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THE REBELLION BEGINS



Harry Potter

AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

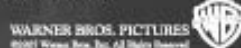
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS

A HEYDAY FILMS PRODUCTION "HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX" DANIEL RADCLIFFE RUPERT GRINT EMMA WATSON
STARRING HELENA BONHAM CARTER ROBBIE COLTRANE WARWICK DAVIS RALPH FIENNES MICHAEL GAMBON BRENDAN GLEESON RICHARD GRIFFITHS
JASON ISAACS GARY OLDMAN ALAN RICKMAN FIONA SHAW MAGGIE SMITH IMELDA STAUNTON DAVID THEWLIS EMMA THOMPSON JULIE WALTERS
COSTUME DESIGNER JAVY TEMME SCORE COMPOSED BY NICHOLAS HOOPER EDITED BY MARK DAY PRODUCTION DESIGNER STUART CRAIG DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SLAWOMIR IDZIAK EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LIONEL WIGRAM
SCREENPLAY BY MICHAEL GOLDENBERG BASED ON THE NOVEL BY J.K. ROWLING PRODUCED BY DAVID HEYMAN DAVID BARRON DIRECTED BY DAVID YATES



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IN THEATRES JULY 11

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thisweek

thursday JUNE 28

Corey Smith

Drawing heavily from the blues, country, and rock traditions of the South, Corey Smith applies the back-porch twang of an acoustic guitar, a soulful singing voice, and well-crafted lyrics to the task of creating music that is at once distinct and familiar. Audiences are certainly responding - proving that a genuine, unpretentious approach to songwriting and live performance has mass appeal. Jump on the bandwagon on Thursday when Corey comes to the Freebird with special guest Sam Thacker. Tickets are SOLD OUT for this show.

Freebird Live- 9 pm
Info: 246-2473

Street Dogs

The punk rockers from Boston hold among its ranks, Mike McColgan, former lead singer of Dropkick Murphys and Joe Sirois, former drummer for The Mighty Mighty Bosstones. McColgan isn't just another scowling kid on stage, screaming songs about the president. A Gulf War Army veteran having served as part of an artillery crew in Iraq during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, McColgan speaks, or sings, from experience. Also playing, The Tossers with The Krum Bums and Whaleface. Tickets \$12.

Jack Rabbits - 8 pm
Info: 398-7496

JUNE 28 - JULY 1

River of Life Music Festival

Enjoy the gentle sounds of harps, flutes, guitars and much more at the River of Life Music Festival, which kicks off on Thursday and concludes on Sunday, July 1st. This annual event is held at the beautiful Marywood Retreat and Conference Center along the banks of the St. Johns River.

Marywood Retreat and Conference Center
Info: 829-1542

friday JUNE 29

ARTunleashed 2007

Please join First Coast No More Homeless Pets for their 2nd annual ARTunleashed, Jacksonville's fabulous juried art show and auction to benefit homeless pets. Enjoy a night of fun featuring fine art by local and regional artists, a unique pet inspired silent auction, fabulous food, cocktails, and live music! Advance Tickets \$40, At The Door \$45

Bella Sera of Catering By Liz Grenamyre, 919 King Street
7-10 pm Info: 910-6897
or jaxartunleashed.com



JaxRox

To perform at the Florida Theatre, on the same stage that Elvis "the King of Rock and Roll" Presley appeared on in 1956, is truly an honor. Three local bands will get to do just that this week during the second annual JAXROX showcase, to benefit Body & Soul- The Art of Healing. Blistür, Dubwise and Twenty Weight will perform, giving audiences a taste of what our local scene has to offer.

(read story page 23.)

General admission tickets are \$10.
Florida Theatre- 7:30 pm
Info: 355-2787

Cedric the Entertainer

You've seen him in movies like *Barbershop*, *Be Cool* and, most recently, *Codename: The Cleaner*. This weekend see Cedric the Entertainer live at the Times-Union Center doing what he does best, and what made him famous: stand-up comedy. The veteran comedian and special guest, JJ, are sure to keep the audience in stitches during their sets. This is one of the must-see comedy events of the year. Tickets: \$28.50- \$54.00

Times-Union Center, Moran Theater- 8 pm
Info: 633-6110

saturday JUNE 30

Ultimate Warrior Challenge

Extreme cage fighting with special guest appearances by Andrei "The Pitbull" Arlovski and Dean "The Boogeyman" Lister. Don't miss the Warrior Girls, they bring extra sizzle to fighting! Prime Osborn Convention Center - 6pm

Info: 630-4000

sunday JULY 1

Ben Cabacungan Memorial Benefit Show

It's really great to see good musicians coming together for a good cause. Proceeds from the annual event, dedicated to the memory of a 22-year old man killed by a drunk driver in 2004 while walking in front of Freebird, will go to MADD. Performers include Whaleface, Evolemo, The Ampleforth, Danka, Rob Roy, The ABS, Simple Complexity, Dillon, The Smile Rays, The "N" Word, Will Genius, and Cheap Beer Poet. Tickets: \$10
Freebird Live- Doors 3 pm
Info: 246-2473



CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER

Pearlene

Finish your weekend on a high note without paying for it Monday morning. Enjoy a Sunday afternoon show and pot luck at TSI with musical guests Pearlene. The band is an easy-to-listen-to classic rock throwback and the patrons of TSI will no doubt be bringing some delectable dishes to share. Sounds like an excellent way to spend an afternoon. Admission is \$2 with a dish, \$5 without. TSI- 3 pm Info: 424-3531

The Working Title

After performing with stellar acts Mute Math, Mae, Switchfoot, Our Lady Peace, mewwithoutYou and The Counting Crows, The Working Title are out to make a similar name for themselves during their headlining tour, which includes a stop in the River City. The South Carolina based band will share the stage with Days Away, GT, Captain Kid, This Waking Moment, and Amidine. Tickets: \$10
Jack Rabbits- 7 pm Info: 398-7496



THE WORKING TITLE

monday JULY 2

The Extreme Tour 2007

Part skate competition, part concert, the Extreme Tour 2007 has a little something for everyone. Check out athletes competing for an opportunity to tour as a Pro-Am skater, or sign up for the honor yourself. If skating is not your thing, listen to some great rock and hardcore with bands Braver By The 2nd, With a Kiss, In Your Honor, Johannes, Memphis Belle, Modico, Post Mortum, Tek-Son, and Jacksonville's own Set Apart. Best of all, tickets are just \$7.
Murray Hill Theatre- 7 pm Info: 388-7807

Rooney

Rooney is a five-piece rock band hailing from Los Angeles whose music is reminiscent of artists spanning from the sixties to the present day. Although they have a distinctive style, their sound has been compared to everything from The Beatles to The Cars to Blur. Having toured the nation with acts such as Weezer and The Strokes, Rooney manages to capture elements from the past four decades and make them sound modern today. Rooney will share the stage with Autovahn and The Rewinds. Tickets: \$13 Fuel- 8 pm



tuesday JULY 3

World Golf Village Fireworks

Get a jump on celebrating Independence Day by checking out one of the largest fireworks displays in Northeast Florida. Head to the World Golf Village, spread out a blanket near the Walk of Champions and watch their gigantic light show. I wonder if this is how Tiger Woods spends his 4th of July... The event is free but there is a charge for parking. World Golf Village- 10:00 pm Info: www.wgv.com

4TH OF JULY wednesday

Liberty Celebration

Celebrate being an American at the Sea Walk Pavilion's annual Fourth of July celebration. Expect stellar performances by Navy Band Southeast and an unforgettable tribute to all of the men and women throughout our nation's history who have sacrificed to make it possible for us to celebrate Independence Day. And, of course, don't forget to stick around for the event's massive fireworks display. Sea Walk Pavilion, Jacksonville Beach- 6 pm



American Pie 4th of July in Orange Park

Enjoy a day of entertainment, free games, train rides, arts & crafts, scout exhibits, pie events and more. Bring your lawn chair and watch the hometown parade at 2 pm on River Road. Finish off the evening with 4th of July Fireworks. This event is free. Moosehaven, U.S. 17 South, Orange Park Info: orangepark4thofjuly.com

4th of July Oyster Roast

It's like a backyard barbecue only better. Enjoy an outdoor oyster roast set to the rocking sounds of Jacksonville jam band The Homesteaders, who will be performing unplugged. This unique way to spend Independence Day is FREE! Shanty Town Pub- 6th and Main, Downtown

Fourth of July Fireworks Cruise

This special cruise on the beautiful St. John's River will give you a front row seat to Jacksonville's top-notch fireworks show. Climb aboard the Jacksonville Princess as the Fourth of July fireworks light up the Jacksonville skyline. Full cash bar aboard. Dress is nice casual. Call now for reservations. Admission: \$40.00 per person, which includes a two hour cruise and Hors d'oeuvres. Jacksonville Princess, Crown Plaza Hotel, 1201 Riverplace Boulevard Info: 396-8887 or www.jacksonvilleprincess.com

Fernandina's July 4th & Families Festival

It doesn't get more American than parades, fireworks and an apple pie contest, all of which are on the agenda at the City of Fernandina Beach's annual Independence Day celebration. This fun-filled day is free. Central Park, Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach Info: 261-3248

Freedom, Fanfare & Fireworks

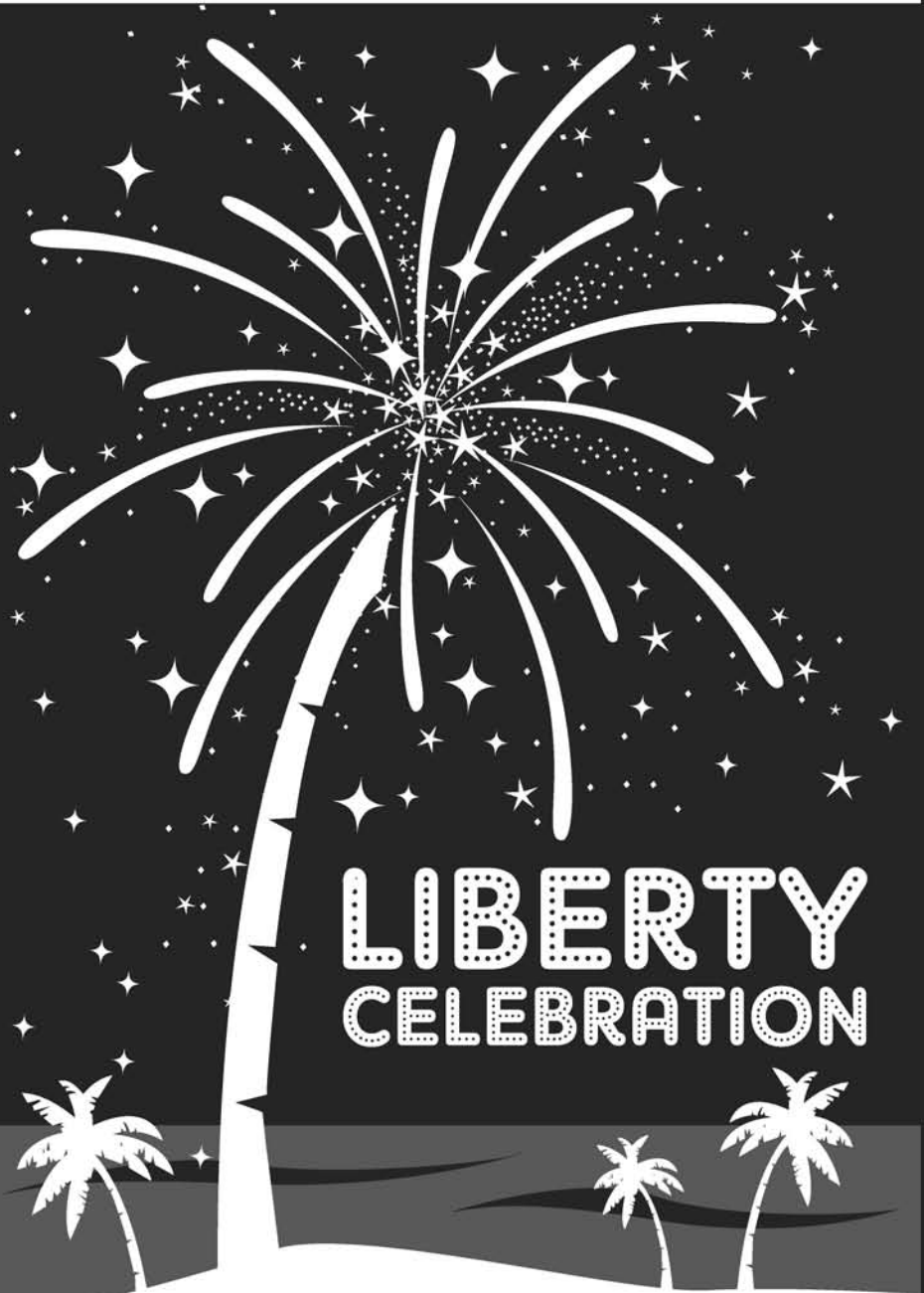
The City of Jacksonville knows how to put on a show and the annual Freedom, Fanfare & Fireworks celebration at Metropolitan Park is a prime example. Pack a picnic and the family and head down to the park to enjoy a dinner by the river and a spectacular fireworks show. Gates open at 6 pm, fireworks start at 9:45 pm. This event is free! Metropolitan Park, Downtown



St. Augustine's Fourth of July Celebration

Spend the 4th in the nation's oldest city. Enjoy a patriotic Concert in the Plaza with The All-Star Orchestra then have a blast at one of the East Coast's largest fireworks shows! The spectacular fireworks burst above the ancient Castillo de San Marcos and reflect in the waters of Matanzas Bay. The 20-minute show includes a stirring soundtrack of great patriotic music. St. Augustine Bayfront- 6 pm Info: 825-1004 or www.plazaconcerts.com

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MOVIES OPENING THIS WEEK

RATATOUILLE A cheeky rat living within the walls of a famous Paris bistro longs to become a chef but is hindered by his family's skepticism, the rodent-hating staff, and patrons of the restaurant. Rated G

SICKO In his typical attack-dog journalistic style, documentary filmmaker Michael Moore took on the broken health care system in America, featuring HMO horror stories and an in-depth look at foreign health care systems, specifically in Cuba and France. Rated PG-13 (opens July 4)



LICENSE TO WED Robin Williams plays a marriage counselor and reverend who puts Sadie (Mandy Moore) and Ben (John Krasinski) through a series of relationship challenges. Reverend Frank's boot camp includes twin baby robots that test the couple's resolve to stay married. Rated PG-13 (opens July 4)

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD Yes, Bruce Willis is back as John McClane, who stumbles onto a plot by internet-based terrorists to cause havoc in America by crippling the nation's government computer systems. McClane, an old-school kind of guy, works with a top hacker to foil the terrorists plan, but gets himself in big trouble again in this 4th episode of Die Hard. Rated PG-13

TRANSFORMERS The earth is caught in the middle of an intergalactic war between two races of robots—the heroic Autobots and the evil Deceptions. Both are able to change into a variety of objects, including cars, trucks, planes, and other horrifying killing machines. Rated PG-13 (opens July 4)

NOW PLAYING

1408 Based on a Stephen King story, this scenario involves a man who writes books about haunted Inns and Hotels by going there and staying over night. His overnight visits are uneventful until he insists on staying in a famous haunted room in the Dolphin Hotel in NYC. His experience is anything but uneventful. The room is evil. Rated PG-13

A MIGHTY HEART This docudrama is based on Mariane Pearl's memoir about the tumultuous time in 2002 when Al Qaeda held her husband, Wall Street Journal writer, Daniel Pearl, hostage in Karachi, Pakistan. Mariane is skillfully portrayed by Angelina Jolie. Rated R

EVAN ALMIGHTY This sequel to "Bruce Almighty" stars Steve Carell who has gone from Anchorman



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rats in the kitchen

Pixar and Disney do it again with Ratatouille

BY **KELLIE ABRAHAMSON**

KAbrahamson1@aol.com

A+ Rated G 110 min.

The thought of rats in the kitchen is enough to make you lose your appetite. But, somehow, Pixar makes the sickening scenario deliciously appealing in their latest animated tour-de-force *Ratatouille*, which opens this week.

Auguste Gusteau (Brad Garrett) is the Emeril of France. Years of owning and operating Paris' only five-star restaurant have catapulted him into the limelight, making the chef a worldwide celebrity. Soon after releasing his best-selling cookbook, *Anyone Can Cook*, Gusteau earns the disdain of snooty food critic Anton Ego (Peter O'Toole), who visits the restaurant and gives it an unfavorable review, causing it to lose a star. Soon after, Gusteau dies, many say because of Ego's brutal criticism, and according to French tradition the restaurant loses another star when the chef dies. With the head chef gone, the once grand example of French cuisine is relegated to a tourist trap.

Our story actually begins a couple years later with Remy (Patton Oswalt), a lowly rat. We soon find, however, that our hero is not your average rat. Blessed with a superior sense of smell and a delicate palette, Remy is put off by the garbage his family eats and searches for the good food found in human homes. During his trips to the kitchen, Remy learns about cooking from reruns of Gusteau's television show and his famous cookbook. But before he gets a chance to shine in the kitchen, the culinary party is cut short when the owner of the home Remy and his family lives in discovers the hundred-or-so unwanted guests. In the scuffle, the aspiring chef is swept down a sewer and separated from his family. When he finally makes it above ground, Remy finds that he's unknowingly lived minutes away from Paris, France, home of the greatest food in the world.

As fate would have it, Remy ends up in Gusteau's restaurant where he meets a lonely garbage boy named Linguini (Lou Romano). After spilling a pot of soup on his first day, Linguini tries to fix it before anyone notices to avoid losing his job. The result is disastrous and Remy can't stop himself from fixing the brew, a sight that causes Linguini to do a double-take. When the change in the soup is discovered and adored by the customers, Linguini gets the credit and a promotion. This is, of course, a problem since the young man can barely boil water. Linguini is desperate to keep his job and Remy is itching to cook, so the two secretly join forces, wowing customers and critics with their food. Linguini's success in the kitchen



raises the eyebrow of the restaurant's executive chef, Skinner (Ian Holm), who worries the newcomer may be a threat to his position. The renewed buzz about the restaurant also catches the attention of Anton Ego, who is sure the meals people are raving about are sub-par at best. Remy and Linguini must get past these two formidable obstacles if they want to make their dreams of culinary glory a reality.

Ratatouille is hands down the best Pixar film since the *Toy Story* movies. Both hilarious and heartwarming at the same time, the story never fails to hold the attention of movie-goers young and old. This is the kind of film parents will take their kids to see and then want to hire a babysitter so they can go back and see it all over again without the little ones in tow. Brad Bird mentioned in a recent interview with *Entertainment Weekly* that kids are just 10 percent of the audience he's making movies for and it shows with *Ratatouille*. The humor is perfectly suited for families, with jokes and gags that will keep parents laughing but won't alienate kids with overly "adult" innuendos.

That's not to say that the kids won't get a kick out of this rat-infested film too. There's plenty of silly wordplay and slapstick to keep them happy. I'm sure it goes without saying that the animation was great, but some scenes actually had me gasping at the sight of them. When Remy takes his trip through the sewer, the water was so incredibly realistic my mouth literally dropped. The backgrounds are also wonderfully drawn, capturing the essence and beauty of "The City of Light" perfectly.

I've seen all of Pixar's previous films and have liked every one, but *Ratatouille* blows *Nemo* out of the water. It scares up more laughs than *Monsters Inc* and it runs circles around *Cars*. Pixar's got a new hit on their hands and it's delicious.

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michael moore sick of it all

Sicko movie review

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

A PG-13 113 min

In this shocking documentary, Michael Moore has, in his trademark satiric way, exposed the festering boil of our broken health care system as a corporate fraud—set up to deny as many claims as possible. By presenting real life HMO horror stories, Moore overcomes his tendency to grandstand with compositivity.

The individual patients' stories are eye-opening, but most viewers will understand because almost everyone has been through this Machiavellian system. I'm still paying for my cancer treatment from back in 2005, when the insurance only covered 80% and my share was thousands of dollars.

In true documentary style, Moore lets his subjects tell their own tragic stories. One man had to decide between reattaching one finger out of two, because the ring finger cost \$12,000 as opposed to the middle finger, which cost \$20 grand. Even though he had insurance, it wouldn't cover both fingers.

Then Moore features a widow whose husband had a rare type of cancer. He was denied coverage, and they couldn't afford the treatment, which was deemed experimental (a typical excuse for denial) and he died. In effect, the HMO killed him. Moore presents other cases which are equally tragic and he shows the HMOs only care is reducing costs, not the patients' well being.

Moving on, Moore spotlighted the former employees of the HMOs who could no longer live with themselves, so they quit and testified before Congress about their jobs of denying patients coverage. One woman said she got a bonus for denying so many patients. One guy, known as a "hit man," would search through the forms looking for a minor mistake that would result in denial of the coverage. In other words, the HMOs' mission is strictly profit motivated.

Moore traces the origins of the HMO system back to the Nixon administration. Thanks to those famous tapes from February of 1971, when Edgar Kaiser and his profit-rigged system became the first HMO—Kaiser Permanente, which was set up in the



beginning to minimize patient expenditure to maximize profit. As the HMOs grew into a powerful Jabba the Hutt, the companies began lining the pockets of the politicians insuring their business would profit at the expense of compassionate patient care.

One of the most interesting segments in the film is when Moore presents footage during Bill Clinton's first term, when Hillary Clinton tried to introduce universal health care to Congress. She was met with a wall of resistance. One by one the Senators and Congressmen gave the typical anti-socialized medicine speeches, which have always tied socialized medicine with communism. Hillary was beaten-up badly for her righteous effort to change the system.

To show that our leaders' opposition to socialized medicine was profit-motivated propaganda, Moore traveled to countries that have thriving universal healthcare—Canada, Britain, France, and Cuba, where he discovered fully viable, top-rate healthcare systems that are completely free—even the drugs. He was amazed by what he found.

Moore delved deeply into these countries' medical systems, interviewing doctors, patients, and the Americans living in these countries. Contrary to what we have always been told, in each country that has universal health care subsidized by the government, the quality of care has not suffered because it is free.

In France, doctors earn from \$160,000 to \$200,000 a year and live very well indeed. Since they don't have to worry about money, they concentrate on their patients' health. If you get sick in France, you go to a clinic or a doctor and whatever it takes to get you well they will use, including MRIs and other high tech methods, that are deemed too expensive here. And it's all free. The most interesting segment is when Moore takes a group of chronically ill 9/11 rescue workers to Cuba (he inexplicably got into the country). They went to the Havana hospital, the Cuban doctors treated the patients, and they were able to get their medication either free or at a fraction of the price in America.

On the down side, Moore did not present the fact that under Castro, Cuba has degenerated into a dirt poor third world nation where everyone wallows in poverty except Castro and his family. However, Moore was making a point that even in this banana republic, people get free, first-class healthcare.

Finally, Moore's documentary asks the pertinent question: If socialized medicine works well without sacrificing quality care in many other countries, why have we been so against adopting a system that is proven effective? Moore's film exposes blatant HMO fraud, so we can conclude that many legislators are getting filthy rich from the HMO payoffs while the American people suffer. Perhaps this film will cause people to wake up and help change the system.

to Congressman Evan Baxter and is visited by God (Morgan Freeman) and told to build an ark in preparation for a great flood. Comedic situations ensue when Baxter ignores God's wishes and he finds out God means business. Rated PG

FANTASATIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER The fab four superheroes find out there's a new sheriff in the universe—the powerful Silver Surfer with his planet destroying Galactus. Yes, Jessica Alba plays Sue Storm—enough said. Rated PG

HOSTEL: PART II Hapless American college students studying abroad are lured to a Slovakian hostel where they discover hellish horrors of torture and other bloody terror. Rated R

KNOCKED UP The consequences of having unprotected sex is explored in this comedy. Slacker Ben Stone (Seth Rogen) meets a vivacious woman, Alison Scott (Katherine Heigl) in a bar, they get drunk, and go back to his place and have sex. Oops, she gets pregnant. Ben has to grow up rapidly to deal with this life-altering event. For the first time in his life, Ben has to accept responsibility. And he's not ready. Rated R

MR. BROOKS Kevin Costner stars as a charming man who has a split personality. In his spare time, he's a serial killer. Demi Moore plays homicide Detective Tracy Atwood who is on his trail. Dane Cook portrays Mr. Smith—a follower of Mr. Brooks who wants to be just like him. Rated R

NANCY DREW The famous teenage sleuth from the book series, Nancy Drew (Emma Roberts), now has her own film to thrill a new generation of pubescent girls with her wily investigations. This caper includes a famous movie star—natch. Rated PG

OCEANS 13 George Clooney and his partner Steven Soderbergh produced another Ocean film. For the third episode, Danny Ocean (Clooney) assembles his henchmen for another heist. Casino owner, Willy Bank, double-crosses one of the original eleven, Reuben Tishoff (Elliott Gould). The sting is on. Rated PG-13

PARIS JE T'AIME Through the neighborhoods of Paris, love is veiled, revealed, imitated, sucked dry, reinvented and awakened. A group of internationally renowned directors rediscover the city of Paris in a collective work about love. Starring Ben Gazzara, Bob Hoskins, Elijah Wood, Emily Mortimer, Fanny Ardant. Rated R

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT THE WORLD'S END Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) are allied with Captain Barbosa (Geoffrey Rush) in a desperate quest to free Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) from his mind-bending trap in Davy Jones' locker, while the terrifying ghost ship, The Flying Dutchman, and Davy Jones, under the control of the East India Trading Company, wreak havoc across the Seven Seas. Rated PG-13

SHREK THE THIRD The big green ogre is back with his pals for another adventure. When his new father-in-law, King Harold, falls ill, Shrek is viewed as the heir to the land of Far, Far Away. Shrek, who doesn't want to give up his beloved swamp, recruits his pals Donkey and Puss in Boots to install the rebellious Artie as the new king. Princess Fiona rallies a band of royal girlfriends to fend off a coup d'etat by the jilted Prince Charming. Rated PG

SPIDER-MAN 3 Spidey is back for a third episode. In

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this scenario, he explores his dark side when an alien entity lands on earth and attaches itself to Peter Parker (Tobey Mcguire). Suddenly, Spidey is acting like a jerk, but he likes his new powers. Spidey's new personality puts a strain on his relationship with Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst). Rated PG-13

SURF'S UP Emperor penguins are the hottest animation subject after the success of *The March of the Penguins*. So, in this animated penguin movie, penguins somehow invented surfing and this is a behind-the-scenes look at the Annual Penguin World Surfing Championship. Up and coming surfer dude, Cody Maverick, thinks he's hot stuff. Featuring the voice of Shia LaBeouf. Rated PG

SPECIAL SHOWINGS

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See the great movies that boomers grew up with that still intrigue and enthrall all generations. Relax at a FREE 5:45 showing of a classic film in the Jacksonville Public Library Main Branch Auditorium with complimentary popcorn and soda, and then enjoy an evening downtown every 2nd and 4th Thursday. ON THE WATERFRONT will be shown on June 28. Info: 630-2665 or www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/librarynews/main_boomers_2007.html



Summer Movie Classics 2007

The Florida Theatre will be showing Summer Movie Classics on Sundays throughout the Summer. Enjoy great selections from cinematic history in the beautiful setting of one of Jacksonville's own classics. The 1964 classic, MY FAIR LADY, starring Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison, will be shown July 1. All showings start at 2 pm. Call 355-ARTS for details or go to floridatheatre.com.

Midnight Movies

The San Marco Theatre will be showing Charles Bronson in DEATH WISH on June 29 and 30 at midnight. Info: 396-4845. July 6 and 7 at midnight see a well-crafted and scripted metaphor from the 80's, TRON.

IMAX Theater

In addition to *Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs*, *Deep Sea* and *Dolphins*, the World Golf Hall of Fame's IMAX Theater is showing SPIDER-MAN 3 on their 80-foot-wide by six-story-high screen. The giant screen is the best way to experience Spidey in action. *Spider-Man 3* will be showing thru July 8. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* will open July 13. The IMAX Theatre is located in the World Golf Hall of Fame, One World Golf Place, St. Augustine. Info and tickets: 904-940-4022 or wgv.com.

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Live Free or Die Hard movie review

BY RICK GRANT rickgrant01@comcast.net

A- PG-13 130 min

Just when you thought our nation's computer grid was safe, a fiendish computer genius skirted our most complex security networks to wreak havoc on our nation's computer systems. The hacker intrusion underscored our dependence on computers that run everything from traffic lights to power stations. The brazen cyber-attack could cripple our country's infrastructure.

Ah, but have no fear, Bruce Willis is back with a vengeance as his celebrated John McClane character. Now, Detective McClane hangs in there after 30 years on the job. The likable working class cop is still old school. After 9/11 he is concerned about terrorist attacks, but at work, he goes with the flow.

Die Hard 3 was released in 1995. Now, 12 years later, McClane is divorced and has a strained relationship with his grown up daughter Lucy (Mary Elizabeth Winstead). As this scenario evolves, McClane is relegated to picking up suspects and other go-for duties. While going to fetch a hacker wanted for questioning by the FBI, McClane stumbles on a plot to compromise our national computer grid, shutting down our country in what hackers call "a fire sale" attack.

Let the games begin. It's McClane and his hacker companion, Matt Farrell (Justin Long), versus a gaggle of heavily armed bad guys trying to kill them. The terrorists have already killed most of the nation's top hackers to prevent them from helping the FBI stop their operation. They were in the middle of their hit on Farrell when McClane arrived to transport him to the FBI's anti-cyber-attack control center. Yeah, the serious gun action starts right away, as McClane saves Farrell and gets him back to the FBI center.

Admittedly, the *Die Hard* series is one of my guilty pleasures. But this episode is by far the most exciting of the series. It's updated and ramped-up exponentially from Number 3. Willis has refined McClane into a Terminator-like grumpy geezer, but with his droll one-liners intact. Sure, you have to suspend your disbelief to buy some of the outrageous stunts, but that is what makes Willis so appealing. He doesn't take himself seriously, and his daring stunts are in the name of a righteous cause—revenge for ruining his day. He tells the cyber terrorist mastermind "I'm coming to kill you," and we believe he can do it, despite the odds.

Justin Long has graduated to the big time from his *Ed* character and his Apple commercials. His pivotal role as Matt Farrell in this film was a real coup for his career. He's funny and makes a lovable foil for McClane's aversion to anything with microchips.



He even comes to McClane's rescue on several occasions. Violence of this level is totally alien to the young hacker. When he meets McClane, trained killers are trying to rub him out and things only escalate from there. Long is the comic relief.

The cyber-attack mastermind has a special agenda and Farrell figures it out, which puts him and McClane in further danger. There is no backup on this caper, as the two unlikely partners go into battle with the heavily armed terrorists. It is continuous action with character development on the fly. There is no time for sappy romance or other action film cliches, McClane is all business.

Skillfully directed by Len Wiseman and written by committee, the film is an action *tour de force*. Willis seems joyous to be back in action wearing his dirty T-shirt with blood flowing from numerous wounds, and his only motivation is personal revenge.

When the terrorists black out of the city, McClane and Farrell visit Farrell's hacker buddy Warlock, played with stand-out humor by Kevin Smith. Of course, he has back up generators and his "control center" is located in his mom's basement. They find him because his house is the only one with lights. With Warlock's help, McClane and Farrell unravel the mastermind's end game. The smarty-pants kingpin can't believe one man and his hacker tag-along can get close to him with his crack security force.

Lock and load with a large popcorn and soda, this is a fast and furious ride as McClane and Farrell close in on the cyber-attackers. Watching this new *Die Hard*, made me realize how much I'd missed the series.

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RATATOUILLE (G) ✓ (11:00, 11:30 @ \$5), 1:00, 2:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:15, 8:30, 10:00, 11:15

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG13) ✓ (11:00 @ \$5), 12:15, 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 10:15, 10:45

1408 (PG13) ✓ (11:35 @ \$5), 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10

EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) ✓ (11:05, 11:45 @ \$5), 12:15, 1:05, 1:30, 2:15, 2:45, 3:30, 4:05, 4:45, 5:15, 6:45, 7:15, 8:00, 9:15, 9:45, 10:30

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG) (11:15, 11:45 @ \$5), 12:30, 1:45, 2:15, 3:00, 4:20, 5:00, 5:30, 6:45, 7:15, 7:55, 9:15, 10:00, 10:35

NANCY DREW (PG) (11:50 @ \$5), 2:25, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG13) 1:25, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20

SURF'S UP (PG) (11:45 @ \$5), 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

KNOCKED UP (R) 12:45, 4:00, 6:00, 7:05, 9:15, 10:15

MR. BROOKS (R) 7:05, 10:00

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) 12:30, 4:15, 8:30

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) (11:50 @ \$5), 2:35, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) (11:55 @ \$5), 3:15

AMC SELECT

EVENING (PG13) ✓ 1:15, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05

A MIGHTY HEART (R) ✓ (11:30 @ \$5), 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:20

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RATATOUILLE (G) ✓ 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:30

RATATOUILLE (G) ✓ (10:45, 11:30 @ \$5), 12:15, 1:35, 2:10, 3:00, 4:30, 5:05, 5:45, 7:15, 8:00, 8:45, 10:00, 10:45

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG13) ✓ (11:15 @ \$5), 12:30, 1:20, 2:25, 3:30, 4:20, 5:20, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:40

1408 (PG13) ✓ (11:05 @ \$5), 12:05, 1:40, 2:40, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 7:50, 9:35, 10:25

EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) ✓ (11:00, 11:25, 11:40 @ \$5), 12:10, 12:45, 1:30, 2:05, 2:15, 3:15, 3:55, 4:45, 4:50, 5:50, 6:20, 7:25, 7:35, 8:15, 8:50, 9:40, 10:15, 10:35

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG) (11:10 @ \$5), 1:25, 2:00, 3:40, 4:40, 5:55, 7:05, 8:10, 9:20, 10:30

NANCY DREW (PG) (11:55 @ \$5), 2:35, 5:00

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG13) 1:05, 3:45, 7:20, 10:10

SURF'S UP (PG) (11:10 @ \$5), 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:55, 10:10

KNOCKED UP (R) 12:50, 3:45, 7:10, 10:05

MR. BROOKS (R) 7:40, 10:20

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) (11:45 @ \$5), 3:20, 6:55, 10:30

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) (10:45 @ \$5), 12:55, 3:10, 5:30, 7:55, 10:15

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) 12:25, 3:35, 7:25, 10:35

WOH LAMHE (NR-NOT RATED) 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:20

AMC SELECT

A MIGHTY HEART (R) ✓ 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05

AMC SELECT

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seen. heard. noted. and quoted.

FREE PARIS VAMPS FOR PAPARAZZI

Paris Hilton is a free woman. The heiress formerly known as Inmate 9818783 officially turned in her orange county-issued jumpsuit and was released at 12:15 am Tuesday from the Century Regional Detention Facility—hopefully for good this time. Parents Kathy and Rick (and a horde of paparazzi) were on hand to ferry their little girl home.



HARD TIME FOR SIZEMORE

Finally, Tom Sizemore ran out of second and third chances. Given credit for the 213 days he has already served, which works out to about nine months of time served, the actor was sentenced Monday to 16 months in the slammer for violating his probation in a previous drug case. There is nothing like jail for going cold turkey.

AMAZING GRACE

This just in: Nancy Grace has breaking news about herself. The CNN talking head revealed Tuesday that she secretly wed investment banker David Lynch in April and that she is expecting twins in January. "I am thrilled to confirm today's reports on my marriage and impending motherhood," Grace said in a statement. Hey, do we care? No, but you go girl.

ROSIE'S BRITNEY CRUSH

Rosie O'Donnell has given a shout out to Britney Spears on her Website over the news that the pop princess may make a guest appearance alongside Cyndi Lauper on the True Colors tour later this month in Los Angeles. "Brit, if you're watching, honey, you and me—we're gonna share, like, a backstage moment, 'cause I love you, kid!" O'Donnell said. The former View cohost said Lauper was unaware of the potential appearance, but that she, for one, was all for it. "If it is happening, I'm thrilled, because I enjoy Britney," she said.



A DOOR CLOSSES—A DOOR OPENS

Isaiah Washington has been in preliminary talks with NBC about a new TV deal, but the talks have stalled, according to the Hollywood Reporter. It was unclear whether the network was interested in adding the fired Grey's Anatomy star to an existing series or casting him in a new project. Washington alluded to discussions with the network in a recent interview with Entertainment Weekly, claiming that he and his agent "are sorting through a ton of offers in both film and TV... There is one network in particular that's very interested, but I don't want to say anything specific until it's a done deal." Isaiah's homophobic slur cost him big-time. Next time he'll refrain from dissing his colleagues. He'll be lucky to get a job.

HOT PROPERTY

It-boy Shia LaBeouf will reteam with his Disturbia director D.J. Caruso for the upcoming thriller Eagle Eye, Daily Variety reports. The Transformers and Indiana Jones 4 star is finalizing a deal to play a slacker whose overachieving twin brother dies under mysterious circumstances. In an interview with Ryan Seacrest Tuesday, LaBeouf said he has no complaints about his life right now. "It was a good year. This year was insane. It was nuts," he said. Get it while you're hot, dude.

WEEDS RELATIONSHIP DOOMED

Mary Louise Parker and Jeffrey Dean Morgan, who play husband and wife on Weeds, have called off their real-life relationship, People reports. "It just didn't work out. Wrong time in both our lives," Morgan told the magazine at an event Monday. Despite the breakup, and the fact that his character, Judah Bodkin, has been killed off the Showtime series, Morgan said there was a possibility he could appear opposite Parker in a future episode. "That could always pop up, you never know," he said. "We'll see." Hey, when you've shared a bong, it's love at first hit.

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LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG13) 12:15 1:00 1:40 3:15 4:00 4:40 6:40 7:10 7:40 9:40 10:10 10:35	FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG) 11:50 2:20 4:50 7:25 9:50
RATATOUILLE (G) 11:35 12:35 1:25 2:25 3:30 4:15 5:05 6:25 7:05 7:45 9:15 9:45 10:30	FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER - DIGITAL (PG) 11:30 1:55 4:20 6:55 9:25
1408 (PG-13) 11:55 2:35 5:15 7:55 10:25	OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG13) 1:25 4:15 7:05 9:55
A MIGHTY HEART (R) 7:35 10:20	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) 12:45 4:25 8:10
KNOCKED UP (R) 11:30 12:05 2:25 3:40 5:20 7:00 8:15 10:00	SHREK THE THIRD (PG) 11:45 2:10 4:35 7:15 9:35
NANCY DREW (PG) 11:50 2:15 4:45 7:10 9:35	SURF'S UP (PG) 12:25 2:55 5:10

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● **LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG13)** 1:00 1:30 4:00 4:30
 7:00 7:30 9:55 10:15

EVENING (PG13) 12:05 3:15
 6:30 9:35

● **EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG)** 1:05
 1:35 3:35 4:05 6:35 7:15 9:05
 9:40

OCEAN'S 13 (PG13) 12:40
 3:30 6:40 9:30

A MIGHTY HEART (R) 1:20
 3:50 6:45 9:10

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TRANSFORMERS (July 3)
HARRY POTTER 5 (July 11)
THE SIMPSONS (July 27)

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) 2:15
 4:40 7:05 9:25

1408 (PG13) 1:45 4:20 6:50
 9:20

FANTASTIC FOUR (PG) 12:30
 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:15

SURF'S UP (PG) 2:00 4:15
 6:45 9:00

KNOCKED UP (R) 12:55 3:55
 7:00 10:100

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 420 500 700 735 805 945 1010 1100 1220

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG-13) DIG (1000 1215 1250 100)
 315 355 440 715 745 815 1015 1040 1130

A MIGHTY HEART (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1010 145) 410 700 950
 1225

1408 (PG-13) DIG (1035 140) 405 725 955 1215

EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) DIG ★ (1030 1100 1130 100 135 200)
 325 400 430 630 705 730 800 900 930 1000 1030 1120 1150
 1215

NANCY DREW (PG) DIG (1020 115) 350

FANTASTIC 4: DIGITAL PROJECTION (PG) DIG (1025 115)
 345 710 940 1210

FANTASTIC FOUR: SILVER SURFER (PG) DIG (1110 210) 515
 820 1035

OCEAN'S 13 (PG-13) DIG (1015 110) 435 740 1025

SURF'S UP (PG) DIG (1025 1255) 320 645

KNOCKED UP (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1220) 340 655 1005

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: WORLD'S END (PG-13) DIG
 (120) 505 850

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) DIG (1105 125) 425 650 915

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13) DIG 905 PM

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RATATOUILLE (G) DIG ★ (955 1200 1230 235 510) 305 545
 750 820 1025

RATATOUILLE (G) ★ (1025 100) 445 720 955

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG-13) DIG (955 1215 1245) 400
 430 700 730 1010 1040

A MIGHTY HEART (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1155 240) 505 800 1030

1408 (PG-13) DIG (1020 1240) 420 725 945

EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) DIG ★ (1000 1030 1155 1225 1255 230)
 300 400 500 530 715 745 815 935 1005 1035

OC & DA: FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER (PG) DIG 450

NANCY DREW (PG) DIG (1010 1250)

FANTASTIC FOUR: SILVER SURFER (PG) DIG (1220) 740 1030

OCEAN'S 13 (PG-13) DIG (1005 105) 355 735 1015

SURF'S UP (PG) DIG (1000 1210) 415 655 930

KNOCKED UP (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1235) 405 700 950

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: WORLD'S END (PG-13) DIG
 (1150) 330 710 1040

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) DIG 425 705 1000

PARIS JE T'AIME (R) - ID REQ'D (1205 245) 515 755 1020

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new on dvd

SHOOTER (124 min.)

Bob Lee Swagger (Mark Wahlberg) is a former United States Marine Corps sniper who left the Marines after a mission left his best friend and spotter dead. After he is reluctantly pressed back into service, Swagger is double-crossed again. With two bullets in him and the subject of a nationwide manhunt, Swagger begins his revenge, which will take down the most powerful people in the country. Rated R for strong graphic violence and some language.

PEACEFUL WARRIOR (121 min.)

Dan Millman (Scott Mechlowicz) is a college gymnast who seems to be living the good life, but at night Dan suffers through terrifying nightmares. After one such night, Dan ends up at a gas station where he meets a strange old man (Nick Nolte) who moves without regard for time and space. The mysterious man soon becomes Dan's trainer and spiritual advisor. Rated PG-13 for sensuality, sex references and accident scenes.

BLACK SNAKE MOAN (115 min.)

When divorced former bluesman Lazarus (Samuel L. Jackson) finds Rae (Christina Ricci) badly beaten by the side of the road, he brings her to his house and chains her to his radiator. Rae has been a wreck since her boyfriend (Justin Timberlake) went off to war, and has spent her time getting into fights and being taken advantage of by just about every man in town. Rae appears to be afflicted with a physical need for sex that no one can cure. As Lazarus watches Rae twitching with pain on his couch, he sees that the young woman's only chance at redemption is in his hands. Rated R for strong sexual content, language, some violence and drug use.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL- THE CONCERT (75 min.)

High School Musical has swept the world with its great songs, fabulous production, and positive role models. Now the TV phenomenon is hitting the road with High School Musical on tour! Most of the television stars will be a part of the cast, including Vanessa Anne Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale, Lucas Grabeel, Corbin Bleu and Monique Coleman, with Drew Seeley (who wrote "Get'cha Head in the Game") taking the part played by Zac Efron on TV. This DVD is not rated.

DEAD SILENCE- Unrated (91 min.)

After receiving a weird package with the doll named Billy, Jamie's wife (Amber Valletta) is murdered and he believes Mary Shaw (Judith Roberts) and Billy are behind it. Destined to find out the truth, Jamie (Ryan Kwanten) goes to the town of Raven's Fair where the ventriloquist Mary Shaw used to perform and is buried. But Jamie is in for more than he expected. This film is not rated.

BEHIND THE MASK: THE RISE OF LESLIE VERNON (91 min.)

You know legendary maniacs Jason Voorhees, Michael Myers and Freddy Krueger. Now meet Leslie Vernon, the next great psycho-slasher. Nathan Baesel stars as Vernon, a good-natured killing machine who invites a documentary film crew to follow him as he reminisces with his murder mentor (Scott Wilson), evades his psychiatrist/nemesis (Robert Englund), deconstructs Freudian symbolism, and meticulously plots his upcoming slaughter spree. Rated R for horror violence, language, some sexual content and brief drug use.

21 feet of bloodthirsty beast

Primeval dvd review

BY **KELLIE ABRAHAMSON**

KAbrahamson1@aol.com



The idea of a massive crocodile with a taste for human blood sounds like something straight out of Hollywood. In truth, a monster croc named Gustave lives and hunts in Burundi, Africa and it's been said that he's taken the lives of over 200 people. In true Hollywood form, a CGI version of Gustave made his big screen debut earlier this year in the film Primeval. The modern-day monster movie is now available on DVD.

Tim Manfrey (Dominic Purcell) is a cynical broadcast journalist who is forced to cover a story

about an African killer croc with his trusty cameraman Steven (Orlando Jones) and pretty young reporter Aviva Masters (Brooke Langton). While Aviva, who's used to churning out animal fluff pieces, is excited to cover something more dangerous, Tim is more interested in using the assignment as an excuse to do a story about Burundi's raging civil war. The three city-slickers head to Africa and meet up with a crocodile hunter who plans on taking the animal alive and a hard-bitten guide who has a better idea of what to do with old Gustave,

like blow him up with grenades. The team sets off to capture the beast and soon finds that the killer croc has other plans. If that's not bad enough, the brutal warlord who rules the area, and has dubbed himself "Little Gustave," is going around killing people and Steven captures it all on tape. Little Gustave, of course, finds out about the video and begins hunting down the intrepid reporters.

The Primeval DVD has just a couple of extras. First is a look at the CGI used to create Gustave entitled "Croc-umentary: Bringing Gustave to Life."

Here, the filmmakers and crew members (none of whom are named, strangely) discuss the film's real-life origins and pat themselves on the back for making their CGI croc "look so real." Next are 5½ minutes of deleted scenes. Here, director Michael Katleman and visual effects supervisor Paul Linden talk about why the scenes were cut as they play. Unlike most releases, the commentary is not optional. Finally, Katleman and Linden talk about the production process and why they think the film is good in a feature-length audio commentary track.

A few years ago, back when we were broke and didn't have cable, my husband and I were flipping through the 6 channels we had and came across a documentary on PBS called "Capturing the Killer Croc." It was about Gustave and a team's attempts to capture it alive to keep it from devouring more villagers. The beast was never caught by the team who made "Capturing the Killer Croc," a misnomer to be sure, and Gustave continues to hunt in the region to this day. Measuring at around 21 feet long and weighing over one ton, the crocodile is a living legend and a nightmare to those who live along the banks of Lake Tanganyika. Primeval, which seems to crib a lot from the PBS documentary, has something in common with the monster crocodile: it strikes fear in the hearts of movie-goers. You see, they're afraid that if a movie this monumentally bad got made, what ghastly dreck could be on the horizon?

Right away, you can tell this movie isn't going to be pretty. The characters are immediately introduced as cookie-cutter stereotypes: Tim is the hero, Aviva is the damsel in distress and Steven is the funny, but ill-fated sidekick. Overacting abounds in Langton, who successfully masters the art of looking scared and screaming and nothing else. Purcell is a bit better but not by much. Stone-faced expressions and wooden deliveries make him about as interesting as the tree in the background. He's an attractive tree, but a fruitless one. Jones, too, is one note. His acting is the best of the bunch; he seems much more adept in front of the camera; but his character is nothing more than mediocre one-liners.

As if the acting and the character development weren't enough, the "Big Bad" in the film, Gustave, was so poorly animated that he was more amusing than scary. In fact, I found myself erupting in laughter when, toward the climax, the hokey CGI crocodile began bounding through the plains like a puppy while in pursuit of his prey. I actually rewound the scene so I could watch it again, it was that ridiculous.

What's worse is the person he was chasing was someone the audience should have cared about but, because of the silly effects, couldn't.

Not good enough to be a Jaws and not campy enough to be a Snakes on a Plane, Primeval fails to elicit more than a groan and a giggle. In fact, it just fails. Save your time, money and brain cells and skip this one.



quirky comedies hit the small screen

Flight of the Conchords and Creature Comforts

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

Two aspiring musicians/comedy writers, Bret McKenzie and Jemaine Clement, have come to America to make their mark. Already big stars in New Zealand, McKenzie got an agent and did a series of funny commercials for Outback, which caught the interest of HBO producers Anna Dokoza and Christo Morse. The connected producers helped the pair develop a thirty-minute show for HBO called the Flight of The Conchords. The duo's naïve, slacker characters are clueless about the American music biz. They bumble along in their own delusional world, which they reveal through funny songs that come out as comically sentimental without a hint of angst.

Think of them as Tenacious D on downers. The duo has one fanatical fan (Kirsten Schaal) who stalks them and a dolt of a manager who uses a cell phone to shoot their first video about two robots in ridiculous homemade costumes. Not surprisingly, the duo say inappropriate things to women with whom they are trying to connect, like, "You're so beautiful... like a high-class prostitute...you could be a part-time model."

The duo's music is eclectic and funny while featuring their precise vocal harmonies and masterful guitar playing. Their quirky, wry humor is at first odd, but this pair of idiot savants wax lovable, soon drawing the viewer into their world. Struggling musicians will see themselves in McKenzie and Clement as they face an apathetic American public. Remarkably, their innocence works out in their favor, making them fearless as they stumble into fertile situations that could either get them the recognition they crave or get them kicked out. Their behavior is almost like they came from another planet rather than New Zealand.

McKenzie and Clement present a staggering selection of musical genres at the oddest times. Suddenly, after making a call from a public phone, Bret bursts into song about some inane situation. The music could be reggae, rock, blues, or alt-rock, but the duo's songs are funny and catchy. In a parallel universe, this pair could have written the music for Little Shop of Horrors. Their hipness is born out of their naïveté, leaving them oblivious to anxiety. Savvy viewers may find themselves wanting to protect the pair from the music biz predators.



Based on the pilot episode, we can expect more droll comedy from this talented duo. Like a delayed high, the show sneaks up and suddenly makes you laugh at the off-the-wall humor. It's totally different in an appealing way.

Another oddball comedy debuting on CBS is Creature Comforts, from Nick Park and Peter Lord of Aardman Animation, the Oscar-winning British animators who created Wallace and Gromit and Chicken Run. Created in the time-consuming medium of stop motion claymation, Creature Comforts is an unseen reporter shooting a documentary on American's opinions. Park and Lord actually went across America interviewing ordinary people on a variety of subjects such as animal magnetism and keeping a secret.

These real interviews are spoken through a gaggle of claymation pigs, hippos, cows, birds, dogs, owls, forest creatures and insects. Its wry humor is funny coming from the mouths of the animated animals. At first, viewers may not buy into the concept, but after a few minutes it's completely endearing and addictive. It even sounds authentic, like the stop-motion clay animals are real.

Park and Lord have created typically British characters but with American accents. It's whimsical with subtle humor, but it is engrossing. A tiger complains of his inability to get fresh meat. An opossum covered in babies tells the reporter she doesn't get out much and koalas wear eyeglasses. In Park and Lord's imaginative world, anything is possible and animals understand much more than we could have possibly imagined.



video games

BY **NORM STOVALL** normstovall@gmail.com

THE BIGS

For Xbox 360 (Also for PSP, Wii, PS2 and PS3)

If you are looking for a souped-up and pimped-out version of *Major League Baseball 2K7*, you should check out *The Bigs*. While not quite as over-the-top as games like *Midway's MLB Slugfest* or *Blitz: the League*, *The Bigs* certainly does pack a punch. In what the developers are deeming a "heroic" baseball game, the emphasis with this title is on the stars that make *Major League Baseball* fun to watch. With *The Bigs*, games last only 5 innings, and they play a bit faster than your average baseball sim, which is actually pretty cool. You can expect to finish a game in around 20-25 minutes, give or take. With easy to pick up controls and a familiar, yet fresh, user interface, *The Bigs* is great for Baseball fans looking for a quick and fulfilling video game fix.



GOOD GAME, PEACE OUT.

Play Street Fighter Alpha 2 via GGPO from Shoryuken.com

Sometimes, you just can't get through to some people. Especially hardcore fighting game players. You tell them that the newest fighting games should be online, but they snap back at you with things like: "No way! Lag would ruin it!" or "Online games are for scrubs!" Well, maybe they are right, or at least partially right, but now, some of the developers/fanatics at Shoryuken.com have come up with a new way to play fighting games online that eliminates the lag that plagues online play for so many people, lag that makes them hate playing online. With GGPO, latency is hidden in a way that allows the game to run at full speed, and there is no delay in the form of input lag. If you hated playing fighting games online before, give GGPO a try and see if it can't change your mind about them. You can find everything you need to know about GGPO at GGPO.net.



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(Rawkus Records, DC/Maryland)

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get in the swing

kids and teens find fun at the Murray Hill Theatre

BY JON AND KID BOSWORTH

jaxvillain@yahoo.com

Finding something that is both fun and safe for teenagers and kids can be a struggle, and this struggle is heightened during the summer. Fortunately, there are some places that open their doors to teens especially. Even more fortunately, some of these places try to make their space safe and fun for those teens, so parents don't have to worry. Parents and teenagers everywhere can be thankful there is the Murray Hill Theatre. Murray Hill Theatre is a music venue and nightclub with no alcohol, delicious milkshakes, a wonderful snack bar, some pool tables and one of the best live music stages in town. More importantly: they have Swing Night.

While you may not think of Murray Hill as necessarily safer than downtown (it is), you don't have to worry about the neighborhood, because at the Murray Hill Theatre you can watch them go inside and then they stay inside with nothing but supervision, swing music and their friends. If you're nervous, join them. Parents get in free with their kids and they are welcome to join in the fun, as long as their child lets them.

Murray Hill Theatre usually hosts live bands that have a positive, Christian-oriented message. Much of their funding comes from area churches that want to provide a safe place for young people to hang out. On the first and third Friday of every month they turn this live music venue into a dance hall and play swing music. Welcoming kids between the ages of 10 and 19, there are professional instructors teaching swing, mambo, and other fun dance techniques. DJ C-Shells spins swing and dance favorites throughout the night and they have various dance competitions. Whether they want to cut a rug on the dance floor, sit back and dig the dance tunes, or slurp down their favorite soft drink in the café and hang with their friends, Murray Hill Theatre provides plenty of safe and fun activities for youngsters.

My daughter and her friends recently attended Swing Night. They took some pictures and answered some questions I had about why they like it so much.

from *Grease*. Sometimes they do the cha-cha, the electric slide, and all kinds of music that have dances that go with it.

EU: Are the older teenagers there nice?

Kid: I don't usually talk to them unless I know them. The ones that I know, because they've babysat us before, they are nice, but I don't talk to the other ones.

EU: Do you feel safe there?

Kid: Actually I do. Especially when I'm with an adult.

Check out Swing Night at the Murray Hill Theatre, located at 932 Edgewood Avenue in the Murray Hill neighborhood of Riverside, on July 6th and 20th and every first and third Friday of every month. For more details go to murrayhilltheatre.com or call (904) 388-3179.



summerteen

fighting boredom by morgan henley and seth hedstrom

Let's face it- there are only so many things a teenager can do to fill up a summer. The requisite trips to the beach, the long days meandering through the shimmering halls of the Avenues mall, and the occasional day trip to Ichetucknee, Ginnie Springs, or any other of Northeast Florida's select few natural splendors usually fill the bill. Although these classic, time-tested activities serve to occupy adolescents for, maybe, the first few starry-eyed weeks of summer, the options begin to dwindle as teens become more and more lackadaisical.

What to do when you've done it all? Surprisingly, the answers are much more readily apparent than one would expect. A host of local organizations are offering a variety of summer programs and day camps that are sure to jump-start the summer of any disenchanted teen. A few suggestions...

BEADING/JEWELRY CAMP

June 18 - 22, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
For rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, the camp will feature beading projects and lots of fun. Located at Mandarin Middle School, the cost is \$125. Call 904-292-0555.

CAMP RISK OVERNIGHT CAMP

June 24 - 29
July 1 - 6
July 8 - 13
For rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. Activities include swimming, tennis, volleyball, softball, basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, and arts & crafts in a Christian environment. Cost is \$350 a week. Held at Camp St. John at Marywood. Call 904-287-2525.

MODELING CAMP FOR KIDS AND TEENS

May 29 - August 10
For boys and girls ages 5-8, 9-11 and 12 & up. Activities include instruction in runway modeling, makeup, hairstyles, etiquette, social graces, TV commercials, photo sessions, dressing cool, and a fashion show. Cost is \$225 for the six-day session. Extended day available 9am-10:30am and 3pm-5pm at no extra charge. On San Jose Blvd; call 904-292-4366.

GIRLS INC. SUMMER CAMP, SPRING PARK TEEN CENTER

June 4 - Aug 10, 7 am - 6 pm
For girls ages 12 - 17. Includes arts and crafts, computer skills, sports fun, and field trips. Lunch is provided. Cost is \$50 a week with a \$20 registration fee. Multiple child and multiple week discounts available. Contact 904-731-9933.

JEWISH CULTURE CLUB

June - July 2007, 10 am - 12 pm
Held at JCA headquarters on San Jose, The Jewish Culture Club is filled with Yiddish, jokes and just about everything else Jewish. Laugh and learn with friends on Thursday mornings while you enjoy coffee and refreshments. Yearly Fee: \$20 for JCA members only. Call 904-730-2100.

JACKSONVILLE SUNS BASEBALL

Schedule Varies
Our treasured little gem of a baseball stadium offers relatively cheap entertainment almost constantly. The Suns baseball team has its on and off games, but everyone knows that the hot dogs and peanuts are the best part of baseball games anyway. Tickets start at \$9 and go to about \$20 per game. Make sure you go on the right evening, because they offer \$1 beer featured on Thirsty Thursdays. It makes the crowd a little rowdier and

the lines longer. Friday nights feature a fireworks display, or go on another night with one of their frequent bobblehead giveaways. Carpool with friends to avoid the hassle of parking.

CLUB PARIS

Sunday Night Teen Night
This is a great opportunity for the under 17 set to get a taste of this infamous club. A little more high school dance than crazy club experience, the bar is stocked with virgin drinks and the music is edited. The "Club Paris" name will draw many teens, making the crowd just the right size. Don't worry mom and dad, there's a strict policy to make sure that everyone there is only 13-17, making safety less of an issue. The fact that more than half the crowd is dropped off and picked up by mom and dad is great- no parking hassles. The show ends early at ten-thirty and the admission is \$10. That price includes a free soft drink and all the Top 40 music one could possibly want to hear. Bags of potato chips and candy are also for sale for \$1.

VANS WARPED TOUR

July 19th
It's hot, it's sweaty, it's loud and it's fun. The Warped Tour has captured the heart of many Jacksonville teens, and hopefully the move to Green Cove Springs won't disenchant anyone. If mom and dad are willing to drive the few extra miles to Green Cove, then put on your Converse and catch up on your Yellowcard. Tickets will set you back around \$30, while the cost of food, beverages, and those irresistible souvenirs will probably double the ticket cost. So, save up that allowance and try to find a ride, cause this year's lineup is a blast from the Warped Tour past with Yellowcard, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, and New Found Glory.

MURRAY HILL THEATRE

If you've never been to the Murray Hill Theatre, it's kind of like stepping onto the set of Pleasantville or something. This quaint and cutesy theatre offers shows on Fridays and Saturdays in an alcohol and smoke-free environment. Most of the bands are Christian rock bands and all of the bands keep their shows clean.

THE SAN MARCO THEATRE

The San Marco Theatre is one of Jacksonville's most treasured movie theatres and a true monument to the old cinemas of yesteryear. It offers movies throughout the day, but the real fun starts during the midnight movies. Because of its location in San Marco, it's a perfect place to go to for a night out. For a break from the megaplex, the San Marco theatre is ideal.

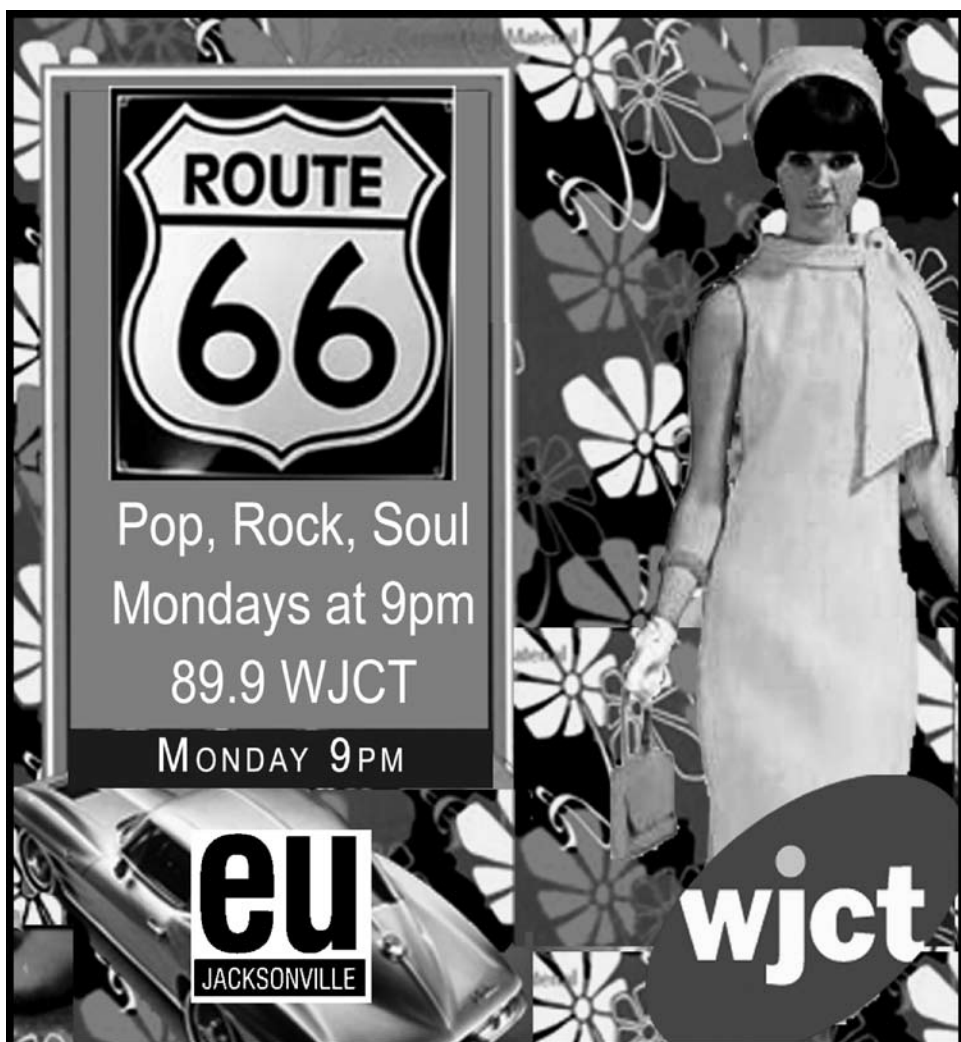


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The advertisement features a vintage car in the foreground and a woman in a white dress and hat in the background, set against a background of a pattern of large flowers.



volunteering in jacksonville

community activism comes from the heart

by rick grant and morgan henley

it's better to give than to receive by rick grant

Based on the old adage, "it's better to give than to receive," community activism comes from a person's heart. There are innumerable ways to give back to one's community by volunteering in various organizations or doing personal acts of kindness. Most people who become involved with community service do it without fanfare or thoughts of receiving accolades. It's a way of touching one's spiritual core. Whether it's one Saturday a month cleaning up litter in the neighborhood or using one's talents in music, arts, or education to help kids become better citizens, the one constant in the equation is: activism enhances one's feeling of self-worth.

For the mega-wealthy, like Bill Gates, becoming a philanthropist was the only path that could give him any sense of self-satisfaction. By using his vast fortune to help the impoverished, starving, and HIV-infected African nations, he is fulfilling his spiritual commitment to use the money for the common good. Sure, he has all the trappings of the ultra-rich—his own private jet, a huge mansion in Seattle—anything he could think of or imagine he can buy. But all those material things can't give him a feeling of self-worth. Only helping others enables Bill Gates to sleep at night.

When people show me random acts of kindness, I'm so astonished by the spirit of giving that I reciprocate by trying to follow the golden rule. Years ago, my old 1960 Volkswagen's engine blew up on the Sunshine Parkway, leaving parts of the engine strewn all over the roadside. Of course, this was before cell phones or emergency call boxes, so I was stranded. It's a lonely, depressing feeling. After about an hour of trying to flag someone down, a man in a pickup truck stopped to help, and it so happened he was going to Jacksonville, like me. He attached a rope to my car and towed me all the way to my home in Jacksonville. I offered him money for gas, but he refused. He wouldn't even give me his address or phone number. A complete stranger helped little old me. Wow! Today, I still think of that guy's incredibly unselfish act of kindness.

With all the violence and war in the world, it's hard to focus on the people who give their time and money to help others. When I feel discouraged by the heinous killing in the Middle East, I think of the unsung heroes in our community who joyously help to better humankind by their community activism. Believe me, no matter what is bothering you, helping others will put things in perspective.

When I covered the Opening of Wolfson's Children's Hospital, Barbara Bush was the guest of honor. After her entourage toured the hospital, the members of the press were taken on a tour. Seeing the chronically ill children touched me deeply. Some of the kids had terminal cancer or advanced Cystic Fibrosis. I was humbled, and whatever little nigging problem happened to be bothering me that day was nullified by my compassion for those sick kids. The one thing that impressed me the most was that all the kids, no matter how sick they were, were smiling and laughing. It was a peak moment for me. Now, when I complain or grumble

about trivial things, I think of those kids, and it's a jolt of reality.

There are countless ways to get involved with community service. Google "volunteerism" and a plethora of sites come up for organizations like Volunteers of America (voa.org) Retired Senior Volunteer Program, or Volunteers of America North Central Florida Permanent Housing.

First Coast News' website (firstcoastnews.com) is a great site to get inspiration on their 12 Who Care honorees' page. I was especially impressed with Harry "Tom" Heery's story. Although Tom himself is blind, helping other people is his passion. Harry lost his sight years ago, but he refused to let it hold him back. Tom volunteers his time to counsel other people who are losing their sight and to teach them how to cope. Tom is married with two children and is a devoted family man, but he still finds time to help others who are going blind by reassuring them that losing one's sight is just a minor inconvenience.

Clearly, celebrities like Angelina Jolie have discovered that community or worldwide activism is the only way they can get peace of mind. They take part in all the superficial partying and other foolishness, but one day they wake up, grow up and become responsible adults.

Finally, activism can be flexible enough to involve as much time or money as one can afford to spend. Just helping an elderly neighbor by checking on them every day and making sure they are well is a random act of kindness. It can give a warm feeling of community to anyone, and when one does it, it starts a cascade of kindness that proliferates across the land. The rewards are immeasurable.



volunteering for teens by morgan henley

Ask not what Jacksonville can do for you, but what you can do for Jacksonville. Summertime has rolled around, and what better time to do something for the community? Volunteering is a great way to get out of the house, meet new people, learn new things, and maybe even pick up a few community service hours for school. Many teenagers are required to volunteer in order to receive the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship (it's 75 hours to receive 100% of your tuition paid for, along with the other requirements). Colleges also love to read gripping admissions essays about volunteering. Some teens have more of a personal agenda in mind, and are just doing it for the great feeling that volunteering gives you. Nonetheless, volunteering is also a great way to spend some of the overabundant time that teens usually have during the summer.

The options of places to lend a helping hand at are plenty, but these are some of the best bets for teens.

american red cross life saving corps

If you've ever taken a visit to Jacksonville Beach on a Sunday or a major holiday, those lifeguards you see sitting on those gleaming red towers are volunteers. The American Red Cross Life Saving Corps is really just a fancy name for the Jacksonville Beach lifeguards who dedicate every Sunday to keep an eye out on the ocean. They go through a rigorous recruiting program that starts in either February or May. Many high school students around the city join the Corps for the camaraderie and leadership skills it harbors. The volunteer lifeguards have to man their lifeguard towers and watch the water along with taking care of the stands and Lifeguard Station. This volunteering opportunity is only for the toughest, but it proves to be worth it in the end, as many of the volunteers are also paid lifeguards for the normal beach week. **Average Number of Hours Earned at the End of the Summer: 300**





camp i am special, promise, care

This camp was created for mentally handicapped children to be able to have the summer camp experience that many of them couldn't otherwise. Disabled campers are partnered with a "buddy," who spends the entire week with them at an overnight camp, helping them have the best camp experience they can. The camp is a program of the Catholic Ministries of the Diocese of St. Augustine and is located right outside of Jacksonville in Switzerland at Marywood. The camp is a great way to learn patience, selflessness, and leadership along with a great excuse to remember what's important in life, the pursuit of fun. This is great for anyone who likes working with children and fellow teens.

Average Number of Hours Earned at the End of the Summer: 120 per week

jacksonville humane society

For those who love furry creatures, the humane society has got a job for you. The Humane society thrives off its many volunteers who help take care of all the different animals. There are more than just orphaned cats and dogs, but ferrets, rabbits, and birds, too. You must be fifteen and have parental consent to apply, and there's an orientation before the actual volunteering for training. If you like walking dogs and playing with cats, then this is an ideal opportunity.

Average Number of Hours Earned at the End of the Summer: Varies



MOSH

The Museum of Science and History offers a great teen volunteer program where high school students (grades 9 - 12) help out in different areas of the museum. The jobs vary from helping out in the planetarium, handling the live animals, museum demonstrations, visitor services, and helping out summer camps. For those who've got a knack for science or just really like the MOSH (who doesn't?), this is an interesting way to rack up some community service hours. Plus, I bet you get to meet Tonka. Applications are due in April, so be prepared next year if this interests you.

Average Number of Hours Earned at the End of the Summer: 75 along with a required 25 additional in the school year

jacksonville public library

Maybe a nice, cool place is where you'd like to devote your spare time. The Jacksonville Public Library offers many positions in which you can help in almost every aspect of the library. With a location in almost every neighborhood, this is a great opportunity for those with a lack

of transportation. The work is quiet, so if you're hoping for an exciting volunteer job, this might not be right for you. If being around hundreds of books makes your day, then fill out an application at your local library branch today. Kids age 12 - 15 will participate in a different group than those 16 and older.

Average Number of Hours Earned at the End of the Summer: Varies

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active cultures

internal growth from action and interaction

Summer is a time for taking a break from the usual rigor of our daily lives and taking a little “me-time” to do the things you always say that you want to. I know most of us don’t really get a “summer break”, but it is a time to reorganize how we manage our time, so why not organize in those activities that pique your interest? I know it’s hot, but get outside a little more. Sweating equals weight loss, right? Most Americans could use a little of that. This issue of EU is about getting out and doing.

At first we made this the SummerTeens issue because everyone worries about what the kids will have to do (and especially what teenagers will do to get into trouble) but as we started thinking about activities for teenagers, we realized that we all need to get out and get more active. And there are plenty of activities around town that are as interested in you getting involved as there are activities you are interested in getting involved in.

So whether it is volunteering to help a local charity or non-profit organization that shares some of your social goals, getting involved with a sports team for the summer, meeting new people in new ways, or jumping out of airplanes, the important thing is that you get out there. EU sent our writers all over town to find the best ways for you to get active this summer, even if you don’t need to lose the weight.

the cultural center at ponte vedra beach: enrichment programs for adults and children

by donald dusinberre

Summer has always been the time of year when we put our minds on fun and relaxation. Sometimes we get a little too attached to the relaxation part of it and lose the opportunity to get some exercise for our bodies and our brains.

If you live near the beaches, then you will most likely spend quite a bit of time under the sun and in the sand. But don’t forget that you also have easy access to the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Offering arts education programs, art appreciation programs, and community outreach programs, the Cultural Center is capable of enriching your life and your community through the arts. Go ahead and work on that tan, but don’t forget to work on your mind.

Participating in the arts can make a community more attractive, more aware and more dynamic. Since 1994, the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach has been a nonprofit organization committed to keeping the arts strong in the community. They have an art gallery that features photography, paintings and drawings from the Jacksonville area’s finest artists. The gallery is free and open to the public.

Not only do they have a gallery, they also conduct a plethora of classes, workshops, lectures and exhibitions for children and adults. Classes include watercolor painting, landscape oil painting, acrylic painting,

basic drawing, pastels, poetry, glass and sculpture, figure sculpture, yoga, tai chi, ballroom dancing, crochet, foreign languages, and culinary arts. Fall classes begin in early September, and spring classes begin in January.

For children ages 4 – 10, the Cultural Center hosts a Summer Arts Camp where participants can learn to make artwork from a variety of materials, learn the basics of martial arts, and turn food into art and back again. There will also be acting and writing lessons.

For teens and pre-teens age 11 – 15, the Cultural Center offers advanced workshops at their Summer Arts Camp. With a sculpture workshop, private instrument and voice lessons, and dance lessons, there’s plenty of enriching activities for anyone.

The Summer Camp activities will be organized in conjunction with the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, the Ponte Vedra Ballet & Dance Company, and the Riverside Fine Arts Association.

If you plan on taking advantage of some of the programs offered by the Cultural Center, then consider becoming a member. Memberships serve two purposes: First, they help fund programs offered to the community. Second, they allow members to participate in the Cultural Center programs at a reduced rate.

To become a member, sign up for classes, or register your child for Summer Camp, call (904) 280-0614 xt 204, or check out the Cultural Center website at ccpvb.org.

society for creative anachronism

by erin thursby

From Japan to Jacksonville, you can find organized groups of people dressing like it’s 1376. They make mead the old-fashioned way, don full armor and dream of better days- when people settled things with swords. These folks are part of the SCA, better known as the Society for Creative Anachronism. It’s creative because they tend to leave out all the icky stuff that happened in bygone times, like plagues and burning people at the stake. Instead, they focus on fashion, swordplay and largely romanticized versions of history. That’s not to say that there aren’t those in the SCA who yearn for absolute historical accuracy, but most of these folks are out to have a good time with history.

If you’d like to get into the local chapter of the SCA, you might want to go to Riverside Park on Sunday afternoon from about 1 pm – 4 pm. Every week the Shire of Castlemere (our Jacksonville chapter) meets for fighter practice in the Southeastern corner of the park on the corner of Park Street and Post Street in Five Points.

If you want more details on the rules and regulations (what to wear, how to act) visit sca.org and click on the newcomers link.

WHAT IS THE S.C.A.?

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) is a not-for-profit educational organization devoted to the study of pre-seventeenth century Western Culture. It concentrates on the European Middle Ages and the Renaissance, with members working to recreate the arts and skills of this era. Some members study the Middle East and explore the interaction between Europe and Asia during the period under study. The SCA was incorporated in 1968, but recognizes a tournament held in Berkeley, California on May 1, 1966 as its founding date.

bowling by erin thursby

Bowling undeniably has its own culture and competitive spirit. On any given weeknight, you can walk into Jacksonville’s Bowl America and see what I mean. Since there are bowling alleys near almost every neighborhood, it isn’t difficult to find one close to you.

Different days of the week accommodate different types of bowlers, with serious leagues dominating on a particular day of the week. Most leagues are built around age groups or interests and divided by the skill level of the participants, and if you take a look at the crowd, you’ll see retirees, lawyers, doctors, mechanics and entire families.

There are all kinds of leagues in place at the various alleys. Some are family based, but others, like the Socialites League, cater to folks who like to eat, drink and be merry. With youth, senior and the various themed leagues, you’re bound to find a group that will appeal to you. Even if your place of business doesn’t have a team, you can still join one. All you need to do is go up front and ask. Most of the time they have a form at the shoe rental counter that you can fill out. Leagues start with the seasons, and we’re already a few weeks in, but there are always teams still looking for players to fill in the gaps.

The cost of starting is \$18 for a UBC membership plus an additional \$13 – 20 for weekly dues, depending on the league. The dues go toward league and team prizes. Many teams and leagues divide the winnings by awarding cash prizes or with gift certificates. Although you can still get in for this season, the fall season starts either the last week in August or the beginning of September. Visit the Bowl America website at bowl-america.com, or call the location nearest you.





PHOTO BY HAMMER

skydiving by erin thursby

When I first mentioned to my editor that I might like to skydive for a story, he was pretty clear that it wasn't an assignment and that any ensuing death or paralysis was all my doing. My husband, who feels that bungee jumping is a safe activity, simply asked me why I would jump out of a perfectly good airplane. Although I'm oddly comfortable with the idea of stepping out of a plane soaring thousands of feet above the earth with a man strapped to my back, I would never bungee jump. I've just seen too many Road Runner cartoons. Anything involving what is essentially a giant rubber band never ends well for Wile E. Coyote.

Maybe it isn't the best idea to make life-altering decisions based on a cartoon, but as long as they didn't pack an anvil instead of a parachute, everything would be just fine.

And it was, which is why I'm not dead and writing this now.

I wasn't really all that nervous on the way up. I'd already considered my death, plus, the law and safety rules pretty much require that you jump tandem on your first time. This is a good idea because skydiving is one sport where it's best if you don't make mistakes. (If at first you don't succeed... splat!) Tandem means, as I mentioned, that you're going to have a man strapped to your back (an experience that may or may not be familiar to you). That man is responsible for all the fun stuff, like checking his personal altimeter, pulling the 'chute cord and steering you down. Even if your new bestest friend passes out, there's a safety mechanism in place that tells a computer to release the parachute.

I was feeling just a tad queasy when we took the step out of the plane. It wasn't what I expected. Here we were, hurtling towards the earth, and I didn't feel like I was falling; I didn't get that stomach-in-your-shoes, stomach-in-your-throat feeling you get from an elevator. It felt, actually, something like what flying might feel like.

Although you're only supposed to be falling for about a minute before the chute billows out, it feels like a dreamtime infinity. When the chute does catch, you're jerked a little and gravity becomes a reality again. You're no longer flying. When the chute opens, it feels more like a controlled fall. My tandem buddy worked the lines on the 'chute, and we did circles in the air, looping down. When the chute was open it felt more like a ride at the fair.

As we came down, I remembered to lift my legs up and let my tandem buddy handle the touch down. As soon as we touched down, I was promptly sick, mostly on my shoes.

I'd definitely do it again.

To book your skydiving experience, call 1-(888) JUMP-JAX. The facility is just past the main entrance of Herlong Airport on Normandy.



PHOTO BY HAMMER

scrap jax! by erin thursby

On any given Friday or Saturday night at the Crop Shoppe, you'll find more than a dozen women busily trading ideas and showing each other pictures. These women are part of a legion of dedicated scrapbookers in the area, and they're busily creating a special place for memories and artistically-crafted gifts that will mean something to its recipient, far more than some prepackaged gift.

Scrapbooking might not seem like the most athletic thing to do in Jacksonville, but the scrapbooking community is very active here, especially in Orange Park and Mandarin. Mandarin is where you'll find the Crop Shoppe, a huge locally owned shop with all your scrapbooking needs.

Throughout the month of July, the Crop Shoppe will host various events and workshops, including "Get Your Doodle On!" (July 11th), Basic Scrapping Techniques (July 12th), Stamping (July 18th), and Mother-Daughter Scrapbooking (July 28th). These special events and workshops cost anywhere from \$5 – \$35, and many require supplies. Call ahead to reserve a spot and find out what you'll need.

The fee for weekly crops is \$5 per session, a cheap price for scrapbook camaraderie and a large space away from the chaos of home. Often, scrapbookers find it easier to surprise their significant other and their kids with a finished scrapbook because they save the work for crop nights.

The weekly crops are held on Fridays from 6 pm – midnight and Saturdays from 4 pm – 10 pm. You do need to call to reserve your seat. Fridays fill up quickly (book 2 weeks in advance) but it's possible to get in at the last minute on a Saturday, since those don't book as quickly.

The Crop Shoppe is located at 10584 Old St. Augustine Road. Call (904) 260-4330 to book a weekly crop or scheduled class.



field of dreams: florida's first coast asa softball

by donald dusinberre

Softball is a sport made for so many people. It gives people the chance to play a game with their spouse. It provides an opportunity to get out of the house and make new friends. For me, it's a chance to relive my youthful dreams of baseball stardom, not to mention shed a few dozen unwanted pounds. By the way, I'm still working on both.

If you've never played softball, then you've just arrived here from Papua New Guinea. Welcome to America. Of course, it's similar to baseball in a thousand ways, but its rules and speed of play are friendly to all ages. The ball is bigger and yes, softer, which makes it easier to hit and field. Pitching is slower, making strikeouts scarce and hits common. There are some leagues in which the players and teams are fiercely competitive, but for the most part, everyone plays for the fun of it.

In Jacksonville, Florida's First Coast ASA Softball is a softball organization organized by the city. This American Softball Association softball league has leagues all over the First Coast, from Baker County to Flagler County. Providing structure to the game for kids, men and women, FFCASA operates on numerous fields throughout the area, supplying umpires, scorekeepers, and making sure the fields are safe for play.

No matter what your age or skill level, there's a league for you, from the ultra-competitive to the "just for fun." Businesses and social groups organize many of the teams, while others are simply comprised of friends and acquaintances. There is always room for one more player. I joined a team and didn't know anyone at all.

To learn more about playing in a softball league, go to ffcsoftball.com. There is a wealth of information that will help you fit right in on your new team. Dust off that old glove and get active again.

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jax indoor sports and jacksonville ice teams

by kellie abrahamson

If you're looking for a good way to meet new people and get in a workout, look no further than Jacksonville Indoor Sports, where the athlete and the beginner can join a team or take part in a pickup game. The 55,000 square-foot center offers a variety of sports, some conventional, some not so much.

DODGE BALL

Famed dodge ball champion Patches O'Houlihan once said "If you're going to become true dodgeballers, then you've got to learn the five d's of dodge ball: dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge!" You're guaranteed to master the five d's after a season of adult coed dodge ball at Jacksonville Indoor Sports. The 7-week season begins on July 18th, with leagues at the recreational and intermediate levels. Each team will play one match a week on Wednesday evenings. After the regular season, single elimination playoffs will determine which team is number one. Register now to join a league. The price is \$575 for a team of 15 players or \$60 for individuals. This popular callback to the school yard fills up fast, so sign up soon to get in on the action.

VOLLEYBALL

Even the most dedicated player has to admit it's a little too hot to play volleyball at the beach. Beat the heat by taking the competition inside on one of Jax Indoor Sport's 6 volleyball courts. Registration for the fall session, which starts on September 25th, begins in July. Coed teams of four (intermediate-level players) and teams of 6 (recreational) will have a 7-week season followed by playoffs, with each team playing once a week. For pricing for teams or individuals, sign up at jacksonvillescene.com to be added to the volleyball waiting list. If waiting two months is too long, take part in a pickup game at the facility on Friday evenings or all day Saturday and Sunday. At just \$7 for a single admission or \$35 a month for unlimited drop-in games, this is an inexpensive alternative to taking part in the leagues.

SOCCER

Soccer is the most popular sport in the world and is continuing to grow in popularity in the US. Men have the opportunity to see what all the fuss is about with the men's Thursday night soccer league, which begins their 8 week season on July 19th. Seven teams will take part in the season, with the top four teams advancing to the playoffs. The league will only hold seven teams, so if you would like to participate, you must call to reserve your spot as soon as possible. The cost for each team of 10 is \$550 plus tax and \$55 for each additional player. Ladies can also give soccer a try during drop-in and pickup games, which take place Friday evenings and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6 pm.

BASKETBALL

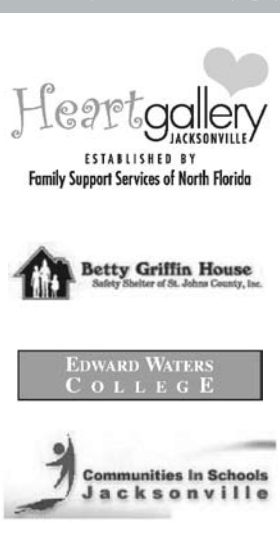
If you've dreamed of being like Mike, basketball is yet another sport offered at Jacksonville Indoor Sports. While league play is already underway, you can still get your dunk on at pickup games each Friday evening and all day long on Saturdays and Sundays.

ICE HOCKEY

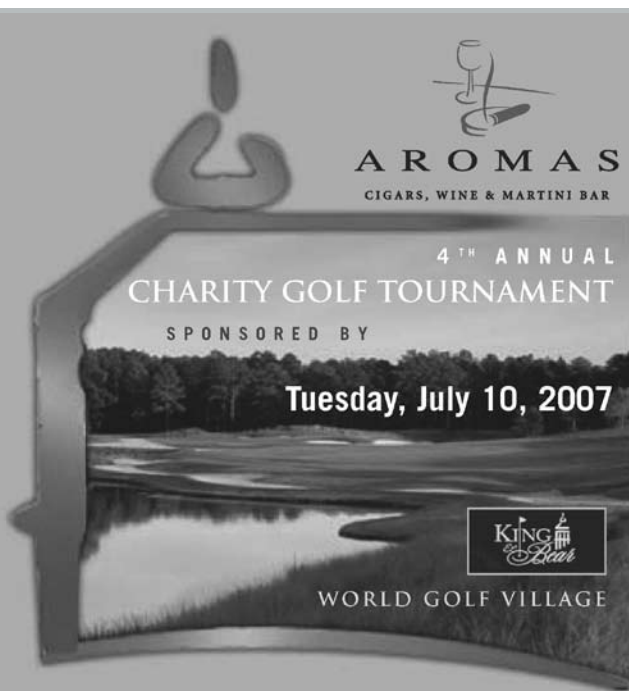
Jacksonville ICE, an ice sports and recreational center, is housed in the same facility. Here, kids of all ages can try their hand at ice skating during public sessions or the Learn to Skate program. But, the big attraction for sports lovers is hockey, and Jacksonville ICE has teams for everyone. Kids ages 3 to 17 can join the Junior Barracudas, which begins their regular season in the fall. Registration is on August 18th, with practices beginning on the 25th. Adult hockey players have a much shorter wait. Registration has begun the summer leagues, whose season runs from July 8th to August 10th. The season fee is \$200 and space is limited so sign up today. Finally, if you're a woman who's pretty good on skates, consider trying out for the Jacksonville Breakers, a local women's hockey team that brought home the league championship back in 2004-2005. Tryouts will be held late summer. Keep an eye on jacksonvillebreakers.com for exact dates and times.

Taking part in team sports gives people a chance to get social, get active and try new things. Jacksonville Indoor Sports and Jacksonville ICE give local sports enthusiasts an all-inclusive place to meet and compete. For more information on Jacksonville Indoor Sports and what they have to offer, visit jaxindoorsports.com or call (904) 346-3WIN. For info on Jacksonville ICE, visit jaxiceskating.com or call (904) 399-3223.

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pedal power: interview with cycle spectrum's clif lee by jon bosworth

With gas prices nearing three dollars, the climb in oil prices does not show any sign of slowing. Although a great deal of hubbub is being made about alternative fuels, there is one sustainable resource that makes a glaring impact on the oil struggle. Pedal power.

Clif Lee is the regional manager for Cycle Spectrum. He is also an avid biker. The "bicycle guy" in his circle, which includes a number of other area cyclists, Lee rides bikes everyday.

"I ride bikes everyday for my job and I try to ride a couple times a week in my free time. I don't have a set schedule," said Lee.

From the managers of his stores to his assortment of friends in the San Marco, Riverside, and Downtown area, Lee knows many of the people at the core of Jacksonville's urban biking scene.

Before the biking bug struck, Lee went to school to become an auto mechanic but found he preferred working with bicycles.

"There is more steady work in bicycles and it's actually fun. The customers aren't mad at you because their car is broken. Bicycling is recreational, people want to do it."

I caught up with Lee after work to pick his brain about the local biking scene.



CLIF LEE



BALDWIN TRAIL

EU: What kinds of biking is there around Jacksonville?

CL: There's road biking, BMX parks or skate parks you can ride BMX in, and trail biking, or off-road biking, in Hanna and Westside Regional Park. The best road biking would be on the Baldwin Trail, a railroad track that has been converted to a bike road.

EU: If someone wants to get into a biking group, where do they look?

CL: Go to North Florida Bicycling Club online or check with the various shops for novice rides to experienced rides. There's also family biking and all-around biking groups. North Florida Bicycling Club is the best place to look. (nfbcc.us)

EU: Do you ever find out about group rides?

CL: Through our store? Not too much. We don't have a lot of people that ride from our store. We usually send them to other shops. Open Road has some sessions and UNF has a club as well.

EU: What is the deal with fixed gear bikes?

CL: (laughing) You had to ask me that. I don't know, it's a simple bike, you know, nothing can go wrong with it. It's good for commuters, good transportation. It's a fad right now, but it's not good for people with bad knees, for sure. Anyone that gets a fixed gear should get brakes put on them in case of stop signs or emergencies.

EU: What are some of the other new bicycle trends around town?

CL: I've seen a lot more of the BMX kids out doing flat land and street ramps and stuff. They're always up at Metro park and at the Riverwalk around Friendship Fountain.

EU: What sides of town are especially good for bicycling?

CL: There's a lot of bicycling activity on San Jose, vehicles need to be more aware of that fact. A1A from the beach to St. Augustine has a good lane now. Down 17 has a nice off-street path for all users, runners, bike riders, all types. It's probably the safest one, besides the Baldwin Trail.

EU: What's the best starter bike?

CL: A comfort bike. Just get into cycling and see where you want to take it. You might just want to ride around the neighborhood or you might want to get some serious mileage. You can also do anything in a comfort bike, on road or off road, and be comfortable.

Cycle Spectrum has three locations in Jacksonville. Look for their stores in Jacksonville Beach, Flemming Island, and St. Johns Town Center. They are the ones with signs that say "Bike Shop." Or you can find them online at bikesdirect.com. There is a fourth of July ride from Jacksonville to the Baldwin Trail if you are interested in getting started as soon as possible. Get good enough and you may be able to cut your gas usage in half. See you on the streets!



**INDEPENDENCE DAY
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Don't miss a game!**

**Suns vs. Mobile BayBears
June 30 - July 3**

Saturday, June 30 - 7:05pm

Nolan Ryan Figurine Giveaway!

The first 3,000 fans will receive a limited-edition, numbered, 12th-scale figurine of the great Nolan Ryan in his 1967 Suns uniform, compliments of your local Chrysler and Jeep Dealers, First Coast News and Am 930 The Fox!

Sunday, July 1 - 5:05pm

Logo Eyeblick Giveaway and the Zooperstars!

All kids will receive a free pair of Suns logo eyeblick, courtesy of Radio Disney, plus enjoy the antics of Roger Clamens, Tiger Woodschuck and the other Zooperstars all during the game, sponsored by Fox 30 WAWS and WAPE 95.1FM. After the game, Kids Run the Bases, compliments of Florida Telco Credit Union!

**Monday, July 2, 7:05
Racing Night!**

Wear the colors of your favorite driver and enter for a chance to win great racing prizes including tickets to all the races in Daytona this upcoming weekend! Plus, meet Jeff Gordog, Snail Earnhardt, Jr. and Rusty Walrus! Stop by any area Coggin Dealership for a special ticket offer. Sponsored by Coggin Automotive, Rooster Country 93.3FM, The New 99.1 WOIK and AM 930 The Fox.

Tuesday, July 3, 7:05

GIANT Fireworks and Mr. Bragan's Birthday!

Independence Day comes early with a HUGE postgame fireworks show. Plus, help the Suns celebrate team owner Peter Bragan Sr.'s 84th Birthday! Sponsored by Baptist Health, Blue Bell Ice Cream and 99.9 Gator Country. Everyone gets free homemade vanilla ice cream to celebrate Blue Bell's 100th Birthday!

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get cooking!

First Coast cooking classes

BY ERIN THURSBY scopes1925@msn.com

If you're an amateur chef looking for a place to hone your skills, or if you just want to learn how to handle a knife, there are plenty of options for you on the First Coast. From baking for kids to cozy inn kitchens to classes that will get you through the basics and beyond, we have it all right here on the First Coast.

COOKING AROUND THE WORLD

One of my favorite restaurants in the Southside area, Blue Bamboo, offers cooking classes about once a month. Even though Chef Dennis Chan primarily serves up Asian/Western fusion cuisine, he's well-versed in food from around the globe. Besides regular menu items, each month he serves cuisine inspired by a different country. The cooking classes follow this format as well and they fill up fast with about 25 to 36 students. Each class includes at least a glass of wine, an appetizer, entrée and dessert, all for just \$35. Classes are held on Saturdays from 10 am to 12 pm. The upcoming schedule will be: Moroccan on July 21st, Cuban on August 11th, and Thai on September 8th. Call (904) 646-1478 to sign up today.

FOR THE KIDS

Those with kids who have the urge to bake should sign them up for a baking class at Hot Shot Bakery (also known as Luvin' Oven) in St. Augustine. The age range is from five to teen, covering different baking projects depending on the age and skill level of the participants. Parents have the option of leaving their children at the bakery or staying with them during the class, depending on the level of comfort the children and adults have. Baker Sherry Stoppelbein loves to teach baking and is delighted by the children's enthusiasm. Says Stoppelbein, "The first teaching class I had was a group of eleven-year old girls and they were just so well behaved and so into it, so hungry for... [the knowledge], it's just neat." Call to schedule (904) 824-7898. Luvin' Oven aka Hot Shot Bakery is located at 1962 US-1 South in St. Augustine.

ORGANIC COOKING

Maybe you've wanted to incorporate more organic and healthy ingredients in your diet, but you don't know where to begin. In Jax Beach, holistic practitioner Dr. Andrea Shaeffer-Pautz holds classes on organic cooking every other month. She's double board certified in internal and holistic medicine. Her next class, entitled "Summer Delights" will be on July 27th. Cost is \$75 for adults, \$30 for kids 10 and under and \$35 for kids from 11 to 17 years. Call (904) 246-3583 to sign up.

For more personalized, private classes, you might want to try Spa Cuisine. Millie Barnes, author of the book Optimum Nutrition, is available for nutrition coaching, but she also does private cooking classes for parties and families. She can also help you and your family know what to look for and what to buy in organic and healthy ingredients, whether you simply desire a healthier lifestyle or just want to lose weight. Call (904) 374-0389 for more details.

APRON'S COOKING SCHOOL

From guest celebrity chefs, cooking classes for teens and the basics, Apron's Cooking School has got you covered. With a cooking class (or two) every day of the week, you're certain to find something to fit



CHEF DENNIS CHAN
FROM BLUE BAMBOO

your schedule. Besides regular classes on basic knife handling, cooking with wine and couples cooking, they also do classes that change with the season, such as ice cream for the summer. You'll be able to choose from demo-style classes, which are set up like a cooking show, and hands-on cooking classes. With both styles of classes, you get to eat what you make or what the chef makes. These meals are steal; the Couples Cooking Class is a mere \$80 per couple and you get a five course meal and a few hours of entertainment as you watch the meal being cooked. Prices range depending on the class, from \$30 and up. Go to publix.com/aprons/schools/CookingSchools.do for the calendar and pricing.

WILLIAMS-SONOMA

Williams-Sonoma has two locations in Jacksonville, one at the Avenues and the other at the St. Johns Town Center. At the Avenues they'll be offering a vegetables course on July 15th and a fruit course on the 29th of July. These are free one-hour demos, but they do ask that you sign up ahead of time. Call (904) 538-0750 for details at the Avenues. At the Town Center they offer free technique classes on Saturday and Sunday mornings. July 14th and 15th they'll be holding a Farmer's Market Veggie demo. They also have pay classes, which have yet to be scheduled for July. Call (904) 998-4304 for more details.

THE COOK'S ON VACATION!

If you're into the culinary arts and you're planning a weekend getaway in St. Augustine, why not try the Inn on Charlotte. Call to ask about weekend packages that include gourmet food and wine presentations at (904) 829-3819.

Maybe you want to opt for Amelia Island on your next weekend or mini-vacation. If so, why not enjoy the Ritz-Carlton. Among the myriad things they have to offer is their Cooking School. Each Tuesday (through August) guests can take a tour of the chef's kitchen. Call (904) 277-1100 for more details.

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kids queer the deal

interview with Captain Kid

BY CHRISTINA WAGNER

WHO: Captain Kid with Boys of Summer and Matlock

WHERE: Murray Hill Theatre

WHEN: Saturday, June 30th (and)

WHO: Captain Kid with This Waking Moment and The Working Title

WHERE: Jack Rabbits

WHEN: Sunday, July 1st

To be quite honest, I generally hate pop or any commercial-driven music, but these Jacksonville locals are more than that. The first time I saw Captain Kid, I wasn't exactly blown away, but there was something that did pique my interest: the power and drive this young band has. Never have I met so many young musicians with the kind of devotion and dedication towards their craft. All of their hard work has paid off, literally. A year later, they emerged from Vision Sounds Studio a little beat up, but with great new material. Vision Sound Studios is owned by Scott Fravala, who helped Red Jumpsuit Apparatus record the album that launched them into stardom.

Be sure to check them out, the performance gets better every show. EU sat down with Casey King and Alex Barian and we discussed male nudity, skinny dipping and gay chicken.

EU: How did you guys come to be Captain Kid?

CK: Well, Seth and Miguel met in Mexico City when

they were eleven. Basically, we all played in three or four different bands before then, and finally we just all came together for Captain Kid.

AB: Captain Kid is a big, [incestuous] monster [from] other bands we've been in together.

EU: You started out working with Vision Sound, what was it like working with Scott [Fravala]?

AB: Scott's got a lot of really good ideas.

CK: He led a lot of our songs in the direction that they weren't going in at the time. He honestly gave us an idea of how to put our songs together better. So therefore, I think in the end we came out better songwriters because of it. We learned a little bit better how to produce ourselves because of him, so he helped out in that way.

EU: I've heard you guys frequently enjoy swimming naked together. What's up with that?

CK: That is true, we are all very close.

AB: Very comfortable in our sexuality.

CK: It's almost a daily thing.

AB: Seth jumped off the roof naked yesterday, actually, into the pool.

EU: Who are you currently signed with? Interscope?

AB: Interscope/ Treasure Chest.

EU: Casey, you used to tour around the world with



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a Christian group playing covers. What was that like?

CK: Believe it or not, it really made me love what I do more than anything because, I mean, I'm not particularly religious anymore, but those Christian kids, they love music, they love the scene, they get into it more than many of the shows that I've seen that were by secular bands. It just really gave me a passion for it and made me decide that this is what I want to do with my life.

EU: How does it differ from your experience with Captain Kid?

CK: Ummm. (Both Laughing) We just make fun of everything.

AB: Male nudity.

CK: Nothing is holy, like, we don't really have any, uh, morals? (Laughing) That's pretty much it, it's all about fun now. You don't have to follow a strict set of rules, it's really just about playing the music and we enjoy playing the music.

EU: Are you setting up a tour now?

CK: Actually we have a tour scheduled for the beginning of next year. Right now we're just calling it the high school tour. There's this new program, kind of like VH1 Save the Music. Only they're actually doing something.

AB: (Laughing) Wow.

CK: They actually contacted us and it sounds like a really great idea, we're really down for supporting that. That's going to be our first tour, but it's actually not out of town, it's all around Jacksonville.

Catch Captain Kid live at The Murray Hill Theatre on Saturday with Boys of Summer and Matlock and on Sunday at Jack Rabbits with This Waking Moment and The Working Title. **For the complete interview go to eujacksonville.com.**

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live music shows calendar

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

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

The Committee **Cortesses**, St. Augustine (825-6775)

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

The Street Dogs **Jack Rabbits**, Jax (398-7496)

Keylow, Organized Crime **TSI**, Jax (635-3024)

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

Time2swing **The Players Club**, Ponte Vedra

Soap **Panama Hatties**, St. Augustine (471-2192)

Laurel Lee & the Escapees **Yesterday's**, Jax (387-0502)

Out of Hand **Lynch's Irish Pub**, Jax Beach (249-5181)

Mike Sweet & Friends **Kingshead Pub**, St. Augustine

Roger That **Mercury Moon**, Orange Park (215-8999)

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

3 **Eddie Bahamas**, Jax Beach (241-3138)

Matt Still **Buckets**, Jax Beach (246-7701)

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

Ron Rodriguez **Fogle Fine Art Gallery**, Jax

Moderate Chop Ensemble **The Plaza**, St. Augustine

Riverside Guitar Quartet **European Street**, Jax (399-1740)

Blue Sage Shoes **Kingfish Grille**, St. Augustine

David Milam **Shannon's Irish Pub**, Green Cove Springs

Jam Session w/ El Toro Loco **Pub Ragusa**, Jax (443-7888)

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

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

Wes Cobb **Fly's Tie Irish Pub**, Atlantic Beach (246-4293)

Rebecca Zapen **Yesterday's**, Jax (387-0502)

Cornerstone **The Mill Top**, St. Augustine (829-2329)

Havoc **Ragtime Tavern**, Atlantic Beach (241-7877)

Ron Rodriguez **Mellow Mushroom**, Jax (997-1955)

Little Green Men **West Inn Cantina**, Jax (389-1131)

Freeze Frame **Fionn Maccool's**, Jax Beach (242-9499)

Neil Freestone **A1A Aleworks**, St. Augustine (829-2977)

Yankee Slickers **Players Grille**, Orange Park (264-4633)

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

Those Guys **The Oasis**, St. Augustine (471-3424)

Corey Smith **Freebird Live**, Jax Beach (246-2473)

De Lions of Jah **Twisted Sisters**, Jax Beach (241-6453)

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

Rip Tide w/Brian Turner **Cliff's**, Jax Beach (249-2777)

Dana Salmela **Cross Creek Restaurant**, Jax

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

Dave Massey **Reefers**, Jax (737-6300)

Chuck Nash **Latitudes Café**, Jax Beach (247-6606)

Rob Peck **Urban Flats**, Ponte Vedra (280-5515)

Von Barlow **Shanty Town**, Jax

National Product **Thee Imperial**, Jax (475-0488)

Dave Massey **Your Place**, Jax Beach (221-9994)

Laurelee & the Escapees **Springfield Station**, Jax

Rebecca Zapen **95 Cordova**, St. Augustine (827-1888)

Spade McQuade **Fly's Tie**, Atlantic Beach (246-4293)
 Johnathan Appleseed **House of Jam**, Mandarin (262-3377)
 Freeze Frame **Twisted Sisters**, Jax Beach (241-6453)
 Driven **Players Grille**, Orange Park (264-4633)
 Mission Dolls **Jack Rabbits**, Jax (398-7496)
 Boxrockers **Kingfish Grille**, St. Augustine
 Glass Bowl Holocaust **Freebird Live**, Jax Beach (246-2473)
 Chain of Fools **The Landing**, Jax (353-1188)
 Big Al & the Kaholics **Monkey's Uncle**, Jax Beach (246-1070)
 Mike Sweet & Friends **Mi Casa Café**, St. Augustine (824-9317)
 C1 Jazz **Arielle's**, Jax (721-4271)
 Johnny Flood **Aromas**, Jax (928-0515)
 Rezist **Brewsters**, Jax (223-9850)
 Jager Dave **On the Rocks**, Jax (685-5268)
 Lorenzo & the Allstars **West Inn Cantina**, Jax (389-1131)
 Driven **Players Grille**, Orange Park (264-4633)
 David Milam **Shannon's Irish Pub**, Green Cove Springs
 Kessler **Bourbon Street**, Jax (641-8777)
 Crystal Bessels **Kickback's**, Jax (388-9551)
 Aerial Tribe **Endo Exo**, Jax (396-7733)
 Second Wave **Panama Hatties**, St. Augustine (471-2192)
 Big Engine **Rivers Edge**, Fernandina Beach (491-3849)
 Broke Til Friday **Rebar**, Jax
 Sidewalk 65 **Tom & Betty's**, Jax (387-3311)
 Tempest Reign **Brewsters Pit**, Jax (223-9850)
 Matt Collins **Pauly's Pizza**, Jax (727-9101)
 Glass Camels **Jax Beach Billiards**, Jax Beach
 Sol Island **Kingfish Grille**, St. Augustine
 Sidewalk 65 **Tom & Betty's**, Jax (387-3311)
 Coda **Spare Time**, Jax Beach
 Johnny James Band **Frisky Mermaid**, Fernandina Beach (261-3300)
 Transpose **Club Fusion**, St. Augustine (829-8333)
 Wherefore, Soapbox Havoc **Murray Hill Theatre**, Jax (388-7807)
 Elisabeth Cramer **House of Jam**, Mandarin (262-3377)
 Gardy-Loo! **Elixir**, Orange Park (215-4400)
 Jim Robbins **The Grape**, Jax (642-7111)

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 29-30
 Us **Trade Winds Lounge**, St. Augustine (829-9336)
 Tytus Hale **Cliff's**, Jax (645-5162)
 Out of Hand **Mercury Moon**, Orange Park (215-8999)
 Cliff Worrell & the Restless Kind **Scarlett's**, St. Augustine (824-6535)
 BayStreet **Fionn MacCool's**, Jax Beach (242-9499)
 The Ride **Whitey's Fish Camp**, Orange Park (269-4198)
 Roger That **Lynch's Irish Pub**, Jax Beach (249-5181)
 Paul Lundgren **Cortesses**, St. Augustine (825-6775)
 Boogie Freaks **Ragtime Tavern**, Atlantic Beach (241-7877)
 Soulo **A1A Aleworks**, St. Augustine (829-2977)
 Token Blonde **Roadhouse**, Orange Park (264-0611)
 Magda Hiller **Mill Top Tavern**, St. Augustine (829-2329)
 Wild Card **Shannon's Irish Pub**, Green Cove Springs
 Livid **Casey's Hideaway**, Yulee
 Ghost rider **Monkey's Uncle**, Mandarin (260-1349)
 Blistur **The Oasis**, St. Augustine (471-3424)
 3 **Square One**, Jax (306-9004)

downtown comes alive

yuppies, high school grads, and rock shows, oh my!

BY JON BOSWORTH jaxvillain@yahoo.com



Downtown Jacksonville is often boring on a Friday night, but this past Friday was an exception. If there were an influx of school kids flooding the streets because of summer, I would understand, but it seemed to be the usual assortment of Jacksonvillians, only they all happened to converge downtown on this particular night.

My original plan was to go to TSI to catch Tuffy. I knew that there was a beer fest going on in the old Haydon Burns library, so I figured I'd stay away from Adams and Monroe. However, as I came down Adams to give the area a quick look, I saw Shangralla carrying equipment into London Bridge. If they were playing, it might be worth it to stop.

I circled the block eight times and finally found a parking space up on Bay Street. The beer fest crowd was vast yet harmless- a yuppie bunch who wore matching outfits purchased at the Town Center and clutched their purses all the way into the building. They must have each driven individually, because it was harder to find parking than if it were ArtWalk Wednesday.

By the time I made my way back to London Bridge, the Shang gang was frustrated because London Bridge had double-booked the evening. Shangralla and A Slight Breeze had been promoting their London Bridge show for weeks on MySpace, but London Bridge had booked a cover band to play jukebox hits all night. So Jude Kahle, the singer for Shangralla, Brandon Highfill, the guitarist for A Slight Breeze, and I walked over to Burrito Gallery and asked Marco, one of Burrito Gallery's owners, if the show could be performed there.

By ten o'clock, Shangralla was rocking Burrito Gallery's Urb Garden, but I wasn't there to catch the beginning. I walked over to TSI and watched Joel Land's new act.

When I saw him take the stage I was thrilled. If you've never seen Joel Land before, he is a local comedian that performs his standup act before local bands in area venues. Usually, he gets up in front of the crowd after the band has set up and tells some jokes to get the crowd warmed up. His observational humor is funny and insightful. But on Friday he changed up his shtick.

He had a friend join him onstage to play some minimalist drums, while Joel had an electric guitar on his lap, which he played with a slide. It created a musical backdrop for his routine that added more punch to his punch lines. It was as hilarious as ever, but it made his act fit seamlessly into a live music show. He developed a cross between spoken word, experimental performance art, comedy, and rock. It was a terrific idea that was executed perfectly.

After Joel's routine, I hoofed it back to Burrito Gallery to catch the last of Shangralla's set. As always, it was remarkable, even if I only got to see a few songs. Their music filled up the valley created by the buildings that surround the Urb Garden, yet without overpowering the listeners standing just a foot away from the stage, which was spilling over with band members.

During the change over, I walked back to TSI. Although it was the most exercise I had gotten in weeks, I love it when there is more than one great event going on downtown. It's worth walking back and forth. Even if a large portion of the other people on the streets were beer festers who rarely drop a dime on local shows, it's always pleasant to know there are so many people taking advantage of the city. It gives downtown an electrical charge.

At TSI, Tuffy was performing their laid-back, lo-fi, ramshackle set. Their music is relieving to listen to and catchy in an offbeat sort of way. It's like seeing Eric's Trip or an acoustic Guided by Voices, and they were everything I wanted Mice Parade to be when they played Jack Rabbits a couple of weeks back. I wanted to stay for more of their set, but I had never seen A Slight Breeze, and by now I was certain they would be set up and playing. I killed my beer and headed back, walking past the people leaving a graduation at the Florida Theatre and into the Urb Garden as A Slight Breeze leaned into their instrumental set.

Instrumental bands often tend to scare average rock fans away, since they don't have singable choruses. Many people don't know how to get into music that isn't built with the typical verse-chorus-verse formula, but there is something about Burrito Gallery. Marco has trained his patrons to expect jazz, avant-garde and experimental music projects. Because of that tone, and because A Slight Breeze and Shangralla drew most of those patrons in, the crowd hung in there and let A Slight Breeze take them on their post-rock mind-trip.

I hope some of those beer festers and graduating visitors to the urban core stepped away from their microcosms to enjoy a little of the culture that makes downtown so cool, namely our local music and club scene. But either way, I always revel in a great night downtown, and Friday was one of the best. It was so good that it didn't end until the sun was about to come up Saturday morning. After all, how often can you see two shows in a single night and still have time to crawl the pubs afterward? Only downtown.

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Fri June 29th
SHAWN FISHER & THE UNKNOWNNS
 Dialtone, The Mission Dolls
 Of Truth & Stories, Konichiwa, Gareth Asher

Sat June 30th
DAWN PATROL
 Devereux, Downtown Brown
 Press Two for Panic, Fat Satchell

Sun July 1st
THE WORKING TITLE
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 This Waking Moment, Amidine

Sat July 14th
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 7-18 Richard Buckner, Six Parts Seven
 7-20 Boys Night Out, Emanuel, June
 7-21 The Rocket Summer
 7-23 Attrition, High Blue Star
 7-24 The Loons, Living in Polaroids
 7-25 Zoroaster, Christine
 7-26 Tattooed Millionaires

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friday
June 29

saturday
matlock
 boys of summer | captain kid
 another reason to breath

June 30

monday
braver by the 2nd
 in your honor | johannes
 memphis belle | modico & more

July 2

wednesday
tooth & nail acoustic tour
 emery | surrogate
 ruth

July 4

saturday
shawn mcdonald
 justin freeman

July 7

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dotting the u in nu-metal

JaxRox at Florida Theatre

BY CHRISTINA WAGNER AND JON BOSWORTH

I am sick and tired of hearing the same band over and over again, night after night in this colony of clones we call home. There was something my art history teacher once told me that really stuck: "You don't know where you are going until you know where you've been." In other words, study the classics, don't rip people off because you're too lazy to do the research and develop your own style utilizing the styles that came before.

I ran into this same problem when I served as a judge on the 2007 Florida Music Festival. After listening to more than 300 bands trying to get in, I found myself lost trying to figure out if I had already listened to the same band twenty-six times, or if these so called "musicians" had really given up on all attempts of creativity in an industry that is supposed to highlight just that (see Vans Warped Tour). So finding a number of bands that are professional enough to be reliable, have a strong enough following to fill a large venue, and have the talent to represent the event well is a daunting task, but The Florida Theatre is up to it.

They have committed their fabulous stage, which has seen most of the world's musical legends in it's lifetime, to helping regional bands showcase their talents and bring in their crowd for a good cause. That ought to look good on some resume in some record executive's office, right?

JaxRox is a benefit concert that raises money for Body & Soul, a non-profit organization that utilizes art and music to help the healing process in local healthcare facilities. By bringing musicians in to play for people that need comfort and putting art on the walls to liven a painful experience, Body & Soul is committed to helping people heal by encouraging the heart and soul through art while medical care tends to the needs of their body. Nothing can help people heal better than their own love for life, and nothing brings that love out better than music. In that spirit, The Florida Theatre has brought back JaxRox for a second year, which complements this Body &

Soul series that included an acoustic concert a few months back called Uncommon Music for a Common Cause. JaxRox will feature three rock bands from Florida. Twenty Weight, Dubwise, and Blistür.

Twenty Weight welds rock and reggae much like Operation Ivy wove punk rock and ska. It's seamless and the stage presence is as exciting as its music. Originally from Key Largo, this incredibly full three-piece boasts a wide variety of songwriting in every set, their influences range from The Police to Dr. Dre to Slayer. The best part is their attitude, no matter how small or how big of a crowd, they are all over the place; born to light up a stage. Take notes, Jacksonville bands, always appreciate your crowd. Dubwise, another three-piece band with good songwriting plays reggae with a subtle tinge of punk. Poppy and easy to swallow, this group of gentlemen have a way of drawing the listener in.

In Jacksonville, you find a trend that prompts "nu-metal" bands to intentionally misspell their band names. Why? Desperate to know the real answer to this question, we called Neal Gupton, the drummer for Blistür, to ask him all about it.

EU: How is your band name supposed to be pronounced?

NG: People think there's a deep meaning to it, but it's web based. If you search for it by that spelling online then you get us. And the dot com was available.

EU: Are you "Nu-Metal?"

NG: I would call it alt-rock, alt-hard rock, alt-metal, maybe. Clearly we have crossover material. We're radio-friendly and we are kind of all over the map. We have played all types of music, from Steely Dan to Metallica, so there is a little bit of everything in our music. But we're definitely hard rock.

EU: Does your band ever play in hospitals to help sick people feel better?



NG: Well, you know that's interesting because when I saw what the charity did I sent a reply back saying I hope the recipients won't be in attendance because of the type of music we play. But they told us not to worry about it, just to rock. Its going to be a hard rock show.

EU: You opened for Joe Bonamassa at the Florida Theatre not too long ago. What is your favorite thing about playing at the Florida Theatre?

NG: Everything. The acoustics, the way it's arranged, I have been there to see shows before, obviously, but when I walked the stage, I was amazed at how close the seats were to the stage. The sound crew is great, almost any show you see there ends up sounding great.

Catch JaxRox live at the Florida Theatre on Friday. The show starts at 10pm and costs \$10, which benefits Body & Soul. **For the complete interview go to eujacksonville.com.**

Cupid's Alley **Cap'n Odie's**, Mayport (241-8848)
Cliff Worrell & the Restless Kind **Scarlett's**, St. Augustine (824-6535)
Skytrain **New Neighborhood Tavern**, Jax (721-5087)
Box 543 **Culhane's Irish Pub**, Atlantic Beach (249-9595)
Pili Pili **Caribbee Key**, Neptune Beach (270-8940)

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

Robby Schenck **Kickback's**, Jax (388-9551)
Chris Miller **Sangria's**, St. Augustine
Lisa & the Madhatters **The Outpost**, Ponte Vedra Beach
Devereux, Dawn Patrol **Jack Rabbits**, Jax (398-7496)
Sly Pounce **House of Jam**, Mandarin (262-3377)
Stu Weaver **Harry's**, Jax Beach (247-8855)
Blood on the Tracks **Club Fusion**, St. Augustine (829-8333)
Big Al & the Kaholics **Players Grille**, Orange Park (264-4633)
Troubadour **Sidestreet**, Jax (744-3120)
Willie Green Band **Frisky Mermaid**, Fernandina Beach (261-3300)
J. Stahr **Club Fusion**, St. Augustine (829-8333)
Charlie Walker **The Grape**, Jax (642-7111)
In Our Time **Fuel**, Jax (425-3835)
kLoB **Endo Exo**, Jax (396-7733)

The Impediments **Kingfish Grille**, St. Augustine
Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band **Freebird Live**, Jax Beach (246-2473)
Strings of Fire **Jimadores**, Jax (739-5828)
Von Barlow **Simons Wine Bar**, Jax (396-8088)
Colton McKenna **San Sebastian Winery**, St. Augustine
Matlock **Murray Hill Theatre**, Jax (388-7807)
FunkTion **Latitudes Café**, Jax Beach (247-6606)
Matt Still **Sneakers**, Jax
Time2swing **Village Café**, Jax (389-3995)
Cain Was Able **Brewsters Pit**, Jax (223-9850)
Anastasia **Urban Flats**, Ponte Vedra (280-5515)
Mike Sweet & Friends **Mi Casa Café**, St. Augustine (824-9317)

Southern Sky **Brewsters**, Jax (223-9850)
Matlock **Murray Hill Theatre**, Jax (388-7807)
Payton Page **Mellow Mushroom**, Jax (997-1955)
Mike Shakerford **The Homestead**, Jax Beach (249-9660)
Stu Weaver **Harry's**, Jax Beach (247-8855)
Ya Gozo **Aromas**, Ponte Vedra Beach (280-2525)
Open Mic w/Larry Broussard **St. Johns Pizza Grill**, Jax (287-9900)

SAT.-SUNDAY, JUNE 30-JULY 1

Sugar Bear **The Landing**, Jax (353-1188)

SUNDAY, JULY 1

Those Guys **Sunset Grill**, St. Augustine (471-5555)
Bobby Flynn **Culhane's Irish Pub**, Atlantic Beach (249-9595)
Dan Shepherd **Harpoon Louie's**, Jax (389-5631)
3 **Sun Dog Steak & Seafood**, Neptune Beach (241-8221)
Chris Siefferman **The Oasis**, St. Augustine (471-3424)
JW Gilmore **Gypsy Cab Company**, St. Augustine

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The Radio Shag **Fuel**, Jax (425-3835)

Black in the Mind **Spare Time**, Jax Beach

David Milam **Mellow Mushroom**, Jax (997-1955)

Jimmy Parrish **Carib Key**, Jax Beach (270-8940)

The Working Title **Jack Rabbits**, Jax (398-7496)

Soulo **Kingfish Grille**, St. Augustine

Pearlene **TSI**, Jax (635-3024)

Matanzas **Trade Winds Lounge**, St. Augustine (829-8646)

Cloud 9 **Whitey's Fish Camp**, Orange Park (269-4198)

El Toro Loco **Mark's Downtown**, Jax (355-5099)

Spade McQuade **Fionn MacCool's**, Jax Beach (242-9499)

3rd Bass **The Casbah**, Jax (981-9966)

El Toro Loco **Square One**, Jax (306-9004)

MONDAY, JULY 2

Sol Island Music **Cortesses**, St. Augustine (825-6775)

Charlie Walker **Mellow Mushroom**, Jax (997-1955)

Sam Pacetti **The Mill Top**, St. Augustine (829-2329)

Billy Bowers **Sun Dog Steak & Seafood**, Neptune Beach (241-8221)

Flat Black **Freebird Live**, Jax Beach (246-2473)

Rooney **Fuel**, Jax (425-3835)

Band of Destiny **Square One**, Jax (306-9004)

Dez Nado **Endo Exo**, Jax (396-7733)

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

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

Out of Hand **My Place**, Jax (737-5299)

Nolan Neal **Fly's Tie Irish Pub**, Atlantic Beach (246-4293)

Post Mortum **Murray Hill Theatre**, Jax (388-7807)

Stu Weaver **Harry's**, St. Augustine (824-7765)

TUESDAY, JULY 3

Billy & Vinnie **Sun Dog Steak & Seafood**, Neptune Beach (241-8221)

Matanzas **Trade Winds Lounge**, St. Augustine (829-8646)

Christina Wagner & Friends **Mark's Downtown**, Jax (355-5099)

Will Pearsall **The Mill Top**, St. Augustine (829-2329)

Dave Massey **Kickback's**, Jax (388-9551)

Those Guys **Hurricane Patty's**, St. Augustine (827-1822)

The Explicits **Ocean Club**, Jax Beach (242-8884)

Blues Night **Cortesses**, St. Augustine (825-6775)

Ron Perry **Fionn MacCool's**, Jax Beach (242-9499)

Out of Hand **Palace Saloon**, Fernandina Beach

Effed **Eddie Bahama's**, Jax Beach (241-3138)

Modico **Murray Hill Theatre**, Jax (388-7807)

Bill Rice **Mellow Mushroom**, Jax (997-1955)

Mike Miller Band **St. Nick's Lounge**, Jax

Jimmy Solari **My Place**, Jax (737-5299)

Seth Ramsdill **Fly's Tie Irish Pub**, Atlantic Beach (246-4293)

El Toro Loco **Square One**, Jax (306-9004)

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY, JULY 3-4



secular dysfunction

interview w/David Shelton of Emery

BY RICHARD ABRAHAMSON

KAbrahamson1@aol.com

WHO: Emery with Surrogate and Ruth

WHERE: Murray Hill Theatre

WHEN: Wednesday, July 4th 7PM

Between the Tooth & Nail Acoustic Tour and the preparation for their latest studio album, Emery is an extremely tough band to catch up with. It seems they're always touring. Luckily, bassist/vocalist Devin Shelton was able to find the time to answer some of our questions via email, where he shed

some light on the tour and their upcoming new record.

EU: Tell me a little bit of the history behind Emery. How did you guys get started?

Devin Shelton: Matt, Toby and I are from the same town and we went to college together. We started playing music together in college and eventually formed Emery. After we graduated, we moved to Seattle and focused on getting the band going. We've

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been through a couple lineup changes since.

EU: What bands do you draw influences from?

DS: Originally we were totally influenced by bands like Weezer, Sunny Day Real Estate, Zao, Hopesfall, Further Seems Forever, Deftones, Radiohead, etc, etc.

EU: I see you guys play mixed venues. What kind of differences do you notice playing Christian venues versus secular ones?

DS: Honestly, secular venues are usually better. There tends to be higher expectations when you play Christian venues. People expect certain words and/or actions from us when we play there. Not that it is bad, but just not always for us.

EU: Tell us about the T&N Summer Acoustic Tour.

DS: We're going out with two newer bands on Tooth & Nail called Ruth and Surrogate. We are excited and take pride in our acoustic shows. It's much more intimate and you can actually hear everything that is going on. So mistakes are noticed very easily...uh oh!

EU: What's your favorite song to perform live?

DS: Well, since we have new songs right now, probably a new one called Rock-n-Rule.

EU: You've toured with a number of different bands. Who would you like to tour with again?

DS: Alexisonfire, mewwithoutyou, Boys Night Out, Jonezetta and probably others that I can't think of.

EU: I read you'll be releasing a new album in the near future. What can you tell us about it?

DS: It rules. Just kidding, but seriously, it rocks. We are extremely happy with it and so excited to get it out there for everyone to hear. We hope everyone loves it because we are most proud of it. I guess every band always loves their newer stuff best, but hopefully we are correct. It comes out on October 4, if I am not mistaken. It's a must purchase!

EU: What's been the biggest obstacle in making the new record?

DS: Actually nothing that I can think of. It went so smoothly and we loved the entire process. We recorded in a beautiful studio in the country and couldn't have asked for a better experience.

EU: You had a line-up change last fall. How did that affect the recording process?

DS: It really didn't affect much. Joel was a good bass player, but the songwriting was still there, so we were able to recover pretty well.

EU: When writing new songs, is there a particular band member that comes up with the songs or is a group effort?

DS: Toby and myself come up with most of the music and all of the lyrics and melodies. Matt usually writes a song or two and gives them to us to write vocals to, but he is great at arranging all the guitar parts and other instruments for the songs. It is a good collaboration between us. Dave is good at elaborating on the drum parts as well.

EU: What do you do in your spare time?

DS: Play golf, exercise, play with my cats, water my lawn, paint my house, watch lots of movies and hang out with my lovely wife.

Emery will perform at the Murray Hill Theatre on July 4th at 7 pm with Surrogate and Ruth. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show. For more information go to www.murrayhilltheatre.com or call (904) 388-3179.



hip-hop vernacular

interview with The N Word

BY CHRISTINA WAGNER

Ian Ranne is insane. He DJs, owns a bar, runs Hip Hop Hell all over Downtown and, if that wasn't enough, he has now started a record label. I was more than interested to see what these guys were all about. I'll put it to you this way, the CD stayed in my car for over a week. The great thing about this album, Ian tells me, is that there is one MC and one producer. Straight to the point, a work of art. Signing them was a no-brainer, not only because of the music, but because they are self-sufficient in meeting deadlines, producing amazing material and putting on a fantastic show. Go to myspace.com/thenword-music to check out some of their videos or check them out live at Freebird in Jacksonville Beach on July 1st.

EU: The name of your group is pretty interesting. Care to explain?

Nomad: (Laughing) It's simple, yeah.

Notsucal: Yeah, we just took the first letter of both our first names.

Nomad: Plus it's just a cheap way of creating some buzz. (Laughing) That's basically the whole gist of it.

EU: There has been a lot of controversy over MCs using the "N word." Where do you stand in all of it?

Nomad: I don't use it that often. It's just a preference. I really don't have a comment on it, if you want

to do it, you do it. But I choose not to use it. It's just not a part of my vocabulary.

EU: You'll have to forgive me, I'm a little green when it comes to hip-hop terminology, but I love the choice of old school soul embedded in your tracks. You produced your beats?

Notsucal: Yeah, I did all the beats on it. Yeah, that's the shit I listened to, ya know? So, if I'm going to sample something, I want to be able to listen to it myself first and foremost, and thank God everyone else is liking it so far too.

Nomad: Basically, yeah, it starts from digging. Digging through the old stuff we listen to here.

EU: There's a real fresh and upbeat vibe in all of your music. What do you feel sets you apart from other hip-hop acts?

Nomad: I would say all the songs are pretty much conceptualized. You'll hear a lot of hip-hop tracks. Let's get five people in the track and rap about different things or let's rap about three different things in three different verses. Pretty much, we start a song and have to have a premise to the song. You might not catch the meaning because it's built on a lot of metaphors, but every song, pretty much has a concept to it. I think that sets us apart from a lot of local acts, for sure.

Notsucal: Yeah, we think about it before we do it. We

don't sit in a studio all day, we don't actually record that often. We think about what we're going to do before we do it. Get it ready, get it planned out and then we go in there and record it.

EU: You guys are the first act on Hip Hop Hell records. Excited, honored and nervous?

Nomad: I've known this cat for a long time (pointing to Ian). He's always been talking about putting something together. He's kept his word after what, three different groups I've been in? He's kept his word and he's doing his thing now.

Ian: It started over a drunken conversation about five years ago at the Art Bar. (All laughing)

Notsucal: Yeah, I'm excited about it, I mean, Ian's the only one that puts together the showcases that I like to go to. He caters to our genre and for him to pick a record that I'm part of, to do, I'm loving that.

Nomad: We're all pretty much on the same wavelength when it comes to hip-hop so it makes it much easier.

EU: My personal favorite track is D.A.R.Y.L. What inspired the song and where does most of your writing come from?

Nomad: My government name. It just basically stands for Data Analyzing Rocking Youth Life Forms. I took it off the old eighties movie and I turned myself into a hip-hop robot. If you listen to the song, it's based upon a whole bunch of crazy mechanical type of phrases. We have a video for it too.

Notsucal: Yeah Dolfo hooked that up. Go watch it.

If you miss the Freebird Live show on Sunday, you can catch The N Word at the Summertime in the City festival on July 15 in downtown Jacksonville with ten other hip-hop groups that represent some of the best new hip-hop acts in the region.

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Cloud 9 **Latitudes Café**, Atlantic Beach (247-6606)

Dan Coady **Cliff's**, Jax (645-5162)

Mr. Beam **Casa Marina**, Jax Beach (270-0025)

Power Play-Music by the Sea **The Pier**, St. Augustine

Dave Massey **My Place**, Jax (737-5299)

The Homesteaders **Shanty Town Pub**, Jax

Dead Flesh **House of Jam**, Mandarin (262-3377)

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

Emery, Surrogate **Murray Hill Theatre**, Jax (388-7807)

Ian Kelly Music **Castillo de Mexico**, Jax Beach

2012 **Stadium Club**, Jax (641-2301)

Too Many Shoes **Moosehaven Park**, Orange Park

Stu Weaver **The Mill Top**, St. Augustine (829-2329)

Eric Dawkins **Mellow Mushroom**, Jax (997-1955)

The Mike Miller Band **St. Nick's Lounge**, Jax (396-3396)

El Toro Loco **Aromas**, Ponte Vedra (280-2525)

Chuck Nash **Sun Dog Steak & Seafood**, Neptune Beach (241-8221)

Pili Pili **Fly's Tie Irish Pub**, Atlantic Beach (246-4293)

Dave Massey **My Place Bar & Grill**, Jax (737-5299)

upcoming shows

Tinsley Ellis July 7, Mojo Blues Bar, 247-6636

The Moscow Cats Theatre July 7-8, Times Union Center, 353-3309

American Idols LIVE Tour July 8, Jacksonville Arena, 630-3900

311 with Matsiyahu July 12, Jacksonville Arena, 630-3900

Shooter Jennings July 12, Freebird Live, 246-2473

Tommy Chong & Shelby July 12-14, Comedy Zone, 292-4242

Lisa Lampanelli July 14, The Florida Theatre, 355-2787

Summertime in the City w/Fusik, Elevated Hip Hop Experience, The N Word, Simple Complexity, Dope Sandwich Prod. & more July 15, Adams & Main St., 798-8222, myspace.com/summertimeinthecity2007

Mickey Avalon July 16, Jack Rabbits, 398-7496

Morrissey July 17, Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 353-3309

Van's Warped Tour w/Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Yellowcard, Bad Religion, Norma Jean, Boys Like Girls, Circa Survive, Amber Pacific and more July 19, Reynold's Park Yacht Center in Greencove Springs, 353-3309, warpedtour.com

Reverend Billy Wirtz July 19, European Street Café, 399-1740

Lee Roy Parnell July 20, Freebird Live, 246-2473

My Little Pony Live "The World's Biggest Tea Party", July 20-22, Times Union Center, 353-3309

Tim McGraw and Faith Hill July 22, Jacksonville Arena, 630-3900

Candlebox July 24, Freebird Live, 246-2473

The Fab Four July 31, Florida Theatre, 355-2787

Brad Paisley August 10, Jacksonville Arena, 630-3900

Billy Bob Thornton & The Boxmasters August 14, Freebird Live, 246-2473

Aly & AJ August 17, Times Union Center, 633-6110

Static X August 29, Freebird Live, 246-2473

The Rentals & Copeland Sept. 2, Freebird Live, 246-2473

Dave Matthews Band Sep 11, O'Connell Center, Gainesville, FL, (352) 392-1653

Sinbad October 12, Florida Theatre, 355-2787

Clint Black October 13, Florida Theatre, 355-2787

Jethro Tull Dec. 11, Florida Theatre, 355-2787

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cat acrobats

Moscow Cats Theatre

BY ERIN THURSBY

scopes1925@msn.com

WHAT: Moscow Cats Theatre
WHEN: July 7th @ 1 pm & 4 pm
WHERE: The Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts

Trained dogs? No big deal. Been there, seen that, got the circus t-shirt. Trained housecats? Now that's something I've got to see. Thanks to Moscow Cats Theatre coming to the T-U, I'll get the chance to see real kitties performing death-defying balancing acts and acrobatics, all for a treat from their trainer. In an EU interview I got the chance to speak with the general manager of the Moscow Cats Theatre, Yanis Gelfman.

EU: How long has this show been around?
Gelfman: Well, here in North America, about 3 years. But cats doing tricks and things has been around for almost 30 years in Russia.

EU: Are the cats in this show from here or are they from Russia?
Gelfman: No, they're Russian.

EU: So how did you get all the cats from Russia to here? Did they have to be quarantined?
Gelfman: Of course. I think it was something like 4 weeks quarantine, and then we flew them over here...

EU: Do all the cats get along?
Gelfman: Not really. Most of them get along, but, obviously, we get cat fights still, so we try to separate the ones that don't get along... There are mean cats, but we just put them in a separate cage.

EU: Do they work together some in the show.
Gelfman: Yes of course... There are some tricks that they do together.

EU: I've heard you have one dog in the show...
Gelfman: Yes, there's one dog. It's a chow-chow. It's one confused dog. It pretty much thinks it's a cat.

EU: It doesn't do any tricks though?
Gelfman: It does do tricks, he can jump... walks on its hind legs, does a little twirl.



EU: At what age do you start training the cats?
Gelfman: We start training them about 2 months, 3 months... We start playing with them; we expose them to toys, balls, sitting posts, see what their natural inclination is and then we base the trick around that.

EU: How long does it take to get them



trained to the stage?
Gelfman: Stage ready? About 2 years.

EU: Is there a particular kitty that is the star of the show?
Gelfman: There is one, I don't want to give too much away, but she's a singing cat. It meows into a microphone, which is hysterical, we get a great response.

EU: Do the cats ever get stage fright?
Gelfman: Yep, they do and they get moody also. There are some divas, but usually we just move on. Once we do move on they kind of get the point and they know that the attention isn't on them so then they start performing.

EU: Do they like being in front of an audience?
Gelfman: They don't really notice the audiences... all they notice are trainers. They know the trainers have treats. They pretty much focus their attention on the stage... Usually, we do the routines with music on so they don't get frightened.

EU: So it's not all that difficult to train them?
Gelfman: I wouldn't say it's not difficult. I'd say it's time-consuming... You have to stay consistent. And they love the treats. During the week we keep them on dry food and we use raw meat as treats for performances... Females are a little bit smarter and it takes them a little less time to get a routine down than the males.

EU: This show has been going on for quite a while in Russia... Are there any retired kitties?
Gelfman: Oh yeah, they stay at the Moscow Theatre in Russia. They usually can perform until 10 or 12 and then they just, I guess, go to a retirement home for kitties.

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water works

paintings by Trevis X. Geary on display at the Main Library

BY DONALD DUSINBERRE

imartsyfartsy@gmail.com

Believe it or not, it was my first visit to Jacksonville's new Main Library. Located Downtown on Hemming Plaza, the Library sits next to MOCA Jacksonville, the epicenter of modern art. Little did I know that the library also houses some impressive works of art, all of them created by artists residing somewhere in Northeast Florida.

Entering the Library from its rear entrance took me through the belly of the building. As I walked down a long corridor, I found an exquisite display of photographs by such prominent area photographers as Jay Shoots, Anna Tomczak (more on her in an upcoming issue), Jerry Uelsmann, and Tom Hager. Already I was treated to some wonderful images, and I hadn't yet reached the art I came to see.

Rumor had it that there were paintings of cranes on the third floor. I'm not a huge fan of wildlife paintings, but I was assured that this artist's work was interesting. And so it was.

Trevis X. Geary did indeed have a display of



twelve paintings on the third floor. And indeed, they were paintings of cranes; 150-foot tall container cranes used to load cargo ships at Jaxport. Definitely a pleasant surprise.

Not only was I glad to see such unique subject matter, I was delighted to see them painted so interestingly. Using acrylic and charcoal on canvas, Geary's cranes evoked an obtuse sort of impressionism. The classic Monet color palette was present, complete with light blues and yellows, but Geary's brushstrokes leaned away from the dabs of paint so definitive of impressionism. Her cranes peeked through slashing brushstrokes that simultaneously obfuscated and defined the image. The charcoal beneath the paint tempers its voracity and renders depth through a bit of shadowing. It's obvious that the straight lines of the cranes' massive structures are on the canvas somewhere, most likely pre-drawn with the charcoal, but the actual image does little to remind us of their strength and rigidity.



My three favorite paintings were "Fenders," "Barge Cranes," and "Ship Cranes." Each of them offers us a stately image of machinery that typically gets no second look. Even Geary states that, "the idea of something so big going unnoticed is really amusing."

Through her treatment of line, color and texture, Geary was able to soften the cranes to life, depicting them in the same way a great wildlife artist might

capture a moment in the life of a real crane. We are treated to the delicate snapshot of a container crane in its natural habitat- on the docks and hovering over a cargo ship.

This exhibit runs through July 6th, so hurry to Jacksonville's Main Library to catch them. Take the elevator to the third floor and take them in. While you're there, bask in the pleasures and resources of our new library.

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28-29 Art Unleashed Benefit No More Homeless Pets **Bella Sera**, Jax

28-29 American Heroes **Rivercity Playhouse**, Jax

28-30 The Sea Turtle Show Exhibit **First Street Gallery**, Neptune Beach

28-30 Comedian Lawrence Thomas **Comedy Zone**, Mandarin

28-30 Exhibit: Jim Smith's Grand Secrets, Petits Objects **Gallery at Screen Arts**, St. Augustine

28-JULY 5 Out of the Shadows Exhibit **UNF Gallery**, Jax

28-JULY 8 "Silver Screen Serenade" **Seaside Music Theatre**, Daytona Beach

28-JULY 13 Camp Cummer **Cummer Museum**, Jax

28-JULY 14 The Rocky Horror Show Live! **Five Points Theatre**, Jax

28-JULY 14 Exhibit: Anna Tomczak- Odes & Travels **Cultural Center**, Ponte Vedra

28-JULY 22 "The Wizard of Oz" **Alhambra Dinner Theatre**, Jax

28-JULY 27 Summer Adventure Camps **MOSH**, Jax

28-AUG. 12 Rather Strange Developments Picasso, Kandinsky & Mondrian **Cummer Museum**, Jax

28-AUG. 17 "Go, Dog, Go!" **Seaside Music Theatre**, Daytona Beach

28-AUG. 26 Impermanence: Recent Works By Andres Michelena **MOCA**, Jax

28-SEPT. 3 The Cabaret of St. Augustine-Spirits **Community School of Performing Arts**, St. Augustine

28-SEPT.2 Tradition in Transition: Russian Icons in the Age of Romanovs **Cummer Museum**, Jax

28-SEPT. 4 Hurricanes III-Dora The Destroyer Exhibit **Beaches Museum**, Jax Beach

28-OCT. 14 Dinosaurs & Ice Age Mammals **MOSH**, Jax

29 Cedric the Entertainer **Performing Arts Center**, Jax

29-JULY 1 River of Life Musicfest **St. Johns Cultural Art Center**, St. Augustine

JULY

1 Music For A Sunday Morning-American Songs **Unitarian Universalist Church**, Jax

2 Leave 'em Laughing Tent Laurel & Hardy Appreciation Society **Library/Pablo Creek**, Jax

3 Red, White & Boom **World Golf Village**, St. Augustine

3 Luncheon Yoga-Free **Laura Street Gallery**, Jax

3-4 Our Country Day-Arts & Crafts, Fireworks, Fish Fry **City Park**, Keystone Heights

3-4 American Pie 4th of July **Moosehaven Park**, Orange Park

4 4th of July Liberty Celebration **Sea Walk Pavilion**, Jax Beach

4 Freedom, Fanfare & Fireworks **Metro Park**, Jax

4 July 4th & Families Festival **Downtown**, Fernandina Beach

4 Flagler's Fabulous 4th **Veterans Park**, Flagler Beach

4 July 4th Celebration **Bayfront**, St. Augustine

4 Fireworks & Freedom Festival **Downtown**, Middleburg

5 Beginner Salsa Classes **Café Bolero**, Jax

5 Luncheon Yoga-Free **Laura Street Gallery**, Jax

5-6 Comedian Mutzie **Comedy Zone**, Mandarin

5-22 "Nine" **Seaside Music Theatre**, Daytona Beach

6 First Friday Art Walk **Various Venues**, St. Augustine

6 Opening Reception: Group Show Working The Negative Spaces **Energy Lab Art Gallery**, St. Augustine

7 Art-Rageous **Main Library**, Jax

7 2nd Annual Old West Show **Palm Valley Ranch**, Elkton

7 Super Chef's Live with Daisy Martinez **Avenues Mall**, Jax

8 Beg/Intermediate Salsa Classes **Studio One**, Jax

the deathtrap you don't want to miss

Limelight Theatre revives a classic dark-comedy thriller

BY ALUN MONTGOMERY

For my money, there's nothing quite like an intelligent thriller, or for that matter, a cleverly scripted dark comedy. Couple those two styles with a theater-insider's knowing, wicked jibes at the theater world, and you come up with something quite like *Deathtrap*, Ira Levin's 1978 Broadway hit, currently enjoying a revival at St. Augustine's Limelight Theater.

The title of the play derives from a venerable literary device whereby the villain (or in some cases the hero) plots an intricate, torturous, and diabolical revenge against his nemesis, calculated to inflict the most psychological cruelty possible. While there's often an ever-present sense of impending and inevitable doom—something horrible is never far from appearing—this play's surprise plot twists are its hallmarks and the reason for its enduring success.

The story opens at the Connecticut mansion of inveterate mystery playwright Sydney Bruhl, holder of two of Broadway's top honors: one for the longest successful run of a production, and the other for the longest dry spell since a success. Though living

comfortably in the 18-year interim, thanks in large measure to his wife Myra's substantial family assets, that tenuous grasp on the *Good Life* is about to dissipate rapidly unless Sydney is able to summon the Muses for one more lightning bolt strike of artistry. As luck would have it, Sydney is contacted by budding playwright Clifford Anderson, a former playwrighting workshop student whom he met sometime ago, who is anxious to have Sydney read his new work and share the benefit of his experience and insights. Upon reading the new work, Sydney recognizes right away that it has the potential to become a Broadway smash. Though crestfallen and envious at first, Sydney's curiosity is piqued when the young playwright requests an audience with Sydney; in the course of their conversation, Clifford reveals that no one else knows about the play, no one knows of his plans to visit the Bruhls, and that he'll be bringing his only other copy of the play with him. After humorously entertaining several grisly fantasies about doing Clifford in and claiming the fledgling writer's work as his own, Sydney suddenly realizes, to his surprise and Myra's horror, that he's considering the murderous deed for real.

The tension builds and fireworks begin once Clifford arrives—and in the interest of not spoiling the surprise for anyone who has not yet seen the play, I'll dispense with further recounting of plot points. Suffice it to say, expectations are set up and dashed right and left, and the story (when in capable hands) evolves into a veritable six-ticket ride. Further complicating matters is the uninvited arrival of the Bruhl's neighbor, famous psychic Helga Ten Dorp, who picks up impressions of deadly occurrences yet to come. Though unexpected, the plot twists never come off as contrived, but rather as brilliant strokes that, in retrospect, are oddly inevitable.

As the once-at-the-top-of-the-ziggurat playwright Sydney Bruhl, Todd Lidh brings his native love of language to the role, just what one might expect from the college English professor: savoring his words as if they were wine, registering responses



for vintages both venerable and venal, and tickling his palate with every mouthful of irony. As the perpetually flustered Myra, Terry VanderWier turns in a performance that encourages comparisons with Dyan Cannon, a bristling brunette bundle of nerves and neuroses whose heart is very much not in this murderous endeavor.

Joshua Reynolds' turn as young playwright Clifford, arguably cast against type, was the revelation of the evening. Arriving in the cast just two weeks before the show's opening, Reynolds certainly rose ably to the occasion. Though he's not likely to be mistaken for the film version's Christopher Reeve—not that that's a bad thing—he is a very watchable presence on stage, much like a young Orson Welles, and his comfort inside this character's skin (a performance within a performance, for those familiar with the show) is all the more remarkable considering the short amount of time he had to prepare for the role.

The production's supporting characters are very adeptly performed. Gayle Featheringill is delightfully trippy as Helga, the nosy psychic neighbor, appearing onstage at just the right moments to either provide loopy relief from the tension or to ratchet it up to an appropriately excruciating degree. Eddie Gantner (Porter Milgrim) proves the old theater adage that there are no small roles, turning in a performance as Sydney's old and trusted attorney friend that is engagingly naturalistic, unfailingly believable, and, well, just plain fun to watch.

Scott Ashley's set is a joy, a wonderful place to be invited to for the evening. Evoking a rustic Tudor ambience, the Bruhl home has every bit as much personality as any of the characters, deliciously decorated with macabre props from Sydney's past stage successes.

The production contains all the ingredients for a hit; unfortunately, not all those ingredients were fully in place on opening night. Pacing was uneven, energy was low, and one particular uncooperative prop nearly got the better of the cast. The good news is that that particular moment proved a galvanizing one for the troupe: what might easily have brought the production to a grinding halt actually proved their mettle and resourcefulness. Hardly missing a beat, the players rallied and inventively soldiered on, strapping the play on their backs and taking it to the audience. Given the steep and daunting trail the production has had to tread—with numerous cast changes right up until two weeks prior to opening—it's understandable how elusive finding one's rhythm can be under those circumstances. But the storm's past now, and expectations are high.

Deathtrap runs from June 21—July 15 at the *Limelight Theater's Jukowsky Family Foundation Center for the Performing Arts*, located at 11 Old Mission Avenue in St. Augustine. For prices and performance times, please call (904) 825-1164.

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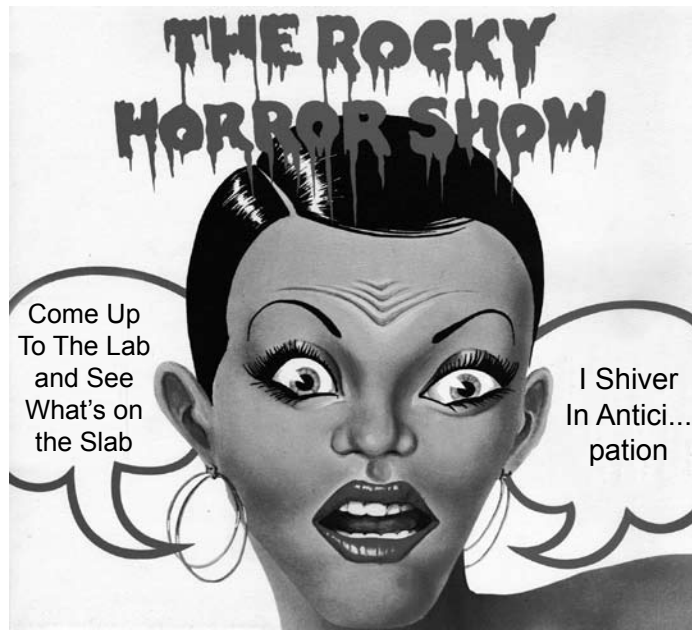
BY **MORGAN HENLEY** triplemc@aol.com

If fishnets and men in heels don't sound appealing to you, then this performance is not for you. If screaming at actors and dancing in the aisles sound like your scene, then you should definitely catch the Rocky Horror Show. It's playing every Friday and Saturday night with two performances every night, at 7 pm and 10:30 pm through July 14.

Now, which performance you choose to attend will completely alter your take on the show. The late night showing encourages the audience to buy interactive scripts and a prop bag for \$7 at the start of the show. If you fear you might feel like Janet and Brad when the transvestites come out dancing, I'd probably elect to see the 7 pm show. It's got an Alhambra show feel; the performance is still personal, but this isn't the matinee show you'd bring grandma to.

For the Rocky Horror Show, the play came before the movie, but the movie made the play famous. If you're a fan of the movie, then you'll love being able to do the Time Warp and call Janet a slut. If you're unfamiliar with the tale, it's about a young couple who encounters car trouble in the middle of nowhere and stumbles upon the castle of Dr. Frank N. Furter. The couple is easily spooked by a dancing transvestite doctor and some scantily clad dancers.

The show is being performed at the 5 Points Theatre (formerly Club 5), which seems to be the only place appropriate to put this performance on. The theatre was new to me, as it might be for many, and its location in 5 Points is perfect. If you want to make the 10:30 pm show, then stop by Starlight Café and have a few drinks before you make your way to the theatre.



The show has a strong energy that makes this production unusual. If you see the later show, the amount of audience participation can either make or break the fun of the performance. Don't be afraid to get wild, because everyone surrounding you sure isn't going to mind.

There's a live band playing the music and the cast is very vocally talented. In particular, Aaron Marshall, playing both Dr. Everett Von Scott and Eddie, belts out some impressive solos. Both Janet and Brad, played by Sara Ruzicka and Mike Misko, seem perfect for their roles, as they exude pureness. Rocky (Ian Campayno) will probably

crack a smile on your face with his too-blond hair and too-tanned skin. The Phantoms dancing in the background are quite colorful and really add a lot of personality and exuberance to the show. One particular Phantom will probably make you do a double take, with hair that would make any shampoo model jealous.

Overall, Rocky Horror is a great way to liven up a Friday or Saturday night, so make sure you check it out. Seating prices range from \$21 to \$34, and if you really want to make the most of the show, get the interactive script and props for the 10:30 pm showing.

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BEACHWISE

by Shaun Robbins

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE SUN

Summer is a wondrous time of year when a growing number of people get off the couch and start getting out doors. Having just stepped into the first day of summer, more and more of us will start enjoying everything from beach outings to hikes in the woods, and the sun bathing beauties will be out in full force at beaches and pools around the area. However, along with increased exposure to the sun, comes a greater need for sunscreen. The number of people being diagnosed with skin cancer is increasing daily. Everyone either has someone in his or her family or knows someone who has gotten skin cancer, which makes the use of sunscreen even more important.

KNOWLEDGE IS KEY

Sunlight consists of two types of harmful rays: Ultraviolet A (UVA) and Ultraviolet B (UVB). UVB rays are the major rays that cause the immediate feeling of sunburn, and are the most targeted sunrays that sunscreens seek to protect our skin against. UVA rays also cause sunburns, but are less targeted in sunscreens. They mostly penetrate deep into the skin, causing long-term damage such as wrinkles. While most people think you only need to worry about protecting yourself from harmful Ultraviolet rays during sunny days, you also have to be careful on cloudy days, because about 80 percent of the sun's harmful rays still make it through.

UNDERSTANDING SPF

Sunscreens have a variety of Sun Protection Factor (SPF) ratings ranging from as low as 2 to as high as 60, which refer to the sunscreen's ability to block out harmful rays from the sun. For the most part, the SPF refers to the sunscreen's ability to protect against UVB rays, and not UVA rays, because there isn't a consensus on what percentage of ingredients is needed for adequate UVA protection. The SPF rating results from comparing the amount of time one can spend in the sun unprotected to the amount of time one can spend in the sun protected with sunscreen. In simpler terms, take the amount of time it takes you to normally burn, and multiply that time by the SPF rating to find out how long you can last in the sun without getting burned. Even though you have done the math and you can stay out for 10 hours now without getting burned based on this equation, remember that it is highly recommended by most skincare professionals that you reapply your sunscreen every two hours, because it wears off.

CHOOSING A SUNSCREEN

With so many different sunscreens out on the market right now, choosing the right one can be tough. When choosing your sunscreen, you need to think about the type of activities you are going to be doing, and what skin type you are. These factors will help you decide on the proper SPF to use. The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) recommends that everyone, regardless of how easy you burn, use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher that provides good coverage against all ultraviolet light. No matter what type of activity you are doing, the sunscreen you choose should be waterproof to prevent it from coming off when doing water activities or sweating. Look on the back of the bottle to see what it is made of. You should look for these key ingredients recommended by the AAD: Benzophenones (Oxybenzone), Cinnamates (Octylmethyl Cinnamate and Cinoxate), Sulisobenzone, Salicylates, Titanium Dioxide, Zinc Oxide, Avobenzone (Parsol 1789), and Ecamsule (Mexoryl SX).

APPLYING SUNSCREEN

When applying sunscreen you should always apply liberally, making sure to cover all sun-exposed skin. The key areas you should protect include your face, ears, hands, and arms, which usually have the most exposure to the sun. Most sunscreens need to be applied at least 30 minutes before going out into the sun, to give the sunscreen time to absorb into your skin and be effective. If time is of the essence, check into quickly absorbed products like Bull Frog's Quick Gel line, which dries instantly. When out in the sun for long periods of time, be sure to reapply your sunscreen approximately every two hours, and more frequently if sweating profusely or taking part in prolonged water activity, because sunscreen does wear off.

FORECASTED CONDITIONS

No surf has been sighted in a while, and the streak continues. This weekend shows no real potential for quality surf, but might produce enough size and power for a longboard. If you don't have a longboard already, you might want to checkout your local surf shop's selection, because it looks like it is going to be a longboard summer if this keeps up. Continuing to the week, there is no real potential in sight for any type of surf. But don't take my weekly word for it, call or log onto your local report daily to find out what the present conditions are for your favorite break.



WIMBLEDON

The Tennis Championships at Wimbledon are being held as we speak over in merry old England. For all intents, this is the premium event for both Men's and Women's tennis. On the Mens' side, defending Champion Roger Federer comes off a tough loss in the French Open Finals to Rafael Nadal, who has won the last three French Opens. But Nadal has yet to win the giant plate/trophy at Wimbledon, and the question remains whether he can defeat Federer on the grass surface, after having done so well on the French clay. American Andy Roddick is also in the running, but he must win to establish himself in the same class as Federer and Nadal.

On the Womens' side, Justine Henin is the #1 seed and defending Champion, but all eyes seem to be on Maria Sharapova, who won this event in '04. She must come through with a strong performance to re-establish her reputation, or else questions will really start to come out as to what she is up to. Serena Williams has expressed her desire to win this title again, having done so in '02 and '03. We shall see how she fares as the #8 seed.

NASCAR

The boys come back from the West Coast to New Hampshire to race this weekend in Loudon, and there continues to be controversy and intrigue surrounding this series. Obviously, Hendrick drivers Jeff Gordon and Jimmy Johnson are not happy about being nailed with 100-point driver penalties for the cars failing inspection last week. Whether they were trying to cheat or not is always suspect. The bottom line is: their vehicles didn't 'measure up', and so we'll see what the two stars will do this weekend as a comeback of sorts.

Meanwhile, NASCAR made a statement this week, saying that it owns the #8, and not DEI, Inc. So if Hendrick wants that number for Dale, Jr., he'll have to go to Daytona and speak with the boys running the Series, instead of negotiating a deal with Teresa Earnhardt.

WOMEN'S GOLF

This weekend the Women's U.S. Open is being held in Southern Pines, N.C. All of the 'big names' will be

there to compete, including Michelle Wie. I believe there is growing pressure on Wie to perform and produce. We have known about this girl for a while now, even thought she's still a teenager, yet we have not seen her win anything of note. She has been plagued by injuries to her wrists, which have kept her out of play for a considerable time. But she is back now to go up against the best of the LPGA, and it will be interesting to see how she fares in this tournament.

Meanwhile, we will also see a *twelve-year old* competing from South Florida. Her name is Alexis Thompson. She qualified to play in this event a few months ago, and now she's here to play. While there is certainly intrigue as to what she will do and how she will play, to me there simply *has to* be a certain age for anyone to play in any professional sport, no matter what the situation. I mean, would it be okay for an eight-year old to suit up? Would the public and the LPGA be open to allowing that to happen? And what if Thompson were to get into the mix over the weekend? Can a girl at her age handle the nerves and pressure to compete in that situation? What a crazy deal that would be! But it's entirely possible, and we'll see how things shake out in North Carolina.

FINAL WORD

This past weekend we heard about a gruesome situation in the Atlanta area. WWE wrestler David Benoit was found dead in his home, along with his wife and seven-year-old son. Apparently, Benoit, 40, had killed his wife on Friday night, then strangled his son on Saturday, before hanging himself on Sunday. This is certainly an awful story, but it falls on the heels of other situations in which WWE wrestlers have died at an early age. In the Benoit case, Georgia police found prescription anabolic steroids in the house.

For a number of years, steroids have been seriously linked to the WWE. In 2002, Davey Boy Smith, known as the 'British Bulldog', died of heart failure. The coroner suspected long term steroid use. In 2003, Curt 'Mr. Perfect' Hennig died from an overdose of painkillers. His father believes steroids were involved in that death as well. And in 2005, Eddie Guerrero died of heart failure at 38, linking the death to possible steroid use. Both Hulk Hogan and Jesse Ventura admitted to doing steroids. Now, I know a lot of people don't consider WWE wrestling to be a sport. But it certainly involves very physical activity and a good degree of skill. There's no question all wrestlers are bulked up and cut, and steroids can and will do that to a person, without question. The reputation of the whole thing has been tremendously soured, and should be denigrated to further depths, or else we'll simply see more wrestler suicides and killings, possibly due to 'roid rage and fury. Isn't that what the WWE loves in the first place?

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

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nascar news & notes

BY RICHARD TEAGUE TINYNASCARS@yahoo.com

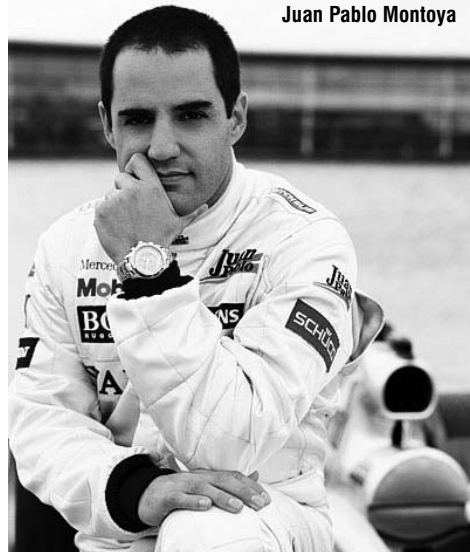
I sure wish Dale Jr. would have waited a couple more weeks before he told of his intentions of drive for Richard Hendrick. Now that he's done it, it appears that there ain't no big gossip or rumors to write about. Kyle Busch has also kind of slowed up. Just what else is there? Well there are a few things to mention, but nothing like all the speculation about "where's Jr. going" and "who's his sponsor going to be?" Wasn't that so much fun for everybody? Now y'all know you miss that as much as I do. You miss going to your favorite racing site and looking to see if there was any new news about Junior. I'll bet you don't have to rush home from work and get on the web to look at the "Junior Watch Forum" anymore, now do ya?

You know, it sounds like we have returned to the boring life of being a NASCAR fan and, especially with last Sunday's race being a road course, it's a real boring life. Just in case you have forgotten, I don't watch that kind of race at all. Why sit there and see a car with hundreds of horsepower slow down to 5 MPH to negotiate a sharp turn? When it was the big cars, it was really boring to see that. Now with the new cars, it may not be that bad, but I still can't bring myself to watch. This year was just like the past few years with some writer saying "why not have a road race in the Chase" and they've done that each year since the Chase started. My answer to that one is simple: WHY? Do we need one?

Heck do we need the ones we got now? Yes, I know that NASCAR got started on the beach and it was kinda like a... well very much like a road course, but I didn't watch it back then, and with the cars that race now, it is a waste of machinery. I try to be honest with all ya'll, so I got to admit that I watched a few of the last laps in the replays, and them little new cars didn't really do too bad keeping my attention, but that's not enough to make me see a whole race. Now don't get to thinking that I've switched to being a fan of the COT, because I ain't and I won't ever be, but to be a NASCAR fan and a Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson fan, I have to see them in those things or stop watching. I'm not quite

ready for that yet, but someday it might happen.

You know another thing that I don't like about a road race? It seems that so many teams try to bring in a "ringer" for just one or two races a season. Were there 6 or 7 driver changes for Sonoma? It seemed to help a couple of teams, and got a top ten or two, but is that fair to the guys that drive all season long? OK, so the new drivers are supposed



Juan Pablo Montoya

to be good road racers, but putting them in with the regulars may make it a tad bit dangerous, if you ask me. What with them trying to prove how good they are and all. I wonder how the usual guys really feel about it. I also wonder how the replaced drivers feel, I bet they're not real pleased.

Chip and Felix didn't change nothing, and look at what they got. Their rookie, Juan Pablo Montoya, won his first NASCAR season, and just so happens that he's a ringer that will drive all year long. It was real neat to see the Texaco Havoline car cross the finish line first and be in victory lane for the first time since 2002, with Rudd at the wheel on the same track, only with RYR. Like I said, I watched

a few laps and those were the ones with Montoya driving a Cart or Formula driver, and he made it look easy with the COT. Again, don't get your hopes up, Mr. France, I ain't changing my mind about either any time soon. I'm just saying that it looked okay, not good. Now, when Brian reads this (as I know he will because he reads my column every week) he'll think I'm slipping, but I'm not!

Y'all got to know that I won't change my mind about the COT. Brian France keeps coming out and saying that the teams had better learn that NASCAR means business when it comes to policing the specs on their new babies, as we can see from the penalties that they have been imposing on teams, drivers and crew chiefs. This brings me to the latest batch handed out to Johnson and Gordon, and not just because they are my two main drivers. I thought NASCAR was tough on Junior and Junior a few weeks back, and now again with two of Hendrick's teams. Looks like the 100, 100,000 and six will be the norm for this season. Gee whiz, I can't even think about next year when the new car is full time. These guys better mind their Ps and Qs next year or they are likely to build up a nest egg of money and crew chiefs.

What's this I hear about Richard wanting to buy the #8? He knows that NASCAR owns the car numbers and there isn't any flea-marketing done between teams. No changes unless they do it. It gives 'em a feeling of power, like a bunch of other DA things they do. Like I said before, Teresa Earnhardt ain't going to give that number up, and now NASCAR has stepped up and made it easier for her to "just say NO!" I'm lovin' it. Jr., I want you in a #5 car and so does Kelloggs. At least I think they do. Can you just imagine a box of Corn Flakes

with Dale Earnhardt Jr. and the #5 car on the front sitting on your favorite grocer's shelf? Man, those boxes would fly out of the store. Likewise, in a couple of years Joe Gibbs wouldn't have a problem replacing Tony Stewart with Jr. and the Rooster.

You know, we ain't even made it to the half-way mark this season, and silly is in the air. Sterling Marlin is rumored to be cutting back for 2008 and Kyle Petty is taking time away to be a broadcaster and all. Oh, by the way, Kyle, you might want to have a time delay with the in-car session the next time you have one (if ever). The F-word is not a good one for TNT to send out over the airwaves. Talks about drivers looking for other teams are already surfacing, and probably more of the old guys will make announcements as the season goes on, but who will they be? Will Ricky be back for another year? How 'bout Front Row Joe, is it his time? A handful of other drivers are out there that need to do it. Can 2008 be the year that Mark Martin retires for the umpteenth time, or is it one more part-time year for the gipper?

My I guess is that there is a lot to write about after all, because I only touched the tip of the iceberg, but I guess there is always next week. Yes, there will always be new stuff to talk about, so let me get finished here, as I know some of y'all have been waiting for since I started. Now y'all know how to contact me if'n ya want, but in case you've forgotten, it's at tiny NASCARs@yahoo.com and also if you forgot, but I sure doubt you have, if it ain't NASCAR, it ain't s**t!

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