



Real life

## For the guys

The one on Tuesday was for the ladies, so today's is for the guys. Here's why it is great to be a guy.

Movie nudity is virtually always female.

Your bathroom lines are 80 percent shorter.

Dry-cleaners and hair-cutters don't rob you blind.

Your ass is never a factor in a job interview.

One mood all the time!

You can admire Clint Eastwood without starving yourself to look like him.

You know at least 20 ways to open a beer bottle.

You can sit with your knees apart no matter what you're wearing.

Gray hair and wrinkles only add character.

With 400 million sperm per shot, you could double the earth's population in 15 tries, at least in theory.

People never glance at your chest when you're talking to them.

You have a normal and healthy relationship with your mother.

You can buy condoms without the shopkeeper imagining you naked.

If you don't call your buddy when you say you will, he won't tell your friend you've changed.

Someday you'll be a dirty old man.

Your pals can be trusted never to trap you with: "So, notice anything different?"

All your orgasms are real.

You see humor in Terms of Endearment.

If someone forgets to invite you to something, he or she can still be your friend.

You don't have to shave below your neck.

You don't have to curl up to hairy legs every night.

You can quietly enjoy a car ride from the passenger seat.

Nobody stops telling a good dirty joke when you walk into a room.

-Source: <http://www.crr.com/my/joke121.html>

Compiled by: Ron Norton

## THE 411

Tomorrow's weather



78 61  
Hi Lo

No wonder everyone has a cold, this weather is messed up.

Kentucky Kernel

VOL. #106 ISSUE #12

ESTABLISHED IN 1892  
INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

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# THURSDAY KENTUCKY KERNEL



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## DOLLARS AND SENSE

## Minimum wage on the upswing

**Money, money, money: The House of Representatives and White House compromise, wages to go up \$1 by 2002**

By Ashley Yark  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

College students making minimum wage will have a little extra money to put in their bank accounts by 2002.

The House of Representatives, in agreement with the White House, made a compromise in August to raise minimum wage \$1 by Jan. 1, 2002. The raise would provide \$76 billion in tax cuts at the same time.

Mark Berger, professor of economics and labor and employment expert, said the increase will take effect soon.

"It's going to happen because the republicans said 'yes, we will go along with it,'" he said. "They have been the ones to drag their heels, but since it's election time..."

Berger said an increase in minimum wage will not cut down on the number of hours scheduled for workers, or result in lost jobs in Lexington.

"It's not that much of a factor in Lexington because the economy is so strong here and unemployment rates are so low," Berger said.

Berger said that even though some students can expect a raise, most already make

above the minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour.

"Even at the entry level people are making above minimum wage," he said. The new minimum wage will only have a direct effect on those who don't already make above \$5.15, he said.

Berger said the \$1 increase might affect workers in some areas of Kentucky.

"The only effect will be for college students who work at home in rural areas. But here in Lexington I don't see much of an effect," he said.

Berger said if the wage increased to as much as \$10, problems in our community would arise.

"That would cost a lot of jobs for a lot of people," he said. "But the ones earning below minimum wage would be alright."

David Parrott, an undeclared freshman,

works for minimum wage as a stock boy at Terry's Five and Dime in Versailles. He is hopeful about the wage increase because he said it would help students support themselves more efficiently.

"It would be a big help for people who have to pay for everything without their parents' support," he said.

Parrott believes the \$1 increase in wage will allow him to live more comfortably.

"The increase would be about right to pay for car insurance," he said. "It would be enough to get by on."

Parrott said the increase will not only give him more money, but also encourage him to work more hours.

"It would be more money for my hours — so I would work more," he said.

## ELECTION 2000

## Gore's daughter addresses students

**Why you should care: Vote of Generation X important, Schiff says**

By Julie Nelson  
MANAGING EDITOR

To her supporters, Karena Gore Schiff is a voice of a new generation. Our generation.

The vice president's daughter took the stage Wednesday afternoon to address a Student Center ballroom full of UK and Centre College students on the importance of Generation X in the 2000 presidential election.

"Many of us feel detached from politics," Schiff said. "We feel powerless to make a change. We are here today to resist this detachment."

Playing on her own admitted feelings of detachment from politics as a college student, Schiff campaigned for her father by encouraging the room full of Generation Xers to get involved in the 2000 presidential campaign.

"Generation X is the largest potential voting block, beating Baby Boomers by 10 million," Schiff said.

As Schiff rallied for her father, two students supporting Green Party candidate Ralph Nader were asked to leave because they were carrying Green Party signs. There were no signs allowed at the forum.

"We wanted to show people they have more options than the Democratic or Republican parties," said Trevor Sanders, history and French senior.

Schiff continued her rally by bringing several issues into the limelight to convince students of the power of the 2000 election. Schiff told students to be mindful of those issues her father is fighting for that, if lost, would directly affect Generation X.



Talkin' about my generation

Karena Gore Schiff addressed UK and Centre College students Wednesday about the importance of voting in this year's presidential election.

See GORE on 2

## CHA-CHA-CHA

## UK Ballroom Dance Society, fun for everyone

**My dance space: Classes taught by accounting professor and his wife**

By Rebecca Osborne  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Members of the UK Ballroom Dance Society swung into step Tuesday night at their first meeting of the semester.

Practicing the waltz, fox-trot and cha-cha in Barker Hall, new and returning members were offered a taste of what will follow in the coming year.

The group's advisers, associate professor of accounting Jim Holmes and his wife, Terry, were enthusiastic about this year's turnout. They encouraged more students, faculty and staff at UK to become involved, emphasizing that prior dance experience is not necessary.

The Holmes, who have been teaching the dance society classes for over five years, said they started learning to dance about 10 years ago.

"We were looking for something to do together," Terry Holmes said. "It's something we really enjoy."

The purpose of coming to the group, she said, is to "feel confident in any dance situation," from couples dancing at clubs, to dances at more formal occasions, such as weddings.

According to Jim Holmes, there is no shortage of

opportunities to dance in Lexington. Along with dance clubs in the area and group meetings each week, members may also attend four dances during the year at the UK Ballroom.

The group is also involved with the Lexington chapter of the United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association.

The price of a ticket is reduced to \$3 from \$10 for members of the UK Ballroom Dance Society who attend these events.

The club draws a diverse crowd from the University, including traditional undergraduate students and professors.

Kristi McClary, Wellness Specialist for the Wellness Program, started as a beginner in February "to keep busy doing fun, healthy things."

She has now moved up to the intermediate class and encourages people in the community to come to the group. She said it is a good opportunity to learn something you can use throughout your life.

"This is something I wanted to do to meet people," said Rick Priest, an eighth year nontraditional pre-pharmacy student, who started his second year with the group this week. "You can't beat it for the money," he said.

Dues are \$25 per year or \$15 per semester.

The group's meetings for beginners are in the Barker Hall dance studio Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The intermediate class begins at 8 p.m. Those interested may bring a partner, but it is not necessary.



Bob and Audrey Noble practice their dance steps at Barker Hall. Both are former employees of UK. They worked in the geriatrics department.

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

# The Low-down

## MP3.com loses copyright case

NEW YORK — A federal judge ruled yesterday that the Internet music-sharing service MP3.com willfully violated the copyrights of record companies, and ordered it to pay Universal Music Group \$25,000 per CD, or roughly \$118 million. U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff said it was necessary to send a message to the Internet community to deter copyright infringement. Rakoff said he could have awarded as much as \$150,000 per CD but chose a considerably smaller amount, in part because MP3.com had acted more responsibly than other Internet startups.

## Clinton gives farewell address at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS — President Clinton urged world leaders today to intensify efforts to fight poverty and war, put more children in school and fight the spread of infectious diseases. "All these things come with a price tag and all nations including the United States must pay it," the president said in a farewell address at the United Nations. "Those in my country or elsewhere who believe we can do without the U.N. ... misunderstand the future." The president spoke at the Millennium Summit, the largest gathering of world leaders in history.

## Gore outlines detailed economic plan

CLEVELAND — In a cadence mimicking former President Bush's "read my lips," Al Gore reached yesterday for the mantle of fiscal conservatism, asking voters to "read my plan" in a hefty budget book coupling balanced budgets and ambitious economic and social goals. The Democratic presidential candidate denounced what he called the "cross-your-fingers economics" of GOP rival George W. Bush, the former president's son, and the broad income tax cuts at the center of Bush's agenda. The 191-page budget plan was heralded by former Treasury secretary Robert Rubin as unprecedented in a political campaign.

## Bush, Gore step up feud over debates

MILWAUKEE — George W. Bush appeared at a veterans' convention yesterday to accuse Vice President Al Gore of letting military readiness flag and stepped up the feud over presidential debates with a new TV ad suggesting Gore can't be trusted. The Republican nominee said he will stick to his plan to show up for a first debate with Gore in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, even though NBC yesterday said it would not air the event without Gore. Gore has accepted a proposal for three 90-minute debates carried by all major television networks.



**SHOWING HER COLORS:** Meryl Streep is in negotiations to join Nicolas Cage in the upcoming black comedy, *Adaptation*. Streep, like Cage, would likely need to defer a sizeable portion of her upfront fee in order for the picture to come close to Columbia's budget range of \$20 million to \$25 million.



**PSYCHO STALKER:** A man who prosecutors say spent 15 years sending lewd and threatening letters to actress Brooke Shields was sentenced on Tuesday to probation and counseling after agreeing to stay away from the star for the next decade. New Jersey accountant Mark Bailey, 42, pleaded no contest to stalking and terrorizing the actress.

## U.N. evacuates West Timor staffers

DILI, East Timor — Thousands of pro-Indonesian militiamen and their supporters stormed a U.N. office in West Timor today, killing an American and two other foreign U.N. staffers and burning their bodies. A U.N. force flew into the Indonesian territory to evacuate remaining workers. Witnesses said Indonesian security forces, long blamed for Timor's continuing tragedy, stood by and did nothing to prevent the killings. "These were peaceful, unarmed humanitarians who gave their lives trying help those who had lost everything in conflict," U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata said in a statement.

## Bridgestone apologizes for accidents

WASHINGTON — The normally reclusive head of Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. yesterday apologized to Congress for dozens of fatal accidents that may be linked to his company's defective tires. Meanwhile, internal company documents obtained by The AP show the company may have had data indicating safety problems with certain tires well before last month's recall was issued. They show Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. collected data from 1997 to 1999 indicating possible safety problems with the same tire models that were recalled last month.

## Dow climbs 60, Nasdaq down 101

NEW YORK — Blue chip stocks moved higher yesterday, boosted by news of a major deal in the financial services industry and surging oil prices, but high-tech stocks declined after analysts downgraded their ratings on several high-profile companies. Just before 3 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 59.56 points at 11,320.17. Advancers on the NYSE led decliners 1,539-1,229. The Nasdaq was down 100.80 at 4,042.38. Citigroup said today it will buy lending company Associates First Capital for about \$31.1 billion in stock.

## Teen Hewitt reaches U.S. Open semis

NEW YORK — Wearing his baseball cap backward, Lleyton Hewitt marched straight ahead into the semifinals of the U.S. Open yesterday, defeating Arnaud Clement 6-2, 6-4, 6-3. The 19-year-old Australian became the youngest semifinalist at the U.S. Open since Pete Sampras won his first Grand Slam title in 1990. Hewitt rode a big serve that produced 18 aces and kept Clement off balance all match. Clement knocked off the defending champion and No. 1 seed, Andre Agassi earlier in the tournament.

Compiled from wire reports.

## THE SAGA OF SGA

# SGA budget woes could end next week

By Tracy Kershaw  
NEWS EDITOR

Student Government wasted no time yesterday handling the budget crisis that has left the organization divided and the student body lacking SGA-funded programs. The issue will be resolved in one week if a process agreed upon Wednesday afternoon by Senate chairman Edwin Orange and President Jimmy Glenn — and later passed by the Senate — is followed.

One facet of the agreement was extending the interim summer Senate and allowing them to pass an interim budget to fund programs such as tutoring, legal services and SafeCats.

The SGA constitution requires the budget be presented to the interim summer Senate, but this summer no interim budget was passed.

SGA will run on an interim budget for one week, during which the Appropriations and Revenue Committee can make amendments to the budget to be presented to the full Senate next Wednesday night.

During the next week, Glenn cannot make any pur-

chases, excluding basic operation expenditures.

SGA has operated since July 1 with no budget. The SafeCats program, a free service funded by SGA provides escorts to students walking alone on campus at night, is being run by the ROTC on good faith that SGA will soon pay for it, Glenn said. Students requesting tutoring and legal services have been turned away because SGA cannot fund these services without a budget, senators said.

Though the agreement did not fully comply with Glenn's original intentions, he said he is pleased with the outcome. "Sometimes it becomes a burden on the student body," he said. "We met in the middle."

Orange, who said he is extremely pleased with the agreement, filed a complaint with the SGA Supreme Court two days ago to compel Glenn to present his budget proposal to the Appropriations and Revenue Committee, which handles all fiscal issues.

Glenn and Orange, agreeing to work together instead of as adversaries, discussed the issue and came to the agreement passed by the Senate.

## GORE

Continued from page 1

"If Medicare runs out, it will fall out on us," Schiff said. "If we lose Social Security, if we don't protect the environment and if the economy tanks, it all falls on us."

Schiff said there are two key investments Vice President Gore is in favor of that affect Generation X — education and health care.

Gore's education platform includes lowering the cost of college education. Schiff said her father

plans to make college more affordable by giving a \$2,800 tax credit for every individual. Gore also advocates a National Tuition Savings Plan, a savings account that is tax and inflation free.

Gore's health care plan includes developing a patient's bill of rights, giving prescription drug benefits and providing universal health care for children by 2004.

Schiff said these platforms will not get accomplished if students do not get involved in politics.

"The youth vote will put my father over the top," Schiff said. "Onward to victory in November."

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## Soccer Weekend

Friday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>

UK Women vs. Utah State at 5:30 p.m.

UK Men vs. Vanderbilt at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>

UK Men vs. UC Santa Barbara at 12:30 p.m.

All games are held at the SoccerComplex

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**GONE TOO LONG**

**Men's soccer to make home debut**

By Ron Cox  
STAFF WRITER

The UK men's soccer team welcomes the chance to play at home after spending last weekend on the road.

The Cats will play the first of two home games this weekend against the Vanderbilt Commodores Friday at 8 p.m. The game will follow the UK women's match against Utah State.

Vandy comes into the UK Soccer Complex with a not-so-impressive record (0-2-0), the two losses coming against Louisville and St. Louis, and a not-so-impressive scoring total (0). However, the Cats won't be taking the Commodores lightly.

"Vandy's going to come out tough," goalkeeper Brian O'Leary said. "They've lost their first two games, so they're going to come out with an all-or-nothing attitude."

The Cats picked up wins No. 100 and 101 last weekend, defeating the Cardinals 2-1 and the UNC-Asheville Bulldogs 3-0.

Against the Cards, the Cats came back from a 0-1 deficit to score two unanswered goals. The game-winning goal came in

the 72nd minute when sophomore J.D. Stevenson sent a shot into the back of the net.

"The game against Louisville was really scrappy," head coach Ian Collins said. "I don't think we played very well, but we did enough to win the game."

The Cats played a little sluggish in the first half against the Bulldogs, but still were able to take a 1-0 lead into halftime. They came out in the second half and put the game away by scoring two goals.

So far in this young season, O'Leary has yet to be fully tested in goal. The Cats have managed, through ball control and tough defense, to hold their first two opponents to just seven shots on goal. And O'Leary couldn't be happier.

"If I don't have to do anything, that's all the better for me," O'Leary said.

And Collins couldn't agree more. "The less action we give him, the better off we are," Collins said. "We definitely would prefer to see him make two or three saves a game as opposed to 15 or 16."

One area that Collins would like to see more improvement in is on the offensive side. He would like to see the offense be "more dangerous." He said the offense missed several scoring opportunities in both games, and to fix that the Cats must spread the scoring around.

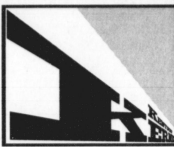
"We're definitely going to need a lot of people scoring this year," Stevenson said. "I think everybody here is capable of doing that."

The Cats are looking forward to coming home and playing in front of the home crowd.

"It's always nice to play at home," Collins said. "I think the more games we play on the road, the happier we are when we come home."

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America ranked the Cats fifth in their region in the first regional rankings of the season. They will face two of the teams ranked ahead of them later this season: Akron and Indiana.

The second game of the weekend home stand will be against UC-Santa Barbara (1-1) at 12:30 p.m. Sunday.



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**Women return home after road split**

By Travis Hubbard  
ASSISTANT SPORTSDAILY EDITOR

The UK women's soccer team is glad to be home, but disappointed to have the first blemish on their 2000 record.

The Cats returned to Lexington after a holiday weekend trip to Minneapolis for the University of Minnesota Tournament. Despite playing well in two games against Minnesota and Northwestern, UK came away from its first road trip with a 1-1 record.

"We played really well on Friday, but we just didn't score," said UK coach Warren Lipka. "Then we put the ball away Sunday."

The Cats lost for the first time this season to Minnesota in the first round of the tournament. Then, UK rebounded to defeat Northwestern 5-1 Sunday.

"I'm just disappointed that we didn't play well as a group," Lipka said. "I thought there was too much individual play."

While the Cats' play was not completely to the satisfaction of their coach, they still took something from their trek to Minnesota.

"Going on the road for the first time was a good experience for our first-year players," Lipka said.

With last weekend's road trip in the past, UK is preparing for an encounter with Utah State - slated for 5:30 p.m. Friday at the UK Soccer Complex.

The Aggies enter their first-ever meeting with UK 0-2 after two home losses to UNLV and Iowa.

Despite their slow start, Utah State has played their opposition close. The Aggies were shutout 2-0 by UNLV and fell 2-1 to the Hawkeyes. Lipka noted that Utah State is a capable team with good team speed.

The Cats enter the game 3-1 overall, 1-0 in the SEC and ranked No. 19 in the nation, after falling three spots. Still, UK has plenty in its favor. Sophomore Keri Boyce is one of the hottest players in the SEC and leads the Cats in goals (3), assists (3) and points (9).

Boyce, fellow sophomore Elizabeth Ramsey and junior Annie Gage are providing consistency and stability in the scoring attack, but the rest of the cast has shown recently that they can turn up the scoring. Juniors Aimee Brown, Suzie Ledzianowski and Kate Qually all scored their first goals of the season and senior Jen Reese added her second in the rout of Northwestern.

The UK defense has proved capable, as well. The unit, anchored by junior Melinda Buemi hasn't allowed more than two goals in any game and has aided junior goalkeeper Beth Wells in one shutout.

In fact, Buemi, Ramsey and Reese were all named to the University of Minnesota Tournament all-tournament team.

"It's great for the players to get recognized in a tournament situation," said Lipka.

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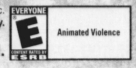
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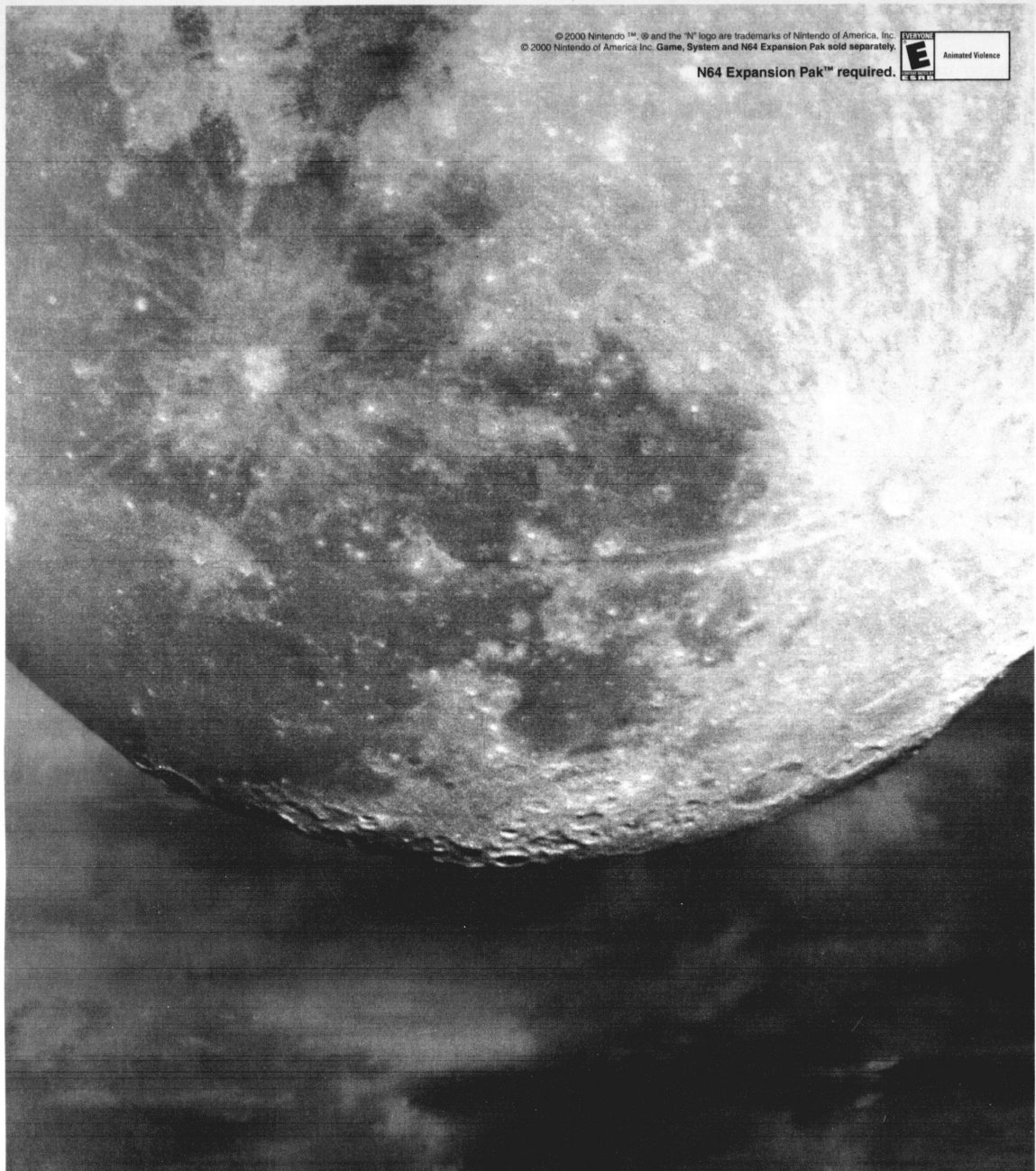
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Readin'

## Kernel favorites

- 1) *Of Mice and Men* - John Steinbeck
- 2) *The Count of Monte Cristo* - Alexandre Dumas
- 3) *Catcher in the Rye* - J.D. Salinger
- 4) *To Kill a Mockingbird* - Harper Lee
- 5) *A Tale of Two Cities* - Charles Dickens
- 6) *The Godfather* - Mario Puzo
- 7) *On the Road* - Jack Kerouac
- 8) *Crime and Punishment* - Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- 9) *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* - Mark Twain
- 10) *All Quiet on the Western Front* - Erich Maria Remarque

By Matt Mulcahey, Scene Editor

- 1) *For Whom the Bell Tolls* - Ernest Hemingway
- 2) *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* - C.S. Lewis
- 3) *Hamlet* - William Shakespeare
- 4) *Sorrow in Our Heart* - Allan Eckert
- 5) *Mere Christianity* - C.S. Lewis
- 6) *Siddhartha* - Herman Hesse
- 7) *1984* - George Orwell
- 8) *The Republic* - Plato
- 9) *With the Old Breed* - E.B. Sledge
- 10) *Timequake* - Kurt Vonnegut

By Tim Staley, Scene Editor

- 1) *Catch 22* - Joseph Heller
- 2) *The Sun Also Rises* - Ernest Hemingway
- 3) *Mother Night* - Kurt Vonnegut
- 4) *A Farewell to Arms* - Ernest Hemingway
- 5) *Siddhartha* - Herman Hesse
- 6) *Things Fall Apart* - Chinua Achebe
- 7) *A Lesson Before Dying* - Ernest J. Gaines
- 8) *Lolita* - Vladimir Nabokov
- 9) *Under the Volcano* - Malcolm Lowry
- 10) *As I Lay Dying* - William Faulkner

By Charley Bradley, Contributing Writer

- 1) *The Great Gatsby* - F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 2) *The Hottest State* - Ethan Hawke
- 3) *The Essential C.S. Lewis* - C.S. Lewis
- 4) *Making Movies* - Sidney Lumet
- 5) *A Knack at Midnight* - Martin Luther King
- 6) *Let the Trumpet Sound* - Stephen B. Oates
- 7) *To Kill a Mockingbird* - Harper Lee
- 8) *I Hated, Hated, Hated This Movie* - Roger Ebert

By Patrick Avery, Assistant Scene Editor

“

A man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over a man who can't read at all.”

- Mark Twain, author

## SCENE

Matt Mulcahey  
Scene Editor  
Phone: 257-1915  
Email: kernelart@yahoo.com

http://www.kykernel.com

KENTUCKY KERNEL THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2000 5

## LITERATURE

## Discover a hidden treasure

## Book it: Used and rare book stores offer hard to find reading opportunities

By Robin Petrozo  
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever walked into a bookstore looking for a certain book, only to find that it's out of print? Or maybe you were just looking for an interesting, perhaps unusual, book? Did you try one of the many used-and-rare bookstores here in Lexington? Here's the low-down on a few of them:

## Morgan Adams Books

1439 Leesstown Rd.

This bookstore has "a little of everything" according to manager Debbie Hopper, from literature and poetry to psychology and cooking, including many out-of-print titles. She claims that the great selection and prices, coupled with its organized atmosphere (you can sit down and relax with a good book or just listen to the music), make her store unique.

## Black Swan Books

505 E. Maxwell St.

This is a "reader's bookstore" according to manager and owner Mike Courtney. Not only has it been selected as the Best Used Bookstore in Lexington by the Lexington Herald-Leader and Ace Magazine for the past 10 years, but it is situated in a building that dates back to 1910, which helps to create its incomparable atmosphere. Black Swan Books specializes in academic and scholarly books, including a large hardback collection. They also have frequent readings and signings, including two this fall by Jeff Worley and poet Wendell Berry, his only Lexington appearance.

## Special Media

371 S. Limestone St.

According to their ad, they specialize in "the important, interesting, and hard-to-find." This store has everything from tarot cards to Shakespeare. This blend, along with the rows of candles and incense, provides a very singular environment.

## The Book Gallery

3250 Nicholasville Road.

"Different from your typical bookstore," says owner Bruce Knox. "It has a carpeted, nice atmosphere that is set up more like a library; it's very spacious." Knox enjoys playing jazz music for his customers and giving away coffee and cookies. The Book Gallery has close to 30,000 books, the majority of which are hardback, academic and scholarly books, with more non-fiction titles than fiction.

## Glover's Bookery

862 S. Broadway.

It has a "cozy and homey atmosphere with lots of smiling faces that like to talk about books," says owner John Glover. This bookstore has over 80,000 books. According to Glover, the stacks and rows of books that greet a customer as they walk in make it seem "like being in a time machine." Glover's Bookery also has areas to sit and read, a collection of tribal art and a rare book room. They specialize in finding out-of-print books for customers through a network if the particular book is not in the store.



MATT MULCAHEY | KERNEL STAFF

## Atmosphere to spare

While giant book chains offer coffee shops and every book known to man with a nice, new shiny cover, smaller vintage book stores like Black Swan Books, above, and Glover's Bookery, below, offer the sweet musty smell of old, weathered books and secluded, quiet areas to begin an exciting new literary adventure.

## BOOKSTORES

## Where to find the books you want

## Looking for a book? The good and bad of buying books online and in retail chains

By Sonya Lichtenstein  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After two weeks of staring blankly at textbooks, asking students to purchase more books, even those of interest to them, might be enough to send them over the edge. Not that an agricultural economics book isn't a fantastic read, but everyone should broaden their horizons a little.

An enormous variety of fiction and non-fiction books are offered right over the Internet, as well as at bookstores located right down the road. And yes, there are books out there that are not part of Oprah's Book Club.

Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com are two popular Web sites. These stores have confusing sites filled with an abundance of information that do not just focus on books.

Both sites allow visitors to browse through music, DVDs, video tapes, toys, video games and other gift ideas, just in case the whole "reading" thing doesn't seem too appealing this early in September.

The downside of online shopping comes down to the price and delivery time. The actual book prices do not vary much from what one might find on the shelf of any bookstore, but keep in mind the shipping and handling charge. With Amazon.com charging \$3.49 per

shipment plus an additional 99 cents per item, and BarnesandNoble.com charging \$3.30 per shipment and an additional 99 cents per item, the 19-cent difference works out to be minimal in comparison to the total.

The one major advantage to online shopping remains convenience. What other service allows you to shop at 3 a.m. on a Sunday night in your PJs so your little sister can get her copy of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by her birthday on Friday? Both sites deliver within four to eight business days.

If the idea of giving up your credit card number to the mysterious cyber-world still seems too much to ask, the option of actual human contact might be the best way to go. Barnes & Noble, Joseph-Beth Booksellers and Waldenbooks all have locations nearby.

These stores offer a great selection of books and CDs as well as areas to read and drink coffee. At Joseph-Beth Booksellers, if a book is not in stock or needs to be shipped to a home or business, this can be done within three to five business days, which may be more suitable for those pressed for time.

So set aside the western philosophy or tribal peasant people of the third world for tonight and curl up with a book you actually care about reading.



TIM STALEY | KERNEL STAFF

## Books, books and more good books

Joseph-Beth Booksellers has everything under the sun for the literary fanatic. Coffee, food and CD listening booths accompany the thousands of books available.



**Ted Nugent**

Crazy rocker and NRA advocate Ted Nugent will open for Kiss at 7 p.m. Friday night at Rupp Arena.



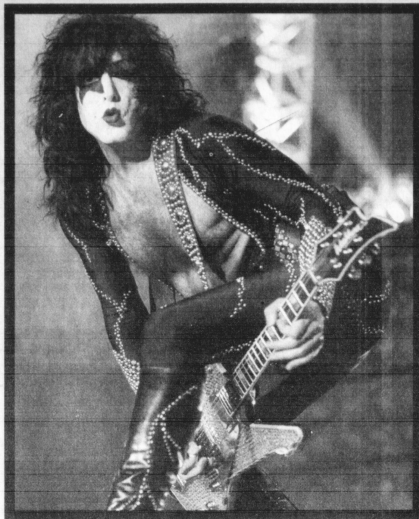
**Travis**

British pop band Travis makes their way to Cincinnati for a 8:30 p.m. show Saturday, Sept. 16 at Bogart's.



**Phish**

Jam band Phish will spend hours playing in Cincinnati at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20 at Riverbend Music Center.



**One last 'Kiss'**

Kiss brings their Farewell Tour to Lexington for a 7 p.m. show this Friday at Rupp Arena. Tickets range from \$35.25-60.25. Break out your costumes, masks and tongues and head to the show!

JAMES CRISP | KERNEL STAFF

A GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND UK

**On Tap...**

For the week of Sept. 7 - Sept. 13

**Music THURSDAY**

Goudie w/ Unified Theory. Top Cats, Cincinnati. 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$5.

Johnny Socko w/ Dave's Porch. Lynch's. 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$4.

DJ KentJuett. Kitty O' Shea's. 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$3 before 11 p.m./\$4 after 11 p.m.

**FRIDAY**  
Fat Possum Mississippi Juke Joint Caravan W. Lynch's. 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$8.

The Assassins. Kitty O' Shea's. 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$3 before 11 p.m./\$4 after 11 p.m.

Kiss w/ Ted Nugent and Skidrow. Rupp Arena. 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$35.25-60.50.

Brass Tacks w/ The Moocking. Yats. 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.

**SATURDAY**

Blueberries w/ Pontius CoPilot. Lynch's. 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.

Brian Martin. Kitty O' Shea's. 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$3 before 11 p.m./\$4 after 11 p.m.

OPM w/ Good Charlotte. Bogart's, Cincinnati. 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$7 in advance/\$8 day of show.

**TUESDAY**

Ingenious. Lynch's. 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 in advance/\$12 at the door.

**WEDNESDAY**

Dean Osborne and Bluetowne. Lynch's. 9:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.

**Coming Soon**

Goldfinger w/ Dynamite Hack and Mest. Bogart's, Cincinnati. Friday, Sept. 15 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$13.50 in advance/ \$15 day of show.

Travis. Bogart's, Cincinnati. Saturday, Sept. 16 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$15.50 in advance/ \$17 day of show.

Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals w/ DJ Logic's Project Logic. Taft Theatre, Cincinnati. Monday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$25-28.50.

Mary J. Blige. Taft Theatre, Cincinnati. Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$45-60.

David Gray. Headliner's Music Hall, Louisville. Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$13 in advance/ \$15 day of show.

Phish. Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati. Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$28.50.

North Mississippi All Stars w/ Yonder Mountain String Band. Headliner's Music Hall, Louisville. Thursday, Sept. 21 at 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$10.

Ekostik Hookah. Lynch's. Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 10 p.m. Tickets cost \$7.

Fuel. Bogart's, Cincinnati. Thursday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 in advance/ \$14 day of show.

Billy Ray Cyrus. Taft Theatre, Cincinnati. Friday, Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$27.50-37.50.

Fall Music Celebration featuring Caedman's Call, Rebecca St. James, Sonic Flood and others. King's Island, Cincinnati. Saturday, Sept. 30 at 1 p.m. Tickets range from \$14.99-29.99.

Alice Cooper. Palace Theater, Louisville. Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$25-37.50.

Burt Bacharach. Palace Theater, Louisville. Saturday, Oct. 7 at 8 p.m. Tickets prices TBA.

Hanson. Palace Theater, Louisville. Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25.50.

String Cheese Incident. Taft Theatre, Cincinnati. Friday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$20-25.

Patti LaPone. Palace Theater, Louisville. Friday, Nov. 3 at 8 p.m. Tickets range \$20.75-53.50.

Natalie Cole w/ the Louisville Symphony Orchestra. Palace Theater, Louisville. Friday, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$20.75-53.50.

**Bars, clubs, venues:**

AIA.....	231-7263
Kitty O' Shea's.....	255-3078
Cheapside Bar and Grill.....	254-0046
Two Keys.....	254-5000
Lynch's.....	255-6614
Millennium.....	225-9194
Rupp Arena.....	233-4567
Lexington Opera.....	233-4567
Actors' Guild.....	233-0663
Yats.....	254-8128
Busters.....	231-5076
Club 141.....	233-4262

**Cincinnati venues (513 area code):**

Bogart's.....	872-8801
Riverbend.....	232-6220
Taft Theatre.....	721-0411
The Crown.....	421-4111
Sudsy Malones.....	771-3550
Ripley's.....	861-6800
Playhouse in the Park.....	345-2242

**Louisville venues (502 area code):**

Kentucky Center for the Arts.....	800-775-7777
Toy Tiger.....	458-2020
Kentucky Opera.....	584-7777
Louisville Gardens.....	574-0060
Actor's Theatre.....	584-1205
Headliner's Music Hall.....	584-8088

**Movie theaters:**

South Park.....	272-6611
Woodhill.....	269-1911
Lexington Green.....	271-2070
Man O' War.....	266-4645
Kentucky Theatre.....	231-6997
Turfland.....	277-2825
Carmike.....	263-2370

**Campus listing:**

SAB.....	257-8867
SCA.....	257-3191
Guignol Theatre.....	257-4929
Singletary Center.....	257-4929
Art Museum.....	257-5716
Student Center.....	257-8427
Kentucky Kernel.....	257-1915
Kennedy Bookstore.....	252-0331
UK Bookstore.....	257-2947
Wildcat Textbooks.....	225-7771

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**FREE T-SHIRTS TO THE FIRST 1500 STUDENTS!**

All students must enter through Gate 1 with a ticket and valid UK ID.

Remaining tickets are still on sale at the Memorial Coliseum main ticket office from 9:00 - 4:00 this week and at the stadium on game day.



## Hello nurse!

In *Nurse Betty*, a new film from director Neil LaBute, Renée Zellweger stars as widow hopelessly obsessed with a soap opera star (Greg Kinnear). The film also stars Morgan Freeman and Chris Rock. At Man o' War and The Kentucky.

PHOTO FURNISHED

AT THE PICTURE SHOW

# Frame by Frame

**Autumn in New York.** Further permeating Hollywood's current notion that nothing turns a woman on like an old man, Richard Gere plays an almost-50 playboy who falls in love with the obligatory "you've never met anyone like me" 21-year-old, played by Winona Ryder. At Woodhill.

**Bring It On.** Proving again that pretty people really don't have anything important to worry about, this film follows a national cheerleading powerhouse searching for answers after finding out its perfect cheer was stolen from an East Compton school. At Lexington Green and Woodhill.

**The Original Kings of Comedy.** One night in

Charlotte, N.C., four of today's most popular black comics took to the stage and delivered an unforgettable performance, and Spike Lee was there to capture it all. At Man o' War.

**The Replacements.** Keanu "I Know Kung Fu" Reeves reminds us how easy it is to make fun of him in this romantic comedy about a replacement player who falls in love with a cheerleader while the pros are on strike. Also starring Gene Hackman. At Man o' War.

**Hollow Man.** In a role not even he can mess up, Kevin Bacon plays a scientist who develops a serum that allows him to become invisible. He soon, howev-

er, finds that sneaking peaks at naked women is not enough and he begins to go insane. At Woodhill.

**K-Men.** The most popular comic book ever comes to life in this action-packed sequel machine. Stellar acting by Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen as feuding mutant patriarchs and Hugh Jackman as fan-favorite Wolverine overshadow an underdeveloped plot and harem of bad actors (i.e. Halle Berry and James Marsden). At Man o' War.

**What Lies Beneath.** Harrison Ford goes through beautiful blondes like a millionaire hooked on Viagra in this suspense thriller directed by Robert Zemeckis. Ford plays

a professor who's wife (Michelle Pfeiffer) is haunted by the ghost of his dead mistress and former student. At Woodhill.

**Nutty Professor 2: The Klump.** Eddie Murphy reprises his role(s) as Professor Sherman and the rest of the Klump clan in this sequel to the 1996 box-office hit. In the film, Klump and his fiancée Denise (Janet Jackson) try to remove the "Buddy Love" gene from his make-up. Problem is, Buddy still wants to play. At Woodhill.

**The Perfect Storm.** In addition to the storm, the characters in this film were so perfect that you forgot they were human. Leave it to Hollywood to seam-

lessly translate a critically-acclaimed book. Starring George Clooney and his perfect face and Mark Wahlberg and his perfect body. At Woodhill.

**The Art of War.** Based on the classic tale by Sun Tzu, Wesley Snipes stars as an international security expert who is framed by ruthless terrorists. The Kentucky Kernel has learned that Sly Stallone is in talks to bring Plato's Republic to the big screen as well, but we were not able to confirm it. At Woodhill.

**The Cell.** They said this movie was "The Matrix meets Silence of the Lambs," but we thought the movie would have been better if it was made in the silent-film era. Besides the

script, Jennifer Lopez and her ass do a terrific job of finding the essence of a woman lost in the mind of a serial killer. At Lexington Green and Man o' War.

**Space Cowboys.** Clint Eastwood, James Garner, Donald Sutherland and Tommy Lee Jones pack up their Depends and head for space. The Social Security collecting actors play former Air Force test pilots who are belatedly given a chance to go into space. At Lexington Green and Man o' War.

**The Patriot.** If there was any justice, Roland Emmerich would face a firing squad for his crimes against filmmaking. After the Al Pacino film *Revolution*, it took Hollywood 15 years to make another film about the Revolutionary War. After this film, it could be a 100 before we see another. At Lexington Green.

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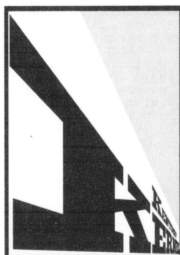
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Yummy, metal...

A proposal, a ring and an X-ray?

IPSWICH, Mass. - When Hillary Feinberg and Mark Meltz got married, she gave him a wedding ring, and he gave her an X-ray. The ring Meltz bought for Feinberg for their wedding Monday had been swallowed the day before by the couple's 1 1/2-year-old Labrador, Liza. Meltz believes their cat knocked the ring off a counter and the dog gobbled it up. He said Liza was coughing when he took her for a walk, but he had no idea she had swallowed the ring. When Meltz couldn't find the ring the morning of the wedding, he finally figured out what happened. He then rushed the dog to Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, where a veterinarian took an X-ray and found the missing ring. Meltz said his brothers came up with the idea of substituting the X-ray for the ring in the ceremony. No one else in the congregation knew what was happening.



Dogs will eat anything even wedding rings as Hillary and Mark Meltz found out. -Photo furnished.

Ouch! That's gotta hurt...

Lightning does strike in same place twice

BUCKLEY, Wash. - Charles Doremus learned the hard way that lightning does indeed strike the same place twice; it hit him the second time. Doremus was treated for burns on the chest, feet and head. "He feels like he's been hit by a semi truck," his son, Blair Doremus, said Monday. The family was looking at a new outdoor swimming pool Sunday when they heard a tremendous blast, ran inside, then looked out and realized lightning had struck a maple tree, the son said. While the family was having a look, down came another thunderbolt. "It actually hit the tree again, if you can believe it," the younger Doremus said. The blast sent his father flying into a fence, left a crater in the ground about 4 feet wide and 18 inches deep and fried four television sets, a satellite dish, a computer and the telephones in the house.

-Source: AP Wire -Compiled by: Amanda Thompson

Send your letters to the editor to the Kernel!

ALLEGUE

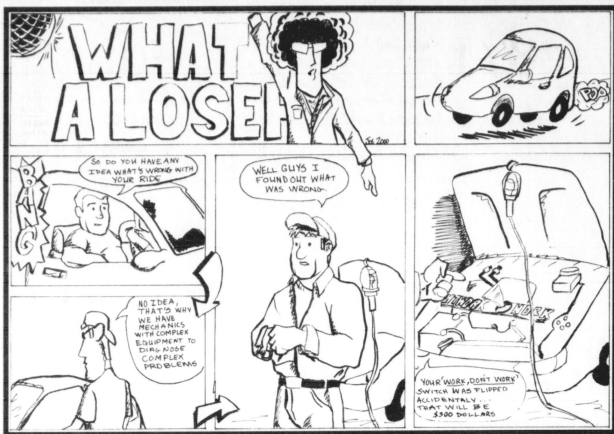
8 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2000 KENTUCKY KERNEL

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http://www.kykernel.com



READERS' FORUM

Expressions

Rules need to be enforced for the benefit of all people

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to the recent talks about Jules Camara and his DUI. I think it is horrible that people who do not go to UK see the athletes arrested for drinking and driving or even partying when so much of it goes on throughout the campus. UK is made out to be great because they have a "zero-tolerance" policy on student athletes, mostly basketball and football players. But have they done anything else about the students who party and drink and

carry on about campus? No! I lived in the Greg Page apartments for two years and both years I only survived for a semester because I had to move due to partying roommates. The second year I was even placed with roommates that smoked, and I'm not talking about cigarettes here. I called the police, and even the campus police did nothing but write them a warning. Guess who had to move. That's right - me! I was the one who came here to get an education and I had to leave and sleep on a friend's couch for two months because UK housing had nowhere else for me to go. But, my underage roommates who drank on campus and even smoked and sold marijuana in our apartment were allowed to stay for the rest of the year. I think it's a major crock that

UK makes themselves out to be so great because they catch the "party athletes" but they tend to forget the rest of the campus. If the rules are going to be made, they need to be enforced for everyone!

AMANDA DICKEY  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION JUNIOR



CONTACT US E-mail



Send us your letters and comments by e-mail to dialogue@kykernel.com

Snail Mail



Send your letters via the postal service for only \$3.33 - it's that cheap. Send your thoughts to 035 Grehan Building Lexington, KY 40506-0042

Length & style

Letters should be approximately 250 words; quest opinions should be no longer than 600 words. All material should be type-written and double-spaced.

Include this info

Include your name and major classification (for publication). For verification include your address and telephone number, which will be kept confidential.

The Kernel reserves the right to edit all material received.

IN OUR OPINION

Ignoring us again?

Poor reflections on Kentuckians evident in Cheney's debate plans

Too often, Kentucky is ignored in the realm of national politics. Whether it is because Kentucky has only a handful of electoral votes or because its residents traditionally vote for Democrats in national elections, our state is not considered an important win by most presidential candidates.

Surprise, surprise. Kentucky may be getting passed over again. In a recent statement, Bush announced that his running mate, Richard Cheney, would be participating in a debate Oct. 11 in Winston-Salem, N.C. and in a second debate at an undetermined time and place.

There was no mention of the scheduled vice presidential debate Oct. 5 at Centre College in Danville, Ky. The planning for this debate has been going on since Centre was named as a debate site earlier this year, and organizers are hoping for a big turnout.

If Cheney were to back out, it would mean a lot of lost business for Danville, Lexington and surrounding areas.

More significant, however, is the message that Cheney would be sending to Kentuckians. With national issues like tobacco affecting Kentucky life directly, we feel that Kentuckians have a right to expect our presidential and vice presidential candidates to be accessible.

We deserve to hear first-hand where our politicians stand.

We urge Cheney to fulfill his obligation to Centre College and, more importantly, to us, the voters of Kentucky.



Centre may not be on debate plan for Cheney. photo furnished

Alan Slone

KERNEL COLUMNIST

Common sense not left within boundaries of laws

There are things in this world that defy all logic.

For example, why do they have Braille on drive-up ATMs? Or, why do they have locks on the doors of 24-hour establishments?

Seriously, though, there are rules - laws, even - that defy everything that is logical. These rules, absurd as they are, have the ability to affect lives - even lives that might hang in the balance.

I had the misfortune of dealing with one of these illogical rules this weekend when a family member's life hung in the balance, and everyone around him was powerless to help him.

While you were celebrating your Labor Day weekend, so was I. I was at the family homestead in eastern Kentucky, having the yearly reunion we have each and every Labor Day. It's on the books beginning each year - everyone knows it, everyone shows up. So, in this play-land of family and food, all was well. The day was warm, the sun was out and conversation abounded.

As we were all wrapping up from food and conversation, a proverbial tragedy struck. A man clutches his chest and starts convulsing.

Women are screaming. Men are looking at each other, wondering who can help. Cell phones are dead - no towers in the area. Everyone was completely cut off from the outside world, with no one to rely on but themselves.

My uncle tears up the mountain in his 4x4 vehicle, trying to get high enough to reach a cell phone tower with the phone in his car. Every one is crouched around this guy, trying to both give him air and keep him comfortable. He's wild-eyed and terrified...not speaking, but obviously screaming.

My uncle returns, to tell us that the closest town in the county is sending an ambulance. It's an hour away, though, so his life will stay in limbo while we wait for them, praying and wondering.

It's amazing: the town in the next county won't send an ambulance over county lines - even though its 45 minutes closer than the other town. We ended up loading him up into a van and driving to the county line to speed the process up.

Why did we have to do that? Where do people, rules, and laws get off making exactly no sense at all? Do the people who enforce these rules realize how stupid they sound when they enforce them? Who couldn't realize 45 minutes could save someone's life?

Before you start, no, this isn't the evil HMO's doing. No, corporate greed factors into this scenario.

No, this is the actions of lawmakers that we elect. It has to do with funding. It keeps things simple for the dispatchers of 911 services. It's a deterrent for abuse, and it keeps usage statistics easy to manage.

And on top of that, it has probably killed people.

So what can we do about it? I'll give you some people to ask for input.

Ask the mother who screams for her infant who isn't breathing. Ask the wife who is desperately praying for a miracle as her husband bleeds from a freak woodcutting accident. Ask the person in a wrecked, burning automobile on a long country road.

These people are your family, your friends, your co-workers. And before you think you won't be affected, think on this: you might live in these areas, you might just be visiting.

Whatever the reason, all of our lives are affected by these "blackout" areas. Your cell phones are useless. There is no land-line. The closest town is an hour away.

Common sense should tell you to try and change these laws as soon as possible.

Kernel Columnist Alan Slone is a computer science sophomore. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Kernel.





**CLASSIFIEDS**

Continued from page 9

class instructors, and building supervisors. The YMCA offers competitive wages, flexible hours, and free memberships. Please apply in person or mail resume to South Lexington YMCA, 560 Eureka Springs Dr., Lex., KY 40517.

**VETERINARY ASSISTANTS and aides:** hours available mornings/evenings. Experience preferred, great opportunity for pre-vet students. Apply at Lexington Hospital for Cats, 828 Lane Allen Rd.

**WANTED:** Dependable, hard working student for event operations management. Variable hours and days. Heavy lifting required. Call 252-4253 ext. 304

**WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT needed.** Flexible hours, heavy lifting, hard work. Get paid while you help others. 254-6771.

**WOULD YOU LIKE to work for Lexington's Children's Museum?** We need dependable, enthusiastic, gallery staff. Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 till 2:30. 56/hr. Fun environment, excellent experiential work position. Apply in person Tuesday through Friday, 440 W. Short St.

**YOUTH WORKER: DEGREE in SOCIAL WORK or related field.** Years of experience may be substituted for degree. Must possess valid Kentucky driver's license. Premium wage benefits, and bonus system. Immediate full-time and part-time openings, nights and weekend shifts available. Send resume to: The Cleveland Home, 140 Park Street, Versailles, 40383. (609) 873-3271 or fax resume to (859) 873-2420

**PERSONALS**

**HAIR ON LINE at Euclid Square!** Monday is FREE cut with color! Full set and a trim only \$30. Waxing, tanning, massages and pedicures. Phone cards for 1.9 cents/min. \$25 full set of nails on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. 505 Euclid Ave next to SuperAmerica. 252-52NP.

**ACCOUNTING STUDENTS:** Come join PricewaterhouseCooper for internship and employment opportunities. August 31st. 5:30pm Student Center Room 230. Every one welcome for appetizers!

**ARE YOU FEELING tired and overweight?** Want to lose those pounds fast, easy, and forever? Call Misty 252-3333.

**BEAUTIFUL WOMEN ARE READY TO TALK TO YOU.** All five talk 24 hrs. 1-900-226-0236 ext. 3278. \$3.99/min. Must be 18 yrs. Serv-U 679-645-9434.

**BEGINNING KARATE CLASS.** Learn the ancient Chinese martial art of Shaolin-Do Tuesdays and Thursdays. 5-6:30pm. Alumni gym hall. For more info call Danny Walls 257-5524. 887-4803B

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**CPR CLASSES.** CALL 276-4017

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JESSE: I'm prettier! -Kelly Kapowski

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**COLLEGE DAY Sunday, Sept. 10.** Free Lunch - Noon. Worship 11 a.m. Bible School 10 a.m. Tracts in Bible School 9:10 - Looking at Priorities, 9:17 - Am I Accepting? 9:24 - Let's Take Inventory Evening Worship 6:30 p.m. Lakes Creek Christian Church, 3501 Lakes Creek Road. Phone: 266-1621. Email: [pdress@yahoo.com](mailto:pdress@yahoo.com) Transportation available. Come and be a part of our family.

**ROOMMATE WANTED**

**DENTAL STUDENT** looking for female roommate to share house. Call Beverly 245-7357.

**FAMILY CLEAN, safe back student** needed to share 3 BR house on Columbia. Hardwood floors, A/C, and fenced yard. \$385 for one person to share or \$260 if shared by 2. Call Carrie 268-9255.

**FEMALE NEEDS 2 roommates** to share 3 BR, 2 BA apartment across from Medical Centers. 381-1727.

**FEMALE ROOMMATE 2BR house,** 10 minutes from campus. Quiet neighborhood. \$350/mo. Half utilities. 266-6703.

**FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED 2 BR 2BA,** beautiful finished condo, 10 minutes from campus. \$350/mo, includes utilities. 333-9651.

**FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED to share furnished 3 BR condo.** W/O, 5275/mo. Call Natalie, 259-9297

**FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED to share home.** \$265/mo. Plus utilities. Call Margaret, 273-4733

**NON-SMOKER, male or female, private BR and bath** in a new furnished condo. Walking distance to campus, call Jen 276-4338.

**NON-SMOKING, upper-class, male roommate needed,** \$230/mo, utilities included, call Isaac at 536-5360.

**ROOMMATE WANTED to share 2 BR 1 BA apt.** \$239/mo. utilities 272-5946

**ROOMMATE WANTED to share 2BR, 2 1/2 BA townhouse.** Close to campus. \$375+ 266-0845.

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**SHARE 5 BR house w/hot tub, pool table, basketball pool, and fenced yard.** Secluded! Really nice. \$350/mo. Plus utilities 396-6636

**SUBLEASE at University Commons, 1BR available in October.** Call Malena at 253-9018 after 2:00. 5297/mo. plus utilities.

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**LOST & FOUND**

**FOUND:** A set of keys found on the sidewalk of Bowman Hall. If you have lost your keys come to the Kernel Office in the basement of the Graham-Journalism Building to claim them.

**FOUND:** Big book of CD's on Euclid. Call 381-8833.

**FOUND:** Black wallet at corner of Rose and Euclid. Belongs to Eric. Call 453-9046.

**FOUND:** Sprint Samsung silver cell-phone. Call Jennifer 277-9582. Be prepared to give name that appears on screen.

**FOUND:** Wilson Ultra tennis racket found at Woodland Park. 233-4993

**LOST:** Large brown accordion-type folder with important personal papers. Upper Maxwell area. Reward. 271-9172.

**MEETINGS**

**GET FIT defend yourself.** Wednesday and Friday, 6:30-8:30. Buell Armory.

**GRAD STUDENTS:** demands of school and/or dissertation causing more stress than you bargained for? Reaching goals is harder when you're doing it alone. Join with others and help yourself out. Graduate Student Support Group and Dissertation Support Group meeting on alternating Mondays from 12-1 starting September 18th. For more information/registration call 257-6701.

**SOCIAL DANCING:** Learn to dance to the music of your favorite artists. Swing, smooth, and Latin dances. UK Ballroom Dance Society, Tuesday evenings - beginners 7PM, intermediates 8PM starting Tuesday, September 5. Barker Hall. Dance partner helpful but not required. Further information 257-7947.

**THE UK KARATE CLUB** is accepting new students. Fridays: Aug. 25 and Sept. 1 and Mondays: Aug. 28 and Sept. 11. Buell Armory. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 271-2088

**UK SOCCER DOUBLE HEADER!** Friday at 5:30 p.m. Women vs. Utah St. at 8:00 p.m. Men vs. Vanderbilt. Free with Student I.D.

**WHO CARES? UK CARES!** Become a student Advocate in the prevention of eating disorders. Informational meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 2000, 6 to 7pm. Questions? Contact Gabriella Peshah at 257-6701.

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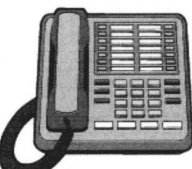
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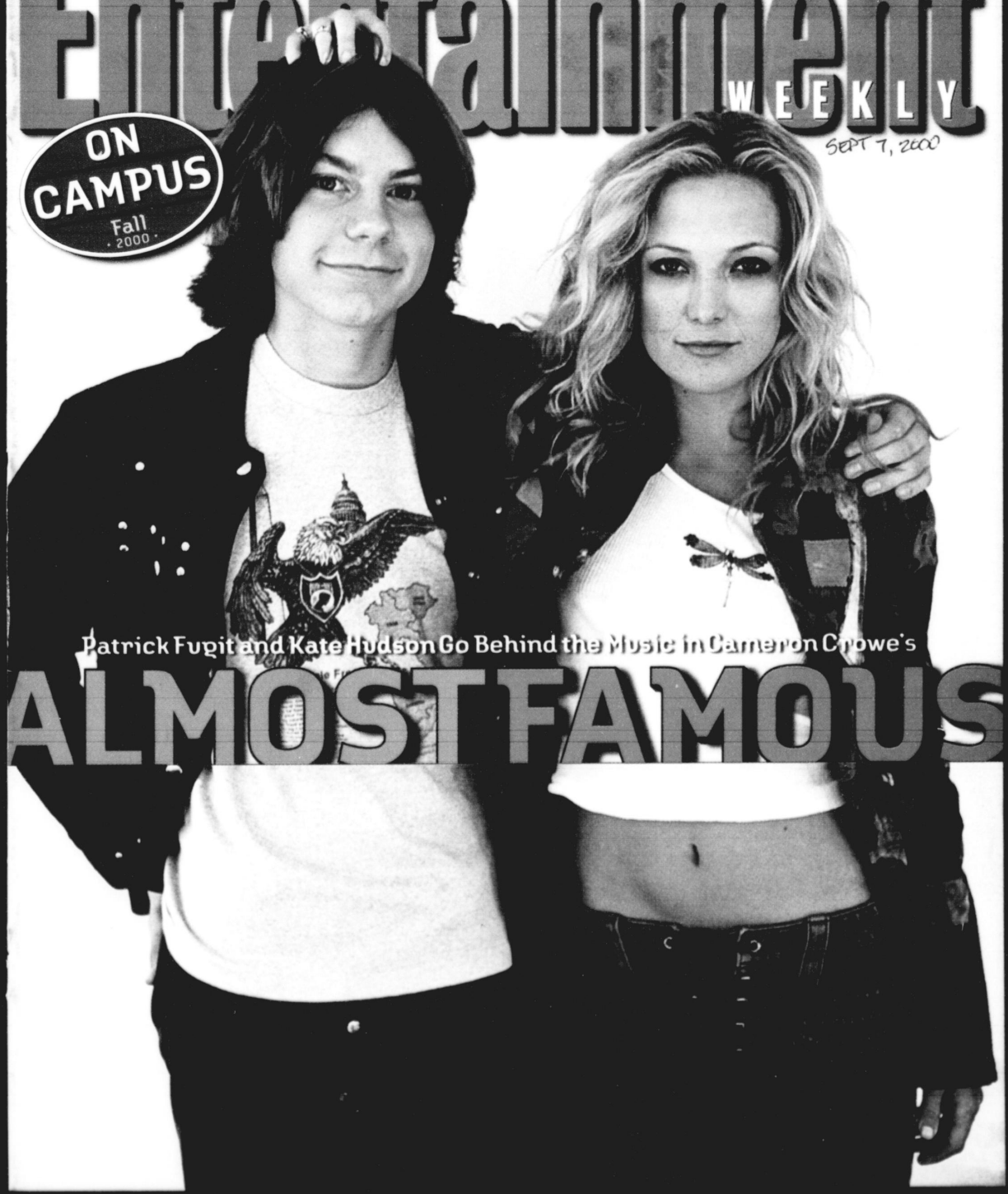
# Entertainment

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WEEKLY

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ON  
CAMPUS  
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Patrick Fugit and Kate Hudson Go Behind the Music in Cameron Crowe's

# ALMOST FAMOUS

COVER PAGE

ADVERTISEMENT Sept 9, 2000

Citibank Credit ED presents the adventures of

# Anita Future & LES FORESIGHT

## LES ON THE CASE: PART 1

AFTER A LONG NIGHT OF DECADENCE AND DETECTIVE TALES, LES FORESIGHT SINGS INTO A DREAM-FILLED SLEEP.



IT WAS A DARK NIGHT. THE KIND OF DARK WHERE SHADOWS TWIST AND TURN AROUND EACH OTHER LIKE A BOX OF CARDS COVERED CARDS. LES WAS FALLING IN AN ALL NIGHTER. HIS HEAD WAS ON A PILLOW. THE CASE OF THE MISSING CREDIT CARD BY ANITA FUTURE.



"HIS ONE WASN'T GOING TO BE EASY. SO I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE HIS VEHICLE."



HE GOT A TIP AND BROUGHT IN A DREAM FROM THE DORM NEXT DOOR. THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HER. IT WAS LIKE THE WORD "SUIT" WAS WRITTEN ALL OVER HER FACE.



SHE WASN'T EXACTLY IN THE MOOD TO COOPERATE. AND HE WASN'T EXACTLY IN THE MOOD TO PLAY AROUND.



ALL RIGHT, FORESIGHT! I'LL TALK.



### QUESTIONS ABOUT CREDIT CARDS? ASK ANITA...

Dear Anita,

Right now I have a balance on my credit card of about \$500 that I am slowly paying off. How much money am I losing by spreading it out over several months? - Anxious in Atlanta

Dear Anxious,

It depends on how slowly you're paying, and on your interest rate. If you have an APR of 18.9%, and you make minimum payments of \$20 every month, it will take you almost 3 years to pay off your \$500 balance and you'll end up paying about \$140 in interest. Increasing your monthly payments to \$40 a month makes a big difference - you'll pay off your balance in only 18 months and pay about \$40 in total interest. It's a good idea to pay more than the minimum due if you can afford it. Otherwise, that bargain ski weekend from last winter can end up costing more than a grand tour of Europe.

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# LES FORESIGHT

## Episode 4: THE CASE OF THE MISSING CREDIT CARD

### LES ON THE CASE: PART 2

CHETA RITZERS, ANITA FUTURE, THE NAME RINGS IN ANITA'S HEAD LIKE AN ALARM CLOCK. HELPING ACROSS THE ROOM, YOU CAN'T GO BACK TO SLEEP, BUT YOU JUST CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO GET UP AND TURN IT OFF.



A LITTLE LATE FOR MORSE CALLS. SHE LOOKED LIKE A MILLION BUCKS ANY KNEE BUCKLED. CHECK THAT - BOTH KNEES.



YOU ALWAYS DRESS LIKE THAT TO DO SOMETHING? CUT THE SMALL TALK. MY NAME'S FORESIGHT. I'M HERE FOR THE CARD. ON I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.



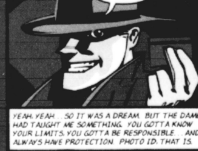
I FOUND YOUR CARD WHEN YOU LOST IT ON SPRING BREAK. BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTING IT BACK - UNLESS YOU AGREE TO GET PHOTO ID PROTECTION. NOT ONLY THAT YOU HAVE TO KEEP CLOSE TABS ON YOUR CARD FROM NOW ON AND KEEP TRACK OF YOUR BALANCE AND CREDIT LIMIT. THAT WAY YOU WON'T RUN INTO TROUBLE DOWN THE LINE. I'LL BET YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT TROUBLE, MR. FORESIGHT.



SHE HAD A POINT, AND SHE WASN'T EXACTLY HARD ON THE EYES, EITHER.



AND IT'S ON ME.



### GET ANSWERS TO YOUR CREDIT QUESTIONS VIA E-MAIL AT ANITA.FUTURE@CITIBANK.COM

Dear Anita,

Can I get a credit card and have it sent to MY address or will my parents know that I'm getting it? Please advise, this is an emergency. In a Hurry in Houston

Dear Hurred,

Hmmm, I bet there's a good story here. Anyway, if you are at least 18 years old, you are legally eligible to apply for a credit card in your own name at your school address. However, you may be asked to provide a "permanent" mailing address or phone number, which means you could receive calls or letters from your credit card company at your parents' house. Most parents know the importance of building a good credit history, and may support a student's decision to get a credit card, especially for emergencies. Consider discussing it with them first, they may have good advice about managing money and debt responsibly.

To learn more about Credit Matters, visit <http://credit-ed.citibank.com>

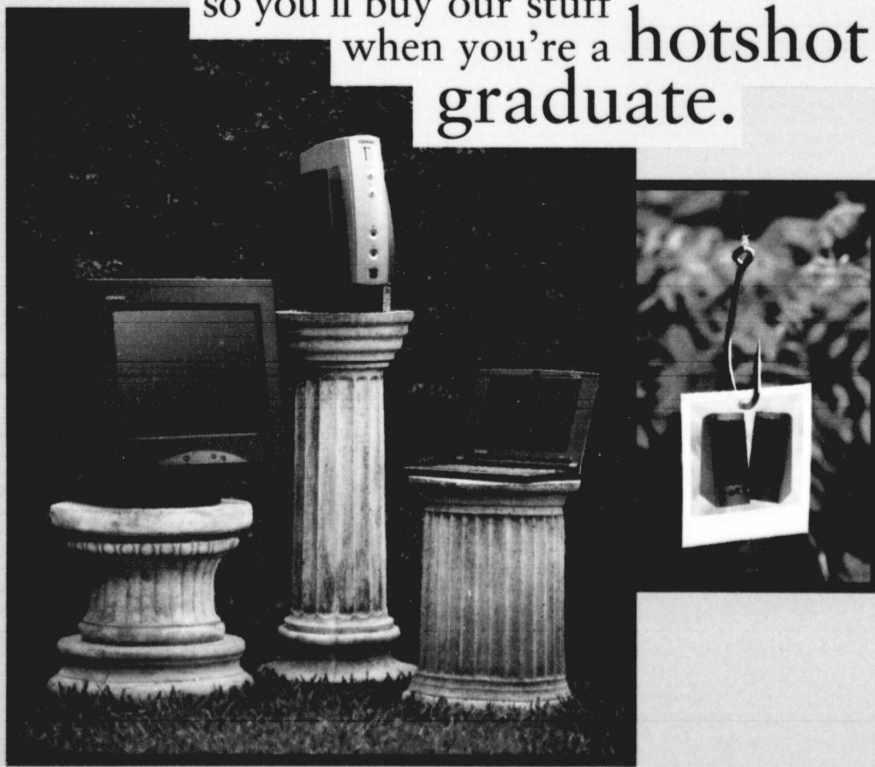


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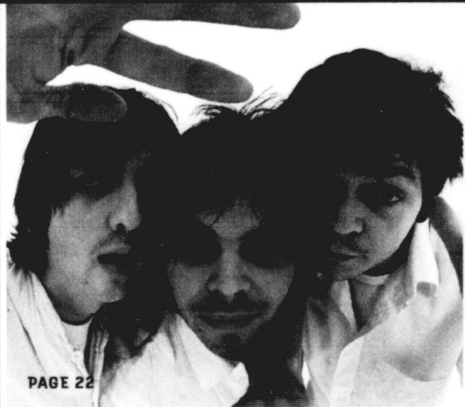
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so you'll buy our stuff  
when you're a hotshot  
graduate.



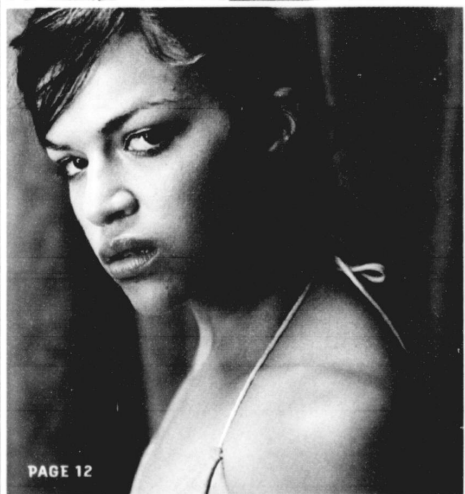
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WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS. WRITE US AT ewocletters@ew.com



4 BEHIND THE MUSIC ↑

With the semiautobiographical *Almost Famous*, Jerry Maguire filmmaker Cameron Crowe turns back the clock, revealing his early days as a road-weary teenage rock journalist. BY DANIEL FIERMAN



# MIND THE MUSIC

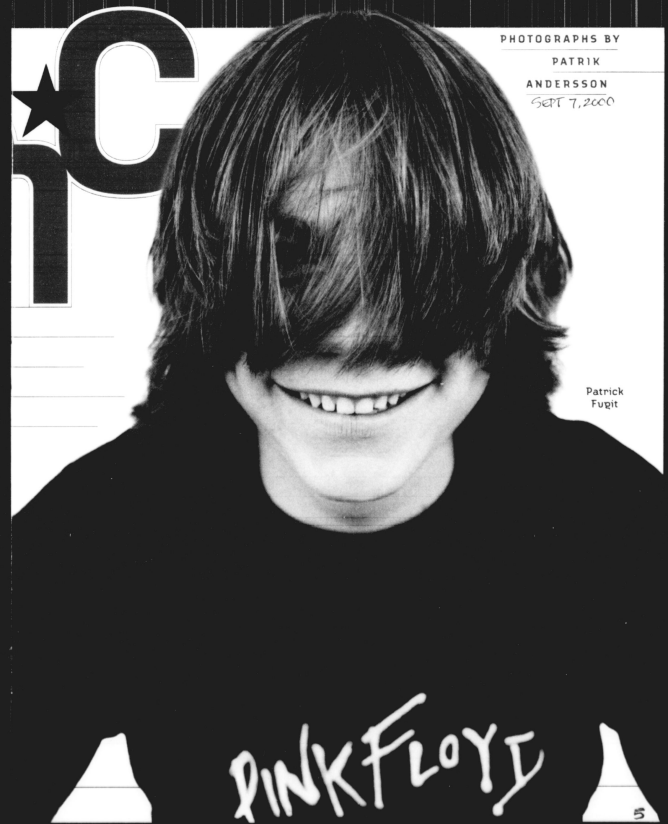
BY DANIEL FIERMAN

**Filmmaker Cameron Crowe goes back to his beginnings with the bio-rhythmic rock odyssey. ALMOST FAMOUS**

WHEN PATRICK FUGIT was cast as director Cameron Crowe's 15-year-old alter ego, William Miller, in *Almost Famous*, the kid had questions: "First, did all this really happen?" \* Crowe told him yes, everything happened. \* "Everything?" \* Everything. \* "Even that thing with the three groupies in the hotel room?" \* Even that. \* "Cool." \* Which is pretty much why this movie made it to the screen. →

Kate Hudson

SEPT 7, 2000



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PATRIK ANDERSSON  
SEPT 7, 2000

Patrick Fugit

PINK FLOYD

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COVER



Ten years in the making, *Almost Famous* is based on Crowe's experiences as a teenage music writer on tour for *Creem* and *Rolling Stone* magazines in the early '70s. Short of the laughable title, the movie is wrenching and deeply personal—and in many ways out of step with Crowe's past film work. No Lloyd Dobler, skinny arms straining, boom

box thrust in the air. No hipster stars tumbling into love amid pithy pop references. None of that "you complete me" foolishness.

That said, *Almost Famous* is a love story—very much like Crowe's *Say Anything...*, *Singles*, and *Jerry Maguire*. But instead of love of, well, being in love (or at least the idea of love), the movie is writer-director Crowe's rumination on family, the rock & roll community, and, more than anything else, the decade that defined him.

"I started to see the '70s getting characterized as this big kitschy mirror ball, and that was not my experience," remembers Crowe, who, after graduating at 15, toured with bands like Jackson Browne, the Allman Brothers, and Led Zeppelin. "I just tried to write nakedly [about the experience]—and that was the right thing to do. The only way to do it was to be raw."

The story that evolved has Crowe's stand-in, William Miller—alienated after his rock & roll-loathing mom had him skipped a few grades—seeking solace in music after his older sister, Anita (Zoëy Deschanel), flees home. He finds a mentor in legendary critic Lester Bangs (played here by Philip Seymour Hoffman) and is soon hitting the road to cover fictional up-and-coming roots rockers Stillwater, leaving his widowed, heartbroken mother with an empty nest. During the Stillwater tour, the 15-year-old loses his innocence (among, uh, other things), gets a back-

to-front schooling in his new trade, and falls for a sweet, damaged groupie named Penny Lane (Kate Hudson).

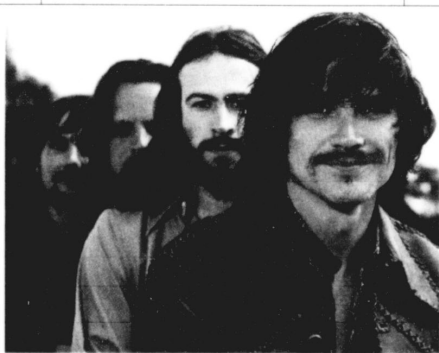
"There are real figures mixed with composites," says the director. (And some were both. Though her character is a composite, the real Penny Lane lives in Oregon and visited the set.) "The band was all the early ones I wrote about—the Who, Led Zeppelin, the Eagles, the Allman Brothers, Lynyrd Skynyrd. But it was Ronnie

story for years. He knew he wanted to make a semiautobiographical film as far back as the mid-'80s, but it wasn't until 1998 that he cracked the story (which ultimately required changing the band from Brits to Americans) and finished the *Almost Famous* script. Even then, shooting proved a tortuous exercise.

First, the director insisted the autobiographical plot remain top secret. "When I came in [to read], he had rewritten the scenes for politics," re-

members 17-year-old Fugit, a Salt Lake City neophyte found through an open casting call. "Until I got the part, I thought it was about a campaign trail." Then, there were the much-publicized problems casting the lead roles. Following the \$154 million success of *Jerry Maguire*—and the Oscar for Cuba Gooding Jr.—everyone wanted to work with Crowe, and at various times, Meryl Streep was considered as Mom, Sarah Polley was on board as Penny, and, most famously, Brad Pitt as Russell. They all fell through—Pitt amid rumors (denied by his reps) that DreamWorks had lowballed him after *Meet Joe Black* tanked.

"All those people were smart enough to know that someone else belonged in the movie," reflects Crowe. "I've realized that just recently." Crudup (*Without Limits*) and his buddy, Oscar winner Frances McDormand (*Fargo*), stepped in as Russell and Mom. Hudson, who until that point had been slated to portray William's rebellious sister, Anita, lobbied hard to play Penny.



STILLWATER RUNS DEEP Crudup (front) and Jason Lee (center) head up the *Almost* band

Van Zant from Lynyrd Skynyrd who singled me out in 1973. He loved my writing and tried to sponsor my stuff."

Which is not unlike what Stillwater guitarist Russell (Billy Crudup) does for William in the movie. The death of Van Zant in a 1977 plane crash was a defining moment for Crowe, who, grieving, couldn't bring himself to write the obit for *Rolling Stone* and shelved his Skynyrd records for almost 20 years.

Crowe struggled with how to tell this

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW HARRISON; STYLING: JESSICA HARRISON; HAIR: CHRIS GUNO; MAKEUP: MARCO MARCHIO; PROP STYLING: JESSICA HARRISON; SET DESIGNER: JESSICA HARRISON; MUSIC BY: JAMES NEWTON HOWARD; COSTUME DESIGNER: JESSICA HARRISON; EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JESSICA HARRISON; PRODUCED BY: JESSICA HARRISON; WRITTEN BY: JESSICA HARRISON; DIRECTED BY: JESSICA HARRISON

SEPT 7, 2000



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(PREVIOUS SPREAD AND OPPOSITE PAGE) HUDSON AND FLIGHT STYLING: JESSICA PASTER LYLE HAIR: CRAIG GARDI SHAMPOO: MAKEUP: SHALY ZUCKER/JET SET PHOTO: I. SHANI WALTER AND HUDSON'S SHIRT: ON OPPOSITE PAGE ROBERTO CAVALLI THIS PAGE: NEAL FREESTON



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**COURTNEY WHITE**

## **COURTNEY WHITE** Ohio University

Courtney White, Cadet Battalion Commander for Ohio University's Bobcat Battalion, currently has a 4.0 GPA in her Military Science classes and a cumulative GPA of 3.78 as a Broadcast Journalism major in the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism. As a 4-year National Army ROTC Scholarship recipient, she proves that hard work and dedication pays off. Her academic honors include being inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society as well as the Golden Key Honor Society and appearing on the Dean's List every quarter of enrollment in college. Cadet White was among 30 cadets across America selected to represent the United States Army Cadet Command during training operations in the United Kingdom. She was also one of 17 cadets selected to serve at the Pentagon as cadet interns. While excelling in ROTC and academics, Cadet White has found time to volunteer for numerous humanitarian causes

as well as being an ideal role model for the Ohio University ROTC program.

## **MILES CARY** West Virginia State College

As a junior at West Virginia State College, Miles Cary commands a ROTC company—a position usually reserved for seniors but given to Cadet Cary based on his demonstrated leadership abilities. He is involved in several mentorship and youth leadership programs, as well as an active leader within the congregation of the First Church of Christian Science. He serves on the Executive Cabinet, All College Council, Legislative Affairs Council, NAACP and was vice president for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Cadet Cary has earned a 3.6 cumulative GPA in English/Criminal Justice and six consecutive mentions on the Dean's List. He has received numerous academic honors, including the Sphinx Magazine Historic Edition Award, Sullivan Hall Scholar and the Military Order of World Wars Award. Elected as junior class president, his involvement on the Student Government Association earned him an appointment as the WVSC Ambassador to South Africa.



**MILES CARY**



**REGINA ROCHA**

## **REGINA ROCHA** University of Louisville

Regina Rocha is a senior attending the University of Louisville, with a 3.5 cumulative GPA in her major, Psychology. She is currently a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society, Psi Chi and Phi Theta Kappa. Ranger Challenge, Officer Christian Fellowship, the Army Ten-Miler and the Bataan Death March re-creation in White Sands, New Mexico, are among the numerous activities in which Cadet Rocha has participated. Through ROTC, she was also given the opportunity to attend Airborne School and earn her "jump wings." With no prior military experience, Cadet Rocha has transitioned well into ROTC and aspires to become an officer in the United States Army.



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## FAMOUS FACES

(1) The many Crowes—Michael Angarano, Fugit, and Crowe; (2) Deschanel and McDormand; (3) Hoffman's Bangs

"I said 'Omigod, please, I need it,'" remembers Hudson, 21, whose dreamy, wild-eyed performance is nothing short of shocking from someone until now best known for dreck like *200 Cigarettes* and being Goldie Hawn's daughter. "And Cameron was set on me being Anita. So I was begging, literally. Kurt [Russell], my dad, is a huge Zeppelin fan—so I grew up listening to that. The obscure music I wasn't hip to until Cameron sent me the greatest care package I've ever received: 25 CDs"—a unique bundle Crowe put together for each of the younger stars. (McDormand's response: "No way! F--- them! Where's mine?")

The shoot stretched out over six months, featuring stops at classic rock locales like the former Continental Hyatt House in West Hollywood, a Crowe haunt and major groupie hot spot ("[The lobby] got torn down, like, 20 minutes after our last shot," mourns the director of the place affectionately known as the Riot House). But the biggest headaches came from the elaborate arena-rock concert sequences.

"[Cinematographer] John Toll was always worried about the concerts," re-

members Crowe. "The key was the photos on the Allman Brothers' *At Fillmore East*. Everything was so basic—just red and yellow lights—so we designed the sequences off that back cover." The Stillwater songs were written by Crowe and Nancy Wilson (of seminal '80s power balladeers Heart) on a lark during their honeymoon in 1986. They sat ignored until Crowe was ready to start production on *Almost Famous*, when they were juiced back to life with the help of '70s rocker Peter Frampton.

"When we showed the movie to Led Zeppelin, Jimmy Page said, 'Who wrote those songs?' and I was like, 'Uh, my wife and me,'" laughs Crowe, who eventually got Zeppelin to sign off on a handful of songs for the film. "Then Page says, 'They're really quite good, quite authentic.' And I'm goin', 'Yeah! Yeah!' You know, those songs were actually me...."

The other thing the 43-year-old director wrote for himself was a happy ending, which paved the way for a real-life reconciliation as well. *Almost Famous* concludes with a shell-shocked William heading home to heal himself

and the rift in his family, but amazingly, this didn't happen for Crowe until this past July when his mother, a schoolteacher in San Diego, and his sister reestablished contact after more than two decades of estrangement. "Playing out the reconciliation was therapeutic for Cameron," speculates Deschanel, who stepped in for Crossroads School classmate Hudson to play Anita. "He always wanted it."

"So rock music, the thing that my Mom said would ruin our family, crept in beneath the door, through the window, and two weeks ago brought us together...." says Crowe, lowering his voice and considering what he's wrought. "Music was the thing that I clung to. And then when I started getting assignments and going on the road, I would hang out with people who were like me. Finally, finally. It was like a drug." He pauses again. "And people *still* feel that. There are little girls that listen to Britney Spears and feel that there's someone out there that understands them."

SO, WHAT WILL HOLLYWOOD MAKE OF Crowe after this love song to the power of rock & roll? *Almost Famous* is a funny, sprawling, emotionally raw, and just plain *complicated* piece of filmmaking from someone whom critics have called a beautiful director of superficial relationship fantasies. Crowe hiccups through an answer: "It's really strange," he says. "You're out there. You're trying really hard. And no one can hear the differences in the takes but you. The movie got directed by *feeling*. If it gave me the feeling of what it was like to be there, then we finished and moved on."

"But I know there were days when people thought,"—he lapses into a cool-dude voice—"Hey man, therapy would've been cheaper and we could be workin' on *Charlie's Angels*." ●●●



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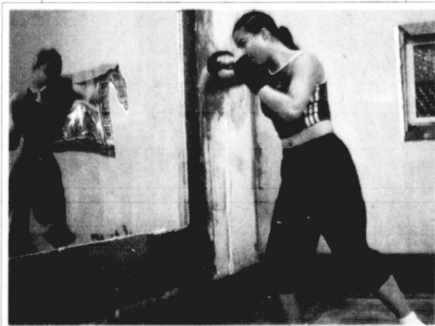
# All You Need Is Glove

Newcomer **MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ** boxed herself into the starring role in *Girlfight*, a ring romance that doesn't pull any punches. **BY GILLIAN FLYNN**

**T**O LAND THE LEAD ROLE IN *Girlfight*, Michelle Rodriguez had to get punched in the face. The fledgling actress had been auditioning for the film's starring role for nearly a month when writer-director Karyn Kusama ordered her into the ring with a seasoned fighter. "The guy whacked me, and I flipped out," Rodriguez remembers. "I turned into an animal—I mean, who wouldn't? That's when she told me I had it."

Kusama's hesitancy is understandable. The 32-year-old NYU film school grad was embarking on her first feature film—an indie, yes, but with a decent \$1 million budget, thanks in part to some funding from her mentor, *Lone Star* director John Sayles (who can be spotted in a cameo as a science teacher). Kusama knew the casting of her female lead was a make-or-break proposition. She'd been searching for a female Marlon Brando to play the troubled Diana Guzman, a glowering teen from the Brooklyn projects who finds grace and confidence in the ring. Rodriguez, however, was far

from Strasberg-certified. *Girlfight* wouldn't just be her first starring part; it would be her first *speaking* part. The closest Rodriguez had come to acting was a year of extra work in films like *Summer of Sam* and *For the Love of the Game*. They weren't exactly break-



THE BOXER Rodriguez in a reflective mood

through performances. "You're lucky if you see my hair or the gum on my shoe," she says.

Still, Rodriguez, 22, radiated a scrappiness that snapped Kusama to attention when she strutted in—late—to a Manhattan-warehouse casting call of more than 350 women. "She

had a sort of fierce warrior spirit that you just don't see in many people, regardless of gender," Kusama says. "She really had it, and then some."

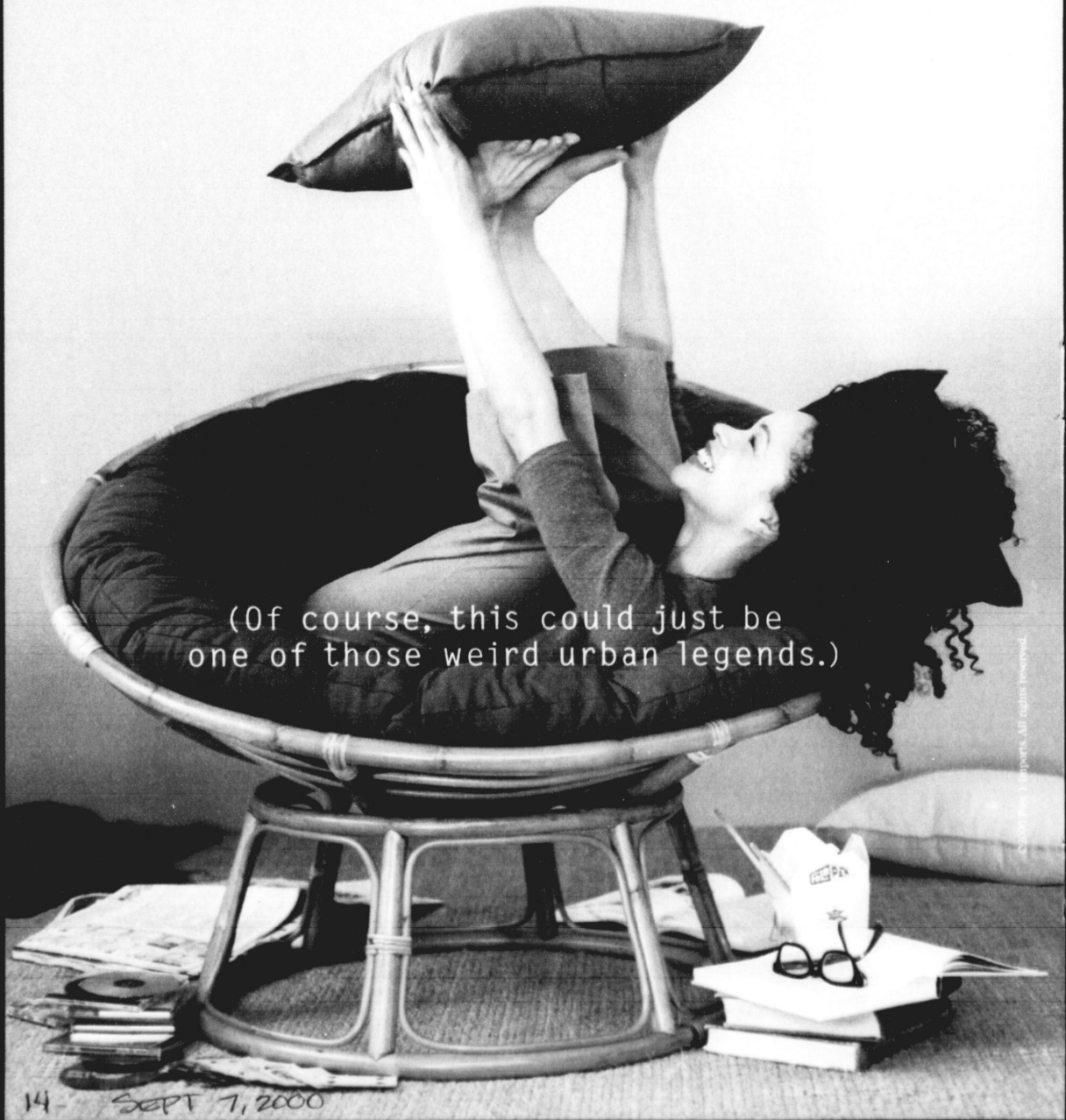
Good thing, because once Rodriguez got the part, she had to undergo four and a half months of intense training. Kusama insisted there'd be no clever, *Rocky*-esque choreography during the film's fight scenes; they'd have to be as real as cinematically possible. That meant a grueling four- to five-hour regimen five days a week: two miles of running, followed by rope-jumping, speed-bag work, and sparring, topped by sit-ups, push-ups, and weights. "I loved the training," says Rodriguez. "I ate it up and spit it out. The most difficult part was getting from Jersey City to Brooklyn every day. I hate sitting down for a long time, you know?"

Kusama, once an avid boxer herself, videotaped Rodriguez's fights so she could point out her weaknesses. By the end, Rodriguez's trainers at the famed Gleason's Gym announced she was on the path to professional pugilism. Kusama was satisfied.

While Rodriguez was studying the sweet science, she was also learning the ropes of acting. Kusama mandated that she watch *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Hustler*, and *A Woman Under the Influence*. Her more seasoned costars—Jaime Tirelli (*Carlito's Way*), who plays her trainer, and Paul Calderon (*Out of Sight*), who plays her father—offered occa-

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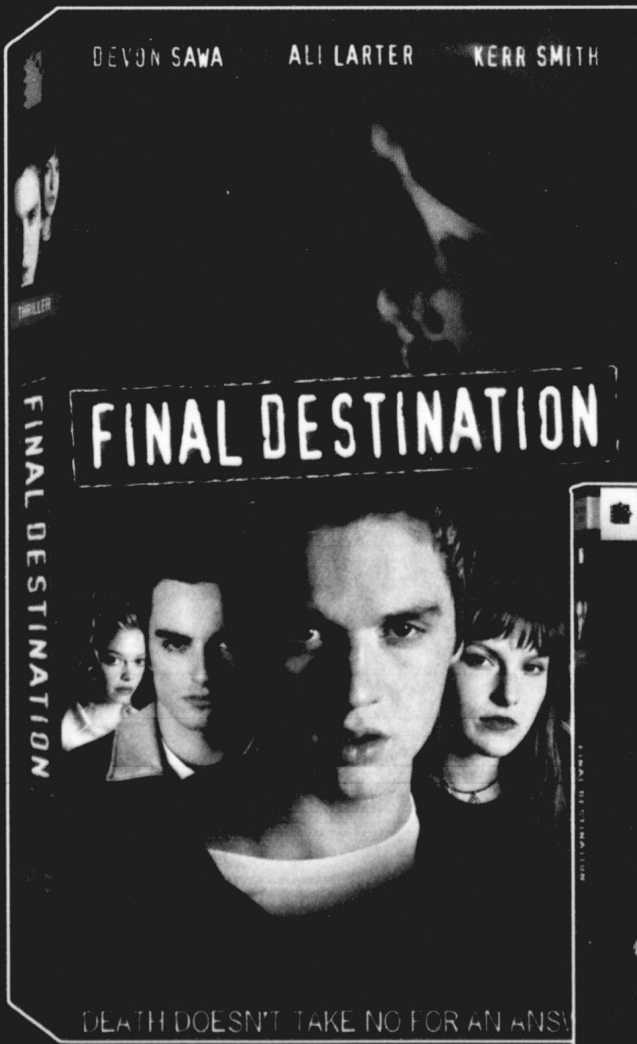


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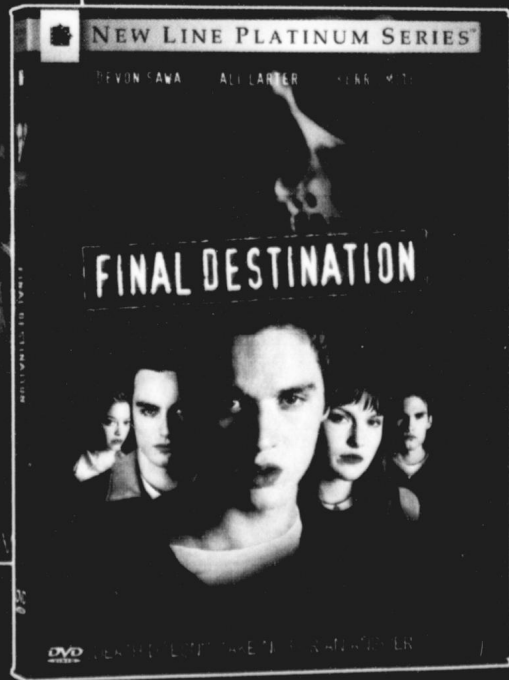
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sional tips. And Santiago Douglas (*The Sopranos*), as a fellow boxer who becomes taken with this femme fighter, was particularly helpful during the film's sweeter scenes. "I was really intimidated by him because he just knew what he was doing," Rodriguez remembers. "But [we] clicked right away. That was a cool thing, because I had never really fallen in love with anybody, so it was hard for me to drag that out of personal experiences."

That's not to say Rodriguez's life has been short on adventure. Born to a Puerto Rican father and a Dominican mother, she lived in Texas until her parents divorced. At age 8, she relocated with her mother and an older brother to the Dominican Republic, where they stayed with Rodriguez's maternal grandmother. "I was living really lovely down there," she says. "We had a maid; we were pretty well off. I would look down outside my balcony, and it was complete, utter poverty. People walking the streets naked and stuff. At the time I was so young, it was just crazy for me to watch."

Then came time in Puerto Rico with her father, a teacher who passed away in 1997. When Rodriguez was 12, she returned to the States—to Jersey City, N.J.—where she tried to maintain a balance between her mother's strict beliefs as a Jehovah's Witness and her father's more cerebral ideals. "He was all about Sigmund Freud...Darwin, and Carl Jung," she says. "Complete, utter controversy—because when I got back [from visiting him, Mom] was all about God. But at 14, I liberated myself and started exploring the world more."



That "liberation" led to days spent hanging out in Manhattan's Washington Square Park, failing grades, and a stint in juvenile hall.

It also led to an aggressiveness intrinsic to making *Girlfight* work. "We needed to find somebody who really took to the sport and wasn't afraid to mess up their face," Kusama

says. "Among a lot of actors—I don't begrudge it at all—their face is their bread and butter, but I found there was resistance to what the role was: a boxer who really mixes it up. We had to have someone who didn't fear getting hurt—somebody who appears very comfortable with that risk. Michelle did."

MOVIES

After the monthlong production wrapped, Rodriguez then faced a final challenge: playing artiste at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival. Having never done the "scene" before, she conducted advance research on the Internet, looking for advice. "It was talking about how [Sundance] is all about the art of making films, unlike Hollywood. It isn't just about making money and fashion



Kusama

and all this," Rodriguez says. "But...when I got there, it was like middle-class Hollywood." The attitude of a lot of festivalgoers underimpressed Rodriguez. "I

was literally sitting down watching a movie, and... someone's cell phone would ring and they'd get up and say, 'Oh, well this movie's not good anyway,' and just walk out. Total disrespect."

Not, however, for *Girlfight*. The film netted the Directing Award and shared the Grand Jury Prize (with *You Can Count on Me*) and was snapped up by Sony Pictures' Screen Gems banner, which will release it Sept. 29. Rodriguez's performance jump-started critical buzz—and landed her a role in the Spike Lee-produced Showtime flick, *3 A.M.* After that, audiences can catch her burning rubber with Paul Walker (*The Skulls*) in Universal's *Street Wars*, about illegal New York City drag races.

Ultimately, she says, she'd like to write and direct also: "Movies that can be adventurous, suspenseful, comedic, and dramatic at the same time, with different ethnicities, backgrounds, lifestyles. It can all be mixed into the ultimate film, and that's my goal," she says. "That's a big goal, isn't it?" Seems like she has a fighting chance. ●●●

HIGH TIMES  
Cusack sets  
quite a few  
records



FAST FORWARD upcoming VIDEO releases

SEPTEMBER

**Black and White** [Columbia TriStar, R] Nothing screams "poser" like Anglo dreads, which fall all over James Toback's largely improvised, overly theatrical study of hip-hop's appeal to white wannabes. But a distracting mishmash of celebs (including Ben Stiller, Brooke Shields, and Claudia Schiffer) dulls Toback's satirical point. B-

**Final Destination** [New Line, R] If you equate listening to John Denver with a fate worse than death, your fears will be realized in this thought-provoking (much talk about the nature of mortality) but often cheesily executed teen thriller about seven pawns struggling to cheat a determined grim reaper with a thing for "Rocky Mountain High." C+

**High Fidelity** [Touchstone, R] In 1989's *Say Anything...* Everyhunk

John Cusack wrote the book on modern teen heartbreak. Here, aided by his *Grosse Pointe Blank* writing team, a rocking soundtrack, and irrepressible costar Jack Black, he revisits that aching realm as a thirtysomething record store owner with an inability to commit. A

OCTOBER

**American Pimp** [MGM, R] Directors Allen and Albert Hughes [*Menace II Society*] fix their cameras on the gutter aristocrats who thrive off the profits of prostitution. Opulently adorned with a funky soundtrack and clips from '70s mack-daddy cinema, this compelling documentary turns all the more unsettling when it lets the ladies tell their war stories. B+

**The Filth and the Fury** [New Line, R] "The punks ruined it," claims Sex Pistol provocateur Johnny Rotten of his copycat

fans in Julien Temple's riveting if band-sided doc about the incendiary rise and fall of the group that launched a music revolution. Confessional interviews, vintage concert clips, and seldom-heard-from manager Malcolm McLaren in a bondage mask—God save the anarchists! A

**Pitch Black** [Universal, R] Marooned on an arid distant planet, weathered crash survivors (led by Vin Diesel's captivating psycho murderer-prisoner) face off against nocturnal alien raptors in the middle of an eclipse. This is *not* your father's *Alien*, but it comes impressively close. A-

NOVEMBER

**Chuck & Buck** [Artisan, R] Dawson's Creek writing alumnus Mike White and *American Pie* producer Chris Weitz deftly star in this touching but often creepy Sundance favorite about a wide-

eyed man-child named Buck (White) and his attempt to recapture the "special" friendship he once shared with boyhood pal Charlie (Weitz). B+

**Mission: Impossible 2** [Paramount, PG-13] Who cares if director John Woo surrenders to balletic overindulgence while he tests the limits of Tom Cruise's spy fox with plenty of martial arts, shoot-outs, and motorcycle gymnastics? It's not Mission: Oscar Nomination. Mr. Hunt. It's Mission: Impossible. A-

**X-Men** [Fox, PG-13] Armed with a well-developed back story—courtesy of the wildly popular Marvel comic—director Bryan Singer capably translates the ongoing struggles of two edgy mutant factions to the screen. Considering Hollywood's generally misguided comic-book adaptations, *capable* is high praise indeed. B+ —Erin Richter

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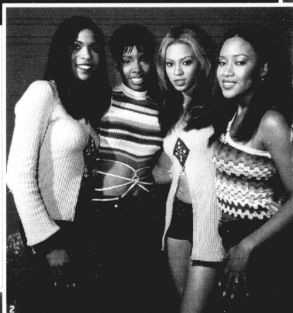
# Road Trippers

From Dixie Chicks to Destiny's Child, this fall's CONCERT TOURS offer plenty of pop performers to go around. BY WOOK KIM

**W**ITH ALL THE HURBUR about MP3s, Napster, and recordable CDs, there's still something to be said for seeing your favorite artists live, on stage, performing for your listening pleasure. Besides, where else will you be able to buy that really overpriced concert T-shirt? Here's a six-pack of the fall's most promising tours.

## MOBY

DJ. Vegan. Philosopher. Christian idealist. Yes, we're talking about Moby, everybody's favorite living descendant of *Moby Dick* author Herman Melville. The veteran knob-twirler had been mulling over a wish list of opening acts, including Stereolab and the British band Moloko, before settling on electronica collective Hybrid. That lineup should ensure that fans will have a, uh, whale of a good time. **Where** Just about all of North America...even Canada **When** September through November **Why** According to *The Guinness Book of World Records*, he's the writer and performer of the world's fastest single (the song "Thousand" reaches an epileptic-seizure-



## SUPERGRASS

Clever, irreverent, and brimming with musical inventiveness, Supergrass are purveyors of guitar-driven Brit pop so exuberant it's practically a parody of itself. Bring plenty of attitude, as this band is all about being *tree's* cheek. **Where** The Midwest, Southwest, and West Coast **When** October and November **Why** These blokes should make for an interesting evening when paired with the somewhat more introspective sounds of tour mates Pearl Jam.

## DIXIE CHICKS

Just how big are these three gals? To clumsily invert an overused metaphor, Tiger Woods is the Dixie Chicks of golf. Their first major-label effort, *Wide Open Spaces*, was one of country music's best-selling debuts, and their latest, *Fly*, just notched its impressive 49th week on the *Billboard* country chart. **Where** Over 70 cities in the South and Midwest and on the East Coast **When** Now through Dec. 1 **Why** Like the large crowds that follow Tiger's every move, here's a chance to watch a band playing at the peak of their talent.



BANDS ON THE RUN (1) Supergrass, (2) Destiny's Child, (3) Moby, (4) Dixie Chicks, and (5) Ani DiFranco all hit the road

## ANI DIFRANCO

On the basis of her career thus far, this self-empowered neo-folkie would have done well on *Survivor*. She embodies B.B.'s work ethic, Susan's blunt honesty, and Sean's fondness for beach bowling (we kid, we kid). One thing's for sure: Touring is in her blood. Dur-

ing the past decade, this performing dynamo has been averaging 200 shows a year. **Where** East Coast and the Midwest **When** September through November **Why** Given her commitment to social and feminist causes (which is, sadly, all too rare among her peers), seeing DiFranco in concert is empowering in itself.

## DESTINY'S CHILD

Never underestimate the buying power of teen girls. These *TRL* favorites happen to be the top-selling female group in the country. They're currently on tour with Christina Aguilera. Now go ahead and pray for the

SEPT 7, 2000

MUSIC

**THE SEA AND CAKE**  
Ovi  
(*Thrill Jockey*) This Chicago collective, featuring ex-members of Shrimp Boat and the Cocktails, has reunited after a three-year hiatus. As on their previous efforts, their mid-tempo guitar noodlings waft by—thanks to slurred melodies and a jazzy but restrained rhythm section. The addictively dreamy effect is a pleasant, turbulence-free flight to Mellowsville.  
A- —Michele Romero

**BJÖRK**  
Selmasongs  
(*Elektra*) Like most movie plots, the idiosyncratic Icelandic chanteuse's expansive, experimental soundscapes veer toward the melodramatic. So it's no surprise that her soundtrack for Lars von Trier's film musical, *Dancer in the Dark* (she also stars

in *Dancer*, and won the Best Actress prize at the Cannes film festival), is fantastically cinematic in scope. Whether it's the classically grand orchestration of "Overture," the clitter-clatter rhythms of "Cvalda," or the gentle music-box melody of "Scatter Heart," Björk's bold vision is custom-made for the big screen.  
B+ —Laura Morgan

**FASTBALL**  
The Harsh Light of Day  
(*Hollywood*) The Austin, Tex., trio who hit a home run in '98 with the No. 1 single "The Way" blast off their third album with plenty more irresistible fare. Songs like "This Is Not My Life," a rootsy slice of pop-rock, and the breezy winner "You're an Ocean"—with '60s survivor Billy Preston piano-pounding—expand the band's eclectic-



Radiohead

poor dad unable to get tickets for his favorite little princess.... **Where** *Where aren't they playing?* **When** Through Oct. 19 **Why** So you can find out if "Say My Name" sounds as good with only *three* voices: After missing several performances and a trip to Australia, singer Farrar Franklin was given the boot.

TINY DANCER  
Björk goes Hollywood—sort of



FORWARD SPIN NEW upcoming releases

kitsch sound while still saluting the masters (Bacharach, the Beatles, Costello). Okay, the "meaningful" love ballad "Vampires" deserves an eye roll. But Fastball deliver grown-up power pop—no bare navels or choreography needed.  
B+ —Beth Johnson

**PHOENIX**  
United  
(*Astralwerks*) It's hard to believe this band is from France. These Franco-friends of Air and Daft Punk have created a debut album that sounds remarkably like a K-tel collection of American Top 40 radio circa 1983. Each

track is a lovingly tweaked homage to artists like Van Halen, Michael Jackson, and AC/DC. And there's even an up-tempo cut called "If I Ever Feel Better" that's so sincerely woeful, it could jerk a tear from Casey Kasem. B+ —MR

**RADIOHEAD**  
Kid A  
(*Capitol*) On the title track, Thom Yorke might as well be delivering a monologue into a black hole. His vocals are creepily distorted, like an alien distress call. On "Treefingers," any evidence of human imprint is scrupulously shrouded in a sci-fi-inspired aural at-

mosphere. But for all their automated tinkering, Radiohead are indeed a band of flesh and blood. While this challenging record is full of sterile soundscapes and surreptitious intonations, it's also brimming with messy emotions—though it's questionable whether *OK Computer*-heads will commit to the multi-listens required to find them. B —LM

**STEW**  
Guest Host  
(*The Telegraph Company*) Stew (né Mark Stewart), the majordomo behind one of the L.A. pop scene's best-kept se-

crets, the Negro Problem, steps out and strips down. "I'm still fascinated by the mask behind the mask," he sings on the ethereal "Ordinary Love," and on this lovely, pensive album, he removes mask after mask to stand revealed as one of the millennium's most arresting nouveau troubadours. TNP's wiggly sensibility still peeks through (cock an ear to the '30s music-hall pastiche "Man in a Dress"), but this is the sound of an artist finding his true voice—a rare and wondrous event, and one to be savored.  
A —Tigruta Vega

THE BANGLES

More than a decade after splitting up (due to internal strife following the success of 1989's chart-topping and, in retrospect, ironically titled single "Eternal Flame"), the newly reunited Bangles are taking their show on the road. In addition to fan favorites, the band will likely play some songs

from a new album it plans to release sometime next year. **Where** California, Chicago, New York City, Las Vegas, and Toronto **When** Ten shows through the end of September **Why** If for no other reason, just so you can enjoy the spectacle of middle-aged people trying to walk like an Egyptian. ●●●



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It's serious funny business at **CARTOON NETWORK**—the home of *The Powerpuff Girls* and *Dexter's Laboratory*—where crafting quality animation isn't just child's play. **BY SCOTT BROWN**

# Doodle Dandies



Ed, Edd n Eddy fish for cash to support their jawbreaker habit

right now is make another *Powerpuff Girls*."

Ah, *The Powerpuff Girls*.

Smart. Emmy nominated. A palpable hit with critics and audiences. After the foregoing litany of sub-*Shazam!* stinkers, it's nice to be reminded that we're living in the year 2000, *The Herculoids* is but a distant, disturbing memory, and Cartoon Network—with its uncannily amicable union of artists and execs—is one of cable's greatest success stories.

LAUNCHED IN 1992, CARTOON NETWORK (owned, as is EWOC, by Time Warner) has since become much more than the Nickelodeon knockoff some expected it to be. Besides posting July's best prime-time basic cable ratings in the 2-to-11 age bracket, CN's summer prime-time programming trumped Comedy Central and VH1 in the coveted 18-to-49 demographic through late July. As for the secret to Cartoon Network's success, it lies in acknowledging one simple fact. "Children are really, really smart," says Lazzo, 43, and his tone tells you this is an axiom that's been driven into his cerebrum after years of working as TBS' head of kids' programming. Perhaps that explains his dismay when kiddie test audiences initially rejected creator Craig McCracken's *The Whoopass Girls*,

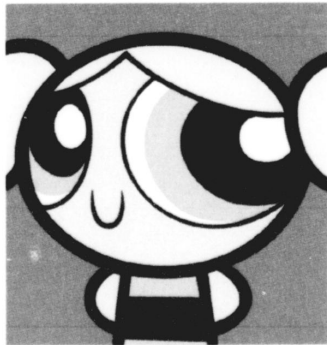
**T**ITAN A.E. ASIDE, TIMES ARE good for 'toons—at least on TV. Just ask Mike Lazzo, Cartoon Network's senior vice president of programming and production. He remembers the bad times. Heck, he *owns* the bad times. "We have them in our library," he sighs, referring to such cartoon treasures as *Jabberjaw*, *The Super Globetrotters*, and other detritus of the '70s and '80s as if they were an embarrassing clutch of not-so-distant hillbilly relatives. "Of course, all shows have their fans. I was literally stalked by a gentleman

who wanted me to put *The Hair Bear Bunch* on the air 24 hours a day."

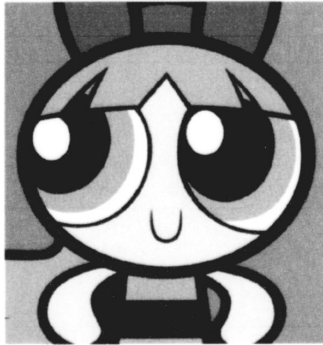
Thankfully, Lazzo didn't listen. Instead, he decided to fulfill boss Ted Turner's mandate for an all-animation cable network by rejecting the cookie-cutter mentality that had bequeathed *The Gary Coleman Show* to posterity. At its nadir, Lazzo says, the animation business "was just a bunch of suits sitting around saying, '*Scooby-Doo* worked! Let's make *Goober and the Ghost Chasers!* Let's make *The Funky Phantom!*'.... So we know how *not* to do it. The worst thing we could do

ILLUSTRATIONS DESIGNED BY KEVIN FITZGERALD. CAPTIONS BY PAUL SHEREN. PHOTOS © 2000 CARTOON NETWORK

CARTOON NETWORK Class of 2000



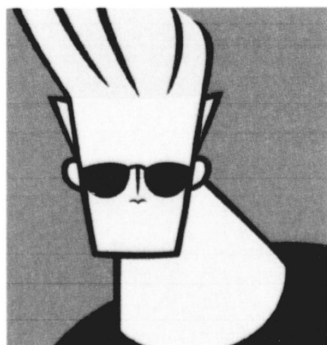
**BUBBLES**  
Coloring Society  
"Look, I gave the sun a smiley face!"



**BLOSSOM**  
Goody Two-Shoes Club  
"Cheaters never prosper."



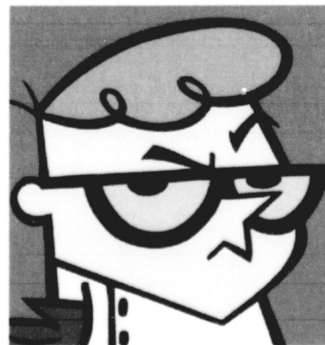
**BUTTERCUP**  
Golden Gloves: Kindergarten Division  
"I'm a bad mamma-jamma!"



**JOHNNY BRAVO**  
French Club, Weight Lifting  
"I thought French Club meant something else."



**SPACE GHOST**  
JV Badminton  
"I'm allowed to go off campus for lunch."



**DEXTER**  
Science Club, Math Club, Chess Club, Debate Team, National Honor Society  
"Accent? I have no accent."

an irony-laced superheroine comedy in which he'd had enormous confidence. "[The kids] said, 'They look weird. We don't like the way they look. We think this is stupid, but not the *good* stupid.'"

At this point, a less courageous development team might have ordered McCracken, 29, to make his characters less stylized (the kindergartners don't even have *hands*, for cryin' out loud), in a crazed search for the elusive "good

stupid." Instead, they went back to the storyboard, not the drawing board. The test audiences "pointed out it was working on one level, which was irony," says Lazzo. "But it wasn't working on the level that all entertainment should work on: characterization."

So McCracken differentiated his generic kick-ass lasses into three distinct do-gooders: draconian Buttercup, practical Blossom, and deceptively

sweet Bubbles. Add a toned-down title (changing *Whoopass* to *Powerpuff* was McCracken's one concession to corporate conservatism), a retro-rave soundtrack, some wink-wink gags (were those *condoms* the girls slipped into the pocket of creator/father figure Professor Utonium before sending him out on a date?), and a dash of Chemical X, and you've got one of Cartoon Network's highest-rated shows.

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# Love, Brak Style

THE *SPACE GHOST* SIDEKICK'S FAVORITE DATE FLICKS

In my opinion, a date movie should be a movie that you can go to with a date. And hopefully afterward, there's food involved. Did you know you can get fried cheese at the movies now? Once I had a date and ordered five plates of fried cheese and ate them all by myself, because I figured, "She paid for 'em, I might as well eat 'em." But where was I? Oh, yeah, date movies. Here are my top five. —Brak, as relayed through really painful mind control to Scott Brown



1 The Delicate Delinquent [1956, Paramount, unrated] For such a jerk, Jerry Lewis sure can make a funny movie. And speaking of jerks...

2 The Jerk [1979, Universal, R] The scene where Steve Martin has his pants pulled down is one of the best pants-pulled-down scenes in movie history.

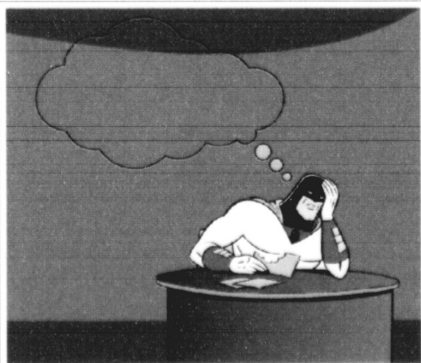
3 Plan 9 From Outer Space [1958, Rhino, unrated] This is the most realistic portrayal of alien zombie invasion I've seen—and I've seen 'em all. And incidentally, you people of Earth are idiots.

4 KISS Meets the Phantom of the Park [1978, GoodTimes, unrated] I tip my hat to Hanna-Barbera

for the use of the band Kiss in such an original fashion. Where were the Golden Globes that year, I ask you?

5 Rainbow Brite and the Star Stealer [1985, Warner, G] I thought it would be a harmless animated feature, but this whole planet gets stolen and, well, I just couldn't watch

any more. My date, Marla Hibbs, said that Rainbow Brite eventually comes in and saves the day, but once I got scared by the big, bad, evil Princess, I ran as far from that theater as I could. Marla also said she had to hitchhike home. Soon after, she stopped returning my calls. I still ride my bike past her house, though.



Space Ghost dreams the impossible dream

Thus, the *Powerpuff* jet streaking across America's skies (the girls appear on the rear end of a kid-friendly Delta Express 737), the *Powerpuff* album, featuring Devo and Frank

Black, and the *Powerpuff* theatrical movie, slated for release in 2002. A pretty impressive yield from McCracken, an animator who envisioned an audience of "stoned college kids." Which, come to think of it, gives a whole new meaning to that mysterious Chemical X.

IF THE REACTION TO *THE Powerpuff Girls* has been chemical, the success of Cartoon Network's other pint-size-protagonist hit, *Dexter's Laboratory*,

has been explosive. Dexter was born of a California Institute of the Arts student film by Genndy Tartakovsky—a classmate of McCracken's—called *Changes*, about a carefree, per-

petually pirouetting young girl: the proto-Dee Dee. Tartakovsky realized she needed a foil, so he gave her a brother, "a grumpy little boy scientist. And I thought he should have a big lab in his room." He also decided Dexter should have an untraceable Eastern European accent. Later, while working on *2 Stupid Dogs* at Hanna-Barbera in the early '90s, Tartakovsky's film made its way to the nascent Cartoon Network's brain trust, and *Dexter's Laboratory* became the channel's first original series to bring in more than a million viewers.

Tartakovsky, 30, attributes this success to a deep and abiding desire to please not network executives, but himself: "Otherwise, I have to think, well, what will a 6-year-old find funny? Well, throwing up and farting is funny

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TV

for kids." Note: You'll find little or no flatulence on *Dexter's Laboratory*...with the exception of an episode entitled, aptly enough, "Critical Gas." Somewhere, Ren and Stimpy are smiling.

VOMIT AND INTESTINAL WIND MAY amuse a 6-year-old, but for real belly laughs, Lazzo and his team trekked deep into the Hanna-Barbera cosmos to unearth *Space Ghost*, whose oft-invisible interstellar hero is also TV's first animated talk-show host. *Space Ghost*, Lazzo explains, was just obscure enough to qualify for spoof duty: "If we'd come into it saying we wanted to turn Scooby-Doo into a talk-show host, we might have [been] met with some resistance."

The gamble paid off: *Space Ghost Coast to Coast* premiered in 1994 and demonstrated what could be done with a hero past his prime. The show has spawned several spin-offs, including



Johnny Bravo strikes a pose and strikes out in the cafeteria

*The Brak Show* Starring Brak, whose eponymous emcee is an erstwhile *Space Ghost* nemesis-turned-brain-damaged raconteur. (See sidebar on page 28.) And this, we're told, will pale in comparison with next year's

*Leave It to Brak*, a "sitcom" featuring a next-door neighbor played by anime hero Gundam Warrior. Other forays into postmodern pastiche have paid off just as handsomely. Last year's *The Scooby-Doo Project* (a 24-hour mara-

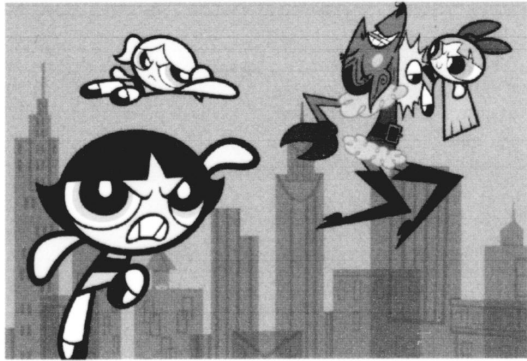


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The Powerpuff Girls patrol the skies at recess



GIRL FLIGHT The Powerpuff plane protects the friendly skies

AIRPLANE COURTESY OF CARTOON NETWORK

...tion featuring a subplot that stranded those meddling kids in the Maryland woods) earned accolades from *The Blair Witch Project's* producers, and retro-Elvis hunk Johnny Bravo hosts an MTV-style cartoon request show, *JBVO*, that allows viewers to choose, say, which episode of *Ed, Edd n Eddy* they'd like to see on Friday night.

Perhaps the most encouraging thing about Cartoon Network is that its success hasn't prompted the wagons-in-a-circle thinking that often plagues network television (which, aside from *The Simpsons*, has largely failed to capitalize on the whimsical possibilities of animation). "[Networks] feel they have to broadcast to the most

average audience. We're *narrow-casting*," says VP of original animation Linda Simensky, who notes that college students in particular respond positively to the niche, the piquant, and the refreshingly bizarre. "I know that if Cartoon Network had existed when I was in school, I would have gotten very little work done." ●●●

Works in a fast-food restaurant wearing a chicken costume.  
Moonlights as a rock god in front of the bathroom mirror.

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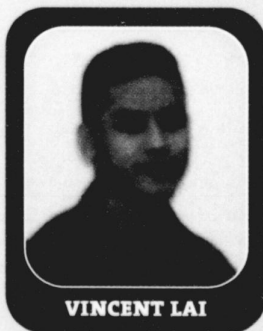
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VINCENT LAI

**VINCENT LAI**  
**UCLA**

Second Lieutenant Vincent Lai is a recent graduate of UCLA where he served as the Army ROTC Battalion Commander in his senior year. Cadet Lai was awarded the General Creighton Abrams Scholarship, a national award recognizing his academic achievement and military leadership. His demonstrated educational excellence, leadership potential and commitment to the nation also earned him a scholarship from NationsBank. 2nd Lt. Lai is an outstanding officer who completed the Infantry Officer's Basic Course last fall and recently earned his Ranger tab. He is now a platoon leader in the 82d Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

**ASHSHANAE TOLBERT**  
**Tuskegee University**

Formerly a company commander in the Junior ROTC program, Ashshanae Tolbert joined the Alabama Army National Guard in her junior year of high school. During her senior year, she held the position of editor-in-chief of the school newsletter and president of both the Student Government Association and the National Honor Society. Cadet Tolbert was awarded Most Valuable Player in softball, Most Outstanding Band Student, Who's Who Among American High School Students, the United States National Scholar/Athlete Award and a four-year Army ROTC Scholarship to attend Tuskegee University. As a freshman at Tuskegee, majoring in mechanical engineering, she is an active member of the Army ROTC Drill Team, Powderpuff Flag Football and the Ranger Challenge team. After freshman year, Cadet Tolbert plans to attend Airborne School and to continue her service in ROTC and later on active duty in the Army.



ASHSHANAE TOLBERT



JAMIE ROMERO

**JAMIE ROMERO**  
**University of Tennessee Martin**

Cadet Jaime Romero aspires to be a marine biologist and to get his master's degree and later a Ph.D. Other aspirations include teaching high school and becoming a true role model for his younger brothers as well as other students. Sponsored by the University of Tennessee's ROTC program, Jaime enrolled in Camp Challenge at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Three days into the program, he was named platoon sergeant and shortly after, platoon leader. Cadet Romero graduated among the top 15 cadets out of 200. His performance at camp earned him a scholarship that pays for his tuition at the University of Tennessee Martin. Cadet Romero's plans are to serve four years with the National Guard; he's hoping to serve in a helicopter unit.





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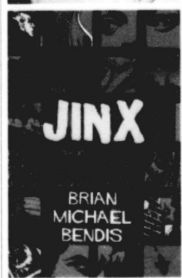
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**W**HEN BRIAN MICHAEL Bendis was 5, he drew a picture of Spider-Man of which he was very proud. Naturally, he immediately wanted to show it off to his father. But instead of promptly posting the drawing on the fridge, Papa Bendis felt compelled to question Spidey's curiously distorted anatomy. Why was one arm so much bigger than the other? "Cause," Bendis huffed, "that's where he keeps his webs!" He then stomped off.

"That," laughs Bendis, "was the precursor for a lot of my career."

In fact, Bendis' theme song could be Frank Sinatra's "My Way," since doing it his way has paid off in spades. The fast-talking Cleveland-based writer/artist has emerged as one of the most distinctive voices in comics—a purveyor of critically acclaimed crime fiction that marks him as the funny-pages descendant of Sam Fuller, Martin Scorsese, and Quentin Tarantino. Bendis' hyper-stylized panels flow like movie scenes. The dialogue is effusively naturalistic, and the black-and-white art is so inky, it all but stains your fingers.

Come fall, this Renoir of noir brings his hard-boiled style of storytelling to Marvel Comics' *Spider-Man* (Mark Bagley and Art Thibert will handle the drawing). Though his work to date has been decidedly adult, Bendis swears he can do adolescence: "I haven't really written anything from my teenage neuroses yet," says Bendis, 33, who was "roughly the size of a Smurf" until age 17. "But [the neuroses] I got are definitely in the realm of what's



FRAME GRABBER  
Bendis and baby



# Hard-Boiled Egghead

By setting his vividly noir tales at the dark end of the street, comics auteur BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS proves that crime *does* pay. BY JEFF JENSEN



required for Peter Parker."

Bendis grew up in the suburbs of Cleveland, a city that spawned such other comic greats as *Superman* cocreator Joe Shuster and artist P. Craig Russell. "There's really nothing to do here, so we all stayed home and drew comics," says Bendis, who in grade school marked up his textbooks with doodles of Marvel superheroes and in high school vowed to make a living by the pen. But the art-school dropout says he found his comics muse in the movies. *Visions of Light*, a 1993 documentary on cinematographers—particularly a segment on film noir featuring revered *Citizen Kane* director of photography Gregg Toland—inspired his art style. David Mamet's *House of Games* and especially Scorsese's *The Color of Money*, tales of small-time crooks and twisty confidence scams, set the scene for the stories he wanted to tell.

Cleveland's mean streets moved him, too. "I went from nice Jewish boy in

suburbia to living on my own in what would only be considered a terrible neighborhood," says Bendis. "I was robbed for the first time. I was meeting interesting people. My world was opening up." He proudly claims to have interviewed real-life con artists and bounty hunters for his breakthroughs: *Goldfish*, from Image Comics, in which an ex-grifter returns to Cleveland's underbelly for some big-time vengeance and redemption, and its prequel, *Jinx*. "I watched two guys work a three-card monte racket on a city bus and make \$500 in the span of one stop," says Bendis. "I said, 'That's a rush I want to duplicate in comics.'" A more bookish sort of research informed the masterful *Torso*, a true-crime tale about a post-*Untouchables* Eliot Ness chasing a serial killer. (Both *Goldfish* and *Torso* were optioned by Miramax but are currently in turnaround. Bendis chronicled his surreal Hollywood experience in the hilarious comics memoir *Fortune*

and *Glory*, published by Oni Press.)

"Bendis is the Mamet of modern comics," says celebrated comics scribe Warren Ellis (DC's *Transmetropolitan*). "He writes about people we want to like, who are funny and touching—but there are very few chinks of light in these tight, noir-y stories. We like listening to these people. We don't want them to get hurt. That's what makes his work compelling."

With *Spider-Man*—which sticks to the wall-crawler's mythic origins but modernizes the cultural context (expect World Wide Web references)—Bendis says he's entering his "mainstream comics writer phase." But Bendis hasn't given up on crime fiction; he's currently writing two monthly titles, *Sam and Twitch* and *Powers*, both for Image. Plus, he's got an animated version of *Jinx* running on his award-winning website, *jinxworld.com*. "The adult in me is still doing adult work," says Bendis. "But the 12-year-old in me is high-fiving himself." ●●●

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is a *good* thing.



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# They Got Game

With the new Sony PlayStation 2 on deck, ROCKSTAR GAMES—the designers behind *Grand Theft Auto*—are gunning to steal the show. BY NOAH ROBISCHON

**A** IMEE SWEET, AUGUST 1998's *Penhouse* Pet, is looking at us... again. Since the June 14 Pet of the Year party at Manhattan's Saei Club is peopled by, well, me and a gaggle of middle-aged ad sales doofs in knockoff suits pretending they aren't married, she must be eyeing Kevin Gill. He's the only 6'4" bottle blond wearing a dragon-print shirt, and a distinctive silver ring imprinted with a star dangling off the letter R—the logo of Rockstar Games, New York City's hippest videogame design company.

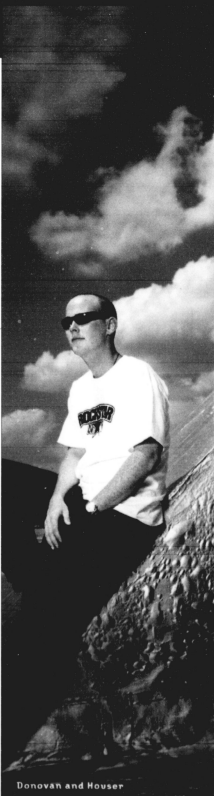
Gill isn't a typical product manager, but his attention-getting style typifies Rockstar Games. Formed in 1998 by transplanted Brits Sam Houser, 28, and Terry Donovan, 29, the company turns out games with the rebellious panache of a Sub Pop or Matorator

Records (hence the cocky name). The soundtrack for their 1999 release *Thrasher: State and Destroy* grooves through the last 29 years of rap, from the Sugarhill Gang to Gang Starr. Their game concepts—*Grand Theft Auto* has players hijacking cars while running gangland errands—are as disturbingly tantalizing as their upcoming line of T-shirts (one features stars from an American flag pouring out of a red-and-white-striped gel cap).

Then there are the infamous Rockstar Loft parties that are held every so often in some newly discovered Manhattan space, feature top-shelf DJs, and are so popular that 5,000 people vied for the 1,000 tickets to the one this past March. And while many companies are simply rehashing their hit titles for the Oct. 26 U.S. launch of Sony's PlayStation 2, Rock-



HAVE CARS, WILL TRAVEL  
Rockstar's *Midnight Club*  
and *Smuggler's Run*



Donovan and Houser



star is hatching two original games.

At Rockstar HQ, just above the Guggenheim SoHo in Manhattan, Gill—who scored only Sweet's autograph in the end—is at the PS 2 controls, showing off his favorite trick in the new game *Smuggler's Run*. The goal is to pick up contraband—DNA, medicine, explosives—and move it between Mexico, the U.S., and Canada, while steering clear of competing couriers, the border police, and the CIA. ("I wanted pounds of Colombian powder," says Houser. "But Sony had issues with that.") Gill ignores the game's objective and drives into an adobe-brick-perfect Mexican village. The vaqueros run, but Gill rams one from behind, sending him high into the air. He lands headfirst in the red-tinted sand, legs kicking aimlessly back and forth. Chasing down bystanders "is like a game in itself," chuckles Gill, as the un-bloodied vaquero pops out of the hole and walks off into the desert.

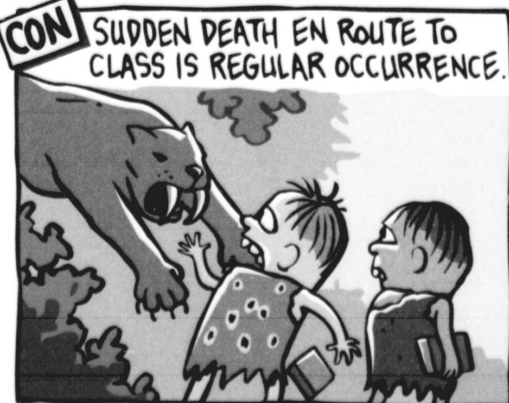
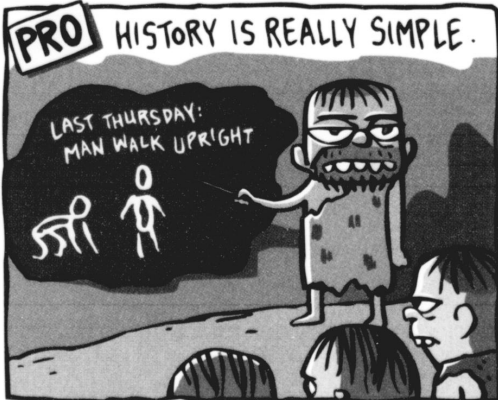
*Smuggler's Run* is about as subtle as MTV's *Beach House*, which helps explain why the cable net signed a four-year exclusive agreement to let Take Two Interactive, Rockstar's parent company, publish games based on its shows. There are deeper connections as well: Terry Donovan's father directed the video for Robert Palmer's "Addicted to Love"—you know, the one with the *très chic* miniskirted babe band—and Sam Houser was also a music-vid creator. Still, they're an odd team. Donovan, a DJ and former A&R man, is soft-spoken with a shaved head and a fan of techno, house, and *swevo* rock, while hyperactive Houser, with a beard and shaggy mane, collects obscure '60s rock.

When it comes to games, though, their sensibilities match perfectly. "The average age of the videogame player worldwide now is over 20," says Donovan. "They're being spoken to as adults by the movie industry, the music industry, the fashion industry, so why should we treat them as children and give them a game about head-chopping dragons?"

Hence the unapologetic mayhem of *Grand Theft Auto*, which has been spun into a series of games that netted \$50 million last year, and *Midnight Club*, the second new title for PlayStation 2. *Midnight* is based on illegal street-racing gangs in Japan, and the duo sought out real Tokyo racers—usually high-powered businessmen who spend tens of thousands tricking out classic cars—to license their gang names and logos. Most said they were honored, but couldn't take part—they did help out, though. "We have licenses from all the car-tuning shops around the world," says Houser. Which means that the low rider sliding across neon-lit 42nd Street looks and handles differently than the souped-up Honda Civic look-alike zipping through Trafalgar Square. And the graphic subtleties blow the old PlayStation to bytes: The cars reflect the multicolored street lighting, which changes when you hit a lamppost.

One day, Rockstar wants to see its action-movie-inspired games—none of which have cracked the annual top 10 best-sellers list—on film or TV. But for now, Houser is busy working with the designer of the new T-shirts. And Donovan is happy lining up the house-music soundtrack for *Smuggler's Run* and searching out a location for the next Loft party. No date's been announced yet, but Gill will be there—just look for the big blond in a dragon-print shirt. ●●●

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