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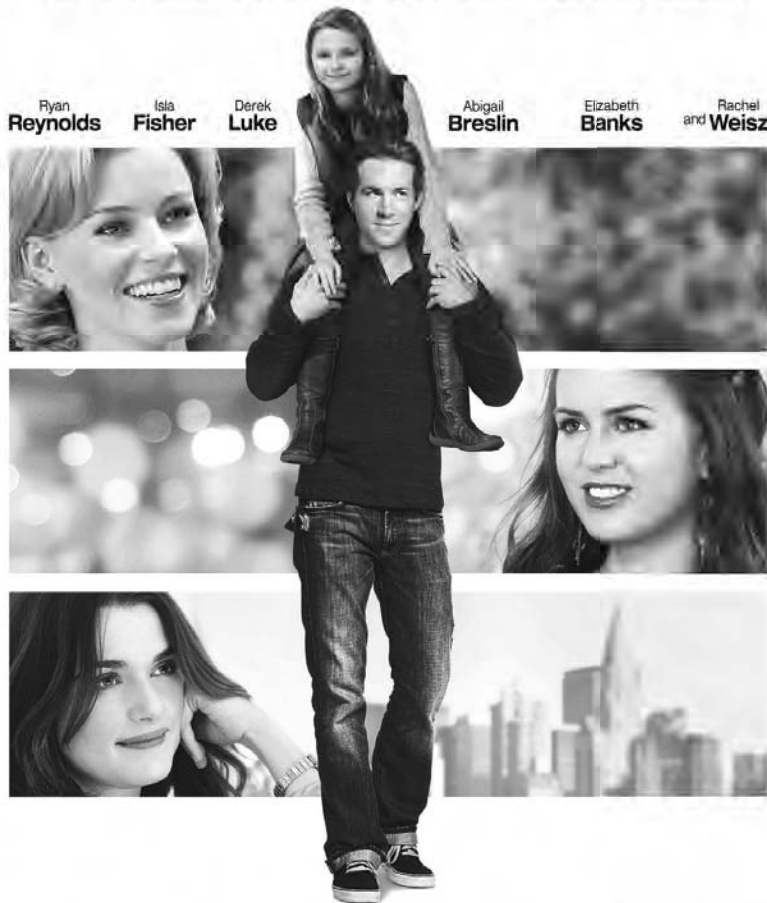
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COVER PHOTO: Jacksonville skyline in chocolate, made by Etiquette of Chocolate



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thisweek

thursday FEBRUARY 7

The 1st Annual Short Circuit Film Festival

The Short Circuit Film Festival is comprised of 12 short films selected for their artistic merit by a panel of esteemed media arts professionals. The festival is the first of its kind to exclusively spotlight short films created by filmmakers living and working in the Southeastern United States. This very special event will also take place at the Wilson Center at FCCJ South Campus on Wednesday, February 13 at 7 pm. **Read more about it on page 11.** Admission on both nights is free. FCCJ Kent Campus Auditorium- 7 pm, Info: www.southarts.org

One Small Step for Landmines

One Small Step for Landmines crank out angular-yet-driving guitars lines and unforgettable melodies, building massively catchy songs around jazzy, rapid-fire drums and a propulsive bass line. This Florida three piece is dynamically compelling as they are unpredictable and explosive. See them live next Thursday with The Yearling. The Pit- 7:30 pm, Info: (904) 223-9850

Tammerlin

Tammerlin have been placing their own stamp on folk/roots music since they formed in 1992. What you'll hear is exceptional guitar work accompanying clever original songs and traditional tunes pulled from the roots of American music. In celebration of their latest album, No Small Thing, the band will be performing at European Street next Thursday. European Street Listening Room- 8:30 pm, Info: (904) 399-1740

Palatka Bluegrass Festival

Bluegrass fans will not want to miss the Palatka Bluegrass Festival. The list of performers is endless, from the lovely Rhonda Vincent & The Rage to The Lewis Family just to name a few. A festival wouldn't be complete without Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver or Ralph Stanley & The Clinch Mountain Boys. For a good time and three days of great pickin' and lots of grinnin' head on down to the Rodeheaver Boy's Ranch, located 10 miles S. from Palatka on SR 19. Camping and hotel available. Info: (706) 864-7203 or aandabluegrass.com.

friday FEBRUARY 8

Vestal on the Rocks

Vestal on the Rocks will feature an extensive list of visual art and music. If you are still looking for something special for your Valentine, many diverse forms of art will be available for sale. The 3rd Art and Music Showcase will be held at the Ocean Club and The Atlantic, 333 and 401 North First St., Jacksonville Beach, 6 pm - 2 am. Info: mspace.com/artshowcase1

7th Annual Chocolates of the World Gala and Dessert Competition

Six chocolate artists and regional chefs put their culinary skills to the test this weekend at the 7th Annual Chocolates of the World Gala and Dessert Competition. Attendees get to judge each of these delectable desserts and prizes will be awarded to the chefs whose tasty treat pleases the most palates. Attendees will also feast on an international dinner buffet, meet Joy of Cooking author Ethan Becker and participate in a silent auction. Tickets: \$75. Sawgrass Marriott Resort, Ponte Vedra- 6 pm, Info: ivcjax.com. Read the article at eujacksonville.com.

Pony Pants

Pitchfork Media says, "New wave burner 'Pony Train' is something of a theme song, shedding light upon the meaning of the band's enigmatic name: 'Shake your fine ass in those pony pants' establishes the music's alpha and omega. This one has a big shimmering 1980s sound to it, with throbbing stabs of bass, splashy drum programming, artfully decayed synths, and bright woozy guitar melodies swooping through the brittle track." Catch this trashy electronic drum-driven party pop with other "dirty electro" Philly bands Vyear and Black Unicorn and local party kids Fruit Machine. TSI Discotheque in downtown Jacksonville, 333 E. Bay Street. (904) 424-3531.

The Great American Jazz Series - Concert 2; Eddie Gomez Trio with Jimmy Cobb

Eddie Gomez has been on the cutting edge of the jazz scene since his debut in the mid sixties. He has performed with Jazz giants. Eddie Gomez and Jimmy Cobb perform together this Friday at the UNF Robinson Theater as part of The Great American Jazz Series. **Read more on page 25.** Tickets: \$23-\$30. UNF Robinson Theater- 7:30 pm, Info: (904) 620-2878

Jennifer Muller/The Works

New York City-based contemporary dance company, Jennifer Muller/The Works, has served as artists in-residence with three dance programs in Jacksonville, restaging one of Artistic Director Jennifer Muller's early masterpieces SPEEDS. The young dancers from Jacksonville University, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and Florida Community College at Jacksonville will perform this piece in a special presentation at The Florida Theater on Friday, February 8th. **Read more on page 28.** Florida Theatre - 7:30pm. Info: (904) 355-2787

Rock for Invisible Children Benefit

Head to the Murray Hill Theatre this Friday to see a great concert for an even better cause. The Sophomore Attempt, Parade the City, All the Day Holiday, Don't Sigh Daisy, Joel Fletcher and Empire Acoustics will be rocking out to raise money for Invisible Children. **Read more on page 24.** Tickets: \$10. Murray Hill Theatre- 8 pm, Info: (904) 388-7807



The Hermitage Ballet

Winter Jam Tour

Think there's no such thing as a family-friendly rock show? Take a look at this line up of squeaky clean Christian acts and think again! Barlow Girl, MercyMe, Skillet, Mandisa and New Song will rock the Arena this Friday with inspirational songs that even Grandma will enjoy. Tickets: \$10. Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena- 8 pm, Info: (904) 630-3900

saturday FEBRUARY 9

Civilization

Jacksonville's screamo staple is joined by Biking Viking to rock St. Augustine Beach something fierce! Then check out the afterparty show for the "hagamos esto" Alley cat race with Biking Viking and friends. Cafe 11, 501 A1A Beach Blvd St. Augustine Beach (904) 460-9311.

Locust Grove

Featuring several of Jacksonville's most notable musicians, including Brandon Lucas, who started the band, along with Jason Braddock and Pilar, Locust Grove brings rock music with jaded lyrics, somber melodies and passionate delivery to their shows. They will be performing with hardcore act His Name Was Iron and screamo band Hallelujah at ShantyTown Pub in Springfield at 22 W 6th St next to Main. (904) 798-8222.

Raisin' Cane

Ritz Black Broadway Series presents Raisin' Cane starring Jasmine Guy in this one-woman tour-de-force which captures the power, beauty and brilliance of the Harlem Renaissance. Raisin' Cane is a theatrical portrait in prose, poetry and jazz. Tickets: \$23.50 (2 pm) and \$28.50 (8 pm). Ritz Theatre- 2 pm and 8 pm, Info: (904) 632-5555

Canvas of Sound presents Asian Infusion

Experience the rich ethnic flavors of the Asian community infused with the cosmopolitan that MOCA has to offer. Enjoy digital music by Catharsis, a creation station, art demonstration and Insomniac Gallery Tour of Ramen Noodles 2008. Tickets: MOCA Members \$5, \$15 Non-members. MOCA, 333 North Laura Street, 9pm - 1am. Info: (904) 366-6911 or mocajacksonville.org

FEBRUARY 7 - 9



Doyle Lawson



Donna The Buffalo

Donna The Buffalo's sound, piles reggae, rock, country, zydeco, Cajun, and folk on top of old-time fiddle music to create a combination best described as original American dance music. According to the band their music is "simple, straight-forward, melody-oriented and easy to take in." Their fans, self-dubbed "The Herd," share in something that feels so good, words almost won't suffice. Freebird Live, Info: (904) 246-2473

sunday FEBRUARY 10

The Hermitage Ballet Gala Concert

The Hermitage Ballet from St. Petersburg, Russia is coming to the Florida Theatre this Sunday and boy, are we in for a treat. The production is truly what a world class ballet is all about. The performance consists of two numbers from Swan Lake, scenes from Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker, Giselle, Don Quixote, Corsair, and the concert item, The Dying Swan. The Hermitage Ballet is a must-see for student dancers, parents, ballet instructors, and anyone who enjoys an exquisite interpretation of the dance. **Read more on page 28.** \$47.50-\$67.50. Florida Theatre- 7 pm, Info: (904) 355-2787

monday FEBRUARY 11

Agent Orange

Surf punk pioneers Agent Orange have been around for nearly thirty years and have yet to slow down or sell out. Despite their advancing years, Agent Orange's live shows are as energetic as ever and always filled with the classic songs that made them legendary. Check 'em out on Monday with M.O.D. and Nine Tenths. Tickets: \$10 Jack Rabbits- 8 pm, Info: (904) 398-7496

Bell Hollow

Bell Hollow makes bittersweet dream pop, singing songs both melodic and mysterious. Inspired by the atmospheric British rock of the Eighties, the Brooklyn-based quartet has received impressive reviews both on stage and off. Check them out this Monday at Fuel. Fuel Coffeehouse-8 pm, Info: (904) 425-FUEL



tuesday FEBRUARY 12

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 21 million people in 48 states and in 71 countries on six continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa. The company has earned a reputation as one of the most acclaimed international ambassadors of American culture, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance. **Read more on page 28.** Tickets: \$44-\$74 Florida Theater- 7:30 pm, Info: (904) 355-2787

Yonder Mountain String Band

Yonder Mountain String Band formed in December 1998 and quickly developed a following among bluegrass and jam band fans. With ten albums under their belts and a seemingly non-stop tour schedule, the quartet is now one of the most prominent innovators in bluegrass-rock today. Tickets: \$20. Freebird Live- 8 pm, Info: (904) 246-BIRD

wednesday FEBRUARY 13

Company

Presently on Broadway, this is a trend setting musical follows Robert as he makes his way through a series of encounters with April (the stewardess), Kathy (the girl who's going to marry someone else), Marta (the "peculiar" one), and his married friends. On the night of his 35th birthday, the confirmed bachelor contemplates his unmarried state. In vignette after hilarious vignette, we are introduced to "those good and crazy people," his married friends, as Robert weighs the pros and cons of married life. Company will run now through April 6. Tickets: \$42-\$49. Alhambra Dinner Theatre, Info: (904) 641-1212

next thursday FEBRUARY 14

Happy Valentine's Day, Jacksonville!

Love is officially in the air! Hit the town, enjoy some fine dining or simply snuggle up with your sweetie this Valentine's Day. **Check out our Valentines survival guide for ideas on how to make the day extra special on pages 19-20.**

Trisha Yearwood

With three Grammys, three Country Music Association honors and 19 top ten singles to her credit, Trisha Yearwood is easily one of the biggest names and brightest talents in country music today. See her perform live at the Florida Theatre next week. Tickets: \$46-\$61. Florida Theatre- 8 pm, Info: (904) 355-2787



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MOCA Jacksonville is funded in part by the City of Jacksonville; Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs; The Florida Arts Council; National Endowment for the Arts; and through the generous support of our members.

MOVIES OPENING

FOOL'S GOLD Part romantic comedy, part action adventure, 'Fool's Gold' stars Matthew McConaughey as Ben "Finn" Finnegan, a good-natured, surf bum-turned-treasure hunter who is obsessed with finding the legendary 18th century Queen's Dowry--40 chests of exotic treasure that was lost at sea in 1715. In his quest, Finn has sunk everything he has, including his marriage to Tess Finnegan (Kate Hudson) and his more-rusty-than-trusty salvage boat, "Booty Calls." Just as Tess has begun to rebuild her life, working aboard a mega-yacht owned by billionaire Nigel Honeycutt (Donald Sutherland), Finn discovers a vital clue to the treasure's whereabouts. Finn convinces Nigel to join him in the pursuit of the Spanish treasure. Rating: PG-13

STEEP In this documentary about the sport of mountain skiing, director Mark Obenhaus explores the motivation behind the athletes who risk life and limb for the adrenaline high of their high-altitude sport, and the challenge that it offers their sense of athleticism and sportsmanship. Full of lush images of white slopes and mountain landscapes, Steep offers the chance to experience the atmosphere that mountain skiers experience when they're engaged in their sport. Starring: Doug Coombs, Stefano De Benedetti, Shane McConkey, Chris Davenport. Rating: PG

VINCE VAUGHN'S WILD WEST COMEDY SHOW Popular comic actor Vince Vaughn brings a newly invigorating sense of old west attitude to the world of standup comedy as he captures the carefree spirit of Buffalo Bill's turn-of-the-century "Wild West Show" on the stage, and the cameras are rolling to capture every belly-shaking laugh in this look at the thirty-day, thirty gig tour that featured Vaughn serving as emcee to a wild host of renegade comics that included: John Caparulo, Ahmed Ahmed, Bret Ernst, Sebastian Maniscalco, and a whole host of surprise special guests. Rating: R

WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS A single father who has just found success as the host of an outrageous television talk show returns home to attend his parents' 50th wedding anniversary party in the company of his famous fiancée in this comedy starring Martin Lawrence. RJ Stevens (Lawrence), egotistical west coast attitude simply doesn't fly in the south, and when his lovable but relentless family refuses to cut him any slack due to his current superstar status, he must finally pause and take stock of the man that he has become. Louis C.K., Cedric the Entertainer, Michael Clark Duncan, and James Earl Jones co-star in a southern-flavored family comedy written and directed by Malcolm D. Lee. Rating: PG-13.

a laugh reunion

Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins

BY **RICK GRANT** rickgrant01@comcast.net

C Rated PG-13 114 min

In this fish out of water tale, writer/director Malcolm D. Lee cooked up this Martin Lawrence vehicle that almost overcomes its built in cliches. Lawrence plays a successful talk show phenomenon, RJ Stevens who is engaged to drop dead gorgeous TV star, Bianca (Joy Bryant) and has forgotten his humble small town Georgia roots. One day, he gets a request from his parents Papa and Mamma Jenkins (James Earl Jones & Margaret Avery) to come home for their 50th Wedding anniversary.

After picking up his 10-year old son and fiancée, Roscoe flies back to his Dry Springs, Georgia

home, where he is still considered a small town boy, and treated like he never left home. For Roscoe, his inauspicious homecoming is humiliating and confirms his rationale for leaving home. However, his family will not let him put on any airs, and he reverts back to his youth when his siblings and cousin picked on him. For Roscoe, it's a reality check from his TV-star image.

Lee's screenplay smacks of African-American exploitation, creating the usual urban family stereotypes living in a small Georgia town. The film gave Lawrence the chance to do his low level shtick, mostly prat falls and slap-stick. Admittedly, some of it is funny, only because the cast are veteran ac-



tors and pull off better than average performances. Michael Clarke Duncan plays Roscoe's boisterous cousin, Otis, who loves getting Roscoe in a headlock. Cedric the Entertainer is up to his funny tricks as Clyde, and Nicole Ari Parker portrays Lucinda, Roscoe's ex-girlfriend. And of course, what reunion comedy would be complete without a loud-mouthed full figured sister, Betty (Mo'Nique). She almost saves the production with her risqué comedy.

Yes, this picture is the same we've seen before and it goes for the knee-jerk laugh, which comes easy to Lawrence and the cast. At home, Roscoe gets no respect for his heady accomplishments, so he has to navigate the treachery of his relatives overbearing behavior. Soon, Roscoe is the family clown, who upsets every celebration. His uptown fiancée, Bianca is definitely out of place in this loud playful family of cut-ups.

The scenario is patently predictable schlock with Lawrence expected to bail out the production with his classic crazy bits. However, Lawrence has done this shtick to death, and after the first few prat falls, it gets tedious, losing its comedic appeal. Still, Lawrence can be funny in a nutty kind of way. I caught myself laughing even when I didn't think the bits were that funny. The truth is: Lawrence appeals to the slap-stick comedic side of everyone--like the Three Stooges' style of nonsense. "Pop, on the head." You can't help but laugh, even though you think it's stupid.

It's funny to see such a distinguished actor as James Earl Jones doing a comedy. Hey, a man needs to work and for him it's a gas to do this type of easy role. So much is expected of icons that, for them, it's a pleasure just to do something that is fun, and not complicated. The same can be said for Margaret Avery, who has distinguished herself in many high quality television and film productions like *The Color Purple*.

Overall, this is a medium cool comedy that rises slightly above its mediocre script. Everyone can relate to kooky relatives who don't respect another's accomplishments. And like Roscoe's family, the average person dreads going home to see the family for the same reasons that plagued Roscoe. It can be downright embarrassing but it can also humble the returning star, and let him know that he is not as important as he thinks he is. Amen to that.

"HILARIOUS AND HEARTFELT. BRILLIANT BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE AMERICA LAUGH."
- John Black, BostonNOW

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the duality of dylan

I'm Not There

BY **RICK GRANT** rickgrant01@comcast.net

A- **Rated R** 135 min

In viewing this film, one might ask, "At what point does this Fellini-esque picture become pretentiously abstract?" That's debatable, but writer/director Todd Haynes shot this strange movie with the approval of Bob Dylan, using his recorded music, which gives one a hint that it faults on the side of arty excess. Nonetheless, being a Dylan fan, I'm willing to give Haynes the benefit of the doubt and embrace his surrealistic fantasy.

Haynes uses dreamlike imagery to present a fictional account of Dylan's life using six different actors, all playing various stages of Dylan's incarnations— from a young Woody Guthrie, played by a 12-year old black boy, to Dylan's androgynous period, depicted in the stark black & white of the early documentary *Don't Look Back*.

Incredibly, Cate Blanchett portrays Dylan during this phase of his career. For two seconds viewers see a flash of Blanchett, then she nails Dylan's schizophrenic demeanor. Indeed, Blanchett completely absorbs Dylan's psyche. It is a cinematic method acting coup d'etat.



CATE BLANCHETT

central core. In other words, it doesn't make logical sense, but by design, Haynes was looking inside Dylan's mind as if Dylan himself was dreaming these sequences in an astral world in which just thinking it makes it happen.

Clearly, Haynes took a daring approach to Dylan's warped biography by having a 12-year old black boy play a Woody Guthrie-idolizing Dylan. Dylan's other named personalities include Christian Bale as Jack Rollins, the mid-career Dylan who finds Jesus and becomes a preacher. Heath Ledger plays the movie star Dylan, Robbie Clark, who seems to be a tangent to the story. It was sad to see Ledger on-screen so soon after his tragic death. Clark stars in a film called *Grain of Sand*, which features Alice Fabian (Julienne Moore) narrating Robbie's complicated involvement with French painter Claire (Charlotte Gainsbourg).

Dylan is the emaciated and loopy Jude during the famous Newport Folk Festival debacle. This is the period in his career when he presented his back-up group, The Band, and went electric, launching material from *Highway 61 Revisited*. The folk purist audience booed and rioted at his audacity for going

electric. At the end of this bizarre show, Dylan and The Band gun-down the crowd with Tommy guns; a wish-fulfillment fantasy pulled directly from Dylan's dreams.

In homage to D. A. Pennebaker and Richard Lester, Haynes pulls off *A Hard Days Night* sequence with Beatles look-alikes. By this time, Jude is exhausted and burned out. His pursuit of the ditz blonde Coco (Michelle Williams) is mocked in a psychedelic party scene. Of course, his infamous "motorcycle accident," is seen in this film as an excuse to get the much maligned troubadour into rehab before he died of a multitude of excesses.

Bruce Greenwood plays a snobby journalist from a London rag who is continually trying to attach philosophical and political significance to Jude's musings. Jude is always putting him on with curt answers. "Look man, I'm a storyteller, not a folk singer or poet," trying to dispel this jerk's intellectual ruminations that somehow Jude (Dylan) is a prophet.

Suddenly, the film shifts back in time with Richard Gere playing Billy the Kid, reminiscent of Dylan's role in Sam Peckinpah's *Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid*. This is the strangest sequence to understand, since it mixes Peckinpah's *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* with *Billy the Kid*. It jumps in time showing Billy riding in a limo. Like I said, it's happening in dream reality where anything can happen in any time frame.

Unquestionably, Dylan's approval of Haynes magical mystery tour of his distorted dream reality gives Dylanophiles full acceptance of Haynes' scattershot pretension and freewheeling use of obscure cinematic techniques to convey this fantasy. In a limo right out of one of Dylan's past documentaries, Jude levels with his inquisitor about his music being stories from his dreams and fantasies. He uses the music that fits his vision of the song, which could be in any genre. Amen— fade to black!



MARCUS CARL FRANKLIN

In keeping with Dylan's put-on humor, Haynes uses a cavalcade of arty styles, shifting back and forth in time with an array of distorted characters, a la Fellini. The presentation is disconnected without a

NOW SHOWING

27 DRESSES A single woman who has served as a bridesmaid a stunning twenty-seven times prepares to support her sister at the alter on number twenty-eight despite having fallen helplessly in love with her smitten sibling's handsome husband-to-be. Katherine Heigl stars. Rating: PG-13

ATONEMENT In 1935, 13-year-old fledgling writer Briony Tallis (Saoirse Ronan) and her family live a life of wealth and privilege in their enormous mansion. Robbie Turner (James McAvoy), the educated son of the family's housekeeper, carries a torch for Briony's headstrong older sister Cecilia (Kiera Knightley). Briony - who has a crush on Robbie - is compelled to interfere. Cecilia and Robbie declare their love for each other, but he is arrested - and with Briony bearing false witness, the course of three lives is changed forever. Rating: R

THE BUCKET LIST Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman star as two terminally ill cancer patients who decide to break out of the hospital and live their last days to the fullest in director Rob Reiner's seriocomic road movie. These two terminally ill men do their best to fit a lifetime of experience into their last remaining days while forging an unlikely, but truly remarkable, friendship. Rating: PG-13

CLOVERFIELD The subject of much internet speculation since its provocative trailer debuted showing a mystery shrouded by a powerful destructive force descending upon New York City. Directed by Matt Reeves, from a script by Drew Goddard, the film stars Michael Stahl-David, Mike Vogel, Odette Yustman, and Lizzy Caplan. Rating: PG-13

THE EYE Sydney Wells (Jessica Alba) has been given the gift of sight, with a horrifying price in the English-language remake of Danny and Oxide Pang's *The Eye*. The double corneal transplant was to open up a new world for Sydney, a concert violinist who has been blind since childhood. With the help of Dr. Paul Faulkner (Alessandro Nivola) and sister Helen (Parker Posey), Sydney's operation and recovery are successful -- until she begins to see horrific images. These episodes appear to foreshadow future deadly events, leading Sydney on a mission to track down the person whose eyes she has inherited and discover what kind of mystery from beyond the grave lies before her. Rating: PG-13

FIRST SUNDAY Durrell and LeeJohn are best friends and bumbling petty criminals. When Durrell learns that his ex-girlfriend plans to move to another state with their son--unless they can get her \$17,000 to pay off a debt--they come up with a desperate scheme to rob their neighborhood church. But when the duo fumbles their way through the bStarring: Ice Cube, Tracy Morgan, Katt Williams, Regina Hall. Rating: PG-13

THE GREAT DEBATERS zdenzel Washington is the temperamental debate coach who molded the students of a small East Texas college into a formidable team that gave Harvard's squad a run for their money in the 1930s. Rating: PG-13

"THE ADVENTURE COMEDY IS BACK!"
-MARK SEMAN, SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO

"Solid gold fun! 'Fool's Gold' will make you feel like you're on vacation!"
-Mark Hyman, FOX-TV

"Everything a romantic comedy should be!"
-Mark S. Allen, CBS/CW-TV

"Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey light up the big screen in the first great romantic comedy of the year!"
-Heather Newgen, COMINGSOON.NET

MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY KATE HUDSON
FOOL'S GOLD

PG-13 WARNER BROS. PICTURES
www.foolsgoldmovie.com

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HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS CONCERT Hannah Montana fans everywhere will have a chance to see their favorite singer songwriter and actress, Miley Cyrus, perform her sold-out concert tour on the big screen in 'Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert.' Shot during Cyrus' 69-city tour and exhibited in state-of-the-art Disney Digital 3D™, the film sold out every show for its special one week engagement so the marketing geniuses at Disney have held it over so that no tween in American will be deprived. Rated: G

HOW SHE MOVE A gifted student, Raya Green, is forced to leave her prestigious private school and return to her old neighborhood and finds herself drawn back into the world of Step dancing. Starring: Rutina Wesley, Dwain Murphy, Tracey Armstrong, Shawn Desman, Cle Bennett. Rating: PG-13

I'M NOT THERE Director Todd Haynes's unconventional biopic of the legendary singer/songwriter Bob Dylan features different actors playing the part of the Minnesota native at various stages of his remarkable career. Among the performers cast as Dylan are Heath Ledger, Richard Gere, Christian Bale, and Cate Blanchett. Rating: R

JUNO When a teenage girl is faced with an unexpected pregnancy, she enlists the aid of her best friend in finding the unborn child a suitable home in this coming-of-age comedy drama from *Thank You for Smoking* director Jason Reitman. Juno (Ellen Page) may seem wise beyond her years, but after sleeping with classmate Bleeker (Michael Cera), the pregnant teen quickly realizes how little she really knows about life. Rating: PG-13

MAD MONEY Bridget Cardigan (Diane Keaton) is shocked to learn that she is on the verge of losing her home and comfortable upper middle class lifestyle when her husband Don (Ted Danson) is downsized from his job. Bridget is forced into the unfamiliar labor market with no job skills. Finally, she accepts the only position she can find—janitor at the Federal Reserve Bank. Also starring: Queen Latifah and Katie Holmes. Rating: PG-13

MEET THE SPARTANS The warriors of 300 might have been able to hold their own—at least for awhile—against an army of thousands, but can they defend themselves against this satire? From the minds behind EPIC MOVIE, MEET THE SPARTANS tackles everything from the action movie to YOU GOT SERVED to Britney Spears. Starring: Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo, Martin Klebba, Jim Piddock, Method Man Rating: PG-13

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN Llewelyn Moss finds a pickup truck surrounded by a sentry of dead men. A load of heroin and two million dollars in cash are still in the back trunk. When Moss takes the money, he sets off catastrophic violence. Starring: Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Woody Harrelson, Kelly MacDonald. Rating: R

OVER HER DEAD BODY Eva Longoria, Paul Rudd, and Lake Bell star in first time filmmaker Jeff Lowell's heavenly romantic comedy concerning a female psychic (Bell) and a doubtful skeptic (Rudd) who find their fledgling love affair thwarted by the latter's recently deceased fiancée (Longoria). Rating: PG-13



treasure hunters dig deeper

Fool's Gold

BY **ERIN THURSBY** scopes1925@msn.com

C+ **Rated PG13** **90 minutes**

It has all the earmarks of romantic comedy: from Matthew McConaughey's irresistible sideways

grin to Kate Hudson's inability to fully resist that grin. Characters in this film are sketched with a heavy pen. They are caricatures of themselves. All

the reviews whining about "how unrealistic" this movie is don't seem to realize that it's a bit of a farce. A farce doesn't have to be realistic, as long as it's entertaining. While the movie sometimes misses in that department, it's still an enjoyable ride.

I volunteered to review this because of the treasure angle. My father used to tell me stories about treasure hunters and the lost ships off the coast of Florida. I wanted to see if they captured the wonder, the way these stories of old treasure hook you. Because it isn't just about a box of shiny gold, it's about the people who sailed these ships, the reasons they sailed. The explanatory scene was a little too long, even for me, though McConaughey works his charm vigorously.

Ben 'Finn' Finnegan (Matthew McConaughey) obsesses about finding the renowned Queen's Dowry treasure chests, lost at sea in the 18th century. He has given up everything to pursue this dream, going into debt and lying to his wife Tess (Kate Hudson), who initially helped him in his quest. They are on the brink of divorce when a Finn finds a piece of the wreckage. They join forces again and manage to get money and support from billionaire Nigel Honeycutt (Donald Sutherland), who's looking to bond with his flaky, tabloid-inspiring daughter, Gemma (Alexis Dziena). Gemma would be the eye candy for the boys, and Finn (who spends most of his time without a shirt) will at least keep the girls interested.



There are times when the chemistry between the leads seems off, and some of the bit players made quirky character choices that don't quite read right. I had trouble deciphering what accent Mo Fitch (Ray Winstone) was trying to achieve. This reunion between the *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* stars isn't as successful as I'd hoped. Malcolm Jamal Warner, the ex-Cosby kid, goes for a Caribbean lilt and plays the least ludicrous bit part. Other bits parts include Ewen Bremner as Finn's Ukrainian dive partner. There's also the laughably named Bigg Bunny (Kevin Hart), a rapper/gangster who looks to profit from treasure hunting.

Fool's Gold isn't a nail biter. We know that it will all somehow end well from the first frame. This movie is most definitely flawed, even as a farce, but its breezy plot and quick dialogue might just get you to overlook those flaws. The side plots are shaky and the action isn't convincing, but mainly a fun time.

The comedy, action and romance all seem to be reaching but they never quite grasp their goals. If you're looking for realism, go see another movie. But if you're looking for over-the-top action, humor, treasure hunting and romance, this is the Valentine's Day movie for you!

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seeing spirits

The Eye

BY **RICK GRANT** rickgrant01@comcast.net

C+ Rated PG-13 97 min

Using the Pang Brothers' original 2002 concept, Frenchmen David Moreau and Xavier Palud remade Sebastian Gutierrez's screenplay, starring Jessica Alba as blind violinist Sydney Wells. Moreau and Palud's remake set out to trump the original in creepiness. It accomplishes that goal with today's newer state-of-the-art frightening special effects. Alba did her homework on her character with a credible performance as Sydney, who gets a cornea transplant and almost immediately sees dead people. Her donor turns out to be a Mexican woman (Fernando Romero), whose spirit has stayed earthbound to communicate with Sydney about something important.

Of course, Sydney does not immediately figure out that her donor is haunting her. After her transplant, Sydney becomes overloaded with visual imagery, which freaks her out. Consequently, she is sent to see a specialist, Dr. Paul Faulkner (Alessandro Nicola), who helps her adjust to having sight. Sydney lost her sight at age 5, so she has almost no memory of the visual world. Adjusting to sight is difficult enough, but Sydney is terrified of the afterlife images she is seeing. She calls her sister Helen Wells (Parker Posey) to be with her.

Sydney had risen to soloist status in her orchestra, directed by maestro Simon McCullough. But after her transplant she has difficulty concentrating on her music and Simon is concerned. She reverts back to reading Braille and is finding that the stress of having sight, combined with seeing ghosts, has left her emotionally disturbed. Finding out the truth of why she is being harassed by her donor is the only way she can function.

Sydney pleads with Dr. Faulkner to reveal the identity of her donor. He reluctantly agrees, and Sydney and her disbelieving sister go on a road trip to Mexico. There Sydney meets the donor of the eye.

As the story unfolds, Sydney's visions of the afterlife become much more vivid. She sees her donor in the mirror and sees dark shadowy figures escorting the dead to the afterlife. Her dreams are set in the afterlife, and she suffers from sleep deprivation. Filmmakers Moreau and Palud create a



scary mosaic using eerie special effects. The advent of numerous afterlife TV shows helped the directors sell the concept of "cell memory." Thus, Sydney is seeing with the eyes of her donor. But, Sydney's connection with her donor is much more defined. Sydney has advanced psychic abilities that are triggered by her new corneas.

Moreau and Palud's updated treatment of the Pang Brothers' original film seems too contrived to suck in horror fans. However, they went the extra mile to at least imbue the picture with arty backgrounds and otherworldly scene craft. Alba brings her star power to the film with a convincing characterization of Sydney. Perhaps having her other senses highly tuned was preferable to having sight along with psychic abilities. For Sydney, finding out what her donor wants is top priority.

The film moves along with some predictable frights. But overall, Moreau and Palud brought their French style to the production, upgrading the mediocre story considerably. Of course, ogling Alba is one of the perks of viewing this picture.

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RAMBO John Rambo has retreated to northern Thailand, living a solitary and peaceful life in the mountains and jungles. A group of human rights missionaries search him out and ask him to guide them into Burma to deliver medical supplies. When the aid workers are captured by the Burmese army, Rambo decides to venture alone into the war zone to rescue them. Starring: Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz, James Brolin, Paul Schulze, Matthew Marsden. Rating: R

STRANGE WILDERNESS A pair of animal enthusiasts desperate to boost the ratings of their failing television series "Strange Wilderness" set out for the Andes in search of the elusive Bigfoot. Rating: R

THERE WILL BE BLOOD The story chronicles the life and times of one Daniel Plainview, who transforms himself from a down-and-out silver miner raising a son on his own into a self-made oil tycoon. Starring: Daniel Day-Lewis, Mary Elizabeth Barrett, Paul Dano, Dillon Freasier, Christine O'Leary. Rating: R

UNTRACEABLE Welcome to the front lines of the war on cybercrime, where Special Agent Jennifer Marsh has seen it all--until now. A tech-savvy internet predator is displaying his graphic murders on his own website--and the fate of each of his tormented captives is left in the hands on the public: the more hits his site gets, the faster his victims die. Starring: Diane Lane, Billy Burke, Colin Hanks, Joseph Cross, Mary Beth Hurt. Rating: R

SPECIAL SHOWINGS

IMAX

The World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater is currently showing Walt Disney Pictures' giant-screen adventure **ROVING MARS**. The film, which gives audiences an account of the \$820-million Mars Exploration Rovers (MER) mission and a first-hand trip to the mystifying planet that has inspired countless scientific questions. For tickets and showtimes, call 904-940-IMAX or visit www.wgv.com.

MOCA Underground

MOCA's Underground Movie series will cover the three big topics of Love, Politics, and Religion with humor and enough edge for your indie cravings, these selections will Give You Something To Talk About! February is the month of LOVE so on the 13th catch **Beyond the Rocks**. Clearly your choice for date night: the recently rediscovered silent romance stars film legends Gloria Swanson and Rudolph Valentino at the height of their powers and kicking it Old School. Long considered one of the great "lost" films from Hollywood's golden age, the only surviving copy was found, painstakingly restored and provided a new musical score. Film begins at 7pm. Tickets are \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. the 333 North Laura St., Info: (904) 366-6911 or moca.jacksonville.org.

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◆ FOOL'S GOLD (PG13) 12:45 1:50 3:15 4:40 6:05 7:30 8:55 10:25	◆ STRANGE WILDERNESS (PG13) 1:05 3:20 5:35 8:05 10:20
◆ VINCE VAUGHN'S WILD WEST COMEDY SHOW 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30	◆ THE EYE (PG13) 12:15 2:40 5:15 7:45 10:15
◆ WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG13) 12:10 1:35:00 4:25 5:50 7:15 8:40 10:05	◆ THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R) 2:00 5:45 9:30
◆ 27 DRESSES (PG13) 1:00 3:45 6:30 9:20	◆ UNTRACEABLE (R) 12:05 2:35 5:10 7:40 10:10
◆ HANNA MONTANA & MILEY CIRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15	◆ ATONEMENT (R) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
◆ JUNO (PG13) 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:40 10:05	◆ CLOVERFIELD (PG13) 12:45 5:40 10:30
◆ OVER HER DEAD BODY (PG13) 12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 9:55	◆ FIRST SUNDAY (PG13) 3:05 7:55
◆ NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) 12:40 3:40 6:45 9:50	◆ MEET THE SPARTANS (PG13) 11:55 2:30 4:50 7:20 9:45
	◆ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:40 4:30 7:25 10:15
	◆ THE BUCKET LIST (PG13) 11:45 2:10 4:35 7:10 9:40
	◆ RAMBO (R) 11:50 2:15 4:40 7:05 9:25

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bigfoot in the mouth

Strange Wilderness

BY **RICK GRANT** rickgrant01@comcast.net

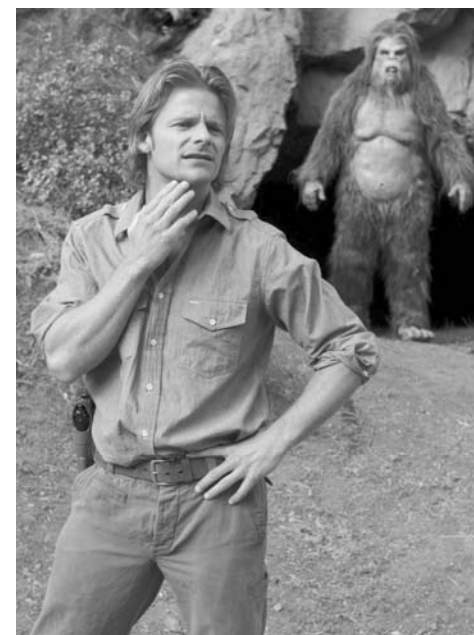
D- Rated R 87 min

Every year we get at least one stoner film. *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle* (which was actually funny), *Super Troopers*, *Road Trip*, et al. This thrown-together comedy was shot in 2006 and dumped into the market on Super Bowl weekend when its demographic, teenage boys, would be glued to the set. Produced by Adam Sandler's Happy Madison Productions, the idea was to recreate the comedy magic of *There's Something about Mary*, but with more bong-sucking and stoner gags. However, ex-Saturday Night Live writers Fred Wolf and Peter Gaulke, who directed *Strange Wilderness*, strung together a series of skits that mostly fall flat.

When Wolf and Gaulke gave the two main characters, played by Steve Zahn and Allen Covert, their own names, it was a bad omen. One character is eaten alive by piranhas and another is found cut in half. After that the scenes go downhill. Yeah, when Gaulke (Zahn) gets his penis stuck in a turkey neck, it got a hardy laugh from the twelve-year old boys in the theater. But most of the gags are recycled adolescent jokes and other mind-numbing trash.

The story involves Peter Gaulke's efforts to continue his father's wildlife show, *Strange Wilderness*, after his dad dies. His pathetic attempts to keep the show running only drive away the show's audience and its ratings hit rock bottom. The TV producer cancels the show, but Gaulke doesn't give up. After seeing a photograph of bigfoot taken by a famous wildlife photographer, he organizes an expedition to South America to capture the beast and score the biggest wildlife discovery since a rare ape was discovered in Africa.

The ill-conceived mission goes bad right away when his sound man's (Ernst Borgnine) friend Bill Calhoun (Joe Don Baker) sells the map to another wildlife TV host. But through the miracle of video surveillance he gets them a copy. The team starts out with no money and a big RV. The team includes the stereotypical characters—the fat guy (Jonah Hill), the perpetually stoned bong sucker (Justin Long), another bulbous idiot (Kevin Heffernan), the hot chick (Ashley Scott), and the whack-job (Peter Dante). There are cameos by Harry Hamlin and Robert Patrick, who both probably hope the film disappears into DVD



oblivion. Patrick's character tells a ghoulish campfire story that would make any guy feel phantom pain in his testicles.

The cheesy set was located in Southern California at the Los Angeles County Arboretum which was supposed to be the Ecuadorian jungle. Give me a break, I saw the well-traveled trails that were supposed to be uncharted jungle. Halfway through this disaster, viewers wonder how on earth this cast and crew could get through this shoot and not see it was a complete debacle. The only explanation has to be that those bongs were filled with real pot. Justin Long's entire role in the film is acting stoned out of his mind. Frankly, I don't think he was acting.

Movies like this are best seen after inhaling at least two bong-fulls of weed. Even imagining one is stoned doesn't work. Still, there are a few funny gags and Zahn's wacky narration to his animal footage is funny. But most of the jokes bomb and the filmmaking is amateurish and flawed. Undoubtedly, the DVD will end up in the \$1 bin at Wal-Mart.

fresh, free film!

Short Circuit Film Festival

BY ERIN THURSBY scopes1925@msn.com

WHAT: Short Circuit Film Festival

WHEN: February 13 at 7 pm

WHERE: Wilson Center on FCCJ South Campus

The reason you've probably never heard of the Short Circuit Film Festival is because it's in its infancy. This is the very first year of the festival, which celebrates the offerings of independent Southeastern filmmakers.

The Southern Arts Federation and the FCCJ Artist Series teamed up to host the 1st Annual Short Circuit Film Festival, February 7 at the Kent Campus Auditorium and February 13 at the Wilson Center on South Campus. Both shows begin at 7 pm. Selected films range from fiction and animation to experimental and documentary. Admission is free, but you'll get the chance to see 12 short films from the dirty South. Although none of the films seem to be from Florida this year, you will see a documentary on Savannah, GA.

A featured flick of the fest is *An Abstraction on the Chronology of Will*, a fictional account of a Special-Ops soldier who regains his will to live only when he's facing a firing squad. The spotlighted documentary is *Bowl Digger*, on older folks who still carry on the tradition of creating wooden bowls and dough trays in rural South Carolina.

Here's a list and short descriptions of each film you can see (for free!) at the fest:

animation

SANDSTORM Directed by Yeon Choi - Lafayette, Louisiana. In an imaginary land that lacks water and flesh, two skeleton figures find a pair of eyes in the sand. Their selfish minds start a fight over the eyes, and the fight leads to a bitter end.

DEAR SWEET EMMA Directed by John Cernak - Winston-Salem, NC. As the search is given up for Emma's latest husband, Tucker, a private look reveals that Emma has a secret and uncontrollable dark side. The sweetest angel and favorite citizen of Fishtickle would indeed pose an uncomfortable dilemma for all if her problems were ever found out.

documentary

TOUR OF HOMES Directed by Penny Brice - Savannah, Georgia. Once described as the southern belle with a dirty face, Savannah is a city of contradictions, primarily between the haves and have-nots. With its Spanish Moss-draped trees and genteel historic district, it has a dark underbelly of poverty and crime, sustained by racial inequality and fueled by denial. *Tour of Homes* provides an alternative tour to the ones that cart tourists through the affluent environment of historic downtown Savannah.

THE LANGUAGE OF LIMBS: A DOCUMENTARY ON THE AGRIFOLK ART MOVEMENT Directed by Eyekiss - Atlanta, Georgia. Conceptual artist Jonathon Keats discovers the last true folk artists remaining: 50 leyland cypress trees. Watch the drama unfold as these trees, outfitted with easels, paper and pencils, communicate through art...seri-

ously.

BOWL DIGGER Directed by Kristy Higby - Alexander, North Carolina. A loving story of octogenarians Maxie and Hilton Eades, rural South Carolinians who create wooden bowls and dough trays as durable as their creators

THE COLE NOBODY KNOWS Directed by Clay Walker - Avondale Estates, Georgia. This documentary profiles Chicago-native Freddy Cole, the virtually unknown, yet equally talented younger brother of Nat "King" Cole. At age 75, Freddy Cole is, at last, finally being recognized for his amazing musical talent.

DICK-GEORGE, TENN-TOM Directed by Gideon Kennedy - Mobile, Alabama. In 1971, President Richard M. Nixon visited Mobile, AL for 104 minutes, during which time he shook 100 feet of hands, lost a cufflink, and shared a stage with his biggest political rival, Governor George Wallace. *Dick-George, Tenn-Tom* is a sardonic look at their rivalry, the creation of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, and the attempt on Wallace's life less than a year later.

experimental

WOOD DIARY Directed by David Meyers - Henderson, Kentucky. Follow a less-than-ordinary man over the course of one day and discover what it takes most people a lifetime to learn.

fiction

THEODORE Directed by Jorge Moran - Nashville, Tennessee. Theodore knows loneliness, but the challenge of his life is knowing love.

MOTH TO LIGHT Directed by Elizabeth Strickler - Atlanta, Georgia. Through a dark and tense atmosphere twists the horrific coming of age of Muriel. Caught between the domestic world of her mother and a dark and lurking force in the garden, she contemplates what to do with the baby her mother dotes on and whose origins are unknown.

MR. EXTION Directed by Griffin Hood and Barry Battles Maylene, Alabama. Two life-long friends and aspiring filmmakers find that developing an original idea, with no budget, is hard to pull off...especially down South. Through the span of a day, the two reveal their true feelings on film, stereotypes, race, and each other.

AN ABSTRACTION ON THE CHRONOLOGY OF WILL Directed by Ben Collins and Kevin Phillips Savannah, Georgia. William Porten is nothing short of apathetic and despondent after a break-up with his girlfriend. He joins the military, becomes a Special Op, and lives with a sustained note of danger until being faced with a firing squad in the middle of the desert. Through an act of divine intervention his life is saved and his will to live is revitalized.

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FOOL'S GOLD (PG13) ✓ (11:20 @ \$5), 1:05, 2:05, 4:05, 5:00, 7:00, 7:55, 9:50, 10:45

VINCE VAUGHN'S WILD WEST COMEDY SHOW: 30 DAYS & 30 NIGHTS - FROM HOLLYWOOD TO THE HEARTLAND (R) ✓ (11:30 @ \$5), 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05

WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG13) ✓ (10:45, 11:45 @ \$5), 1:00, 1:45, 3:15, 4:00, 4:45, 6:15, 7:00, 7:45, 9:15, 10:00, 10:40

THE EYE (PG13) ✓ (11:00 @ \$5), 1:55, 4:35, 5:30, 7:10, 8:00, 9:45, 10:35

OVER HER DEAD BODY (PG13) ✓ (11:45 @ \$5), 2:25, 5:15, 7:45, 10:25

STRANGE WILDERNESS (R) ✓ 2:10, 7:50

HOW SHE MOVE (PG13) 2:15, 4:55, 7:40, 10:10

MEET THE SPARTANS (PG13) (11:35 @ \$5), 2:30, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05

MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) (11:55 AM @ \$5)

RAMBO (R) (11:00 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55

UNTRACEABLE (R) (11:05 @ \$5), 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55

27 DRESSES (PG13) (11:15 @ \$5), 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 10:20

CLOVERFIELD (PG13) (11:40 @ \$5), 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

MAD MONEY (PG13) 2:05, 4:40, 7:40, 10:25

THE BUCKET LIST (PG13) (11:30 @ \$5), 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:35

FIRST SUNDAY (PG13) (11:25 @ \$5), 2:05, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

PIRATES WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING: A VEGGIEALES MOVIE (G) (11:40 AM @ \$5)

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG) (11:25 @ \$5), 2:10

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) 4:00, 7:10, 10:15

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (11:20 @ \$5), 1:55, 4:25

I AM LEGEND (PG13) 7:05, 9:40

AMC SELECT

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) (11:10 AM @ \$5)

THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R) (11:30 @ \$5), 3:30, 7:00, 10:30

ATONEMENT (R) (11:05 @ \$5), 4:30, 10:10

JUNO (PG13) (11:15 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:50

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DIGITAL 3D
HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS CONCERT DISNEY DIGITAL 3D \$16 (G) ✓ 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

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MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) (10:40 AM @ \$5)

RAMBO (R) (11:40 @ \$5), 2:10, 4:20, 7:10, 10:25

UNTRACEABLE (R) (11:55 @ \$5), 2:40, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35

27 DRESSES (PG13) 12:05, 2:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20

CLOVERFIELD (PG13) 1:20, 3:25, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50

MAD MONEY (PG13) 8:10, 10:35

THE BUCKET LIST (PG13) (11:00 @ \$5), 1:20, 3:35, 5:55, 8:10, 10:30

FIRST SUNDAY (PG13) (11:10 @ \$5), 1:30, 3:55, 7:05, 9:25

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG) 12:50, 3:20

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) (10:50 @ \$5), 1:45, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (11:05 @ \$5), 1:25, 3:40, 5:55

I'M NOT THERE (R) ✓ (10:35 @ \$5), 4:25

AMC SELECT

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) (10:55 AM @ \$5)

THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R) 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20

ATONEMENT (R) 1:35, 7:25

JUNO (PG13) (10:35 @ \$5), 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10

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■ FOOL'S GOLD (PG13) 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:35

FIRST SUNDAY (PG13) 1:45 4:15 7:00 9:30

THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R) 1:10 4:50 8:30

CLOVERFIELD (PG13) 2:15 7:40

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:50 3:40 6:50 9:35

FIRST SUNDAY (PG13) 4:25 9:55

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WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG-13) (1230 130) 330 415 700 745 945 1030 1215

FOOL'S GOLD (PG-13) ★ (1200 1245 240) 345 515 715 800 1000 1035

STRANGE WILDERNESS (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 225) 445 740 1015 1230

OVER HER DEAD BODY (PG-13) 435 730 1020

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CLOVERFIELD (PG-13) (1235 250) 505 715 935 1150

27 DRESSES (PG-13) (1205 245) 510 805 1035

FIRST SUNDAY (PG-13) 530 1025

THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R) - ID REQ'D (115) 500 830

BUCKET LIST (PG-13) (135) 405 725 1000 1220

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) (1215) 325 545

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (1240) 315 750

ATONEMENT (R) - ID REQ'D (1225) 320 640 925 1200

JUNO (PG-13) (1220 255) 510 735 1010

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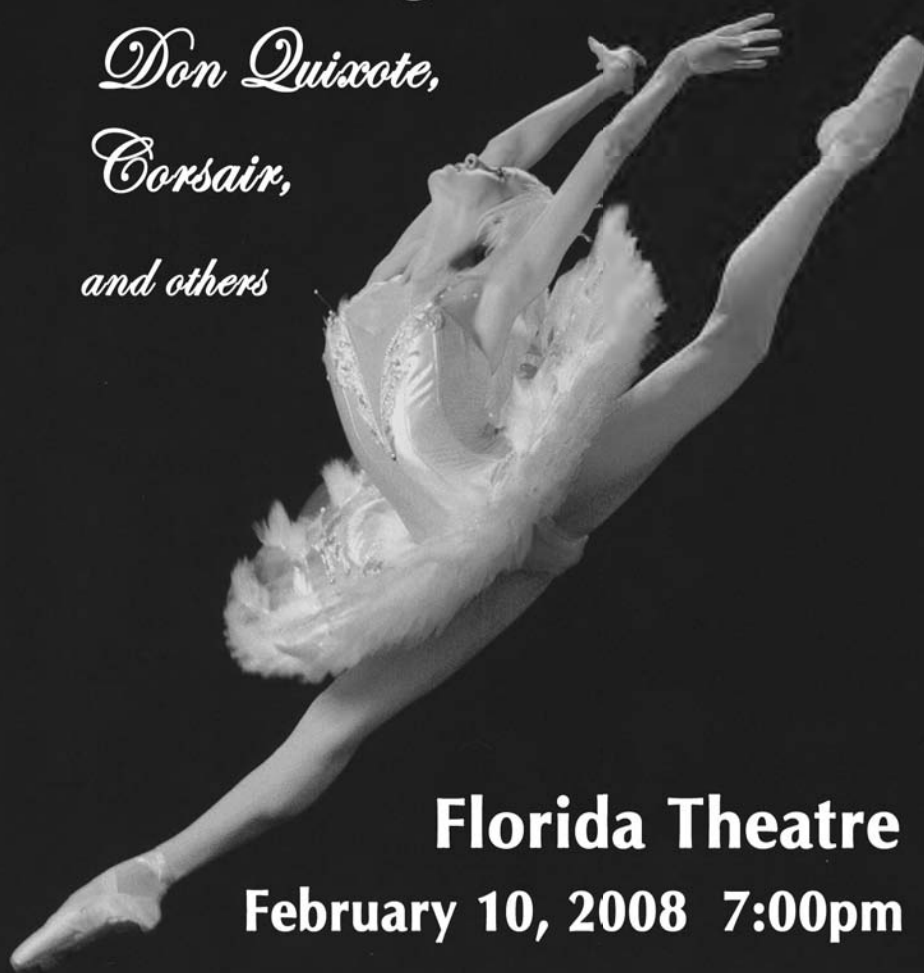
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geek love

Eagle vs. Shark dvd review

BY **KELLIE ABRAHAMSON**

KAbrahamson1@aol.com

Aside from Peter Jackson and his merry band of hobbits, New Zealand isn't really known for its filmmaking. In recent years, however, that tide has been turning. Kiwi flicks like *Whale Rider* and *World's Fastest Indian* have gotten outstanding reviews and numerous award nominations. One of the latest to come out of New Zealand is *Eagle vs. Shark*, a quirky comedy that's taken home some trophies on the film festival circuit. It's now available on DVD.

Lily (Loren Horsley) is a socially awkward 20-something who meets and falls for Jarrod (Jemaine Clement), king of the awkward 20-somethings, while working as a cashier at a fast food restaurant. The perfectly matched pair, right down to the identical moles above their respective lips, soon becomes a couple, bonding over animal costumes and video games. Their romance blossoming, the two head to Jarrod's home town so he can settle an old score with a bully that picked on him when he was a kid. There, Lily meets Jarrod's family who are initially a bit cold to the wide-eyed wallflower. But, with Jarrod off training for his big fight, Lily is forced to bond with them and to take a good long look at her relationship.

Eagle vs. Shark received a limited theatrical release in the US last year and was recently brought to DVD. Extras on the disc are slim but worth checking out. Writer/director Taika Waititi provides an insightful audio commentary track for the feature film (with a couple special guests every now and then) and for the thirteen deleted scenes included on the DVD. There's also a decent three minute outtake reel and a music video for The Phoenix Foundation's song "Going Fishing."

Eagle vs. Shark has been compared to *Napoleon Dynamite* since the very first trailer hit the web and that's certainly fair. Both films are about geeky outcasts looking for friendship, love and acceptance. Both feature strange, quirky characters that come from dysfunctional households (Napoleon to a lesser degree, of course) and wacky relatives who attempt to get rich off of lame home businesses. In many cases the similarities are almost too much, but that doesn't mean *Eagle vs. Shark* has nothing to offer. The film is funny but also has incredibly moving moments, particularly towards the end when Jarrod's family lets down its guard with Lily. The film is sweet but a little saucy, with our leads awkwardly knock-



ing boots within the first half hour, something poor Napoleon will probably never experience. *Eagle vs. Shark* also has a couple of delightful stop motion sequences that add a bit of whimsy to the proceedings. In other words, this is *Napoleon Dynamite* all grown up with a New Zealand accent, some animation and an actual linear plot.

If you've seen Clement's work in his HBO series *The Flight of the Conchords*, you know what to expect. His Jarrod is slightly stranger than his character on the show, but not by much. Clement is great as this socially stunted outcast, managing to both attract the audience with his desperation to fit in and repel with his absurd stunts to do just that. You want to hate him, you want Lily to hate him, but you can't, and neither can she. Speaking of Lily, Horsley is brilliant in this, her first real starring role. She created the character from scratch and it really highlights her comedic talents.

If you hated *Napoleon Dynamite* or don't quite "get" *The Flight of the Conchords*, you'll probably be better off skipping *Eagle vs. Shark*. Those who enjoy that kind of humor, however, will be pleased to add this Kiwi delight to their DVD collection.

Fight Quest



human weapon vs. fight quest

the fight of the fighting television shows

BY RICK GRANT rickgrant01@comcast.net

When the History Channel introduced the martial arts show *Human Weapon* last year, the network suits knew they had a winner. Featuring two certified experts traveling the world to study different disciplines of martial arts training, this program was a fresh-out-of-the-box hit. The show stars Bill Duff, a former professional football player and wrestler and Jason Chambers, a mixed martial arts master and professional kickboxer. These two intrepid fighters traveled to various countries to learn Maui Thai, Karate, Judo, Eskrama stick fighting, Israeli street fighting known as Savate, and Kung Fu.

Duff is a hulking man with advantages in weight and strength. Chambers is smaller but quicker on his feet and has fast hands. Both men are highly trained, physically and mentally. In each country, physical training is paramount before they learn the discipline. Physical conditioning requires early morning runs, weight lifting, and sparring drills every day before the training even starts.

After their training sequences, the master of each discipline arranges a fight with Duff or Chambers, with a black belt of the particular style going up against the novice fighter. Half of the time, Duff or Chambers get their butts kicked. Each fight was full-contact without padding. Duff tended to win the Judo-like styles, and Chambers won the kickboxing styles. Their decision on which man will fight has to do with height and weight considerations of their opponents.

Each country's martial art is unique, so learning that particular discipline is difficult, even for highly-trained athletes like Duff and Chambers. My favorite episode of *HW* was Duff and Chambers' trip to Israel to learn Krav Maga. This martial art evolved from down-and-dirty street fighting, combining many different techniques into its moves. Every Israeli Army soldier has to not only learn it, but be a master of it. Krav Maga is a savage confrontation designed to quickly disable or kill the enemy in

hand-to-hand combat situations. It's very effective and uses the entire body as a weapon. Krav Maga is one reason the Israeli Army is so respected.

Just as *Man Vs Wild* spawned its clone *Survivorman*, the History Channel's *Human Weapon* inspired a twin show on Discovery Channel titled *Fight Quest*, which debuted Jan. 4, 2008. The Discovery Channel owns the History Channel. In the Discovery Channel's production conference room, the convoluted logic must have been that two shows with the same exact concept are better than one. Strangely, the moguls decided to put them on the air at the same time, Friday nights at 10 pm, prompting the inevitable battle of the martial arts programs. Of course, if you like both shows, then the DVR was invented just for you.

Both shows feature high quality production values and fascinating histories of the various martial arts disciplines. In *Human Weapon*, the actual fights are professionally staged to add credibility to Duff and Chambers' fight skills.

Fight Quest uses the same format as *HW*. Even the two guys are similar in appearance to Duff and Chambers of *HW*. *Fight Quest* features seasoned mixed martial arts fighter Jimmy Smith and 25-year old rookie Doug Anderson as they travel the globe learning new styles and techniques of the various martial arts. Like *HW*, *FQ* requires Smith and Anderson to engage in full contact matches after they learn the discipline. Hey, in the real world of karate or kickboxing – they go for the KO. However, both shows are intriguing, historically informative, and exciting. It's a macho smackdown of kung-fu fighters trying to clean each other's clock.

These fighters and the fights they get in are the real thing but which you choose to watch could come down which characters you prefer or the styles of fighting you prefer to watch. If you don't care for what Duff and Chambers are into that week, switch over to Jimmy and Doug. Either way, it will be a butt-kicking Friday night.

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pages 14 - 15 Capital Grille restaurant review

dish update

New to the Riverside area is Primi Piatti (2722 Park St 904-389-5545) a restaurant specializing in Northern Italian cuisine. Expect upscale menu items and made-from-scratch pastas and breads. Open for lunch Monday through Saturday and dinner Tuesday through Saturday.

Here's a look at what some restaurants have planned for Valentine's Day romance. As always, call ahead for reservations!

If you're looking for a little beach romance, try the Casa Marina Hotel & Restaurant (691 1st Street N Jacksonville Beach 904-270-0025). Directly oceanfront, its beach theme includes a gift of chocolate shells and roses for the ladies and a complimentary Champagne toast for all. A carefully designed 4-course gourmet menu by Chef Aaron Webb features many 'hearts and passion fruit' specialties - served from 5-9 pm. Cost per person for Dinner: \$49 plus tax & gratuity.

Also near the beach, Ocean 60 (60 ocean Blvd Atlantic Beach 904-247-0060) plans to have a little Jazz love with the musical stylings of local songstress Dot Wilder, along with an always stellar menu.

Café Nola at MOCA (904-366-6911 Ext. 223) will be serving a pre-fixe dinner on Valentine's Day. It will be 3 courses for \$39 a person and that will include a bottle of champagne per couple. See the menu at moca-jacksonville.org/cafe. Seating will be limited so make reservations early.

The incomparable Blue Bamboo (3820 Southside Blvd. 904-646-1478) will be offering a four course meal, paired with beverages for \$75 plus tax and gratuity. That's quite a deal for this gorgeous Asian-fusion food!

Zaitoon Mediterranean Grill (13475 Atlantic Blvd 904-221-7066) has quite a 4-course menu planned, from a first course selection of oysters, shrimp or Maine lobster tail to a decadent dessert of Chocolate Genoise, Chocolate Ganache, Roasted Hazelnut, and Chocolate Leaf. The four-course special costs \$100 a couple and will be served between 5 and 9 pm.

For a water view in St. Augustine, try the romantic but casual Kingfish Grille (252 Yacht Club Drive, St. Augustine 904-824-2111). Couples receive a complimentary keepsake photo taken table-side and a flower for the ladies. (photo will be ready to take home before departing). Reservations not required. Go upstairs to The Harbor View and enjoy dancing & cocktails to 'Heartstrings' Jazz Group from 6-10 pm.

Upcoming classes at your local Williams-Sonoma (St. Johns Town Center 904-998-4303): Tuesday, February 19 at 6:30-8:30 pm, Food Made Fast: Make-Ahead Dishes - Expand your repertoire of dishes that you can make in advance. They're invaluable when you want to serve a simple weeknight supper for your family or an impromptu dinner for guests. On the menu: Three-Cheese Manicotti, Chicken Chili with Beans, Hearty Beef and Vegetable Soup and Penne with Winter Squash and Pancetta. Cost \$35.

Tuesday, February 26 at 6:30-8:30 pm, Home-Baked Desserts - February is the ideal month for baking divine treats to share with loved ones. With recipes that highlight chocolate, winter fruits and citrus, you can create desserts that will satisfy every sweet tooth. On the menu: Bittersweet Chocolate Cake, Tarte Tatin of Winter Pears, Lemon Madeleines and Chocolate Mousse. Cost \$35.



exclusively yours

Capital Grille

BY ERIN THURSBY scopes1925@msn.com

Dining is theatre, and at Capital Grille they set the stage for the rich and slightly ostentatious. The atmosphere feels exclusive, like you've just walked into a private men's club. Each nook of the restaurant is filled with some kind of art piece, oils of long forgotten minor royalty, landscapes and hunt scenes. It's all very conservative and male, but occasionally you'll see something really out of the ordinary, like the huge eagle sculpture which might well loom over your head as you dine, ready to swoop down and capture the prey.

While some people might dine regularly at The Capital Grille, because of the price most folks will add it to their list of special occasion places. A steep price tag means you can expect and demand more, both in service and in what's set before you on the plate. Pricing for a dinner entrée is about \$23-45, with most selections in the mid-thirties. The Capital Grille has a ton of competitors in the immediate area of the Town Center, so they have to deliver quality everything at the price they're asking, or they won't survive there.

If your wallet's a bit thin, but you love to try new fine dining hotspots, aim for lunch, when the entrées are about \$12-25. Or you and your friends can all stick to the appetizer menu. You won't get the benefit of the full menu, but you will get to check the place out.

Word of mouth and the glamour of a shiny new restaurant have ensured that they are booked solid for Valentine's Day. That holiday is a crazy dining day anyway, so opt for the weekend instead, or, if you can't book that, tell your sweetheart you've booked dinner at one of Jacksonville's most in-demand eateries as a post-Valentine's Day treat.

Steak and seafood are the items you'll want to order. After all, if you're going to have a traditional American fine-dining experience, you may as well order the traditional items.

At lunch or dinner you can order the calamari appetizer, provided you like a little sweet heat from by hot cherry peppers tossed into the mix. Fried with Panko Japanese bread crumbs, these fresh and tender calamari are briefly soaked in soda water, which makes the batter fluff up.

To start your meal, there are a dizzying 450 wines to choose from. Not to worry, your server can help guide you. They've also got a full bar, a martini menu and an awesome (but dangerous) signature



cocktail: the Stoli Doli. They take Dole pineapple, cut it into chunks, infuse the pineapple with Stoli vodka, then squeeze the liquid out. It's an incredibly smooth, not overly sweet drink.

I sampled three of their beef items. The Kona crusted, in-house dry aged sirloin had an incredible flavor. But it was beaten by the tender sliced Filet Mignon, served on a bed of Cipollini onions and wild mushrooms,



glazed with a fig essence sauce. I was most bowled over by the lightly seared Kobe Beef Carpaccio. The quality beef, sliced translucently thin, was dressed with a fine extra virgin olive oil and lemon juice, served with a little arugula and a few slices of parmesan cheese.

One of their most popular side items is the lobster mac and cheese. Humble mac and cheese really goes uptown in this tasty prep, with several different kinds of cheese and lobster meat, carefully removed, intact from the claws.

Dessert, my favorite part of any meal, was not a let down. Their prettily plated coconut cream pie is now a top contender as one of my favorite desserts. This is a shock to me, since it doesn't involve chocolate. The dessert managed to be simultaneously light and sinful. Stuck in the cream was a macaroon that was shaped into a thin, round wafer instead of the customary macaroon shape.

For business men looking to impress their clients, Capital Grille is a perfect fit. They have private dining rooms for board meetings, client meetings and presentations in a lavish dinner setting. The "Board Room" accommodates up to 10 people; the "Wine Room" seats 28 and the "St. Johns Room" takes about 20 guests. Make sure you call ahead for these rooms, as reservations are generally preferred.



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“Entertaining U Newspaper” sounds so oddly corporate. I prefer calling us EU Jacksonville, because acknowledging Jacksonville is so much what this publication is about. Every writer in these pages lives here in our River City. Our publication is a small family business, like so many locally owned businesses in this town.

From truly unique fast food chains like Lubi’s and The Loop to the indigenous fine dining found at Café Nola inside of MOCA Jacksonville or a perfect casual lunch of fish tacos in the Urb Garden at Burrito Gallery, Jacksonville is loaded with terrific locally owned businesses. We have stuff you can’t find anywhere else. Have you ever perused the greeting cards at Cowford Traders or even in the gift shop of our downtown library? Have you ever bought the best pair of pants or sweater you’ve ever owned at Wolfgang in 5 Points? And that is just a small sampling of the consumer culture in Jacksonville.

What about our Atlantic sunrises or gorgeous river sunsets? What about that perfect February day when the sun is warm but the air is cool on your skin? Or when there is a hurricane somewhere in the Atlantic sucking up all of the rainfall and leaving us a breezy summer evening? There is plenty to love about Jacksonville and every Valentine’s Day we here at EU enjoy reveling in it with the rest of you.

We’ve sent out the call to readers to tell us what they love about Jacksonville and here are some of the more articulate responses:



I love Jacksonville because it has a big city skyline and a small town heart. A river and two Interstates may separate the city into sections, but a spirit of togetherness unites the community. A parking garage collapsed and a young father was missing. Firefighters worked through two nights searching, hoping to rescue the man. When the search ended with a body found, many people responded to help his children. A church burned and neighboring congregations responded offering tangible gifts of food and worship symbols as well as prayerful support and encouragement. An orchestra faced financial problems and the

community attended concerts to help the musicians. The homicide rate soared and citizens of note said yes when asked to find solutions.

I love Jacksonville because it is a city that cares!

Paula Suhey
Special Events Coordinator/Pine Castle
Community Express Columnist – Jacksonville.com

(pictured to the left) You can be anywhere in Jacksonville in 15 minutes. That of course excludes around rush hour – but this city has so many different areas to explore. San Marco, Five Points, Jacksonville Beach, Downtown. Best thing about Jacksonville? The ArtWalk downtown and then a late night dinner at Chew. Tell me you’ve tried the macaroni and cheese or the gnocchi.....

Erica Opisso
Staff Writer for the Ponte Vedra Recorder



I love the fact the young people are taking control of the city’s future by planning art shows, blogging, opening retail stores, starting bands, throwing house parties, DJing, building gardens, etc. They aren’t sitting around waiting for the scene to happen. They are making the scene. Keep making the scene! You are making a difference in this city.

Joey Marchy
Urban Jacksonville

One moment I will never forget was the first time I took my son to see the Blue Angels perform at the beach. Mark was 10-years old and we filtered through all the people waiting to watch and arrived at the water’s edge at low tide in time to see the whole show. We had the prime spot, the intersecting point where the jets would pass each other at those amazing speeds. They seemed to be no more than 100 yards in the air, so close that when they passed us the calm ocean water kicked up behind them after they went by. Mark squealed with all the joy a 10-year old can display. We are transplants from South Florida and started to think of the beach as home after that show.

Tonn Pastore
Ponte Vedra Beach

Etiquette of Chocolate loves Jacksonville so much they made the skyline out of chocolate!



The beaches and the weather are certainly what I love about Jacksonville, but what I truly appreciate are the people of this city, especially the employees in our supermarkets and other stores. Compared to New York and New Jersey where everyone is always in a rush and not very polite, the sales staff and checkers at Publix and other businesses are extremely friendly and helpful and always send customers off with a ready smile and a "Have a good day!" That's what makes living and shopping here such a pleasure.

Doris Manukian, Ponte Vedra Beach

Jacksonville affords me a lot of opportunities to indulge in some of my favorite interests and activities. I love starting a lazy Saturday morning with brunch at the Cool Moose, enjoying the best salmon omelettes on the planet! For some strange reason exercising in the morning brings me a lot of joy and when combining a brisk walk with shopping intervals among the stores in Avondale or San Marco, how can you go wrong? In terms of entertainment there are so many venues to choose from, whether you're in the mood to see the new exhibits at MOCA Jacksonville, a theatre production at the Alhambra Dinner Theatre or a new indie band at Jack Rabbits. Some days a nice walk along the St Johns River is all I need to feel recharged and revitalized. Most of all I would have to say I love Jacksonville for the great bunch of eclectic friends I have made here in the last three years.

Stan Cleiland
WJCT Director of Corporate Communications

I guess the thing I Love MOST about Jacksonville is the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville. The Suns have a rich history of talent that have passed through Jacksonville, and with the Suns being a AA affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers, we get to see the allstars of tomorrow today. The Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville is probably hands-down the finest minor league facility in the Southeast. So do yourself a favor this summer, even if you don't think you like baseball, go down to the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville on a warm summer evening and relax....I know I will be there in the front row!

Tim Hall
Owner of Jack Rabbits and JaxLive



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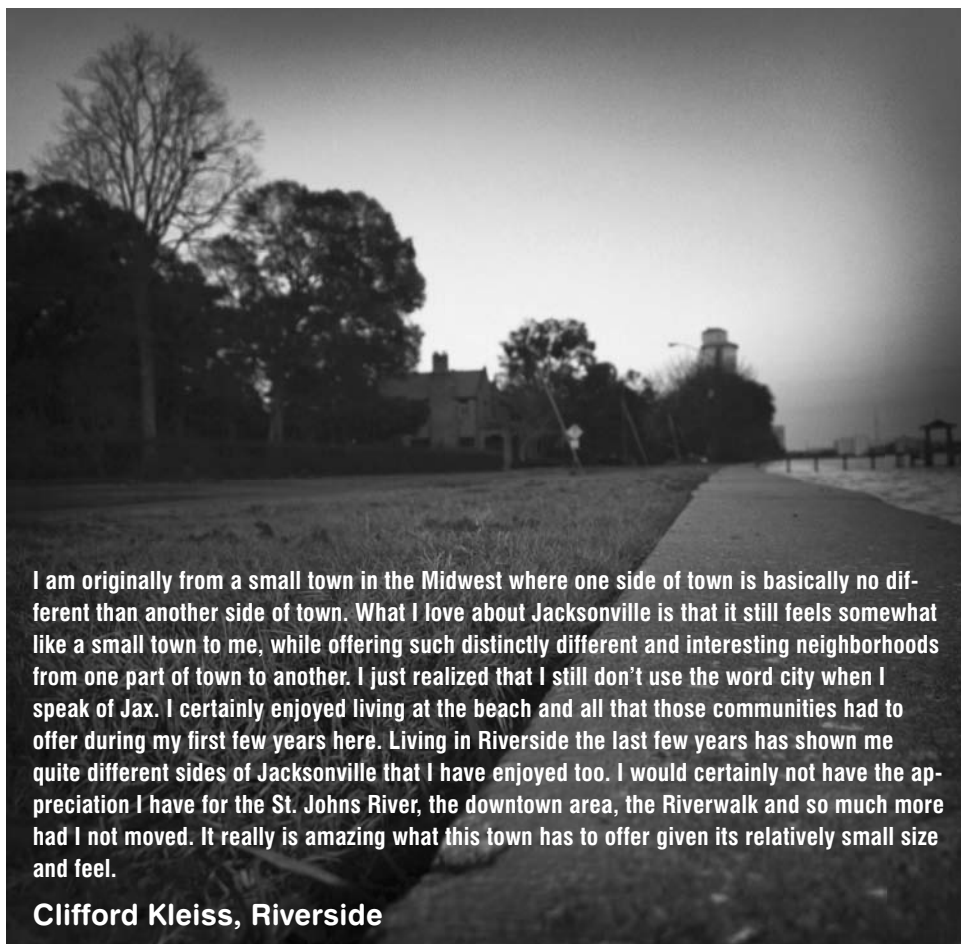
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I am originally from a small town in the Midwest where one side of town is basically no different than another side of town. What I love about Jacksonville is that it still feels somewhat like a small town to me, while offering such distinctly different and interesting neighborhoods from one part of town to another. I just realized that I still don't use the word city when I speak of Jax. I certainly enjoyed living at the beach and all that those communities had to offer during my first few years here. Living in Riverside the last few years has shown me quite different sides of Jacksonville that I have enjoyed too. I would certainly not have the appreciation I have for the St. Johns River, the downtown area, the Riverwalk and so much more had I not moved. It really is amazing what this town has to offer given its relatively small size and feel.

Clifford Kleiss, Riverside

Jacksonville has a wonderful arts community with a strong presence in music and an exciting emerging film industry. I look forward to the annual Jacksonville Film Festival, the 48 Hour Film Project, THE TALKIES, and the countless big budget and indie films that are shot on location in our city each year. These outlets give our talented community the opportunity to show the world what we can do.

Ashley Earles-Bennett, Director of Public Relations Department of Music
University of North Florida



Last March one son from California and one son from Colorado flew into town at 5 pm Friday night to run in the Gate River Run with their 80-year old father. We enjoyed the carbo-load dinner at the Fairgrounds, viewing the bridges with their lights, dessert at BB's, a great evening of reminiscing, and an early morning arrival downtown for the 15k run (wearing Ohio State shirts), followed by massages, a gourmet lunch at Truffles, a quick nap, then a tour of The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens with its "Temples and Tombs, the Egyptian Treasures from the British Museum" plus the Walter O. Evans collection of African American Art, then on to Marker 32 for a fabulous gourmet dinner. Sadly, their flights left at 6 am Sunday morning. Where else could we entertain so thoroughly, so well, so completely with physical challenge and gastronomic delights and great art thrown in the mix, all in 36 hours?

Pat Thomas, Mandarin

I love how residents and business owners from all over Jacksonville are striving to make this city a fantastic place to live! I remember a time when the only thing cultural about Jacksonville was the Confederate flags – hey, they're culturally a part of the South! Now, we have an increased ethnic population, better artistic events and activities such as a growing theater scene, better availability of independent films, ArtWalk, and amazing musical concerts like Talleyrand, and we are even bringing in major sporting events like the big England vs Australia Rugby game at UNF. What used to be a quiet little town is growing into a diverse and culturally rich city, that is what makes Jacksonville a great place to live!

Jennie Jarvis
Orpheus Theater Group



great valentine's gift ideas

part one: think outside the box of chocolates

by erin thursby

Guys, if you're looking to score points with your girl on Valentine's Day, the first thing you'll want to show her is that you actually put some thought into a gift for her.

First, you'll want to find out or just remember what she likes to do with her time. Her hobbies, her likes and dislikes. Write down everything you know about your girl. If the list is too short to give you any gift ideas, then you'll need to go on a stealth reconnaissance. Question their best friend, ask their Mom or, if you have the subtlety for it, ask her without letting her know what it's for. Just don't do this the day before Valentine's Day.

If there's something she's been wanting to learn, from ballroom dancing to an art or cooking class, take the class with her. Spending time and effort to show you care. Here are a few different types of girls with different gift suggestions:

an eco-friendly gift.

If she's an eco-Friendly activist, buy eco-friendly gifts and make sure she knows you made the effort.

- **Head outdoors** to take her on a tour of the river or to one of Jacksonville's many area parks.
- **Little footprints.** Be conscious of the impact of your gift. Instead of buying her roses that may have had to travel by plane, adding to greenhouse emissions, ask your local florist if they have a local supplier.
- **No blood diamonds.** This is a girl you don't want to buy conflict diamonds for. Cook her an all organic meal instead or buy her a gift that also benefits a charity.

a hopeless romantic.

Some of us hide it well, but we're really hopeless romantics at heart. If you know your lady is a hopeless romantic, you're going to have to think back to early in your relationship. Is there a special time or moment you can try to recreate?

- **Memories count.** Put a bunch of photos into a book. If you're creative, maybe you can even put in mementos from past dates.
- **Watch romantic movies** together. Especially if you normally hate chick flicks. If you're suffering a little, she knows you care.
- **Chocolate flowers.** Give old standards a new twist. Give her a bouquet of chocolate flowers.

pamper her.

Girls who like to be pampered aren't high-maintenance, they just know they're worth it. It better be good. If you can't spend money, you MUST show that you made an effort to come up with something.

- **Takeout and roses.** You can get away with buying takeout for your special evening, as long as you give it a little something extra. Put rose petals in her path and make sure you've put the takeout on plates.
- **Relaxing massage.** These are great, as long as she doesn't feel that it's just an excuse to get in her pants. Make sure you have other stuff planned during the evening.
- **Pay attention.** She will give you clues. She will casually mention things she might like in the days and

months leading up to Valentine's. It is your job to pay attention. Take notes. If you have to directly ask her what she wants, you weren't paying attention to her and therefore don't care about her.

music lovers.

Nothing turns a music-lover on better than her man seeking out the music-oriented novelty gift or a rare recording, especially if it features an artist that she cares for and you don't. But don't just add to her bloated Beatles paraphernalia collection, get her the thing that only you know how much she loves. A rare John Lennon vinyl will mean a lot more than a 2008 Beatles Album Covers calendar.

- **Vintage band posters.** Find out if she loves the Grateful Dead or the Doors then either buy a vintage poster online or frame a quality reproduction. Extra points to the guy that can find an old album and frame it.
- **Ye olde mix tape.** Yep, this is still a cool gift. Maybe it is sort of high school, but it does have its charm.
- **Write her a song.** You'll get extra points for effort, even if the song is...umm...not all that good. Just make sure you try. Write down a copy of the song for her to keep.

kiss the chef.

Getting a woman any kind of appliance for Valentine's Day is supposedly taboo, but if cooking is her passion, you can cross into the danger zone and get her things for the kitchen. The key can be that you use it before giving it to her. That's right, use it!

- **A blow torch kit for crème brulee.** When she opens it, tell her you're making the first batch of crème brulee tonight. You also might want to make sure she doesn't already own such a kit.
- **Chocolate fondue set.** Have the chocolate ready so you can break it in on Valentine's Day.
- **A picnic basket.** Fill it with all the stuff you're going to be having on your picnic at the park. If it's too cold, just lay out a blanket in the living room for an indoor picnic.

part two: romance on a budget by kellie abrahamson

Valentine's Day is just a week away and most people shopping for their sweetie either pick the "easy gift" (flowers, chocolate, etc.) or the "pricy gift" (jewelry). What they don't realize is their loved one would rather receive a well-thought out "romantic gift" over roses that will die in a week or a diamond necklace they'll only wear once or twice a year. Here are some ideas you can use to make this Valentine's Day the most memorable one on the books... without spending a fortune.

use your words

You may say "I love you" to your special someone every day but writing down your sentiments is a great way to show them just how much. Take an afternoon and write a love note to your honey. Better yet, write several and when the big day comes hide the handwritten surprises around the house for them to find. Greeting cards are great but it's so much more sincere when it comes from your own heart. A handwritten letter or a homemade card will be cherished more than anything you can buy at the store.

Finally, instead of simply handing your partner their card or letter, mail it. It shows you took the time to do something in advance rather than throwing it together at the last minute. If you want to do something extra special, mail it to Valentine, Texas where your card will have a festive postmark and will be hand-stamped with a unique four line poem. Simply enclose your pre-addressed, pre-stamped Valentine's card in a larger envelope and mail to: Postmaster, Attn: Valentines, Valentine, Texas 79854. You can also send it to postmasters in Loveland, Colorado (zip code 80538); Valentine, Nebraska (69201); Kissimmee, Florida (32741); Loving, New Mexico (88256); and Romance, Arkansas (72136). Be sure to send them by February 9th to make sure you'll get it by Valentine's Day.

stay in

Valentine's Day is traditionally date night, but instead of heading out, stay in. Does your sweetheart like to go dancing? Dim the lights, turn on some tunes and slow dance in your living room. Thinking of getting your love a gift certificate to a swanky day spa? Spend part of the evening pampering them with a candlelit bubble bath and massage instead. Want to check out a movie? Up the snuggle-meter and rent a romantic flick to watch together on your couch. Instead of going through the usual date night motions, doing something fun and unexpected at home is a sure fire way to please your special someone.

on the menu: romance

When did crowded restaurants become conducive to romance? Skip the reservations, light some candles and dine in the privacy of your own home, where, incidentally, the bedroom is just a few feet away. Make your sweetheart's favorite meal (if you're still getting to know each other, consider consulting his/her family for ideas) or, if you must, order in. Remember, it's not necessarily about what you serve, but how you serve it. You may want to go all out and set the table with fine china, your best glasses, a floral centerpiece and candles. Another way to go is to lay out some blankets and have an indoor picnic in front of the fireplace. Either way, dim the lights, play some soft music and spend some quality dining time sans intrusive waiters and an audience of 50+.

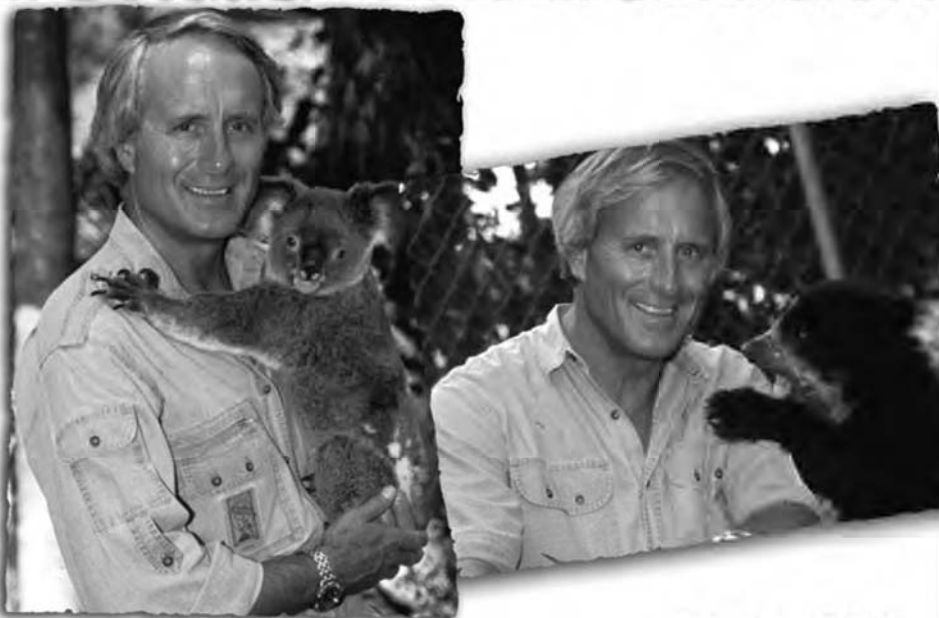
walk down memory lane

If you've been together for a while, you may want to spend the evening remembering what drew you to each other in the first place. Set some time aside to talk about when you first got together and walk further down memory lane by looking at photos of when the two of you began dating. Burn a CD of some songs that remind you of when you first met and let that be the evening's soundtrack. If you really want to go all out, recreate your first date. I bet it ends on an even higher note this time around!

it really is the thought that counts

The old saying is true; it really is the thought that counts. You don't have to spend a lot of money to show you care but you do have to spend a lot of time. Begin planning now (or, if you happen to have a time machine, last week) and put plenty of effort into making the event as memorable as possible. You'll be amazed at how much your loved one, and your wallet, will appreciate a little forethought.

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sweet sentiments

creative valentines for kids by kellie abrahamson

The countdown to Valentine's Day is here and most parents of school-age children will be heading to the store to buy some cutesy, pre-made cards with their favorite cartoon character on them to give to their classmates. But you're not one of those parents are you? No, you're the type of parent who wants to do something different this year. You want your kid's valentines to be the talk of the playground, am I right? Well, it will take a bit more money and a couple of hours, but making your own creative valentines is a lot more fun for you and your child and a lot more memorable for those on the receiving end. Here are some ideas to get you started:

my punny valentine

Hallmark and those other big greeting card companies figured out long ago that a good (or just decent) pun is all you need to make a great valentine. From a train puffing "Choo-Choo-Choose Me" to an adorable squirrel declaring "I'm Nuts for You," store shelves are loaded with these punny, and often cheesy, sentiments. They may be considered the lowest form of comedy, but kids love this stuff, particularly the ones young enough to be doing valentine exchanges at school. When making your own, start with a simple, easy to make or acquire object and think of a pun to go with it. A plastic shovel, for example, could have a note that says "I dig you" or "Here's the scoop- it's Valentine's Day." Attach a small bag of candy and you have a quick, delightful little gift kids will love. Do the same thing with rulers ("You rule, Valentine!"), seed packets ("You've really grown on me") or pencils ("You've got the write stuff") and you're kid's valentines will be a big hit.



skip the candy

Yeah, that's right, I said it. Despite what retailers want you to think, Valentine's Day is not about boxes of chocolate or candy conversation hearts. In fact, with childhood obesity on the rise the last thing our kids need is more sugar. Instead, have your child make their friends personalized bookmarks out of card stock or teach them to make friendship bracelets out of embroidery thread. These special gifts take time and effort and are better than a roll of Smarties any day.

If you're still itching to pass out sweet treats, go natural- give fruit. Find out what kind of fruits the kids prefer (either have your child poll them or ask the teacher to help you out), place the pieces in cellophane bags, attach a cute message ("You're the apple of my eye," "I go bananas over you," "Orange you glad it's Valentine's Day?"), and you've got a quick, easy, healthy treat kids and their parents will appreciate.

let your child guide you

Maybe you've already found some cute crafts on the web and would like to make them for your kid's class. Before you head out to pick up doilies and glitter, fill your child in on what you're thinking. They might have an idea to make it better or they may hate your idea altogether and have something else in mind. Either way, once you've got a solid game plan, let your child do the bulk of the work. Like science projects and dioramas, be there in case they need you but try not to take over. This should be something fun to do together but it's also a time for your child to show off their creativity if they want to.



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kamp kritter rescue

benefit concert at Fuel

BY A.M. STEWART

The piercing sound of a smoke alarm penetrates the air. In a state of hurried confusion, Sue Towler awakes at 2 am. Her two-story house ignites in flames. Without a moment to think, Towler rushes to save the shelter animals that were living in her Riverside home.

Towler said most of the dogs understood something bad was happening and followed her command to exit the house. The animal-advocate soon heard the yelping of one last dog, Rosie, and braved the flames to save her.



Sue Towler

Towler rescued nine dogs and sustained burns from the fire that completely destroyed her home. Unfortunately, she couldn't get to the second floor where three animals perished.

Beside her, stood a neighbor and friend who was awakened by the enormous sounds of the fire. Towler's neighbor, Danielle Schmidt, said it sounded like "bombs or guns going off." Together, sadly, they watched the house burn.

The next day Schmidt knew what she had to

do. There was no hesitation. She was going to arrange a benefit concert that would help Towler rebuild and pay for the shelter dogs' medication and needs.

On Feb. 2, less than a month later, Schmidt successfully put together a benefit at Fuel Coffeehouse in Riverside. The event raised more than \$4,000 for the Kamp Kritter foundation, a no-kill animal shelter.

Towler, whose life is dedicated to animals, has run the Kamp Kritters no-kill shelter for the past ten years and operates a kennel (The Barking Lot) and pet sitting service (Critter Sitters). She deeply cares about dogs and their well-being.

Duane Daly, one of Towler's employees at the kennel, put it simply, "Before she eats, the dogs eat," he said. "She loves dogs more than people."

Once people heard the benefit was for animals at a no-kill shelter, they wanted to help. Twelve bands donated their musical talents to the all-day event that ran from 1 pm to 12 am. Volunteers happily donated art and miscellaneous items, like a wine set and china, to a silent auction that raised more than \$1,000. Guests at the benefit could also participate in a raffle which boasted an assortment of prizes ranging from beanie bears and purses to T-shirts and tattoo gift certificates. Even the flyers and venue for the event were donated.

Schmidt easily booked the bands for the benefit through word of mouth and MySpace bulletins. She said there was such an outpouring of support that she had to turn down five bands. Since the benefit had a wide range of people attending, Schmidt made sure to showcase the widest variety of music. Everything from alternative rock and old-school punk to Christian rock and folk could be heard reverberating off the warehouse-like walls. Local favorites like Christina Wagner, Pilar and Stevie Ray Stiletto happily graced the stage.

Schmidt's own band, Baker Act, hosted the



Elizabeth from Baker Act

benefit and promised a light-hearted, comedic exchange with the crowd in between punk rock, alternative jams.

The bassist for Baker Act, Elizabeth Pavlesich, served as the announcer during the benefit, often cracking jokes and kidding with the artists on stage.

"Does anyone need a new pair of underwear?" Pavlesich jokingly asked at the end of Pilar's bold performance. "I do," she concluded.

Mostly, people from all walks of life came out to listen to music and support the Kamp Kritter Rescue foundation. Schmidt said she plans to have another benefit fundraiser for the non-profit shelter.

Towler said she was pleased and touched by the turnout.

"It was a very emotional closure to this whole experience," Towler said, who chooses to stay with her rescued dogs at the kennel, despite multiple offers to stay with friends.

"It's for a new beginning," she said.

For more info about Kamp Kritter visit kampkritter.com.

live music & shows calendar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Outlaw Son & the Renegades **Brewsters**, Jax (223-9850)

Tammerlin CD Release **European Street**, Jax (399-1740)

Cloud 9 **Twisted Martini**, Ponte Vedra Beach (280-8810)

Open Mic w/Joel Moody **Tailgaters**, Green Cove Springs (529-1976)

Open Mic w/Colleen Murphy **Trade Winds Lounge**, St. Augustine (829-8646)

Lewis Vauhn **9th & Main**, Jax

Chuck Nash **My Place**, Jax (737-5299)

Therapy **Cecils**, Jax (744-5132)

Mariachi Guadalajara **Jimadores**, Jax (739-5828)

Gutterboy **Roadhouse**, Orange Park (264-0611)

Mr. Natural **Whitey's Fish Camp**, Orange Park (269-4198)

Saltwater Grass **Spare Time Tavern**, Jax Beach (246-8099)

Kelly Atkins **Amici's**, St. Augustine

Boogie Freaks **Square One**, Jax (306-9004)

Steve Plays Too Loud **London Bridge**, Jax (359-0001)

Lovechunk **Jack Rabbits**, Jax (398-7496)

One Small Step For Landmines **Brewsters Pit**, Jax (223-9850)

Don Yute **Plush**, Jax (743-1845)

Deron Baker **Harry's**, St. Augustine (824-7765)

Colton & Friends **The Mill Top**, St. Augustine (829-2329)

Out of Hand **Mercury Moon**, Orange Park (215-8999)

Susie Kite Band **Ragtime Tavern**, Atlantic Beach (241-7877)

Stu Weaver **Coffee Roasters**, Jax (260-0810)

Matt Still **Paco's**, Jax Beach

Big Engine **Box Seats**, Jax (908-7328)

Big Al & the Kaholics **Dick's/Tinsletown**, Jax

Yearling **Brewsters Pit**, Jax (223-9850)

Matt Collins **Urban Flats**, Ponte Vedra Beach (280-5515)

Alexander Seier **Ocean 60**, Jax Beach (247-0060)

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7-9

Palatka Bluegrass Festival-Ralph Stanley, Rhonda **Rodehaver Ranch**, Palatka

Vincent, Lewis Family, Doyle, Lawson & Quicksilver & Many more

The Committee **A1A Ale Works**, St. Augustine (829-2977)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Mike Sweet & Friends **Mi Casa Café**, St. Augustine (824-9317)

Crystal Bessels **Kickback's**, Jax (388-9551)

Nate Holley **Mellow Mushroom**, Jax (997-1955)

Madison Fadeout, Sons of August **9th & Main**, Jax

C5 **Culhane's**, Atlantic Beach (249-9595)

Whole Wheat Bread, Supervillians, **Fuel**, Jax (425-3835)

Amaru **Freebird Live**, Jax Beach (246-2473)

Pony Pants **TSI**, Jax (635-3024)

Scholar's Word **The Nest**, St. Augustine

Willie Evans Jr, The Dirty Get Caughts

Little Green Men **Box Seats**, Jax (908-7328)

Rick Arcusa **The Landing**, Jax

The Snacks **Shantytown**, Jax

Chuck Nash **My Place**, Jax (737-5299)

Captain Hook **West Inn Cantina**, Jax (389-1131) →

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 The Hermitage Ballet Gala Concert

February 14
 Trisha Yearwood

February 15
 The B-52s Benefit Concert for the
 Jacksonville Humane Society

February 16: 7:30 pm
 Fred Garbo's Inflatable Theater Company

February 19: 7:30 pm
 Flamenco Vivo

February 21: 7 pm
 The Florida Forum Presents Larry Kudlow

February 22: 7:30 pm
 The 15th Annual Great Guitar Gathering

February 27
 Keb' Mo'

February 28: 7 pm
 Sylvia Brown

March 6
 Freda Payne: A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald

March 14: 7:30 pm
 Nrityagram Dance Ensemble
 of India

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the power of aged flowers

Richie Havens at the Alcazar

BY **JON BOSWORTH** jaxvillain@yahoo.com

"To all the young kids that think the future is in outer space, guess what – this is outer space. This crowd is as out there as any crowd."

What was once the pool to the historic Hotel Alcazar was swimming with bald heads and long gray hair. Havens' brand of flower power folk reeks of an optimistic era of old. The whole room reeked of that era. It was a mixture of patchouli, pot breath and wine. Although there was a strange sort of pretentiousness from the baby boomers that made up the bulk of the house, Havens' haunting and hopeful love songs were cheery and welcoming.

Richie Havens opened his set with a song he introduced as being written by a good friend. That song was 'All Along the Watchtower' and Dylan apparently preferred Havens' rendition of the song. Havens' accompanying guitarist looked like actor Gary Oldman with a villainous waxed and curled mustache. He played ambient upstrokes and added a gentle electric backdrop to Havens' unique strumming rhythms. Halfway through the set they were joined by a woman on cello, adding a bellowing symphonic touch that helped the sounds they were making saturate the room.

Like a swami with his dark bald head, long white beard and flowing sari, Havens seems to be a happy old hippie and his songs certainly spoke to his generation. The old hippies closed their eyes as he sang and rolled their necks, swaying as they clutched their designer purses wrapped in their colorful Patagonia sweaters. In their minds they were drifting to a time when all you needed to slip into that "outer space" that Havens spoke of was the sound

of a gentle acoustic guitar, a sweet voice, and some far-out ideas like peace, love and poetry. When had they traded that in for designer purses?

In addition to his Woodstock-era devotees, he also pulled an impressive number of young hipsters. Havens told heartfelt stories about his Greenwich Village days as though we were one enormous family sitting around a fire in a backyard. The crowd was reverent – and that was fitting in this ancient room.

The timbre of Havens' voice isn't the pained voice of a bluesman, it is more akin to Curtis Mayfield, but void of the anger that punctuated Mayfield's repertoire. And that is a striking difference. Havens' songs seem to bubble up from some deep peaceful happiness.

Unless you purchased tickets to the seats on the first floor or were lucky enough to score a seat near the railing on the second floor, seeing Richie Havens wasn't always possible at The Alcazar, but the cavernous space held the bellowing tones of his songs in like a deep breath. The feathery tinge of his voice chimed cheerily down every spine in earshot.

"The youngest fans request my oldest songs," Havens said, explaining the interesting harmony



between old and new at the Alcazar last Thursday.

In that wood and coquina building, one of the oldest structures in the oldest city, a legend of his time sang timeless songs to a room of music lovers from many different musical eras. Those that heard Havens back in his prime got to enjoy his songs sitting next to their children, many of which were hearing him for the first time. It was the cacophony of the vibrant energy of youth and the unspoken wisdom of age coming together in that gorgeous room that made the night a magical event, and by the end the pretentiousness has dissolved like smoke into the air and the designer purses were left to the cocuina floor as everyone came to their feet to applaud this one man that can still connect 2008 to the forty years that preceded it.

Jack Rabbits

where the music keeps going and going and going...

Friday, Feb 8
Soulidium
 Transera, Perdiem, Pin Principle, Five Star Failure

Saturday, Feb 9
The Great Cover Up
 Pimps & The Revolution doing all Purple classics

Sunday, Feb 10
The Loved Ones
 Gaslight Anthem and Mexican Disaster Squad

Monday, Feb 11
Agent Orange
 MOD and Nine Tenth's

Feb 12 - Ryan Bingham and Laurel Lee & Tobacco Pat
 Feb 15 - Shangrala CD Release Party
 Feb 16 - Dead Meadow with Woven Bones & guests

2-17 Retard-0-Bot, Sanguinary
 2-18 Seven Mary Three and guests
 2-19 Sherwood, Houston Calls, The Higher and guests

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Lackawanna Carriage Works at Jack Rabbits

BY **JON BOSWORTH** jaxvillain@yahoo.com

WHAT: Lackawanna Carriage Works, Ryan Bing-ham and Laurel Lee and Tobacco Pat
WHERE: Jack Rabbits (1528 Hendricks Ave, 904-398-7496)
WHEN: Tuesday, February 12th

I probably don't know as much about Jacksonville as I often get credit for, but I do know a little bit about Jax history. I was recently told I was a "grandfather of the Jacksonville music scene," (which many of my contemporaries would object to), but I do pay an inordinate amount of attention to the local music scene. My experience is often called upon in the middle of the night from desperate friends looking for a good band. But I am often still wrong about the details of these musicians, since there is no authoritative chronicle.

I've also delivered enough pizzas all over this great city of ours to be familiar with most neighborhoods (although I recently got terribly lost on Spring Glen Road and I'm still not sure exactly what neighborhood I was in). So when I first heard the name of Jacksonville's own alt-country, all-star band, Lackawanna Carriage Works, I chuckled. This name is perfect for this band. Although inhabited by many good people, this neighborhood is not known for any particular landmark or characteristic. In fact, its lack of a specific characteristic just might be its defining characteristic.

The most notable landmark to Jacksonville residents at large is probably the WW Gay building. Lackawanna is one of the least populated parts of North Riverside, although it still has some great people that live there and are working to restore it. Lackawanna is fairly overlooked, so what it has to offer is more or less unknown to most people. This is precisely why Lackawanna is the perfect neighborhood for this band to associate with.

Brennan Hamill, who plays guitar and sings for the group, might be the most Lackawanna of the bunch. I first met him as a bartender at Yesterdays and then learned of his dirt-rockin' muscle car band Dang!. He also does an impressive cover of Neil Young's 'Cortez the Killer' on his MySpace. These attributes are easy to praise now that I know him, but

like Lackawanna, Brennan lived and functioned here for a long time before I ever noticed him.

Damien Waters, who plays guitars and sings for the group, suits the Lackawanna title too. I first knew of him when he invited me to come to the London Bridge and play Johnny Cash's guitar. He was another character that was somehow easy to overlook, just like I overlook the Lackawanna neighborhood that I drive through almost everyday.

Ryan Turk, who plays guitar and sings for the group, doesn't really remind me of the neighborhood of Lackawanna for being overlooked. Ryan has been in Jacksonville's spotlight plenty of times. He was the singer/songwriter for many bands, probably most notably Lovecraft. They were a Jacksonville indie rock band who, after breaking up, sent players on to Crash the Satellites, Shangrila, Michelle Payne Band and impressive solo recording projects. The aspect of Lackawanna that I identify Turk with the most is the industrial aspect of this blighted neighborhood. It is apparent that it has seen some hard times, but it does not give up. Ryan's output of music has been more prolific and eclectic than any other local musician I know.

Hammil, Turk and Waters all alternate playing various stringed instruments (acoustic guitars, mandolin, electric guitar) and switch off on lead vocals, often harmonizing for one another. Jeremy Nix (keys, organ, synth), Kevin Pepper (bass, vocals) and Adam Deli (drums, vocals) round out this enormous stage-presence of a band, and all of them are bearded except for Jeremy Nix, the token fashion rocker of the group.

While beards are certainly on the uptrend, that isn't why the facial hair also suits this band well. The beards work because they are playing an old style of country music. It's old-school country played by indie rockers, but it manages to not become too alt-country. It isn't experimental like Wilco, it isn't fused with disco or dreamy instrumentation like Band of Horses; it actually sounds like authentic country music. When Hamill sings, you might think you're



listening to a new country star. Someone along the lines of George Strait or Dwight Yoakam. When Waters sings you could easily envision the New Trouble Country of the mid-nineties like The Jayhawks. And when Turk gets on the mic, his affinity for classic Graham Parsons is apparent.

All of the musicians in the band are quality players and each songwriter is accomplished in their own rights, but together they make a great country rock band that manages to sound fresh and new without disavowing their influences. Check out Lackawanna at Jack Rabbits this week. It's exciting to see a piece of the past come back, rather than crumbling into oblivion. Go out and see what this group has to offer.

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 General Tso's Fury **Freebird Live**, Jax Beach (246-2473)
 Alexander Seier **Twisted Sisters**, Jax Beach (241-6453)
 Grabbag **Doozers**, Jax
 Anastasia **Scarlett's**, St. Augustine (824-6535)
 Mercy Me, Epic Youth **The Arena**, Jax
 Soulidium Transera **Jack Rabbits**, Jax (398-7496)
 A1A North **Fast Boys/Beach Marina**, Jax Beach
 Out of Hand **River City Brewing Company**, Jax (398-2299)
 Art Show-Christina Wagner, Shadow Agency, **Ocean Club**, Jax (242-8884)
 Antartic, Does It Matter
 Chris Kearnes **The Nest**, St. Augustine
 Sophomore Attempt, Parade the City **Murray Hill Theatre**, Jax (388-7807)
 Classic Blends **Café Eleven**, St. Augustine (460-9311)
 Eddie Gomez Trio **UNF Robinson Theatre**, Jax
 Big Engine **Brewsters**, Jax (223-9850)
 Kelly Atkins Jazz Quartet **The Grape**, Jax (642-7111)
 Sidewalk 65 **Tom & Betty's**, Jax (387-3311)
 Orlino **UNF Arena**, Jax
 Joe Vee & Friends **Tijuana Flats**, Jax (737-9938)
 Lift **Whitey's Fish Camp**, Orange Park (269-4198)
 Trial By Torment **Club Fusion**, St. Augustine (829-8333)

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8-9

Jody & the Driveshafts **Trade Winds Lounge**, St. Augustine (829-9336)
 Freeze Frame **Fionn Maccool's**, Jax Beach (242-9499)
 Something Distant **Lynch's**, Jax Beach (249-5181)
 Split Tone **Caribbee Key**, Neptune Beach (270-8940)
 Dueling Pianos **Dick's Wings/Tinseltown**, Jax
 Wild Card **Danny's**, Orange Park
 Big Blue Audio **Stadium Club**, Jax (641-2301)
 Unky J **Cliff's**, Jax (645-5162)
 Str8 Up **Ragtime Tavern**, Atlantic Beach (241-7877)
 Blistur **Roadhouse**, Orange Park (264-0611)
 Out of Hand **Square One**, Jax (306-9004)
 Jay Garrett **Mercury Moon**, Orange Park (215-8999)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Robby Schenck **Kickback's**, Jax (388-9551)
 Jason Ricci **Mojo's Kitchen**, Jax Beach (247-6636)
 Mint Julep **Prime Osborn**, Jax
 Karl W. Davis **Hurricane Patty's**, St. Augustine
 Neurotic Butterfly **Whitey's Fish Camp**, Orange Park (269-4198)
 Pimps & the Revolution **Jack Rabbits**, Jax (398-7496)
 Willie Green **Art Association**, St. Augustine
 Sugar Bear **The Landing**, Jax
 Donna the Buffalo **Freebird Live**, Jax Beach (246-2473)
 Chaos Theory **The Grape**, Jax (642-7111)
 Hallelujah **Shantytown**, Jax
 20wt **Doozers**, Jax
 Pony Pants **Café Eleven**, St. Augustine (460-9311)
 Larry Mangum **European Street/Beach**, Jax
 Alexander Seier **Urban Flats**, Ponte Vedra Beach (280-5515)
 Matt Collins **Pauly's**, Jax (727-9101)
 Dial 9 **Twisted Sisters**, Jax Beach (241-6453)
 Strings of Fire **Jimadores**, Jax (739-5828)
 Mike Sweet & Friends **Mi Casa Café**, St. Augustine (824-9317)
 Autumn Offering **Brewsters Pit**, Jax (223-9850)
 The Nible Galan Project, The Druids **The Hinge**, Jax



The Sophomore Attempt

help for those who need it most

Rock for Invisible Children Benefit

BY **KELLIE ABRAHAMSON**

KAbrahamson1@aol.com

WHAT: Rock For Invisible Children Benefit w/ The Sophomore Attempt, Parade the City, Don't Sigh Daisy, All the Day Holiday, Joel Fletcher and Empire Acoustics
WHERE: Murray Hill Theatre
WHEN: Friday, February, 8th

Aside from what we see on CNN, most of us have no idea what it's like to witness a war first hand, much less live through one. For you and me it's hard to imagine having to live in a place where

war is raging all around us all the time. But in northern Uganda that's all many people know. Invisible Children Inc. is an organization that strives to give the children of Uganda a better world to call their own. To help them achieve their goal, The Murray Hill Theatre is holding their annual Rock for Invisible Children Benefit concert this Friday.

Invisible Children, Inc. began in 2003 when three filmmakers traveled to Africa in search of a story. While there, they discovered that children were the biggest victims in the decades-long war between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Thousands of children were abducted and forced to fight on behalf of the LRA and millions more lost their families during the war and were left to fend for themselves. After witnessing first-hand a generation that's never known peace, the filmmakers created a documentary called *Invisible Children: Rough Cut* and began circulating it. The overwhelming response to the film was "How can I help?" and

Invisible Children, Inc. was born. The non-profit organization uses the funds they raise to bring awareness to the situation in Uganda and to assist the children and families who have been displaced due to the conflict.

Over the years, Invisible Children, Inc. has been getting a lot of attention thanks to an outpouring of support from bands like My Chemical Romance, Relient K, Switchfoot and Fall Out Boy. The organization was also featured in an episode of The CW's *Veronica Mars* and in the comic book *The Phantom*. Screenings of the film started it all. High schools and colleges across the country have also contributed through events such as Global Night Commute (a worldwide demonstration held in 2006) and last year's Displace Me rally by raising a great deal of awareness for the cause. The Murray Hill Theatre is doing its part this weekend with the Rock for Invisible Children Benefit show.



The evening of great music for an even better cause will feature local bands The Sophomore Attempt, Parade the City, Don't Sigh Daisy, All the Day Holiday, Joel Fletcher and Empire Acoustics. In addition to the bands, representatives from Invisible Children, Inc will be on hand to answer questions about the organization and will be selling IC merchandise. Throughout the evening, parts of the film will also be shown so you can get an idea of why this cause is worth fighting for. All proceeds from ticket sales and IC merch will benefit Invisible Children, Inc.

The Rock for Invisible Children Benefit concert is this Friday at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7). Tickets for the event are \$10 and are currently on sale through the venue's website at www.murrayhilltheatre.com. For more information on Invisible Children, Inc. and how you can help, head over to www.invisiblechildren.com. There, you can purchase DVDs and gear, donate funds or learn more about actually working abroad as in intern to help make some change.

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great american jazz

interview with Jimmy Cobb

BY **RICK GRANT** rickgrant01@comcast.net

WHAT: Jimmy Cobb with Eddie Gomez at the Great American Jazz Festival
WHERE: The Robinson Theater at the University of North Florida (1 UNF Drive)
WHEN: Friday, February 8th at 7:30 pm

The chance to chat with iconic drummer Jimmy Cobb was an honor and a thrill. I've long admired Jimmy's bull chops. At 79, Jimmy has been everywhere and done everything in jazz and beyond. He joined Miles Davis in 1957. In 1963 Tony Williams took over Miles' drum position and Jimmy worked with his rhythm section, Winton Kelly and Paul Chambers, behind the great Wes Montgomery. Jimmy went on to work with Winton Kelly Trio and did three albums with the great Kenny Burrell and J.J. Johnson in the late 60s.

In the 70s, Jimmy worked with Sarah Vaughan for 9 years and freelanced after that with a host of musical stars including Ricky Ford, Hank Jones, Dave Holland, Ron Carter, George Coleman, and Fathead Newman as well as Nancy Wilson and many others. These artists are a cross-section of some of the luminaries Jimmy has worked with over the years.

In 2002, Jimmy completed a *Four Generations of Miles* album with guitarist Mike Stern, bassist Ron Carter and tenor saxophonist George Coleman. His long awaited benchmark solo album, *Yesterdays*, was produced by Eleana Tee with Michael Brecker on tenor sax, Marion Meadows on soprano, Roy Hargrove on trumpet and flugelhorn, Jon Faddis on trumpet, Eric Lewis on piano, Peter Bernstein on guitar, and John Weber on bass. Indeed, Jimmy's personal history parallels the history of jazz from the 50s to present day.

Today, Jimmy lives with his wife Eleana in Harlem and is busier than ever teaching and playing workshops, concerts, and various festivals and venues around the globe. Jimmy frequently travels to

major universities to teach master classes and jazz workshops. He will be taking part in the UNF Great American Jazz Series by teaching master classes and doing workshops. He will also play a concert with the UNF Jazz Ensemble.

"I go to the universities and set up workshops where I play and then answer the students' questions. There is a group of us including Eric Alexandra on sax, Marcus Belgrade trumpet, Ronnie Matthews on piano, Bulldog Drummond on bass and myself on drums. We travel four times a year to the International Center for the Arts in San Francisco to educate the kids on the arts. Not only music; a greater appreciation of all the arts. Of course I do many other events at various universities including Parsons: The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in NYC and at the University of Greensboro in North Carolina," the musical legend told EU.

"My teaching events are only part of my broader involvement in playing concerts, festivals and clubs. However, I do believe that it's important to pass on my knowledge on to the next generation of jazz artists. As you know, music appreciation in most schools is the first thing to go during budget cutbacks. So, the kids only listen to what's in the forefront, like rap or rock. So it's the old guard's responsibility to make sure all kids learn about roots music like blues and how jazz evolved into an art form, so they can make educated choices in their personal music tastes."

At that point we did discussed rap and hip-hop and how it harkens back to the beatnik era of recited poetry accompanied by jazz. He also likes the fact that rap is an American, African-American invention that has proliferated around the world, similar to jazz.



"I hate music labels. There are different styles of playing. Jazz is an improvisational medium but within certain parameters. I've played all styles of music and been influenced by many artists playing in many different genres. Playing the drums, like any instrument, is a lifelong learning experience. Every time I meet young musicians, I learn something from them as well as teaching them my bag of tricks," Jimmy said.

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 Anchors, Flood Memoirs **Murray Hill Theatre**, Jax (388-7807)
 Sherri Chung **JU Terry Concert Hall**, Jax
 Brian Turner & Rip Tide **Conch House**, St. Augustine (829-8646)
 Open Mic w/Larry Broussard **St. Johns Pizza Grill**, Jax (287-9900)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Those Guys **Sunset Grill**, St. Augustine (471-5555)
 Out of Hand **Sun Dog Diner**, Neptune Beach (241-8221)
 Dan Shepherd **Harpoon Louie's**, Jax (389-5631)
 The Merks **Bull Memorial Park**, Atlantic Beach
 Pili Pili **The Landing**, Jax
 Will Neal **Brix**, Jax Beach
 Sharing Needles with Jesus **Brewsters Pit**, Jax (223-9850)
 Isaac Byrd Jr. **De Real Ting Café**, Jax
 The Loved Ones **Jack Rabbits**, Jax (398-7496)
 Tarik Hassan **Sahara Café**, Jax
 Cruel Shoes **Ragtime Tavern**, Atlantic Beach (241-7877)
 David Milam **Mellow Mushroom**, Jax (997-1955)
 Matanzas **Trade Winds Lounge**, St. Augustine (829-8646)
 Livid **Michelle's**, Jax
 3rd Bass **The Casbah**, Jax (981-9966)
 El Toro Loco **Square One**, Jax (306-9004)
 Jan Crawford & Friends **Cortesses**, St. Augustine (825-6775)
 Michael Funge **Culhane's Irish Pub**, Atlantic Beach (249-9595)

SUNDAY-MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10-11

Little Green Men **Lynch's**, Jax Beach (249-5181)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Spade McQuade **Fly's Tie**, Atlantic Beach (246-4293)
 Matanzas **Trade Winds Lounge**, St. Augustine (829-9336)
 Freeze Frame **Fionn Maccool's**, Jax Beach (242-9499)
 Agent Orange **Jack Rabbits**, Jax (398-7496)
 Joey **Cortesses**, St. Augustine (825-6775)
 Will Pearsall **The Mill Top**, St. Augustine (829-2329)
 Ben Hollow **Fuel**, Jax (425-3835)
 Matt Still **Gingers**, Jax Beach
 Billy Bowers **Sun Dog Steak & Seafood**, Neptune Beach (241-8221)
 Lary Smith **Harmonious Monks**, Jax (886-3040)
 Band of Destiny **Square One**, Jax (306-9004)
 Stu Weaver **Harry's**, St. Augustine (824-7765)
 Out of Hand **My Place**, Jax (737-5299)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Stu Weaver **The Mill Top**, St. Augustine (829-2329)
 Open Mic w/Outlaw Son & the Renegades **Brewsters**, Jax (223-9850)
 Matt Still **Caribbee Key**, Atlantic Beach (270-8940)
 Yonder Mountain String Band **Freebird Live**, Jax Beach (246-2473)
 Out of Hand **Palace Saloon**, Fernandina
 Blistur **Rivers Edge**, Fernandina
 Ron Perry **Sun Dog Diner**, Neptune Beach (241-8221)
 Lackawanna Carriage Works **Jack Rabbits**, Jax (398-7496)

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 Aerial Tribe, Wes Cobb **Square One**, Jax (306-9004)

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12-13

Big Engine **Sharky's**, Orange Park

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Dave Massey **My Place**, Jax (737-5299)
 Matt Still **Mellow Mushroom**, Jax (997-1955)
 Chelsea Saddler **Tijuana Flats**, Jax (737-9938)
 Your Best Friend, Dubwise **Fuel**, Jax (425-3835)
 Wes Cobb Band **Square One**, Jax (306-9004)
 Ron Perry **Cliff's**, Jax (645-5162)
 Shawn Lightfoot **Casbah**, Jax
 Elizabeth McIntyre **Twisted Sisters**, Jax Beach (241-6453)
 2 Legit, Tokyo Face Punch **Shantytown**, Jax
 Alexander Seier **Caribbee Key**, Neptune Beach (270-8940)
 Jesse & Leaa **Cortesses**, St. Augustine (825-6775)
 Little Green Men **Brix**, Jax Beach
 Jodies Fiasco **Castillo de Mexico**, Jax
 Soulo **Urban Flats**, Ponte Vedra Beach (280-5515)
 The Mike Miller Band **St. Nick's Lounge**, Jax (396-3396)
 El Toro Loco **Aromas**, Ponte Vedra (280-2525)
 Chuck Nash **Sun Dog Steak & Seafood**, Neptune Beach (241-8221)
 Pili Pili **Fly's Tie Irish Pub**, Atlantic Beach (246-4293)
 Dave Massey **My Place Bar & Grill**, Jax (737-5299)

upcoming concerts

Trisha Yearwood Feb. 14, Florida Theatre, 355-2787
The B-52's Feb. 15, Florida Theatre, 355-2787
 Chris Duarte Feb. 15, Mojoes Blues Bar, 247-6636
 Van Halen Feb. 16, Jacksonville Arena, 353-3309
 Lalah Hathaway Feb. 17, Florida Theatre, 355-2787
 Monty Python's Spamalot Feb. 19-24, Times Union Center, 632-3373
 Take 6 Feb. 21, UNF Fine Arts Center, 620-2878
 Coco Montoya Feb. 21, Café Eleven, 469-9311
 15th Annual Great Guitar Gathering Feb. 22, Florida Theatre, 355-2787
 Leon Russell Feb. 22, Freebird Live, 246-2473
 Steep Canyon Rangers Feb. 22, Mojoes Blues Bar, 247-6636
 Rascal Flatts and Kellie Pickler February 22, Veterans Memorial Arena, 353-3309
 Willy Porter Feb. 23, Cafe Eleven, 469-9311
 Michael Bubl  Feb. 24, Jacksonville Arena, 353-3309
 Bayside, Straylight Run Feb. 24, Freebird Live, 246-2473
 Keb' Mo' Feb. 27, Florida Theatre, 355-2787
 Movin' Out-Music By Billy Joel Feb. 29, Times Union Center, 632-3373
 100 Years of Broadway March 1, Times Union Center, 632-3373
 John Edward March 2-3, Florida Theatre, 355-2787
 Dark Star Orchestra March 4, Freebird Live, 246-2473
 Celtic Women March 5, Jacksonville Arena, 353-3309
 Freda Payne - Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald March 6, Florida Theatre
 Blue Man Group March 7, Jacksonville Arena, 353-3309
 Great American Jazz Series w/Mike Stern Trio with Dave Weckl March 7, UNF-Robinson Theater, 620-2878
 Itzhak Perlman March 8, UNF Fine Arts Center, 620-2878
 Built To Spill March 8, Freebird Live, 246-2473
 Anne Murray March 9, Times Union Center, 632-3373
 Ani DiFranco March 12, Freebird Live, 246-2473
 They Might Be Giants March 14, Freebird Live

whada'ya'll know?

WJCT's popular radio game show live from the Florida Theatre

BY BRENTON GROZIER

Michael Feldman brought his interactive NPR radio show Whadya' Know? to the Florida Theatre in Jacksonville last weekend. Broadcast to more than 290 stations nationwide, the program is part talk show, part game show and part variety show. This week the premise was based completely around the Jacksonville community. You can tell that Feldman did his homework and in that witty, funny and subtly deprecating way managed to both praise and insult our beloved city throughout the program.

The stage was Prairie Home Companion meets Pee Wee's Playhouse with a cozy chair and table for announcer Jim Geiger and numerous props that included a sun-bathing pig and a life-size cardboard cutout of Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra conductor Fabio Mechetti. The ridiculously good Whad'Ya Know jazz trio was also in tow. Feldman curried quick favor with approximately two-thirds of the crowd, walking out with a Florida Gators T-shirt on, but when quickly questioned about it by an audience member, he explained that it was a matter of wardrobe convenience.

There wasn't an empty seat in the theater and the crowd was quite amped and obviously fans of the show, not missing a single cue in any of the au-

dience participation aspects. Taking the stage before going to air, Feldman attempted an Elvis impersonation to honor the king's 1956 performance on the very same stage. It was awkward, but the crowd appreciated it nonetheless.

The show started in its usual way with Feldman asking the crowd, "Whad'Ya Know," but as directed before the show's broadcast, the crowd substituted the normal retort of "Not Much, You?" with "Not Much, Ya'll?" Feldman started with a summary of current events in the Sunshine State and focused mainly on the recent primary. He discussed Giuliani's backfiring strategy and I believe the phrase "the crater he left behind" was used. He also remarked about Democrat votes not counting, but how that seemed to be the norm in Florida.

After Jacksonville received a good beating for a lengthy list of monikers, Mark Woods, a metro columnist for the Times Union, was brought out for an interview. They mainly discussed politics and some of Woods' recent articles about the primaries, the homestead exemption vote and Charlie Christ. Woods was low-key, diplomatic, dry and funny – a perfect fit for the show.

For the first quiz, an audience member, in this case a very enthusiastic, devoted fan of the show, was chosen and took the stage. She described herself as a glorified IT help desk worker, a beach resident, a parrot head and someone who may have a huge crush on Feldman. A phone contestant was searched for with the question, "What position did Leonard Skinner, who inspired the venerated hometown hero's name of Lynyrd Skynyrd, hold in a high school?" After four tries, our beach resident was paired up and answered the questions in short order.

Categories ranged from current events to things you should have learned in school. A prize pack with numerous odds and ends was awarded, as well as a really cool neon-green beach cruiser bicycle. How apropos!

The next segment included an interview with an alligator wrestler/trapper/handler named JT. He discussed the rigors of the job to an intrigued Feldman who asked, "Do you respect the alligator?"

JT answered yes, he did. When Feldman inquired what exactly he respected, JT answered, "Well, they're tasty."



"I suppose that is a form of respect," Feldman responded to uproarious laughter.

Local multi-instrumentalist and Bashert recording artist Rebecca Zapen was the musical guest. With band backing, she played the infectious 'Smile' which oddly enough, has a sound that hearkens back to old Elvis movies, specifically old Elvis beach movies. I think the catalyst for this was Zapen's ukulele and male backup vocals delivered by Chris Estes. Her next song was a Bossa Nova number called 'Delores'. Smooth, oddly infectious and flawlessly delivered, Zapen was a perfect fit for the show and was extremely well-received by the crowd. Zapen marvelously represented Jacksonville's talent pool to the show's national audience.

The last segment featured the owner of the hal- lowed Clark's Fish Camp. She brought rattlesnake, gator, antelope and eel for Feldman to sample. They discussed the peculiar d cor and history of the restaurant and, of course, the exotic fare. Legendary drummer Clyde Stubblefield of the Whad'Ya Know jazz trio (who played with James Brown during his hayday) helped sample the adventurous menu items. Remarkably, it was a fitting way to round out the show.

Although a lot of fun was had at Jacksonville's expense, there was plenty of praise. This was Feldman's first time in Jacksonville. I asked him his impression of the area.

"Friendly people, good looking women and beautiful weather, what's not to love?"

The entire program was extremely enjoyable, stimulating and engaging – the kind of entertainment that people crave. Being a captive audience member for a movie or concert certainly has its place, but it's truly elevating to be involved and become a part of the show.

When I asked Feldman if his show and NPR programming in general catered exclusively to a high-brow audience, he said "Yes, but I think I've lowered that."

Ah, Feldman has made disparagement a crafty art form that he is willing to turn on himself. I guess one of the lessons to Whad'Ya Know is: it is quite freeing to laugh at yourself because you probably deserve it. And yes, laugh at your surroundings, they probably deserve it a little more than even you do.

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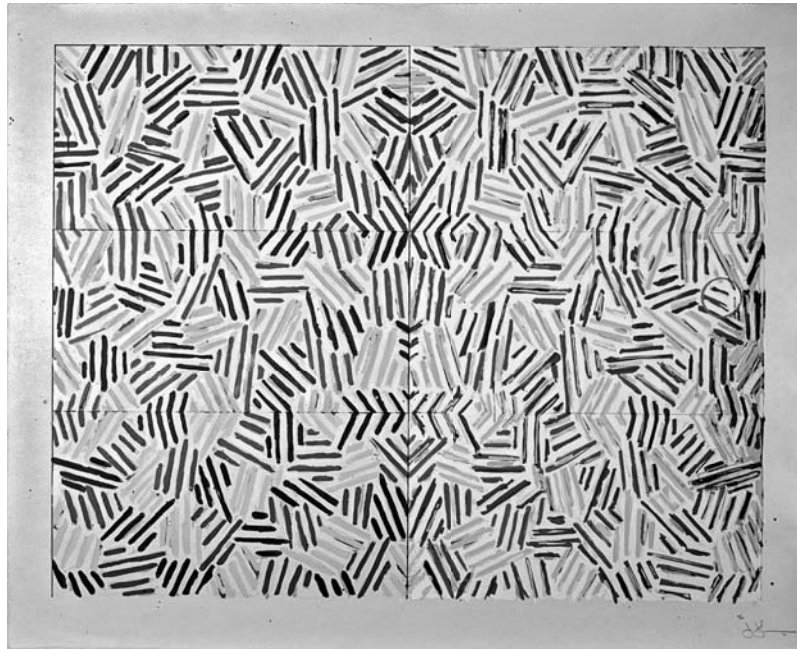
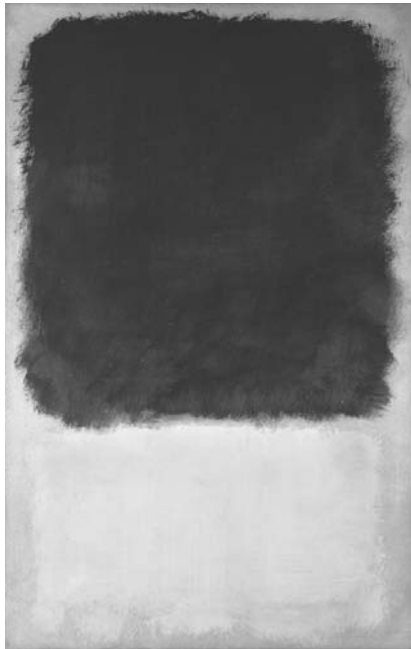
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contemporary visions:

A Focus on Jacksonville Collections

BY **DONALD DUSINBERRE** imartsyfartsy@gmail.com

The new batch of exhibits has finally arrived at MOCA. If you've been having trouble getting into modern art or can't really wrap your head around some of the weird ones lately, then one of the new exhibits might get you in the groove. It's called *Contemporary Visions: A Focus on Jacksonville Collections*, and it's a great thing to see for a few reasons.

The first reason to go see it is that it features an astounding number of well-known artists. Not just well known, but well respected and influential for all time. That's why this exhibition is so valuable – we can finally see, firsthand, a sizeable portion of art from the modern greats. And no traveling to New York.

If you remember from some of my past articles, I mentioned that art is an almost entirely subjective endeavour, and it's only through consensus that we can call an artist or artwork "great". Over time, a bunch of people have cited a certain artist's work as

exemplary, and so by sheer numbers alone he/she earns their status. You don't have to like a certain artist's work, but you have to concede that countless others do, and that's the only way we can assess the success of any artist.

Anyway, all those examples of art from the greats allow us to take a survey of modern art over the last eighty years or so. Many people don't understand why a bunch of splotches on a giant canvas is art, but it's not because their thickheaded (usually). It's because they haven't been exposed to the range of ideas that have metamorphosed over time. With no other frame of reference, a splotchy canvas can hardly appear as anything else, but *Contemporary Visions* offers a chance to make the connection between artistic styles. You can learn what happened when art went from looking sort of realistic to really out of sorts. Really.

And once you learn a bit about the history of modern art by seeing this exhibit, you can better appreciate the other exhibitions on display. Don't forget that it's possible that the established artists MOCA brings in now may well become a great influence on future artists. A wall that looks like a giant pack of ramen noodles now, may look like an historic work later.

To further enhance the variety and connectivity of *Contemporary Visions*, MOCA curator George Kinghorn tweaked the museum's permanent collection. He changed out some of the content, so some

of the same pieces are still up from before, but some of them are different. If you look through both exhibits, you'll find a few artists who have pieces in both, but you'll also find contemporaries, rivals, friends and mentors.

Another reason *Contemporary Visions* is so amazing is that these works are owned by Jacksonvilleans. I guess we aren't all hillbillies after all. More importantly, the owners of the various collections have been gracious enough to share the wealth of culture they've accumulated. Through their generosity, the entire region has the opportunity to enrich itself by viewing some of the greatest art produced in the last century. We would be smart to soak up the images as thoroughly as possible, because eventually, these works will return to the foyers, libraries, and sitting rooms of homes we'll never enter.

If you're skeptical, here's a list of the prominent artists whose work is on display now (in both the *Contemporary Visions* exhibit and the permanent collection): Pablo Picasso (Cubism), Mark Rothko (Abstract Expressionism), Richard Estes (Photorealist paintings), Jasper Johns (Neo-Dadaism), Andy Warhol (Pop), Keith Haring (Pop), Robert Mapplethorpe (Photography), Edward Steichen (Photography), Edward Weston (Photography), and Philip Pearlstein (Realism paintings). Believe me now? If you recognized the names of most of these artists, then you need to get down to MOCA. If you didn't recognize any but Picasso and Warhol, then you still need to get down to MOCA.

Even if you go just to say you saw a Picasso, well, that's a start. I think you'll end up learning more about art whether you realize it or not.

art events

new this week

nextTHINGSnext; Artist Reception, February 9, 8 – 11 pm; Closing Reception, February 16, 8 – 11 pm; All other times by appointment only, Opaq Gallery, 333 East Bay Street, Downtown; (904) 708-5933 or opaqgallery@hotmail.com

LoudSoundLive; Thursday, February 7, 7 pm, University Gallery at UNF, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Road, Founders Hall, Building Two; (904) 620-2534 or <http://www.unf.edu/dept/gallery/>

Extravaganza: An Exhibition of Student Art at the DA Gallery; February 7 – March 7, Opening Reception February 7, 6 pm – 8 pm, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, 2445 San Diego Road; (904) 226-9332 or davisualarts.com

River Club Reception for Susan Dauphinee, February 7, 5:30 pm – 7 pm, Jacksonville River Club, 1 Independent Drive, Suite 3400, Downtown, (904) 296-1414 or foglefineart.com

8 New Works by Sabre Esler and Joyce Norwood – February 8, Opening reception 6pm - 9pm Stellers Gallery Annex at Neptune Beach thru March 7.

Henry Von Genk, III: Florida Captured in Oils; Opening Reception February 8, 6 pm – 9 pm, Stellers Gallery Annex, 200 First Street, Neptune Beach; (904) 273-6065 or stellersgallery.com

New Works by Sabre Esler and Joyce Norwood; February 8 – March 7, Opening reception 6 pm – 9 pm, Stellers Gallery Annex, 200 First Street, Neptune Beach; (904) 273-6065 or stellersgallery.com

FairWeather Artists: Derek Desislets, Tracy McEville and Garry Dodds II; February 8 – March 15, Opening reception Friday, February 8, 6 pm – 9:30 pm, The Gallery at Broadfoot Design, 420 South A1A, Jacksonville Beach

National Geographic Traveler's Photography Seminar, February 9 "Putting the WOW In Your Nature & Outdoor Photography," MOCA, 333 North Laura Street, Downtown, (904) 366-6911 or mocajacksonville.org

Fidelity Investments presents The Art of Doing Business; February 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Transfer Art Into An Image, Ponte Vedra Cultural, 50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach (904) 280-0614 | www.ccpvb.org

ongoing

The Paintings of Jon Bunker; Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Drive, Orange Park (904) 276-6815

Cutting Edge Show; On display through February 10, St Augustine Art Association, (904) 824-2310 or staaa.org

Personal Images of War; South Gallery Special Exhibit, On display through February 10, St Augustine Art Association, (904) 824-2310

Duval County Art Teachers Exhibition; On display through February 13, JU Photography Gallery Exhibition of photographs by Kristin Epinasse from 5 pm – 7 pm, Alexander Brest Gallery and Museum at Jacksonville University, (904) 256-7345

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cultural events

FEBRUARY

7 "Extravaganza" an Exhibition of Student Art at the DA Gallery
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

an Exhibition of Student Art at the DA Gallery thru March 7

7 The 1st Annual Short Circuit Film Festival
Kent Campus Auditorium

7 Loud Sound Live-Sound Art, Electronics,
Language **UNF Art Gallery**, Jax

7 Iraq: End-Game **Main Library**, Jax

7-9 Palatka Bluegrass Festival **Rodeheaver Boys Ranch**,
Palatka

7-16 "Julius X" **Players by the Sea**, Jax Beach

7- 29 More Than Wallpaper **Bogda Gallery**, Jax

7- 29 It's Not Art, It's Illustration-Chris Armstrong **Butterfield
Garage**, St. Augustine

7-MAR. 2 Menopause, The Musical **Performing Arts Center**,
Jax

7-MAR. 9 "A Raisin in the Sun" **Limelight Theatre**, St.
Augustine

7-MAR. 31 Memoirs du Franc-Jason Woodside **Gallery at
Screen Arts**, St. Augustine

8 Jennifer Muller The Works Dance Collaboration **Florida
Theatre**, Jax

8 WJCT & African American Lives 2 Workshop For Educators
WJCT Studios, Jax

8 Author Dennis Lehane Reading **Flagler College**, St.
Augustine

8 Childrens Story Time-Valentines Day **Barnes & Noble/Town
Center**, jax

8 Eddie Gomez Trio **UNF Fine Arts Center**, Jax

8 Sunshine State Alpaca Expo & Auction **Equestrian Center**,
Jax

8-9 The Jacksonville Boat Show **Downtown**, Jax

8-9 JSO-Love, Romance & the Big Band **Performing Arts
Center**, Jax

8-23 "My Old Lady" **Fernandina Little Theatre**, Fernandina

8-MAR. 9 "A Raisin in the Sun" **Limelight Theatre**, St.
Augustine

9 "Happily Red" **Theatre Jax**, Jax

9 First Coast Honor Choir Festival **Mandarin Presbyterian
Church**, Mandarin

9 Fancy Nancy Party **Barnes & Noble/Town Center**, Jax

9 Breaking Into Hollywood: What to Know Before You Go **Body
Gallery**, Jax

9 Book Signing: Arliss Ryan-How Not To Have The Perfect
Wedding **Barnes & Noble/San Jose**, Jax

9 Flight To Freedom-Underground Railroad **Fort Mose
Historical Park**, St. Augustine

9 Tony Steve-Concerto for Two Percussionists & Large Jazz
Band **JU**, Jax

9 Author Signing-Ethan Becker's Joy of Cooking: 75th
Anniversary **Barnes & Noble/Town Center**, Jax

9 Dallas Brass **Church of the Good Shepherd**, Jax

9 Tony Steve with Ulysses "Bim" Owens **JU Terry Concert
Hall**, Jax

9 Beach Walk With A Park Ranger **Little Talbot Island State
Park**, Jax

10 So This is Love **JU Fine Arts Center**, Jax

10 Tour of St. Augustine's Houses of Worship **Downtown**, St.

dancing up downtown

differing dance at the Florida Theatre

BY ERIN THURSBY scopes1925@msn.com

This week at the Florida Theatre, you'll find three different dance companies performing on three different days. Whatever form you prefer your dance in; there'll be something to reel you into the theatre. EU had the opportunity to speak to Jennifer Muller to learn more about their upcoming performance on Saturday, February 8th. Attendees will have the chance to see a triple collaboration between Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Jacksonville University and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

Jennifer Muller, a world renowned dancer from New York, has created a program to promote dance, teaching the younger generation to express themselves through movement. Not only will you get to see student collaboration, you'll also be engaged by cutting edge choreography as the professional dancers mix with the students.

EU: Why do you think dance, movement strikes such a chord with people?

Jennifer Muller: I've always believed it's our first language. That we communicate that way before we communicate verbally. We still have that, we're still reading body language in our daily lives. So it touches something very visceral in all of us, the base of our humanity...I think there's something really primeval about it, that we may not recognize as such.

EU: As a leader in dance, what inspires you to try something new, to strike out in a new direction?

JM: I believe so strongly that dance is not only a healer, but a way to bring people together. It brings together the sense that there are no boundaries between people. For me, I always take my inspiration from life...I always have a need to speak...and this is my medium, this is the way I speak and contribute to the world.

EU: Can you tell us a little about The Works Education Programs?

JM: We're very devoted to education. We have our professional training programs,

our scholarship apprentice program, where we train 15-20 people a year...We have an emerging choreography program...We show young and emerging artists our studio...The other thing we do are our Outreach programs. One is called "Faces of Wonder" where we visit poor schools...and they see what live dance is on stage. It's really an amazing program in that you go out to the schools and you realize so many of them have not seen professional dance live on stage before. It's really transforming...We also have a program called "Imagine That"...and it deals with the expressiveness of non-verbal communication...The arts funding is drying up, so this is an outlet for them to have a different sort of inner worth.

EU: Can you tell us about the collaboration that you're facilitating between FCCJ, DASOTA and JU?

JM: We recently started talking with Douglas Anderson, this program was originated by Douglas Anderson and...[our] director of arts programs. They came up with the idea of involving three different schools in one piece...[It's] vital and fun...with each doing sections of the piece. We think this is a bit of a breakthrough to come out and work for almost four weeks at a combination of schools and have them get onstage with a professional company.

jennifer muller/the works

(saturday, february 8th)

For more information on Jennifer Muller/The Works, please visit jmtw.org. For tickets or performance information please call the Florida Theatre Box Office at (904) 355-2787 or visit us at floridatheatre.com. The Florida Theatre is conveniently located at 128 East Forsyth Street in Downtown Jacksonville. Tickets are also available through TicketMaster.

hermitage theater russian ballet

(sunday, february 10th)

If you'd rather see a traditional ballet, look no further than the Hermitage Ballet of Russia. They are on their first tour of the U.S. This is the best ballet Russia has to offer so to experience the artistry and the history of the best classical ballets through these incredible performers is quite a treat.

The Hermitage Ballet will perform the famed Gala Concert, featuring scenes from the 10 most famous ballets in Russian classical ballet history, such as Swan Lake, Giselle, Esmeralda, Corsair, Nutcracker, Don Quixote and many others. This performance is a must see for student dancers, parents, ballet instructors, and anyone who enjoys dance.

Attendees are invited to meet the cast after the performance with photo opportunities and a chance to speak one on one with the famous performers. The Hermitage Ballet will also host master classes for local students at the Mark Spivak Dance Studios on Feb. 10, the day of the performance. For more info visit: www.HermitageBallet.com.

For tickets or performance information please call the Florida Theatre at (904) 355-2787 or visit us at floridatheatre.com.

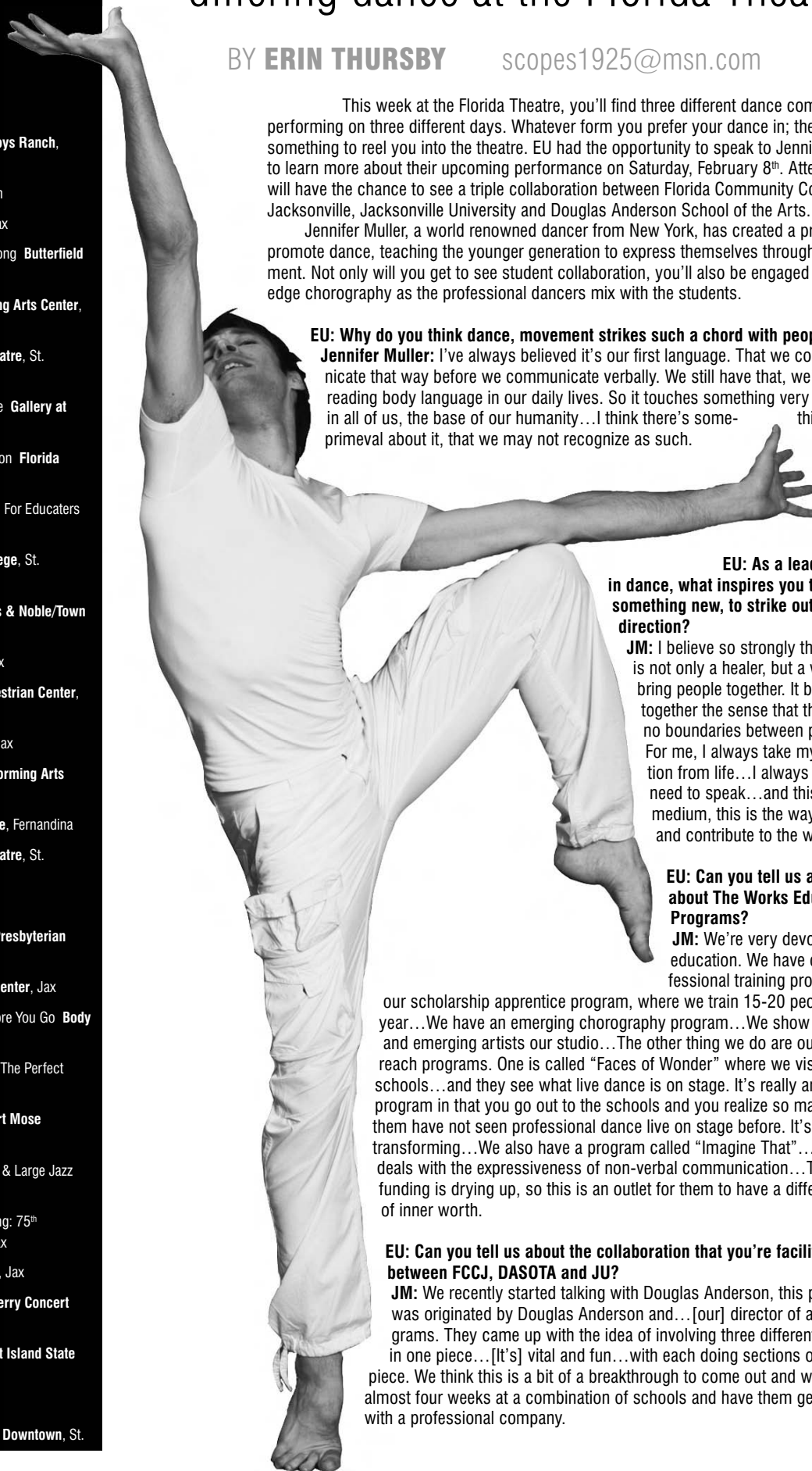
alvin ailey american dance theater

(tuesday, february 12th)

For a dose of something contemporary, there's always the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. They aim to dazzle audiences and uphold Ailey's vision, that "dance is for everybody."

Select renowned works by Alvin Ailey are being presented including a performance of Ailey's masterpiece Revelations in its entirety. Jacksonville residents can anticipate just that during the final act of the AAADT's performance at the Florida Theater. These guys are on the bleeding edge of bold new dance, so come and see them at this exclusive Florida engagement!

Alvin Ailey at the Florida Theatre is presented by the FCCJ Artist Series. Tickets are \$40.50-\$70.50. Charge-by-phone (904) 632-3373 or toll-free outside Jacksonville (888) 860-BWAY. Buy online with Instant Seat Selection by visiting artist-series.fccj.org



the grapes of wrath

WHAT: The Grapes of Wrath
WHERE: Jacksonville University Swisher Theatre
WHEN: February 14 - 24

With all of the recent talk of a recession, maybe it is time to take a look on the bright side. At least there is no talk of another Great Depression. The hard times of the Great Depression and its effects on the lives of poor Dust Bowl sharecroppers was heralded in song by the legendary Woody Guthrie and chronicled to the world through the words of John Steinbeck's Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Jacksonville University's Theatre Arts brings the story of the Joads, a poor family of sharecroppers driven from their home by drought, economic

hardship, and changes in the agriculture industry to the newly renovated Swisher Theatre. In a nearly hopeless situation, the Joads set out for California's Central Valley along with thousands of other Okies in search of land, jobs and dignity.

"The students have had a real history lesson in preparation for the performance," explains Director Debbie Jordan, who also notes that the students have also studied the economic themes in *Grapes of Wrath* and how they're relatable today. "As far as its significance to current events, we have discussed global warming and taking care of the land. We are also making connections to the downturn in the market and talk about economic recession."

John Steinbeck's 1939 landmark novel about Oklahoma farmers forced to become migrant workers

in California won a Nobel Prize for Literature then a Pulitzer Prize in 1940 and was made into a critically acclaimed movie starring Henry Fonda that same year. In 1988, Frank Galati adapted the work for the stage for his fellow actors in Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

This play of poverty and struggle becomes, in the final scene, a soaring and deeply moving affirmation of the indomitability of the human spirit, and of the essential goodness and strength, which resides in the hearts and minds of the common man.

Performances will be held on February 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23 at 7:30 pm, on February 20 at 9:30 am, and on February 24 at 2:30 pm. Admission to the event is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors, military and students. Admission is free for JU students and faculty with appropriate ID. For more information, including scheduling, reservations and directions, please call (904) 256-7677.

aeros

The University of North Florida Fine Arts Center

BY **DICK KEREKES** dickkerek@yaho.com



Olympics. Last summer, I saw three Cirque Du Soleil shows in Las Vegas – *KA*, *O*, and *Mystere* – with gymnastics playing a big part in the spectacle. The young performers in *Aeros* were equally as spectacular, utilizing only their bodies, very creative music with a strong beat, and excellent lighting design and equipment. The program included nineteen selections running 3 to 5 minutes each, with such titles as *Handstands*, *Stretch*, *Shaker*, *Duet*, and *Dresses*. Despite the fast pace of the show, there were even costume changes,

Last Saturday evening I had a wonderful experience at The Lazzara Performance Hall on the UNF campus, and this after-the-fact review is as much about that fantastic theatre space as it is about the performance. The show was *Aeros*, a marriage of gymnastics and dance in seventy minutes of pure visual delight. When I read it was to be performed by twenty members of the Romanian Gymnastics Federation, I knew I had to see it.

My interest in gymnastics as a spectator sport began in 1984 when I watched the television broadcast of a 14-year old Romanian girl named Nadia Comaneci perform seven perfect 10 scores in the

es, which were mainly colorful striped, skin-tight outfits to allow freedom of movement. Not a word was spoken, just music, dance and gymnastics created by five different choreographers.

The Lazzara Hall, with its 1300 seats, is a fabulous space for any performing arts, and as I looked over the list of the shows that have been performed there since it opened in 2003, I recalled many I had seen. I also kicked myself for some that I missed, like *Big Bad Voodoo Daddy*, *Lily Tomlin* and *Othello*. I will have to do better in the future.

If you have not been to the UNF Fine Arts Center, I guarantee you will love it. The lobby has large

windows that allow you to see the campus. Every seat in the house is excellent and the acoustics are marvelous. The parking available in the evening is really close to the theatre. Get there early and you can take a short walk to a picturesque and peaceful lake.

Thanks, *Aeros*, for a great evening of unique theatre and inspiration, my mind is still flying high. Check out UNF at unf.edu/fineartscenter for a full schedule of events.

Check EU each week for future events, but here are a couple you theatre folks can pencil in. On March 27, direct from London, HMS Pinafore and on April 1st William Shakespeare's The Tempest.

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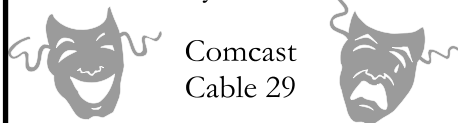
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Who is Who in Local Theatre?

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cultural events (continued)

- 10 A Musical Theatre Master Class with Linda Purl **Theatre Jacksonville, Jax**
- 10 Author Signing-Edward Baldwin **Barnes & Noble/Town Center, Jax**
- 10 Auditions: The Underpants 5pm **Players By the Sea, Jax Beach**
- 10 Stanislaw Drzewiecki **Flagler College, St. Augustine**
- 10-28 Seven Days of Opening Nights 2008 **FSU Fine Art Building, Tallahassee**
- 11 Mercury in Jacksonville's Community **Lakewood Presbyterian Church, Jax**
- 11 The Young Advocates for Cultural Awareness Spa Day **Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra**
- 12 National Pancake Day Free Pancakes at IHOP **Various IHOP's, Jax**
- 12 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre **Florida Theatre, Jax**
- 12-14 Ford Race & Rock Fest **Downtown, Daytona**
- 12-17 Jax Car & Truck Show **Prime Osborn Center, Jax**
- 12-MAR. 6 Kidzfactory Workshops **Limelight Theatre, St. Augustine**
- 14 First Coast Wind Ensemble Valentine's Concert **JU Terry Concert Hall, Jax**
- 14-24 Grapes of Wrath Play **JU Swisher Theatre, Jax**
- 13-APR. 6 "Company" **The Alhambra Dinner Theatre, Jax**
- 15 Author Signing-Dr. Solon Timothy Woodward **Barnes & Noble/Town Center, Jax**
- 15-16 FCCJ Dramaworks Readers Theatre "Goodbye" "Killing Game" **Wilson Center, Jax**
- 15-17 International Car & Truck Show **Prime Osborn Center, Jax**
- 16 Little Women **Thrasher Horne Center, Orange Park**
- 16 Fred Garbo Inflatable Theatre **Florida Theatre, Jax**
- 16 A Day in Old Florida **Faver-Dykes State Park, St. Augustine**
- 16 JSO-Grand Opera La Traviata **Performing Arts Center, Jax**
- 16 Birding By Bike-Native & Migratory Birds of the Barrier Island **Little Talbot Island State Park**
- 16-17 Savannah Irish Festival **Downtown, Savannah**
- 16-18 President's Day Celebration **World Golf Hall of Fame, St. Augustine**
- 17 Talbot Critters **Ft. George Island State Park, Jax**
- 17 26.2 with Donna Celebration **The Landing, Jax**
- 18 Auditions: Repertory Acting Troupe 11-2pm **Limelight Theatre, St. Augustine**
- 18 Auditions: "Jesus Christ Superstar" 1-5pm **The Alhambra, Jax**
- 19-24 Monty Python's Spamalot **Performing Arts Center, Jax**
- 21 Griot Festival of African Storytellers **Ritz Theatre, Jax**
- 21-24 Mount Dora Music Festival with Rita Coolidge **Community Center, Mount Dora**
- 21-MAR. 26 New Paintings By Jenna Bischel **JU Brest Museum, Jax**
- 22 Karam! A Place of Joyful Meeting **Ritz Theatre, Jax**
- 22 Childrens Story Time-Dental Health **Barnes & Noble/Town Center, Jax**
- 22 15th Annual Great Guitar Gathering **Florida Theatre, Jax**
- 22 John Scott-Organist **St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Jax**
- 22-23 JSO-Blind Boys of Alabama **Performing Arts Center, Jax**



It really is pretty super. Big screens. Hot wings. Cheap beer. Sweaty men in tight pants. And it is pretty bowl-ish in nature, as well. My chips are in a bowl. Beer can be served in a bowl. The helmets look remarkably bowl-shaped. And I wouldn't be hard pressed to imagine a few bowl cuts underneath those helmets, either. But it was the bowl-shaped stadiums that hosted college football match-ups that gave The Big One its official name: the Super Bowl.

It's practically a national holiday. (It's got me talking about sports, which, let's face it, is hard to do.) People all over the country huddle together in front of their screens, or if you are rich or extremely insane, in the actual stadium itself, to watch these muscle men in stockings trying to kill each other, politely. It doesn't matter who you are across this great land – the rich or poor, famous or lame, young or old, happy or sad – this night is the most watched night on TV for this great country. And we all sigh and gasp and cheer and cry together as teams we never cared about before this day (I say in remorse as our wonderful team, the Jagtastics, just barely missed the parade) pummel each other.

Let's be honest though. Florida is a remarkably football frenzied state. It's one of those live, breathe, die, love, sweat, blood, and tears kind of things. We grew up on football. A huge factor in college selection often times comes down to team affiliation. I've known people to have practically been disowned for choosing one school over another because of football. Tom Petty and Mike Campbell (the Heartbreakers lead guitarist and also graduate of Ribault High School) even helped us celebrate our favorite American pastime.

Watching the Giants tear up the Patriots (who have not lost one game all season), looking up player stats, and seriously analyzing the anatomy of the last great play just comes naturally. And also goes wildly against the rest of my personality, which could just mean I am multi-dimensional. Let's hope.

Californians love football too, especially if it can be intellectualized. And New York City is clearly a fan of the cherished American tradition. They love it in Louisville, in South Dakota (I am sure... although have no vivid memory of such a thing being true... does anyone have a vivid memory about South Dakota at all?), and Texans are especially fond of the sport.

While the rest of the world plays "football" in a worldwide celebration of sweaty boys that actually use their feet in the game, we turned it into a sport where only one player actually kicks the ball – the kicker. And while the rest of the world unites over their terminological tradition, we only unite with ourselves. Not even David Beckham could change that.

That is just so American of us, isn't it? Ignoring the ways of the rest of the world and always making sure the uniform is tight and revealing. Both teams' colors were even red, white and blue. Go team America! Everyone is in on it. Even the commercials are better.



photo by Ryan Ketterman

a better u

notes from the bachelor pad by troy spurlin

For those of you that missed the last article, we purchased a rug from **Lowe's** called "Woolly Bully" and it was an investment that will definitely provide many sweet returns. And he's calling, Woolly Bully that is. But be patient brother, you can't fly solo with Woolly Bully – no one wants that visual. Besides, it's just against the rules. Instead, let's talk about that kick-ass flat screen of yours.

Is it sitting on one of those fugly glass and chrome things? A particle board or pressed wood "entertainment center?" How about a card table, milk crate or blocks? Well, if you answered yes to any of these, then today is your lucky day, because we are buying a new piece for the pad. Let's all say it together: Cre-den-za.

A credenza is a staple piece of executive office furniture that is placed behind an executive's desk (you know the piece I'm talking about - they usually place a glamour shot of the wife, some pics of the kids engaged in wholesome activity, and the cheap lucite award from last year's sales meeting). It is four to six feet in length, approximately thirty-six inches high and twenty-four inches in depth. J.R. had one on *Dallas* and we all know that J.R. got some tail, possibly on the credenza...but I digress.

We aren't looking for just any credenza; we want a 60s or 70s credenza with four doors across the front, preferably walnut (teak is cool – cherry is not) with matte stainless or chrome accents. Buyer beware! There are a lot of credenzas out there that are "Metal-Case." That is NOT what we are looking for!

So we found it, we bought it, and now we are going to place it. Put it under the TV if it is mounted on the wall and if it's not, put the TV on top of the credenza. We don't want to center the credenza under the TV or put the TV in the center of the credenza, we want to pick a side. Either go all the way to the far left or all the way to the far right. As they say in the biz, we don't want it to look symmetrical (for those of you who didn't "get" geometry or made a "D" - that means we don't want it to look "matchy-matchy"). Besides, we have other stuff we want to

put on top. While we are talking about where we are going to put it – let's talk about the storage capacity inside.

Picture this: All of your electronics, X-Box games, bong, and whatever else you like to hide but have readily available (stop and think about that), all completely out of sight. The credenza is the ultimate piece of furniture, gentlemen– can you see it? If not, take another hit, 'cause the view is money (did I just say that?).

Now here is where you go to get one. I've seen three of them around town that I would buy. Go check out **Encore Decor** (10830 San Jose Boulevard) at the San Jose exit at 295, and see Kelly or Missi Langford. I went to high school with both of them and they are good people. Down the street at the **Consignment Barn** (5121 San Jose Boulevard), they have a credenza that is especially dope. It is made by Bernhardt (a high-end furniture maker) and even has the great matte stainless trim. You should expect to pay anywhere from 175 to 300 bucks for a decent one. Don't worry if they've sold out– just tell the great people that run these stores what you're looking for, or for that matter, cut this out and take it to 'em. No worries if you don't have a way to get it home, since both places can offer you a choice of delivery service. I used **Joe's Speedy Delivery** (904-868-6507) and paid about fifty dollars when I bought mine.

Now, with the Credenza in place, call her up for movie night. Picture it: You and her lying on Woolly Bully while the credits for *Rear Window* begin to roll... Oh, but dude, make it a B.Y.O.P. party (that's Bring Your Own Pillow). She isn't going to want to lay her head on the ones you have. That's alright, she will...we're just getting started.

"Notes from the Bachelor Pad" is a continuing article courtesy of troyspurlin Interiors (troyspurlin.com). Spurlin has worked for interior decorator Joe Nye in Los Angeles, and while employed at MOCA Jacksonville, sidelined doing exterior and interior work throughout Jacksonville.

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THE JOCK

by tom weppel

Eldrick Woods has played two tournaments so far this year, and he's won them both. Last week, he flew over to Dubai to hang with the boys on the Euro Tour. I'm guessing he also has some good relationships with the oil barons from the Middle East as well. Hence, his trip over yonder. And damn if

Tiger didn't come

away with a helluva win, overcoming what for him was mediocre play, all to pull out two birdies at the end of his Sunday round, then watch as Ernie Els couldn't keep up.

The bottom line here is that Tiger is now so much better than all the other players, he's making them look like nothing but a bunch of weekend hacks. Its crazy, for all intents. For the PGA Tour, I consider it to be a very tough challenge on their part to keep things going when Tiger is NOT playing that weekend. They must keep interest in their tournaments in oh so many ways, because sooner or later golf fans won't care about what tournament is playing if Woods is not in it.

Let's face it: its come to the point where the Tour is simply Tiger versus "the other guys!" And while Woods without question has made the Tours massive amounts of cash in all sorts of ways, his presence has also created a tough situation for the PGA to handle. His power as a personality, as a businessman, and as an athlete, are very, very strong. Without Tiger, the PGA Tour would not be bear as popular as it is now.

This week the Tour is in Pebble Beach, which obviously is a prime spot for the Tour to play. Let's see what Woods does this weekend, and who, if anyone, can challenge him.

NASCAR

We're now only a little over a week away from the Daytona 500 and the start of the season. If you are a fan, you might want to get a guide and resource book, so you can study who's driving for who, who's sponsoring who, and who now has what numbered-car. There is THAT much change going on with the NASCAR circuit this season.

Even the names of the series have changed. Its not the Nextel Series and the Busch series anymore. Sprint has replaced Nextel, and Nationwide has taken the place of Busch. Fans are gonna have to think twice before talking racing this year, without question.

The most prominent move of all has got to be with Dale Earnhardt, Jr. He left his step-mother and DEI, switching over to Hendrick and is joining Jimmy Johnson and Jeff Gordon. Many fans are not feeling right about this, for sure. He will be driving the #88 car, instead of #8. And there's no Budweiser, either. The National Guard will be on Dale's car. THAT, my friends, is gonna be flat-out spooky. People won't even realize he's out there driving anymore!

And so all eyes will be on Junior to see what he can produce and there will be plenty more to discuss for the 500 coming up next week.

Tom Weppel talks trash with Greg Larson, Lonnie Marts, Eugene Chung, Artis Gilmore, and Ron Duquay on SportsAvengers.com 24/7.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

We're right in the heart of the conference season, where teams beat each other up, and only the toughest survive, as everyone jockeys for tournament position.

Its quite evident who the top teams are, with Memphis, Kansas, North Carolina, Duke, and UCLA leading the way. While a number of other schools are competitive, those five are the cream of the crop.

To me, the skill level and play of college basketball has dropped in recent years. Before the NBA required that players have at least a year of college in their resume', a number of kids were jumping straight to the pros, thinking they were gonna all be the next LeBron James. For many of those players, things didn't work out.

Locally, you can look at Kwame Brown as a prime example. Brown went from high school in Brunswick to the NBA, and was playing with the Lakers recently, until his being traded to Memphis. Kwame unfortunately never has gotten his act together, and Los Angeles wasn't happy with his play. Hence, his being part of the Pau Gasol deal last week.

If Kwame Brown had gone to college and played for a few years at the minimum, he would've developed his skills, while also learning life a little better, and it all would've helped him progress with his career. I don't see him ever really being anything else but a decent seven-footer, which is unfortunate.

Meanwhile, the college game today isn't as sharp as it used to be. Players in college are looking at the school as nothing more than a stepping stone to the pros. Every kid sees a guy like Greg Oden, who left Ohio State after a year, and they believe that's what its all about. As a result, college teams recycle themselves constantly. There's no consistency at all in programs. Starting lineups are made up of more freshman than ever before. Its frustrating to watch for fans, and coaches are going crazy trying to keep their programs at a high level.

Schools like Florida, with a stand out Head Coach in Billy Donovan, are totally few and far between. At least kids with talent have a strong desire to come play for Donovan. That isn't the case at most other schools. Even ACC schools like Florida State aren't doing well. The Seminoles continue to struggle to move up the ranks.

And of course, I can't even compare local schools like JU and UNF to the major programs. The Dolphins are luckily doing a decent job in conference play, while the Ospreys are pathetic.

For all intents, there is no solution to the problem. I feel its gonna stay this way for a while. And while the NCAA Tournament will continue to be a massive money-maker for the likes, the level of play will not be top notch.

GOLF

eu

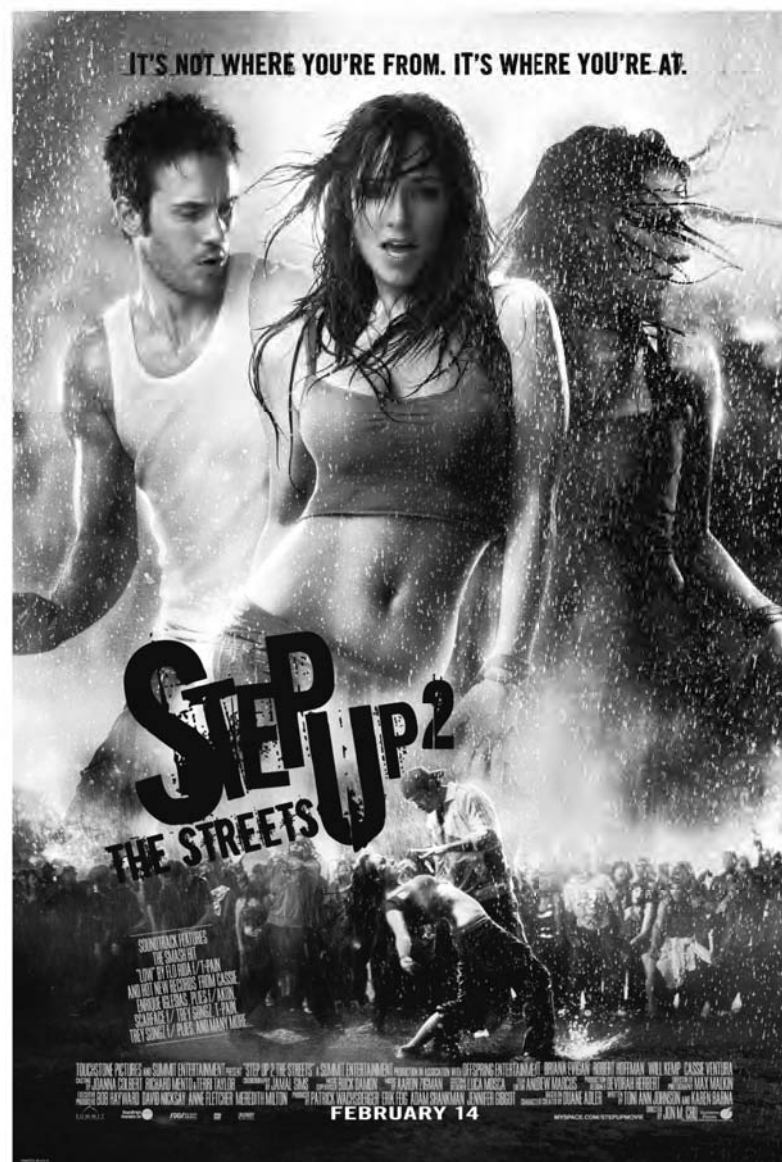
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