. Los Angeles had two chances to take its first lead, but Mobley missed a jumper and Maggette committed a turnover.

"That was a big play," Maggette said of the pass he threw over Brevin Knight's head. "We had the momentum going as a team. It was a big play for us."

Maggette made a 3-pointer for the Clippers' first quarter lead and the Clippers scored the first nine points of the second period to cut Orlando's lead to 99-98 at halftime. Maggette scored five points during an 11-0 run that gave the Magic an 18-point lead, and they were on top the rest of the way. Orlando led by as many as 18 points in the first quarter, shooting 53 percent during an 11-0 run that gave the Magic an 11-point lead in the period to 6-0-8 for the Clippers.

Orlando Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu goes for a reverse layup past Los Angeles Clippers center Chris Kaman during the second half of the Magic's 113-106 victory Wednesday night in Los Angeles. Turkoglu scored 28 of his game-high 28 points in the fourth quarter.

For more information, contact the UCF Army ROTC at 407-823-2430 or visit army.ucf.edu today!
The Last year's film selection got some thumbs up and some thumbs down

WILLIAM GOSS
Staff Writer

Out of roughly 350 films I saw this year and about 50 others I missed, the titles listed below were the ones that lingered the longest and meant the most, both in the past few days and for many years to come.

The Best

1. Once (on DVD)
More than any other film, I found myself making the distinction between my favorite film of the year and the best one. In 2005, 2005: A History of Violence was No. 1, but I just couldn't keep The Constant Gardiner at my back. Last year, I enjoyed my last with Children of Men, but probably popped The Fountain in the DVD player more often.

This year, I find myself making no such distinction as no film offered me as much effortless conviction as this lovely little Irish love story, in which Glen Hansard meets Marketa Irglova, and they make some beautiful music together. Shot fast, quick and cheap, it epitomizes the barest bones of cinema, and, not only did it send me out of the theater with a spring in my step and a song in my heart, it did so unabashedly. If that can't cut it for you, then that's just too bad.

2. No Country for Old Men (back in theaters Jan. 18)
With the greatest of ease, the Coen brothers translated Cormac McCarthy's mythic modern Western to the screen, and in the process, they made a film that doubles as both a spectacular crime thriller and a lingering lament for the ways of the world.

3. There Will Be Blood (will open locally Jan. 18)
Jason Bourne (Matt Damon, as good as ever) finally gets to the bottom of the bureaucracy responsible for making him a killing machine. Here it is, ladies and gentlemen: proof that millions of pixels and a bloated running time aren't necessary to make a blockbuster for the most, both in the past 365 days and for many years to come.

Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson manages to make not only a film that's nothing like anything he's done before, but one that arguably makes the most of cinema as a medium. It's a staggering accomplishment, thanks in no small part to Daniel Day-Lewis, who hurls it out of the park as the misanthropic oil man out for all he can get, from the film's first wordless stretch to its final frenzied confrontation.

4. Knocked Up (on DVD)
More prominent critics than I have already deemed Judd Apatow's comedy to be this generation's The Graduate, and they're not wrong. It's both timely and timeless in its humor and values, with strong performances all around (God bless Leslie Mann). Come to think of it, this isn't our generation's The Graduate; this is our generation.

5. The Bourne Ultimatum (on DVD)
Paul Greengrass took both the Bourne series and the action genre to new visceral heights with this kick-ass capper, which amasses assassins Jason Bourne (Owen Wilson), as good as ever, finally goes to the bottom of the bureaucracy responsible for making him a killing machine. Here it's ladies and gentlemen: proof that millions of pixels and a bloated running time aren't necessary to make a blockbuster for the ages.

6. Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (on DVD April 15)
Sidney Lumet made a wondrous comeback with this mean morality tale, in which happiness and greed inadvertently send an entire family on one hell of a downward spiral. Philip Seymour Hoffman gives arguably the best of his three performances this year, and Ethan Hawke reminds us why we keep him around after all.

7. Zodiac (on DVD)
Director David Fincher's obsessive film about obsession wasn't to everyone's liking, but it's more chilling as a procedural in which man drives man.

Last year's film selection got some thumbs up and some thumbs down
Sia soothes with solemn, soulful voice

AMANDA K. SHAPIRO

The first wave of new music for 2008 is beginning to hit the shelves. Among some of the more noteworthy of albums that have returned to the spotlight to display the growth and progress she has made with her songwriting in recent years is the latest release from Sia. The album, *Some People Have Real Problems*, is the fifth studio album from the singer-songwriter, and it is one that has been critically acclaimed and well-received by fans and critics alike.

The album, released on August 26, 2008, features a diverse range of genres and styles, from pop and rock to country and folk. It includes 12 tracks, with guest appearances from artists such as Dan Auerbach and Jack White. The album's opener, "You're So Stupid," is a powerful and haunting ballad that sets the tone for the rest of the album. The song, which features Sia's signature soulful vocals, is a sad and emotional exploration of the complexities of relationships.

The album also features the hit single "Breathe Me," which was used in the film *The Orphanage*. The song, with its pulsating drumbeat and soaring vocals, has become a anthem for those who have lost loved ones. It is a song that speaks to the pain and the beauty of loss, and it has become a source of comfort for many.

Sia's music has always been characterized by its raw honesty and vulnerability. She has been open about her struggles with addiction and mental health, and her music reflects this openness. The album, with its themes of love, loss, and redemption, is a testament to her journey and to her ability to find beauty in the darkest of times.

In conclusion, "Some People Have Real Problems" is a powerful and emotionally resonant album that is well-worth a listen. It is a testament to Sia's talent as a songwriter and performer, and it is a reminder of the power of music to heal and to connect us to one another.

THE ORPHANAGE

WILLIAM DEO

Understandingly being sold on the recent wave of auteur directors, Guillermo del Toro and Stephen King, it’s no surprise that this film from S. Craig Zahler turns up in the pile of what constitutes directorial genius. The film bears more accurate comparisons to *The Innocents,* and the Others, and did Toro’s version of an earlier* Orphanage* take anything away from a great film? It’s a story that proves that great stories can be told in the most dramatic of ways, provided the film is well-made.

Having recently relocated to New York, and now ensconced in the quiet of the Big Apple, S. Craig Zahler is a New York-based writer-director. Zahler’s directorial debut, *The Orphanage,* is a story that is not for the faint of heart. The film is a tale of a man who is on the hunt for his adopted son, and his journey takes him through the darkest corners of the human mind.

The film’s protagonist, played by Ralph Fiennes, is a man who is forced to confront his own past in order to find his adopted son. The film is a study in the human psyche, and it is a testament to the power of film to explore the darkest corners of the human mind.

With its powerful performances and thought-provoking themes, *The Orphanage* is a film that is sure to leave a lasting impression on its audience. It is a film that is not for the faint of heart, but it is a film that is well worth the time and effort it takes to watch it.
Don't bother with these two-star duds; rent instead.

DIRECTOR: Rob Reiner
STARS: Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman

** ** **

The Bucket List

DIRECTOR: Julian Schnabel
STARS: Mathieu Amalric, Marie-Josee Croze, Marwan Kenzari, Mathieu Kassovitz, Benoit Magimel, Dominique Bauby

Morgan Freeman stars as Carter, a terminally ill patient, and Jack Nicholson stars as Edward, a multimillionaire dying of cancer, in The Bucket List, which opens today.

First Sunday

DIRECTOR: David O. Russell
STARS: Ice Cube, Katt Williams, Tracy Morgan, Loretta Devine

In the wake of Tyler Perry's success with his shot at the screen similarly modest protagonist David E. Talbert finds himself helming his first film. The morally astute Ice Cube and sonically sidelinck Tracy Morgan find themselves taking off their director Katt Williams and others hostage when the Baltimore church they attempt to rob finds itself filled with parishioners — and missing its money. As always, Morgan gets a few laughs out of line delivery alone while Williams manages a chuckle or two. But with nowhere else to go, the Stock­holm slapstick soon becomes more priggish and precocious than ever. To his credit, at least Talbert never resorts to having us suffer the trials of Perry's ever-shifting gospel mamas, Madas.

Opens in theaters everywhere today.

Also playing...

In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale

DIRECTOR: Uwe Boll
STARS: Jason Statham, Leelee Sobieski, Ron Perlman, John Rhys-Davies

NOTORIOUS SCHLOCK-MEISTER UWE BOLL (House of the Dead, Alone in the Dark, BloodRayne) has once again roped talent into one of his loose video-game adaptations, the result of which seems to be some sort of nudity-half-baked historical epic that — surprise, surprise — has gone unreviewed for critics.

Opens in theaters everywhere today.

** Universal classics

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Featured Speakers will include Catherine Band, a developer of the EthicsGame and producer of the film, "The Ethics of Ethics: An Introduction to Business Ethics," and John Rantiz, President and CEO of Turn2.com, who will discuss "Virtual Ethics: A New Way to Teach Ethics." Special emphasis will be placed on information and ethical development.

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