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Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones return for the sequel to the 1997 blockbuster. See review, page 4

Vol 87, No. 169, 12 pages

MTV Making the music happen

John Ostrosky shares the story that led him to work for MTV



STORY BY LENA MORSE



(above) Phil Collins hands John Ostrosky his degree at Berklee College of Music in Boston.



(below) John Ostrosky poses with Ace Frehley for a thumbs up.

On any typical day of work for John Ostrosky, crazed fans line up in front of the building housing MTV Networks in hopes of getting in to see a taping of "TRL". Ostrosky said he passes the lines and enters the building effortlessly.

Ostrosky now works on the 20th floor at 1313 Broadway in Manhattan. He has been promoted to a department called Digital Asset Management. Working at MTV Networks, Ostrosky passes celebrities in the hallway from Carson Daly to Lenny Kravitz and Marilyn Manson.

"It's just normal everyday life to see everyone when you work here," Ostrosky said.

The division in which Ostrosky works is creating a digital archive of all photos, audio and video. When asked what advice he would give to a college student wanting to work at MTV, he said experience is the key.

"Take as many television production courses as possible, and apply for an internship at MTV Networks. I have seen several people go from interns to producers," Ostrosky said.

Lynne Didomenico, a student at the University of Connecticut, applied for a summer internship at MTV and was excited to have the opportunity to spend this summer in New York.

"I always love music and entertainment. I thought MTV would be a great place to intern since I am a communications major. I faxed a resume and got the job. You just have to take a chance," Didomenico said.

Ostrosky said he plans to work at MTV until he hits rock star status. Until then, he is happy to be where he is.

"This place is great. As anyone can guess, life at MTV is never dull," Ostrosky said.

It was nine years ago that John Ostrosky arrived in New York City with dreams of breaking into the music business. In less than a decade he has become a successful musician, producer and TV personality, and he works for one of the most influential networks in the world.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY OSTROSKY.COM

John Ostrosky, digital asset manager for MTV, works behind the scenes with rock-n-roll icons such as Kid Rock.

His journey began when Ostrosky was six years old. His father, a musician himself, had introduced him to music. His first appearance on stage was at age 6 playing "Wipeout" at an organ recital. Two years later, he started to play drums after becoming a self-professed KISS freak.

Ostrosky actually attended SIUC for only a month, but his talents eventually led him to Berklee School of Music in Boston where he majored in percussion.

"SIU is a cool place to be. Alumnus Jim Belushi is one of my

favorite actors, and I would love to visit there," Ostrosky said.

When he graduated with a 4.0 GPA, it was musician Phil Collins who handed him his diploma at his graduation ceremony. With degree in hand he headed for the Big Apple with hopes and dreams of stardom. He submitted his resume to MTV.

Ostrosky's first job at MTV Networks was cataloguing shows and videos. He worked for a department that lined up shows for MTV, VH1 and Nickelodeon.

"It was cool because I used to videotape MTV and VH1 and cata-

logue my personal tapes, so doing it for the company was a trip," Ostrosky said.

Immediately after he began his job at MTV, Ostrosky came in contact with celebrities in one sense or the other.

"When I started work, I was told that Cindy Crawford used my phone once. It is unfortunate that she used it before I began working there, but it was my phone and it makes a great story," Ostrosky jokingly said.

Ostrosky began to assist on shows being taped at MTV. He recalls the first show he assisted.

"The first time I got to work with celebrities was when I acted as a prop coordinator for a VH1 show called "8-track Flashback." I met David Cassidy, Leif Garrett and Suzanne Sommers. Suzanne shared her breakfast with me," Ostrosky said.

"I wasn't nervous my first day. I was happy to be going to work. I had a cool job," Ostrosky said.

Ostrosky then began to build his music career. He had been a KISS fan since the second grade and has idolized kiss guitarist Ace Frehley. When he arrived to college, he was wearing a "Frehley's Comet" T-shirt. Ostrosky said Berklee was predominantly a jazz school. He said the shirt made him a fish out of water.

"I walked into the school cafeteria at Berklee on my first day looking like a deer in headlights. It was then that I met my band mate, Rob Fiore, who noticed my shirt. He was a rocker too, so we became friends and both came to New York to pursue music," Ostrosky said.

On his 18th birthday, Ostrosky saw KISS in concert and got the rare privilege of being pulled on stage by Frehley to sing back-up vocals for the song "Rocket Ride."

"I was in the middle of the stage singing back-up vocals, and there was this band that I loved since I was eight. It was crazy," Ostrosky said.

After the show, Ostrosky and Frehley became friends much to Ostrosky's delight. In 1997 a tribute

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HOLLYWOOD NEWS

'Men in Black II' sets new July Fourth record

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — "Men in Black II," the long-awaited reunion of actors Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones, set a record for the U.S. July 4 holiday weekend, selling about \$90 million worth of tickets in its first five days of release across North America, according to studio estimates on Sunday.

The sci-fi comedy, in which the duo play government agents who save mankind from "the scum of the universe," pulled in \$14.1 million for the Friday-to-Sunday period, on top of its \$35.9 million haul for Wednesday and Thursday.

The old three-day record for the July 4 holiday period was set by the 1997 original, with \$51.1 million. The five-day record of \$85 million was set one year earlier by Smith's alien-invasion adventure "Independence Day." Barry Sonnenfeld returned to direct the \$140 million "Men in Black" sequel, which was released by Columbia Pictures, a unit of Sony Corp.

The Adam Sandler comedy "Mr. Deeds," which topped the rankings last weekend, slipped to No. 2 in its second round with \$18.8 million for the three days, \$26.3 million for the five days and \$74.1 million to date.

It was also released by Columbia, which claimed about 50 percent of the weekend's receipts. Additionally, the studio will beat its own speed record when it passes the \$1 billion mark for domestic sales later this week; the old mark was set in 1997 when Columbia passed \$1 billion in early September.

Julia Roberts weds cameraman

TAOS, New Mexico — Academy Award-winning actress Julia Roberts married her cameraman boyfriend Daniel Moder early Thursday at her 40-acre estate outside Taos.

The wedding marks Roberts' second trip down the aisle. The star of "Runaway Bride" and "My Best Friend's Wedding" was married for 21 months to country and western singer Lyle Lovett.

The darkness of the cool New Mexico morning concealed the details of Roberts' wedding but provided the perfect backdrop for the midnight ceremony.

Julia Roberts and Daniel Moder married during a midnight ceremony before family and friends at their home in New Mexico, Roberts' publicist, Marcy Engelman, told The Associated Press about an hour after the ceremony.

A big white tent was seen on Roberts' estate Wednesday afternoon and the town was crowded with photographers and reporters, some of whom camped outside her gate.

A pitch-black sky was dotted with millions of sparkling stars as music and laughter could be heard coming from Roberts' home into the early morning hours.

The rumors heated up this week when The Daily Mail of London reported that 50 guests were being flown from Los Angeles to New Mexico for some sort of celebration at Roberts' estate. The paper said George Clooney, Roberts' co-star on "Ocean's 11," was to be among them and that invites were to wear white linen.

"Pretty Woman" (1990) remains Roberts' biggest hit, with a domestic gross of \$178.4 million. Her other \$100 million hits include "Notting Hill" and "Erin Brockovich," for which she received a best-actress Oscar in 2001.

MUSIC NEWS

Japan conquered, Puffy ready for United States

TOKYO — Ami Onuki and Yumi Yoshimura have been at the top of the pop charts in Japan, hosted their own TV show and inspired enough toys, dolls and even shoes to fill the Tokyo Dome.

Oh, and they've sung in Austin, Texas. "We had this image of singing behind chicken wire, and people throwing beer bottles at us if they didn't like our music," Onuki said of their performance at the South by Southwest festival two years ago, their first U.S. appearance.

Instead of being drenched in beer, they got applause. And a bit of a following.

Now, the twentysomething duo, known in Japan as Puffy, is preparing to begin a 10-city North American tour that will start off small on July 6 at the 500-seat Roxy in Los Angeles, include two shows in San Francisco opening for the B-52s, and conclude at the Horse Shoe Tavern in Toronto.

"It's a whole new experience for us," Yoshimura said. "We have no idea what to expect."

In America, they will go by the name Puffy AmiYumi, to avoid confusion with Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, who used to go by the name Puffy.

Marc Anthony looking past Latin music boom

NEW YORK — When Marc Anthony released his first English language album in 1999, Latin artists were in vogue. Ricky Martin was the hottest thing in pop, Jennifer Lopez's hits were climbing the charts, and the media were focused on music that was "muy caliente."

But instead of relishing all the attention, Anthony reviled it.

The Grammy-winning singer believes that instead of educating people about the diversity of Latin music and culture, it just served to perpetuate stereotypes.

"There were all kinds of misconceptions about what it was to be Latino," Anthony says.

The 33-year-old New Yorker, whose parents are Puerto Rican, complains that people lumped Latin performers in one bag, failing to differentiate them by genre or style. And he says the hoopla underscored how ignorant many were about Latinos in general.

He recalls one incident where he was doing a major show, and "as I'm walking out, the producer comes running out. And she says, 'I didn't get your work visa information.' ... And I'm like, 'Where do you think I'm from?'"

"I felt like a stranger in my back yard for the first time in my life. It was a little weird."

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TODAY'S CALENDAR

No events submitted today

STARS BEHIND BARS

Guest's son sues Springer

TAMPA, Florida — Talk show host Jerry Springer was sued Wednesday by the son of a former guest, killed by her ex-husband hours after the airing of an episode the couple had appeared on involving love triangles.

Jeffrey Campbell of Kalamazoo, Mich., alleged that "The Jerry Springer Show" episode on which Nancy Campbell-Panitz appeared created "a mood that led to murder."

A spokesman for the program said that neither the show nor its producers were responsible for the death.

Raf Panitz, 42, was convicted of second-degree murder and received a life sentence in May for the July 24, 2000, beating death of his ex-wife. The show had been taped in May 2000.

CORRECTIONS

No items reported

Readers who spot an error should contact the Daily Egyptian at 536-3311 ext. 253.

Spilling your guts on the piano, man: Q&A with Pepperland

Codell Rodriguez
Daily Egyptian

After seeing a Grateful Dead cover band, the founding members of Pepperland decided to form a Beatles tribute band.

But instead of trying to match the sound of the band VF11 called the greatest artists in rock 'n' roll history, the St. Louis-based Pepperland, named after the location of "Yellow Submarine," decided to just do their own thing.

Pepperland, which consists of Larry Jones — who just goes by Jones (rhythm guitar and vocals) — Tony Craig (drums and vocals), Nado (vocals and sometimes percussion), John Brown (keyboards) and George Smith (bass), may not look or sound exactly like the original Fab Four, but the band found a connection when it opened for Ringo Starr and his All-Starr Band.

Jones, Tony and Nado found time away from ridding the world of Blue M&anies and searching for lands of yellow submarines to talk to the DAILY EGYPTIAN, via separate phone lines.

How did you guys get together?

Jones: Go ahead Tony.
Tony: Jones and I were at Mississippi Nights in St. Louis and were watching a Dead band, and we had been listening to the White Album over and over and over again for a couple weeks ...

Jones: Actually about 25 years for me.
Tony: As for me, a few weeks. So we looked at one another and said, "Hey, gee, I have a great idea. Let's do a Beatles band and knock everybody's knickers off." Or something like that.

Jones: Which worked out perfectly because, at the time, Nado and I and another founding member, were playing in another project, which we called King Turkey.

Nado: (laughs)
Jones: Which was nothing but a funk fest. (laughs)

Tony: Long live King Turkey. (laughs)
Jones: We developed a really strong rapport in that band. So then all the seeds were actually sewn.

Tony: Nothing too cosmic or anything.



No flaming pies?

Tony: No flaming pies or anything like that.
Jones: Although Ben (one of the founding members) could make a really mean lemon meringue pie. I think he learned it from his mom.

So is being a Beatle fan a prerequisite to being in the band?

Jones: It helps. If you're not, you've probably come and gone by now.
Tony: Yeah, Nado and I are the only hardcore ones.
Nado: Doing it for six stinking years.
Tony: For six stinking years, we're the hardcore ones.

What's your favorite Beatles album?

Tony: I'm going to say the White Album. And you guys can't say the same ones.
Jones: OK.
Tony: Because then we'll be way too boring.
Nado: Nado? I'm going to say "Abbey Road."
Tony: Jones?
Jones: "Meet the Beatles."
Tony: "Meet the Beatles?"
Nado: Wow. I didn't know that Larry.

Do you have a favorite Beatle?

Tony: Oh, that's impossible.
Jones: I do. My favorite Beatle is George.
Nado: I've never had a favorite. It always changes.
Tony: I'm going to say John Lennon.
Jones: Nado's is Billy Preston.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Nado: (laughs) Nah dude.
Tony: My favorite beetle is the dung beetle. (laughs)
Nado: Man, this is a total Pepperland interview for sure.

Who's your favorite band besides the Beatles?

Tony: Mine would have to be Sting.
Nado: Wow. Dude! Band or solo act?

Just artist.

Nado: Jeff Buckley, hands down.
Jones: Mine would have to be Sade, without a doubt. (laughs)

I'm sure there's plenty of Sade fans out there ... Have any of you ever been to Britain?

Jones: The closes I've ever been is Chicago.
Nado: (laughs) Dude, come on!
Jones: It's the truth.
Nado: My next-door neighbors were from Britain. (laughs)

The Beatles made several movies. Any favorites?

Tony: "Magical Mystery Tour," hands down.
Jones: "Enter the Dragon."
Tony: "Enter the Dragon?"
Nado: (laughs)
Tony: Wasn't Ringo in that? Didn't Ringo play a gnome?

Jones: Whenever they first get off the boat and [Lee] looks over to the courtyard where there's hundreds of kung-fu fighters practicing.
Tony: Uh huh.
Jones: He was actually the one in the third row, about the 15th person in from the left.
Tony: Wearing a hat with a flower on it?
Jones: You can make it out, if you slow the film down, you'll see because he's wearing a lot of rings.
Nado: You've gotta be shitting me.
Jones: Nah, I'm full of crap. You're right.
Nado: OK.

Where do all the lonely people belong?

Jones: With me.
Tony: They should go over to Jones' house.
Jones: Maybe we could get a bite to eat afterward.

'Tomorrow Never Comes' seizes the day

Local heavy metal band Tomorrow Never Comes ponders the future

Jared DuBach
Daily Egyptian

Tomorrow Never Comes is a heavy metal band from Carbondale that has a passion for doing whatever it can to get out of a hard day's work. For them, generating a rather disturbing sound is the ideal way.

"It kind of sounds like when someone bites the curb," guitarist Ken Clifford says as he plays with a Curious George stick puppet while wearing a baseball cap that has the words "Work Sucks" on it. "You know that sound when someone bites the curb and then someone smashes their skull in with their foot? That's what we sound like."

Tomorrow Never Comes' five members are: Josh Plemon (vocals/guitar); Ken Clifford (guitar/vocals); Tony Lamanita (bass/vocals); and Zack Kemp and Gary Trimble on drums.

Plemon is the owner and head engineer of Room 12 Studios and is the former guitarist and vocalist for S.S. Bountyhunter. Clifford is also the guitarist for the Karloffs and is a founding member of the recently defunct Last Laugh. Lamanita was involved with the band Deprived. Kemp is also drumming for Headfix, and Trimble is the former drummer of the Boro City Rollers and the



LISA SONNENSCHNIG - DAILY EGYPTIAN

The sound of local group Tomorrow Never Comes is where Black Sabbath, Slayer and early Metallica cross.

Holidays.

The band members all agree that Tomorrow Never Comes' sound is unmistakable and takes some of its influence from Black Sabbath, Slayer, and the early music of Metallica. Ken Clifford says that his style of performing is inspired by the Christian rock band, Stryper, and Gary Trimble says that he finds inspiration in the Cure.

Plemon said the main inspiration for his lyrics come from his perception of the darker side of life.

"The older I get, the more I realize that reality isn't always pretty," Plemon said.

According to Plemon, the idea of organizing a heavy metal band came to him a few years ago. After a few lineup changes, the current group stabilized. Plemon said the name Tomorrow Never Comes has several

different meanings. The first meaning is to make a person consider the possibility that tomorrow may never come and that person should seize control of what time was left. The second meaning is to encourage people to reconsider what is important in their lives. One of the things that is definitely important on the band's agenda is succeeding at advancing onward with their music.

"It would be nice if we could get a decent record deal and tour with some well established bands," Plemon said. "We just plan on moving onto bigger and better things."

Reporter Jared DuBach can be reached at jdubach@dailyegyptian.com

Tomorrow Never Comes is playing at 10 tonight at Boo Jo and Co. with Hotell Dead and Kick in Emergency.

Stoney Curtis to rock Carbondale biker-style

Stoney Curtis Group mixes new rock sounds, classic southern rock

Jared DuBach
Daily Egyptian

Even though their name is based upon a "Flintstones" cartoon character, there's nothing cartoonish about the Southern rock sound of the Stoney Curtis Group.

The Stoney Curtis Group, which performs at 10 tonight and Saturday at PK's, consists of Marshall Watkins on bass and vocals, Kyle Morse and Arick Reeder on guitars and Jon Ellis on drums.

A point of interest about Morse and Reeder is that they are former members of Drivin' Rain. Watkins says that the band got its name when a character named Stoney Curtis, a spoof on actor Tony Curtis, made a guest appearance on "The Flintstones." To him, it just sounded like a cool name.

"Watkins describes the Stoney Curtis Group as basically a biker band."

"We get a lot of our jobs from biker organizations," Watkins said. Stoney Curtis Group has been playing the annual Hog Rock Festival for the past few years, and various other

motorcycle rallies in the Midwest. Watkins posted on the band's Web site that one of the band's more memorable places to play at is PK's in Carbondale.

"This is one of our favorite places to play. The people are very cool and the place really knows how to rock," Watkins said.

The band does covers of classic and Southern rock favorites like Molly Hatchet, the Allman Brothers Band, Thin Lizzy, Cream, and the James Gang.

The Stoney Curtis Groups also performs numerous songs from the Stone Temple Pilots and the Black Crowes.

Watkins describes the band's own eight original songs as "sounding really different" from the classic and Southern rock tunes in their cover song repertoire.

The band currently has a self-titled CD, and is going to begin writing the songs for the next album soon, according to Watkins.

"We would love to do this as a full-time thing playing club gigs," Watkins said. "We don't want to be famous. It's not the 70s you know."

Reporter Jared DuBach can be reached at jdubach@dailyegyptian.com

The Stoney Curtis Group is playing at 9 tonight and Saturday night at PK's. For more information on the Stoney Curtis Group, go to www.stoneycurtisgroup.com

ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

Carbondale

Boo Jr. and Co.
7/12 Tomorrow Never Comes / Kick In Emergency / Hateful Dead
7/13 Spitshine
7/19 Autumn's Revenge / Az-iz

Booby's Beer Garden

7/12 Woodbox Gang
7/15 DJ Yt.
7/19 New Society of Anarchists / This Guy
7/20 Triple Dose

Carboz

7/12-13 Live DJ

Gatsby's II

7/12-13 Live DJ

Hangar 9

7/12 Broken Grass
7/13 Pepperland
7/18 The Hateful Dead
7/19 Nonstop Reggae
7/20 La Makia Soma / The Plus

7/25 Eye Car
7/26 Tomorrow Never Comes / Shufflepuck / Kick In Emergency
7/27 Pryor/Skinner Battle of the Blues

Jackson Country Stage Company

7/12-14 Papa's House

Melange Cafe

7/12 Marsh O'Sullivan
7/13 Bowden Family

Pinch Penny Pub / Copper Dragon

7/12 Then Again
7/13 Evenflow
7/19 Brat Pack
7/20 Hairbanger's Ball

PK's

7/12-13 Stoney Curtis Group

Shryock Auditorium

7/25 Big Smith

(rockabilly/bluegrass)

Sidetracks Bar and Grill

7/12 The Natives
7/13 Live DJ
7/19 St. Stephens blues

Stix

7/12-13 Live DJ

Tres Hombres

7/13 Motown/funk revue

Turley Park

7/18 Guy Smiley Blues Explosion (jazz/funk)

Cobden

Yellow Moon Cafe
7/12 Howard Jenkins Orchestra
7/13 Zacc and Boss Unit
7/19 Randy Auxier

Du Quoin

Ten Pin Alley
7/12-13 DJ's from Hell
7/18 Shades of Grey

Murphysboro

Mungo Jerry's Fat Cat Cafe
7/12 Stan Davis
7/13 Robin Anderson

Pomona

Shawnee Saltpetre Cave
7/20 B.B. Queen

Herrin

TJ's
7/12 Big Lamy and the Down Home Blues Band
7/13 Joe Corso with Legend
7/18 Metal Messiah / Safe-T-First / Reality

St. Louis area

Blueberry Hill Buck Room
7/12 The Iguanas
7/13 Murder City Players / Reggae Cowboys
7/17 Chuck Berry
7/18 Alejandro Escovedo
7/20 Chris Duarte Group

Creepy Crawl

7/13 Tryptophane / Faceplant

7/16 Chris Murray / Conscious Youth
7/17 Hey Mercedes / Kouax / Piebald
7/18 The Shams / Tomorrow's Caveman / Gentleman Callers

Hi-Pointe

7/14 Zao

The Pageant

7/17 Danzig / Prong / Damaged
7/18 Coal Chamber / American Head Charge
7/28 Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

Pop's

7/12 Moby
7/17 Primer 55

UMB Bank Pavilion

7/14 Widespread Panic
7/19 Poison
7/20 Deep Purple / Scorpions / Dio
7/21 Brooks and Dunn
7/25 Yes

'Like Mike' is lame, free advertising

Arin Thompson
Daily Egyptian

Twentieth Century Fox Presents: A really bad movie.

"Like Mike" poses as an exciting basketball fantasy movie but folds on the silver screen as a comedy/drama that doesn't deliver.

Teenage rap sensation Lil' Bow Wow plays Calvin Cambridge, from Los Angeles. Calvin has aspirations of being a great basketball player but lacks something more important than skills on the court — he doesn't have any parents.

Calvin then stumbles on a pair of tattered Nike shoes with the initials "MJ" scribbled inside the tongue. Once he puts on the mysterious white sneakers with a cornflower blue swoosh, magic happens and it seems like the projectionist

Like Mike

Starring: Lil' Bow Wow
Jonathan Lipnicki

Director: John Schultz

Running Time: 1 hour, 40 min.

Playing at: University Place
1 Gus head



turned up the suck.

And the dialog is something to mention; a classic quote from the film? "All orphans are special. All orphans have a destiny," Cambridge said.

So, it must have been Lil' Bow Wow's destiny to leave the elusive world of rap and become a hoop-stuffing, scene-stealing 13-year-old tear-jerker. He should have stuck with the rap.

Rap is featured in this movie as well, in a touching scene between Cambridge and co-star, Morris Chestnut, (G.I. Jane, Boyz in the Hood) who plays Tracey Reynolds, a player on the Los Angeles Knights basketball team.

The song "Party Up" by DMX is featured in this film. Reynolds and Cambridge give a rap-off to the tune during a car ride. The strange part is that Reynolds raps better than Cambridge. It seems that with Lil' Bow Wow's rap background, there would be lots of rap in this film, but there is barely any at all. The soundtrack won't be anything to race to Best Buy over.

The cute little blond from "Jerry Maguire" is in this film. Jonathan Lipnicki plays Murph, Calvin's best friend. The problem here is that his body is finally growing into his head. He's still cute, but not as cute.

Cambridge's dreams are to be adopted into a family such as the one on "Fresh Prince of Bel Air." He comes close to getting that wish when Mr. Boyd, played by Reginald VelJohnson, who incidentally played the father on "Family Matters," comes to adopt the young basketball

star. Too bad it was the wrong early '90s sitcom.

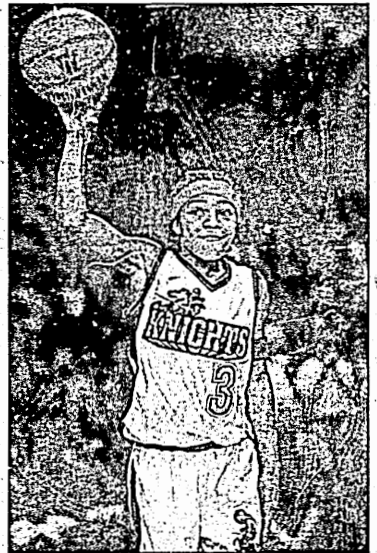
The movie reflected the true-to-life basketball world because of all the shameless advertising. Kispys Kreme doughnuts and Coca-Cola were given screen time. The most unnerving advertisement was that for Nike.

Perhaps the entire movie was just one big walking, talking billboard for the athletic apparel companies. They have dominated magazines and television; the next logical step would be the silver screen.

Also, the really creepy guy from "Charlie's Angels" was in this movie. Crispin Glover played Stan Bittleman, the head of the orphanage. He plays the token weird guy again and does a good job of it. From the start of the film he's odd and unnerving, even though he isn't really doing anything mean or weird.

Anyway, the end packs a touching punch to the integrity of what an action movie should be — about really cool basketball moves and the struggle of the team — not tear-jerking drama.

Reporter Arin Thompson can be reached at athompson@dailyegyptian.com



Lil' Bow Wow

The Men in Black are back

Agents J and K once again fight alien scum and save the planet

Jared DuBach
Daily Egyptian

One would think that saving the Earth from the clutches of an evil alien might be a difficult task. But with the right weapons and special effects from Industrial Light and Magic, anything is possible for the mysterious Men in Black.

Despite a slight improbability in the storyline, "Men in Black 2" comes off as a strong sequel to the first "Men in Black," which was released in 1997.

The Men in Black are called into action when an evil alien, Serleena, comes to Earth in search of the Light of Zarthra, an object that holds the supreme power of the universe.

In order to locate this object before Serleena does, Agent J (Will Smith) must find Agent K (Tommy

Lee Jones) and somehow get him to remember all of his previous Men in Black training. For those who might have forgotten, Agent K was "neutralized" at the end of the first movie. Rather unbelievably, K manages to remember every minute detail about the whereabouts of the Light of Zarthra.

The film makes up for this somewhat unbelievable event of K regaining his memory in fast-paced chase scenes, and is packed with a never-ending array of special affects. Some of these special effects include a giant alien worm that eats a subway car, various exploding heads and a talking dog.

Other than the small, aforementioned glitch in the story, the plot and overall story idea flow together rather well.

Although the film is PG-13, there is still a good amount of mild expletives, including a scene in which Serleena, played by Lara Flynn Boyle, strolls through a city park in some rather revealing lingerie.

A better play to appeal to the male audience has never been created. Johnny Knoxville from MTV's

Men in Black

Starring: Will Smith
Tommy Lee Jones

Director: Barry Sonnenfeld

Running Time: 1 hour, 28 min.

Playing at: University Place

4 Gus heads

"Jackass" has a role in the film as a two-headed alien henchman for Serleena.

With "Men in Black" having raked in more than \$250 million, and "Men in Black 2" already having grossed more than \$87.2 million in its first week, it's hard to understand why there wouldn't be another sequel.

Reporter Jared DuBach can be reached at jdubach@dailyegyptian.com

Seth Denlinger
FSView & Florida Flambeau
(Florida State U.)

Russell Crowe uses law, not fist

Australian meat-thug Russell Crowe is taking Malcolm Mercer and Philip Cropper to court for blackmail. The official charge was made in 1999 for "intent to gain with unwarranted demands."

Supposedly Mercer and Cropper threatened to release some not-so-nice images of Crowe in front of a nightclub, unless he paid up.

Crowe is actually filming somewhere in Mexico while the trial is taking

place, but his father is set to testify. Mercer and Cropper have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Scooby Don't

After taking in \$54 million in its opening weekend, Warner Bros. has signed on to making another "Scooby" flick, set for release in two years.

A sequel was talked about even before the release of "Scooby Doo" but has now been sped up.

The entire cast of teen-beat stars will reprise their roles as the crime-fighting youngsters. And of course, the CGI Scooby will be back.

Gus Heads Explained

- ⓐⓐⓐⓐⓐ = Sweetest.
- ⓐⓐⓐⓐ = It was better than "Glitter." I'll see it again.
- ⓐⓐⓐ = I don't know about y'all, but I thought it was OK.
- ⓐⓐ = I should have waited for the video.
- ⓐ = At least the air conditioning was working.

Opening soon: 'Double Decker Gus'



Gus Bode

slouflipa@hotmail.com

Well, my loyal following of students, faculty, community members and German Shepherds, your friend and colleague, me, is looking for yet another way to break into the media.

I've been in the DAILY EGYPTIAN damn near 50 years. I got on CNN during the last Halloween riots, throwing mace and pissed off badgers into the crowd. Only days later did I find out they were rioters. Now I'm going to Hollywood — the city, not the video store — and figuratively, I'm not really going to California.

Anyway, I'm going to star in my own movie. Right now, I just have a script in mind, but I'm going to get around to writing it after I finish watching the "Godfather" trilogy, the "Star Wars" saga, "Gone With the Wind," "Seven Samurai," "Yojimbo," "Ran," "Sanjuro," every other Kurosawa flick, "Fellowship of the Ring" and "Cannibal Women from the Avocado Jungle of Death."

You know, for inspiration. But my movie will make all those films look like the Lifetime movie of the week. My movie will make

"Citizen Kane" look like "Bio Dome." My movie is called "Double Decker Gus."

Now, because I love each and every one of you — especially the sorority girls — I'm going to give you the plot to the summer blockbuster that will make Roger Ebert quit his job, because he will never, ever see a movie this brilliant again.

The movie will start off with a black screen saying "One day ago, in a university far, far away — if you live in Mongolia." Then, it will go back to black and the words "Gus Bode" will stream onto the screen in yellow, much like "Star Wars."

But unlike "Star Wars," there will be no John Williams score accompanying the crawl that tells of my plight. Instead, my heroic story will be introduced by Three Dog Night's "Joy to the World."

Then, the camera will pan down and reveal Pulliam Hall against the night sky. I will be standing in front of the building, shirtless and practicing with a ninja sword, throwing cantaloupes into the air and slicing them with bad-ass accuracy.

Then it will cut to the next day with Chancellor Wendler, played by Ving Rhames, at a press conference announcing a radical new idea for the campus. To avoid crosswalk problems, SIUC will introduce a new double-decker bus, like the British have, to drive students around campus. To promote the idea, a lucky handful of

students will ride in the bus for a test run. Wouldn't you know it, I'm one of the names that is called.

So, before being let onto the bus, my sword is confiscated, leaving only my wits and mastery of every martial art in the world to be my guide. I sit down on the upper level next to a calm, serious blonde that happens to be none other than Ellen Degeneres. She has her arms crossed and stares straight ahead.

I ask her if she's nervous, and she replies with "Mind your own business, Nerf-ball." I want her already.

The bus takes off without a hitch from the parking lot at the Communications Building. Just as we pass by Neckers, the crowd hears a helicopter overhead, then several thuds on the roof. Then, about 16 men dressed in black bust through the bus windows and announce the vehicle is now in their control.

They say they are a terrorist group from North Dakota and are sick of the lack of attention they are getting. Apparently, after " Fargo," they thought the state was going to gain popularity. But after it fizzled out, they decided they would kidnap a bus from SIUC and demand the government give them their proper attention. Then I explain to them how much the government cares about the University, and they change their ransom to \$1 billion. I explain again, and they reduce it to \$28.34. If they do not meet the demands, they find a

way to bring back Yahoo Serious. The government quickly agrees.

I decide to take matters into my own hands. I stand up and kick one of the terrorists in the face while doing a back flip in true Bruce Lee fashion.

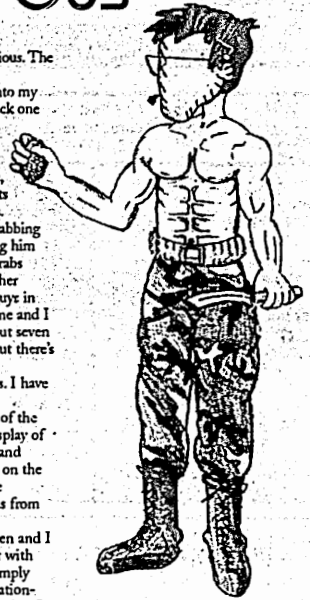
Some of the goons fire at me, but I skillfully block the bullets with some nicely timed kicks.

Ellen helps out too by grabbing one of the guys and throwing him out the window. Then she grabs onto my hands and I swing her around, kicking one of the guys in the face. Then she looks at me and I look at her. We stare for about seven minutes, and we embrace. But there's no time to experience the unmatched lovin' that is Gus. I have to take out the trash.

Basically, I fight the rest of the terrorists in a spectacular display of studliness for another hour and eventually save the students on the bus, modern movies and the American right to steal ideas from the British.

After the dust clears, Ellen and I meet eyes and I tell her that with my action hero lifestyle, I simply can't handle a long-term relationship. That and I'm kind of a slut. So I turn and walk into the sunset with Herman's Hermits' "Henry VIII" playing in the back.

Pretty good right? I think I'll win at least 13 Oscars for it. So far, New Line, 20th Century Fox and



Paramount have turned me down, and Miramax said they would do it if I could set it in 19th-century Britain and put Judy Dench in it. But Tromas's looking pretty damn good.

Through the Looking Glass

Mike Pingree
Boston Herald

THE SHIRT? IT'S JUST A JOKE, OFFICER, REALLY

An Indiana state trooper stopped a driver wearing a bright orange shirt that said, "Fugitive, You never saw me."

On an impulse, the trooper checked to find out if the guy really was a wanted man. He was.

There was an arrest warrant on him for failure to appear in court, a felony.

DO YOU LOVE ME FOR MYSELF?

While he was on trial in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1998, a murder defendant had a torrid affair with a female juror, which scandalized all of Canada. (He was free on bail, and the jury was not sequestered.) Through her influence, he was acquitted.

He has finally been sentenced to six years in prison for what a judge termed an "almost unimaginable" obstruction of justice.

WAIT, YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT!

A bunch of people convicted of driving while intoxicated in Iowa were ordered to attend a 48-hour retreat at which they were to learn the virtues of abstinence from alcohol.

Booze was smuggled in, and everyone got roaring drunk.

AND THIS IS THE THANKS HE GETS

A man in Sweden gave his genetic material to two

Weird News

lesbians as a favor so they could have children which they did — three, to be exact — but then they broke up.

Now he is facing an unexpected consequence: After losing his final appeal, the man must pay child support.

SO, YOU SEE, I WOULD HAVE RETURNED THEM

A man in Texas, who was arrested for stealing three industrial-sized power generators, explained to police that he needed them for the time machine he was building.

His plan was to travel a few days into the future, find out the winning lottery numbers and return.

SO WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

Last year, New York police arrested a 30-year-old model, clad only in a thong and body paint, for exposing her breasts while on a float at the Mermaid Parade on Coney Island.

The charges against the model were dismissed, but she is now suing on the grounds that the cops violated her right to free expression.

SUDDENLY, COMMUNISM'S COOL

To attract voters' attention at a rally in the Czech Republic town of Valasske Mezirici, Christian Democrats were offering free shots of plum brandy in the

town square. Communist party officials saw this and countered by getting five women to hand out their campaign literature naked from the waist up.

MMMMM, IS THAT DINNER I SEE?

Three hungry lions, out hunting for dinner near Kajiado, Kenya, spotted some ostriches near the 7-foot fence surrounding the Maasai Ostrich Farm.

The big birds are the lions' favorite food. They bounded over the fence, causing panic among the ostriches, and killed 39 of them before fleeing back into the jungle.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, LADDIE?

Fingal and Sula, two Canadian otters who are staying at an animal sanctuary in Scotland, have had to be segregated from local otters for their own safety because of their "foreign accents."

An official at the facility on the banks of Loch Creran said that, though the Canadians are bigger than the Scots, there was a real fear that locals would "beat the living daylight" out of the visitors if they cannot understand them.

BREAKFAST IS SERVED

A truck driver hauling 270,000 raw eggs in his trailer fell asleep at the wheel and hit the guardrail, spilling his cargo along a quarter of a mile of Interstate 65 in Cremon Point, Ind. The highway was shut down for four hours.

Haiku Challenge: Daily Egyptian

Daily Egyptian
On the beat journalism
For all Salulids

Justin Hsieh, 2nd year
John A. Logan College

Daily Egyptian
Suck-ups to suits, you guys blow
Get a spellchecker

Crystal Moore, senior
cinema and photography, Salem

A free newspaper
Maintained by students like you
Stop your damn bitchin'

Gus Bode

Next week's topic:
MTV

Bring haikus to the DAILY EGYPTIAN newsroom, 1247 Communications Building or send haikus to crodriguez@dailyegyptian.com along with a phone number and name. "Haiku" should be the subject of the e-mail. If you're clever, you could be published in the Daily Egyptian.

Now remember kids, if you don't send in any haikus, we will come up with an even dumber idea to fill the Flatline. Do you want that?
No? That's what I thought.

SEVEN tips FOR SURVIVING THE HEAT

1. Convince people you are a resurrected Egyptian god. That way, you can have scantily clad servants follow you around with palm branches. They can also feed you grapes as an added bonus.

2. Remember, it's a lot cooler underground. Go to class Monte Cristo style.

3. In a blissful delusion, take your refrigerator outside, open the door and wait for the weather to cool down.

4. No matter how many times you are rejected, keep petitioning to Congress that your radical idea to spend billions of dollars to blow up the Sun with a giant death ray is a great idea.

5. Walking to class takes longer. From now on, stay at a full sprint.

6. Coat the inside of you: clothing with ice cream. You will stay cool and will also make all sorts of new animal friends.

7. Model your life after the Fonx. He was always cool!



LILLIAN TYCHALESI - DAILY EGYPTIAN

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Admissions Reception Center
618-536-4405

I want my MTV back

I remember back in the day when my parents got cable for the first time. The biggest argument was whether the kids got to watch MTV or if the parents got to watch the country music channel.

It was awesome. We saw nothing but our rock 'n' roll icons on TV all day, 24 hours a day. And the videos were great. My sister and I gasped and laughed at Steven Tyler's pants, stared in awe of Peter Gabriel's "Sledgehammer" and it's state-of-the-art special effects and swayed along with Crowded House's "Don't Dream It's Over."

Yes sir, MTV was all I ever needed — with the exception of "You Can't Do That on Television" and "Turkey Television." Back then, "Remote Control" was about the only show that was not music-oriented. We saw MTV News with people that actually looked somewhat like journalists.

Oh, but those days are gone. No longer can we turn on MTV and be 90 percent sure to see videos. No more days of Cindy Lauper and her wrestler friends promoting "The Goonies" through even more videos.

No, those days have been replaced by a 2 percent chance of seeing videos. Now the images of spoiled 20-year-old kids living in a great apartment in the fittest section of New York to experience the "Real World" fill up the time of Music Television. Now we have spoiled 20-year-old kids choosing between two other spoiled 20-year-old kids for whom they want to "dismiss" and with whom they want to spend the rest of the evening. Now we have a

bunch of spoiled 20-year-old kids strapping cameras to their head and running through supposed haunted locations while screaming at the top of their lungs, "Oh my god, I'm going to die!" Now we have a soap opera starring a bunch of spoiled 20-year-old kids as they make life-altering decisions such as whether to use ribbed condoms or whether they should break up with their two-week boyfriend, because they didn't use ribbed condoms.

Yes, this is the crap people now have to endure just so high school kids can copy the latest fashion trends and call their friends to tell them all about the show only to "hook up" later.

What happened to Nirvana premiering on "Headbanger's Ball" and Weezer's "Buddy Holly" making viewers exclaim, "Holy crap on a cracker! That's amazing!" Now, if we're willing to watch from midnight until about 7 a.m., we can say, "Hey, this is the fifth time they've played the Lil Bow Wow video. Where's the friggin' Hives?"

I have to admit that MTV has improved somewhat in the past couple of months with shows such as "MTV Rocks," which plays late at night and actually shows rock videos, something that hasn't happened in a while.

I think the outcry started last year when MTV celebrated its 20th anniversary. The station showed a chronology of its history, letting fans see what MTV was like from the '80s up to the mid-'90s. Just out of curiosity, I decided to go onto the MTV message boards. Wouldn't you know it, the majority of threads were titled



Not in the Script

BY CODELL RODRIGUEZ
codrfguez@dailyegyptian.com

something like, "Wow, I can't believe how much MTV sucks now."

Then bands such as Sum 41 and Alien Ant Farm started breaking into the scene and people were saying, "Well they're OK, but there's gotta be something better."

So then other videos started making their way to MTV's 2:45 a.m. slot. I started seeing The White Stripes, The Hives, Jimmy Eat World and Weezer — on a completely unrelated note, I encourage everyone to listen to Supergroup's album, "In it for the Money." Then move on to their other stuff. When you have a column like me, you can plug whatever you want and you get all the girls. OK, I'm lying about the latter, but I can dream can't I?

But even with the slight move back to the old days, they didn't come close to matching the quality of MTV2. It still has stupid crap such as "Sorority Life," and they still have "Dismissed" and "Undressed."

I hope that either MTV gets its act together, or they make MTV2 the standard. Until then, I encourage everyone to stand outside MTV studios and play the last few seconds of "Money for Nothing" by the Dire Straits while weeping and holding up lighters.

Reality and TV, an unhappy couple

Why do people watch TV? Well, in most cases, it's to escape from their normal, boring lives. Unless it's the news, but that's always sprinkled with cheerful anchors who tell the audience how 16 people were killed in a terrible accident, but they always have a sparkling smile etched into their face anyway, so it seems unreal as well.

Reality TV has entered a weird position in American society: It's at that awkward point where everybody's heard of it, everybody's seen it — everybody's sick of it. **SOMEONE TELL THE NETWORKS!**

It was a good idea in the beginning; I admit that. The Real World was pretty decent; we all wanted a cool place to live and interesting friends and a sweet job and really swank places to hang out. Guess what? That's not reality! That's a fantasy world, only capable in MTV universe.

So then the reality plague spread to the networks, and the mainstream was infested with little reality spawns. Fiction shows such as "E.R." and "Law & Order" heavily mimic reality shows. The biggest rash started with "Survivor." The people behind the television stations probably couldn't have been happier when they realized that the public would eat this kind of crap up like hot cakes.

The tribal music would be thumping, the torches would be lit and the "survivors" would all be pissed at each

other, and the Nielsen Families couldn't get enough. Then along came "Big Brother," and I got pissed.

Maybe it's because I'm a huge book geek and read "1984" like it was some sort of modern-day Bible. Or maybe it's because the producers used the tag line "Big Brother" so haphazardly that it made me want to kick someone's ass. Stuck a bunch of people in a house with cameras and no way out. The addition of the guy with no leg was a smart move. He was from Rockford, just a short drive along the Rock River from my hometown. The locals were ecstatic, and I was embarrassed — not because he didn't have a leg, but because that was the best we could do for a success story.

I honestly thought it'd be over after that, but then came "Survivor II" and "Big Brother II," which sucked double time. More and more people were becoming slaves to the reality TV industry. Oh, and now we are graced with shows such as "The Hamptons." Good God, what is wrong with the television audience? I watched the show while smoking too many cigarettes, and I just didn't understand it.

Watching "The Hamptons" was like popping tacks through my palm — intentionally. Who in their right mind could a) connect with that show, or b) want to connect with that show. Oh, sure, I have an inexhaustible bank fund and hang out with all my coke-head friends over Spring Break.



The Politics of Dancing

BY ARIN THOMPSON
athompson@dailyegyptian.com

So why is it that in order to relax and escape, we indulge in watching other people's serious lives and dreaming about being someone normal instead of famous? We're getting boring as a population; we're staring to go soft.

The bottom line is that some guy behind a big oak desk is making some serious bank off of this reality programming. I just realized that perhaps my disdain could stem from the fact that I no longer have cable and my TV gets one channel that is scrambled. Maybe I went through withdrawal, and I'm just pissed now because I know I want it, but I can't have it. Probably not, but I want to investigate every possibility.

Anyway, my point is that maybe we should get our own lives; it's bad enough that a generation of housewives is living vicariously through soap operas, but now a generation of youngsters is living through someone else's reality, not their own. Get off the couch and go live your own exciting life.

Top five albums - July 5-7

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Nellyville | Nelly |
| 2. The Eminem Show | Eminem |
| 3. Irv Gotti Presents The Inc. | Various artists |
| 4. Let Go | Avril Lavigne |
| 5. Ashanti | Ashanti |

~ from billboard.com

silver screen summary

Men in Black II
 Rated PG-13 (88 min): The sequel to 1997 summer blockbuster sees the return of Agent J and K and as they must stop a group of female extraterrestrials after K has his memory restored. Starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones.

his own movie about living with his grandfather and hanging out with his friends in the city streets. Starring the voices of Spencer Klein and Dan Castellana.

Road to Perdition
 Rated R (116 min): A hit man in depression-era Chicago, known as the "Angel of Death," finds his professional and personal worlds collide when his wife and younger of two sons are murdered. Now, on the run with his older son, he must go on the road on a quest for revenge. Starring Tom Hanks, Paul Newman and Jude Law.

Like Mike
 Rated PG (100 min): Calvin dreams of being a professional basketball player but lacks the size or skill. But when he buys a pair of magical basketball shoes, he gains magical skills and leads a below par basketball team to victory. Starring Lil Bow Wow and Jonathan Lipnicki.

Hey Arnold! The Movie
 Rated G (76 min): The football-headed hero from Nickelodeon gets

Reign of Fire
 Rated PG-13 (82 min): After waking from centuries of slumber in London, dragons rule the Earth again. One fire chief, who witnessed their rebirth, must help a small community destroy the beasts

with a confident American. Starring Christian Bale and Matthew McConaughey.

The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course
 Rated PG (89 min): After accidentally swallowing a secret U.S. satellite beacon, American special agents track down an unwitting crocodile only to be foiled by Steve Irwin who believes they are poachers. Starring Steve Irwin and Terri Irwin.

Mr. Deeds
 Rated PG-13 (96 min): When the owner of a major media corporation dies, he leaves everything to his nephew who implements his small-town values into the big-city corporation. Starring Adam Sandler and Winona Ryder.



Source: imdb.com

Top movies - July 5-7

1. Lilo & Stitch \$103.1 million
 2. Minority Report \$97.1 million
 3. Men in Black \$87.2 million
 4. Mr. Deeds \$73.6 million
 5. Like Mike \$19.0 million
- total grossed in box office*

Halloween: Resurrection
 Rated R (94 min): The eighth film in the "Halloween" series finds a group of kids whose webcast of publicity stunts have led them to the original home of Michael Myers.

But when the leader of one of the precrime units is convicted of the murder of a man he's never met, he decides to run. Starring Tom Cruise and Colin Farrell.

They soon find that the legend of Myers is not yet ready to die. Starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Busta Rhymes.

Lilo and Stitch
 Rated PG (85 min): A genetic experiment from space crash-lands on Earth where it meets a young Hawaiian girl named Lilo. Mistaking him for a dog, Lilo adopts the experiment with hopes of mending her family. Starring the voices of Tia Carrere and Ving Rhames.

Minority Report
 Rated PG-13 (144 min): In the year 2054, crimes are seen through a psychic network and prevented.

MTV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

album to Fehley, "Return of The Comet," was produced. The album featured members of KISS, Guns 'N' Roses, Soundgarden, and Presidents of the United States of America. Ostrosky was asked to produce a cut titled "Remember Me."

By the time "Return of the Comet" was released, Ostrosky was relishing more success at MTV Networks. He began appearing on shows and commercials. He was asked to star in a video for the

"Basement Jaxx song "Red Alert." "The director of the video used to work at MTV. He needed a "rocker" looking guy for the video so he called me up and asked me if I wanted to be in his video," Ostrosky said.

That would be the first of many opportunities Ostrosky had to appear on MTV. He appeared in an episode of "Do What?" and appeared on four episodes of "Rock's Off," a video critique show.

Ostrosky got to share screen time with Kid Rock and Jesse Camp as critics. He also starred in television promotions for Nick-at-Nite's "Revenge of the '80s."

"Those were great shows. Jesse Camp actually poured water on my head once while we were both onstage with Motley Crue," Ostrosky said.

Ostrosky decided he would audition for a commercial he heard about from a friend and co-worker. He landed a role in a Heineken commercial shot for the 2002 Grammy awards. The commercial was set during a 1970s concert in which the audience held lighters. Ostrosky was part of the band in the commercial.

"Opportunities are always popping up here. It is a great place to get

started or have a career," Ostrosky said.

Recently, Toby Maguire and N'Sync were spotted roaming the halls at MTV Networks. Ostrosky's co-worker, Lisa Bienvenu, said celebrity sightings can happen any time.

"Celebrities get lost in the crowd in the lobby. You have to keep your eyes open or you will miss them. It is so exciting to come to work," Bienvenu said.

She said she agrees with Ostrosky that working at MTV is the coolest job on earth.

"It's hard work sometimes, but

for the most part it's great. There are all walks of life working here, from pink hair to three-piece suits. It's very laid back, except on me. It just doesn't bump into Lenny Kravitz in the elevator," Bienvenu said.

Ostrosky said if anyone is interested in applying for a job to contact the human resource department at MTV Networks.

"It is the experience of a lifetime for a college intern or graduate," Ostrosky said.

Reporter Lena Morsch can be reached at lmorsch@dailyegyptian.com

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1987 FLEETWOOD MOBILE Home 14' X 70' 2 bdrm, 1 bath, whirlp & stove, w/d hookup, c/a, electric furnace, and fireplace. 1 yr old heater. Must be moved! Asking \$10,000. Call Michael Cavnessa at 618-833-6572.

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ROOMMATE WANTED For brand new house on Mill St, all amenities including w/d, please call 549-7292 or 534-7292.

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1 BDRM, 1 block from SIU, Poplar and Mill, newly remodeled, a/c, avail August 1st, call 549-0798.

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1 & 2 bdrm, a/c, quiet, avail now and May, www.burkproperties.com, call 549-0081, also avail Aug.

WANTED MATURE, RESPONSIBLE roommate, must be a dog lover, 2 bdrm apt off of Reed Station Rd, \$225/mo, \$150 dep plus heat of electric, call 217-932-4865, ask for Crystal.

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1 BDRM IN quiet residential neighborhood, no pets, one yr lease, good apt w/ carpet, hardwoods, c/a, call 985-8060 for info to see.

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1, 2, 3 brdm apts, close to SIU, no pets, and 3 brdm house, w/d, call 457-5523.

2 BDRM APT, 1/2 block from campus, call 529-1233.

2 BDRM, UNFRN, \$485/mo great location, laundry facilities on site, no pets, 457-5631.

2 BLKS TO SIU, effie, furn, a/c, water & trash, \$210/mo, 411 E Hester, 824-3415 or 457-8798.

2 BLOCKS FROM Morris Library, new, nice, 2 brdm, furn, carpet, a/c, 605 W College, 516 S Poplar, 605 W College, 529-3581 or 529-1820.

2 BLOCKS FROM SIU, 1 brdm starting at \$325/mo, some 6 no leases avail, call 457-6768.

3 BDRM UNFURNISHED, Paradise Acres, \$450/mo, call for details, 985-2787.

4, 3, 2, 1 BDRMS.
CALL FOR SHOWING no pets,
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529-2620
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605 W FREEMAN, 1 brdm upstairs, \$330/mo, avail now, 2 studio apts w/shared bath, \$200/mo, avail July & Aug 529-4657.

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CLEAN, QUIET, STUDIO apt, lg yd, w/hshed, 914 N Bridge, CDale, non-smoker, no pets, \$260/mo, 217-351-7235.

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COUNTRY SETTING, PRIVATE patio, carports & laundry facility at our regional 2 bdrms on Country Club Rd, 12 miles to SIU, cats only allowed on additional deposit, avail now or Aug, \$420/mo, 457-3321.

DESOTO, NEW, QUIET, 2 brdm 1 1/2 bath, appliances, w/hook-up, no pets, professional's welcome \$425/mo plus dep & lease 867-2308.

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CDALE AREA, BARGAIN, SPACIOUS, 1 & 2 brdm apt, air, w/d water & trash, no pets, call 684-8145 or 684-6862.

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LARGE 1 BDRM, carpeted, a/c, tall ceilings, quiet, 20 minutes to campus, \$300/mo, 893-2423.

LARGE 2 and 3 brdm apts, 1 blk from campus, all uti incl, off street parking lot, call 549-5729.

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NICE 1, 2, & 3 brdm, 304 W Sycamore, furn, a/c, \$350-\$450/mo, avail Aug, call 529-1820 or 529-3581.

NICE 2 BDRM near campus, a/c, w/d, cats considered, \$570/mo, 457-8194 or 528-0744.

NICE SWER 1-BDRM, furn, carpet, a/c, 509 S Wall, or 313 E Mill, no pets, summer or fall, 529-3581.

NICE, NEW 2 brdm, furn, carpet, a/c, avail now, 514 S Wall, call 529-3581 or 529-1820.

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SPACIOUS STUDIO, FULLY furn Apts near campus, a/c, cable ready, laundry facilities, free parking, water & trash removed, SHU bus stop, manager on premises, phone, 549-5990.

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BRECKENRIDGE APTS 2350 S IL, 2 brdm, unfrn, w/d hook-up, no pets display 457-4387 or 457-7870.

CDALE, 2 BDRM, a/c, w/d hook-up, no pets, \$450/mo, call 529-3989 or 453-6310.

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2 BDRM & 3 brdm on Beadle Dr, garages, whirlpool tubs, w/d, d/w, pets considered, \$50-\$525/mo, 457-8194, alpha@dailyegyptian.com www.dailyegyptian.com/alpha.html.

2 BDRM, A/C, good location, ideal for grads or family, no pets, year lease, deposit, 529-2535.

3 brdm at Meadow Ridge, close to campus, 1 1/2 baths, w/d, d/w, c/a, starting at \$245/person, avail now or Aug, no pets, 457-3321.

Gordon Ln, 2 master suites each w/whirlpool tub, half bath downstairs, fireplace, 2 car garage, patio, w/d, d/w, cats & tiny dogs considered, \$920/mo, 457-8194, 529-2013, Chris B.
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CDALE, 2 BDRM, a/c, w/d hook-up, no pets, \$450/mo, call 529-3989 or 453-6310.

COUNTRY DUPLEX, 1 brdm, cathedral ceiling, lg brick patio, 5375 incl heat & water, 549-3973 & 303-3973.

COUNTRY, NICE 2 brdm, small pets ok, \$450/mo, ref required, call Nancy at 529-1696.

DESOTO, LG DUP, 2 bdrms, a/c, w/d hookup, deck/patio, fireplace, 2 car carport w/strorage area, lg yd, small pet ok, avail Aug 1, \$325/mo, call 867-2752 or 824-4401.

3 BDRM C/A, w/d, fireplace, new carpet & paint, 2 bath, \$825/mo, 408 S James, 351-0202.

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3 BDRM, 2 bath, lg kitchen, c/a, hookups, carport, nice, efficient, pet, lease, dep, \$525/mo, 867-2653.

4 brdm-503, 505, 511 S Ash 315, 321, 406, W Walnut

3bed-308 W College, 405 S Ash, 106, S Forest, 321 W Walnut

2 brdm-406, 324 W Walnut

1 brdm-207 W Oak, 1081 S Forest

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CDALE AREA, SPACIOUS bargin, 2 & 3 brdm houses, w/d, carport, no pets, call 684-4145 or 684-6862.

CDALE, 3 1/2 mi S near Cedar Lake, small 5 room, w/d hook-up, a/c, basement, garage, great location avail Aug, 549-7867 or 967-7867.

CLEAN, OPEN, BRIGHT, 2 bdrms, unfrn, h/wd/tfrs, ceiling fans, lg yd with shed, 914 N Bridge, CDale, non-smoker, no pets, \$530/mo, 217-351-7235.

DESOTO 2 BDRM 102 E Grant, basement, carport, garage, lg yd \$475/mo avail Aug 1, 985-4184.

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FALL 4 BKLS to campus, 3 bdrm, well kept, air, w/d, no pets, lease, 529-7516 or 684-5917.
MAKANDA, LIKE NEW, 3 bdrm, 3 bath, unity point school, clean & quiet, no pets, \$800/mo, 549-2291.
NBORO, 2 BDRM cottage, carpet, air, no pets, w/d, furn, 687-4577 or 967-9218.
NBORO, 1128 MURPHY Street, 3 bdrm home, \$600/mo, ideal for grad student, no pets, 457-6993.
NATURE LOVERS WANTED for 3 bdrm behind mall, lots of trees & yard, mowing provided, c/a, no pets, avail Aug 15, all util incl, \$275/person, 457-3321.
NEW 2 BDRM located on Sycamore & Davis, C'dale, w/d, 1 car garage attached, \$675/mo, 985-2496 or 303-2122.
NICE 3 BDRM HOUSE for rent, near campus, \$500/mo, 306 S Graham, Carbondale, contact Mary 618-549-9570.
NICE 3 BDRM, a/c, w/d, pets ok, \$650/mo, 534-8100.

PRIVATE COUNTRY SETTING, 3 bdrm, 2 baths, c/a, w/d, 2 covered docks, no pets, Aug lease, 549-4838.

RENTAL LIST OUT, come by 508 W Oak, in box on the porch, 529-3581 or 529-1820, Bryant Rentals.

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VERY NICE AND clean, 3 bdrm, basement, 1 acre, quiet, rural, southeast lot, garage & carport, lease, ref & deposit, no pets, grad or professional only, \$1100/mo, 529-5876 or 529-5331 or 924-1885.

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MUST SEE 12 bdrm trailer, \$195/mo & up!!! bus avail, Hurry, few avail, 549-3850.

1 & 2 BDRM MOBILE HOMES, close to campus, \$220-\$400/mo, water & trash included, no pets, call 549-4471.

12 X 60, 1 bdrm, newly remodeled, w/d, lock, quiet park, \$375/mo, no pets, avail Aug, 549-4471.

2 & 3 bdrms, nicely decorated & furnished, w/d, 3 locations, \$350-\$540/mo, avail now or Aug, no pets, 457-3321.

2 BDRM HOMES, water, sewer, trash pick-up and lawn care, laundromat on premises, Gleson MHP, 618 E Park, 457-6405, Rozanne MHP, 2301 S Illinois Ave, 549-4713.

2 BDRM MOBILE HOMES, nice park, main on site, \$225-\$250, for Aug, lawn & trash incl, 549-8000.

2 BDRM UNFURN trailer, \$285/mo pets ok, no a/c, 457-5631.

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- 202 N. POPLAR #2
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- 311 W. CHERRY #2
- 405 W. CHERRY COURT
- 405 W. CHERRY COURT
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- 410 W. COLLEGE #6
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- 718 S. FOREST #3
- 703 S. ILLINOIS #202
- 703 S. ILLINOIS #203
- 908 W. McDANIEL
- 411 E. MILL
- 501 W. OAK
- 503 S. UNIVERSITY #2
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- 410 S. ASH
- 504 S. ASH #2
- 502 S. BEVERIDGE #2
- 506 S. BEVERIDGE
- 508 S. BEVERIDGE
- 405 W. CHERRY COURT
- 406 W. CHERRY COURT
- 407 W. CHERRY COURT
- 408 W. CHERRY COURT
- 301 E. COLLEGE
- 113 S. FOREST
- 511 S. HAYS
- 401 S. JAMES
- 602 N. LOGAN
- 411 E. MILL
- 400 W. OAK #2
- 408 W. OAK
- 501 W. OAK
- 602 N. OAKLAND
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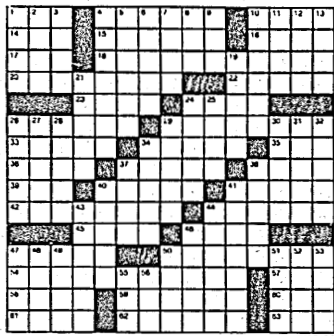
- 514 S. Ash '6
- 507 S. Beveridge '1, '2
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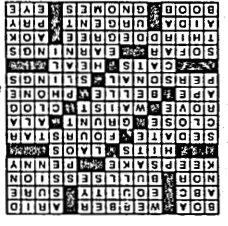
- ACROSS**
 1 constructor
 4 "Cats" composer
 10 Gobi description
 14 "Spin City" network
 15 Impairment
 16 Free of doubt
 17 Neither fish nor fowl
 18 Dorm gabfest
 20 Momento
 22 Cent
 23 Successful punches
 24 Cambodia's neighbor
 26 Unruffled
 29 General rating
 33 "Jagged Edge" star
 34 Infantryman
 35 Styled after
 36 Wanderer
 37 Best spot
 38 Book up
 39 Bonzo or Clyde of the movies
 40 Bail beauty
 41 "Sorry, Wrong Number" prop
 42 Private
 44 Spiran supports
 45 Felines
 46 Cure
 47 Up to now
 50 Incomes
 54 Harsh interrogation
 57 In working order
 58 Verdi heroine
 59 Inopportune
 60 Use too much nose?
 61 Nannyhammer
 62 Dwarflike creatures
 63 CBS logo



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- 6 ... up (adds muscle)
 7 Digestive juice
 8 "Fido's" concern
 9 Deli bread
 10 Evaluate
 11 Spoil
 12 Golf bag item
 13 Refuse to believe
 19 Hockey or curling
 21 Look of the moon
 24 Stunker
 25 Mom's sis
 26 Abandon
 27 Run off to west
 28 English Channel port
 29 Adornment
 30 Rapist's weapon
 31 Parallel to
 32 Outbursts
 34 Celebratory events
 37 Departed
 38 ... con carne

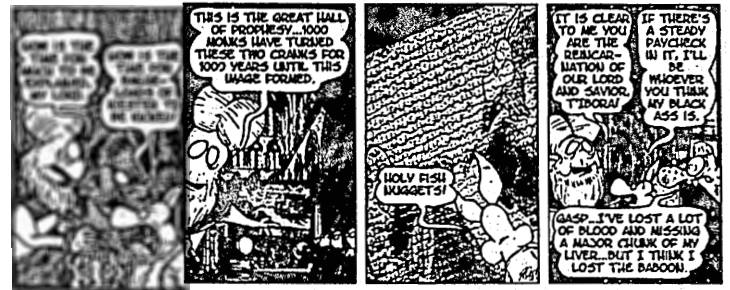
Solutions



- 40 Plank
 41 Sun circles
 49 Flower's pal?
 51 Scoff
 52 Bloody
 53 Terrier type
 55 Made a ditch
 56 Sea eagle

SHOOT ME NOW

BY JAMES KERR



Dormant Life

by Shane Pangburn



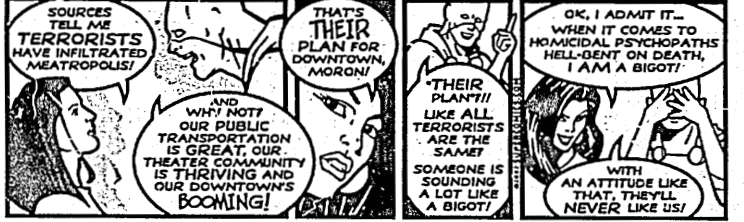
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The Vines have the secret sauce

The Vines' debut album shows promise

Codell Rodriguez
Daily Egyptian

This could quite possibly be the best thing to come out of McDonald's since greasy fries.

Craig Nicholls, Patrick Mathews and David Olliffe met while working in a Sydney, Australia, McDonald's and shared a taste in music in The Vines, which featured Nicholls' father, Nicholls (guitar/vocals), Matthews (bass/backup vocals) and Olliffe (drums) made their own band and named it after the one that brought them together, only with the correct spelling. Now the group has released its first album, "Highly Evolved," and rock enthusiasts can shed a tear because these guys kick ass.

Just when it seemed rock was making a comeback, The Vines confirmed it. The album is a perfect mix of soft ballads that make listeners feel like closing their eyes and swaying in a hypnotic trance, and harder tunes that will make them want to jump up and down and scream about everything that's pissing them off.

Nicholls has a voice that can cater to any audience. In songs such as "Outathaway," he resembles Howlin' Pelle Almqvist of The Hives with his raw scream, but he still manages to pull off a voice that could accompany Fran Healy of Travis (not near as soft and folksy as Fran's though) on songs such as "Autumn Shade," and then still manages to hit a Julian Casablancas from The Strokes in between.

What is more similar to Travis on the songs such as "Autumn shade" is the lyrics. They have a nice soft, poetic sound to them.

"Slip into the autumn shade/ I could sleep for days/ But like the Sun when I can hear another sound/ It's a long way down/ Keep my head up."

New Musical Express called The Vines "a perfect synthesis of The Beatles and Nirvana." That pretty much nails it. On their first release, band mates found the variety that made the work of legendary bands such as The Beatles and Nirvana so easy to get into and stay with the album from beginning to end.

The songs alternate between fast and slow almost every time. It's almost like they're kicking the listener out and then giving them a song that says, "Calm down for a few minutes,



because we have another energetic track on the way."

But the majority of The Vines' style is similar to The Beatles. This shows the strongest with the song "Factory." The track has such a "Yellow Submarine" quality to it that it could be placed on "Revolver" and not screw up the pace or sound.

If this band can keep up the quality found on "Highly Evolved," The Vines are going to go Ivy League.

Reporter **Codell Rodriguez**
can be reached at
crodriguez@dailyegyptian.com

Chili Peppers grow wise with age

William Mills
The Gamecock
(U. South Carolina)

--- COLUMBIA, S.C. (U-WIRE) — Time goes by and musicians age, but the Red Hot Chili Peppers are proving with their latest release, "By The Way," that wisdom and calmness accompany this age.

The Chili Peppers have been polishing their new, enlightened sound since the 1999 album "Californication," and "By The Way" merely takes that sound to an impressive climax. The album is definitely a farewell to the highly energetic, slappy funk-punk sound of their breakthrough 1999 album, "Blood Sugar Sex Magik."

These alt-rock legends are replacing their previous vigor with passionate songs that occasionally touch down in the realm of experimental. The musical growth is expressed in the album by the inclusion of outside instruments like horns and an orchestra.

The Chili Peppers have kept one trend, however: nudity. It's not them baring all this time, it's a drawing of a nude woman that graces the cover of the album.

One of the angles of the Chili Peppers' new sound is the frequent harmonies created between Kiedis and guitarist John Frusciante. "Universally Breaking" and "Tear" are the two songs that best exemplify these harmonious collaborations. There is also an international feel brought to the album by "Carbon," a song that reeks of Latin influence.

An orchestra is also brought into the mix during "Midnight," but then it disappears as quickly as it arrived. A hint of their funk-punk style still shines through on songs like the title track, with bassist Flea's infectious slappy riffs that were so characteristic of their earlier albums.

"By The Way" is the product of rigorous change.

Since "Californication," the Red Hot Chili Peppers have allowed their

musical styles to be shaped by personal and professional turmoil. However, in the studio, much of the credit for this sound shift should be placed on the shoulders of Frusciante, who rejoined the band before the release of "Californication," replacing Dave Navarro.

Frusciante has been studying the musical styles of the Beatles and Burt Bacharach, and he has integrated these influences to help create a well-rounded sound. Ever since "Californication," Kiedis has adopted a wider vocal range, Frusciante joins with Kiedis to create Beach Boys-esque harmonies.

These alt-rock veterans are rock 'n' roll survivors. They have thrived during some of the most difficult and self-destructive times in rock history. The Chili Peppers have tweaked their sound just enough to ride the rock wave as it dodged numerous obstacles, all the while watching fellow musicians wipe out under the pressure.



Green Day is up to more 'Shenanigans'

Green Day's newest release collects the band's unreleased and rare outtakes

Jared DuBach
Daily Egyptian



It's a shame that the new release from Green Day hasn't gotten the media attention it deserves. Unlike last year's "International Superhits," Green Day's singles collection, "Shenanigans" arrived in music stores on July 2 with little or no advertising to back it up.

The lack of advertising would have been explained if the band's record label had seen "Shenanigans" as a waste of paper and plastic. However, "Shenanigans" is far from being a waste. From start to finish, "Shenanigans" encompasses the best pop sound that Green Day is capable of playing, the speed and ferocity of punk in days gone by and an instrumental surf tune to round out the album.

The two recognizable cover songs on this CD are "Outsider," a song penned by the late Dee Dee Ramone, and "Tired of Waiting for You" by the Kinks. "Espionage" was featured on the "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" soundtrack.

The idea of collecting and releasing these rare recordings is a rather smart move. For the label, this greatly reduces the number of people trying to download them online from Web sites and chat rooms, and it also works as another promotion to the public of the band's talent. But most importantly, the consumer is assured that the songs are legitimate, and the recording quality on the CD is good. It sure took them long enough to do this though.

One of the problems that dedicated fans, not just of Green Day, but any rock band, face is desperately trying to find those rare b-sides to singles and songs that didn't quite make the full-length album. These songs are often referred to as outtakes.

Perhaps the lack of advertising and

media coverage was a bold move to regain some lost diehard punk purists. With the past two albums, Green Day has faced a lot of criticism and has been given the label of being a sellout band due to corporate sponsorship on past tours. What many people fail to understand is that without corporate sponsorship, most bands wouldn't be able to go on tour. Traveling across the country and moving gear from one show to the next does cost money.

"We're just as much punk as we used to be," lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong said in an interview with "New York Rock." "We got a lot of shit, and we're still getting it for being signed to a major label."

The inside of the CD jacket features an interesting collage of various pictures and album covers from Green Day's extensive catalog. The images chart the rise to stardom of a band that has been together for the better part of a decade, and has gone through various periods of success and near obscurity. But Billie Joe Armstrong still feels that after all these years, doing what makes one happy is the best policy.

"You can't do anything about what people's perceptions are of you," Armstrong said in a 2001 interview with "Rolling Stone." "You just have to be comfortable with your own perception of yourself and not give a shit what other people say. I love what I do. I love playing music."

Reporter **Jared DuBach** can be reached at
jdubach@dailyegyptian.com



For more information on Green Day go to
www.green day.com

Campus machine makes busting a move like Young MC easy

Caroline Lindahl
Mustang Daily
(California Poly State U.)

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (U-WIRE) — "Show me your moves," taunts an electric voice. It's coming from one of the newest additions to Cal Poly State University's arcade section, McPhee's — Konami's "Dance Dance Revolution 3rd Mix."

This interactive dance machine is like Simon Sez for your feet. Players control the game with their feet, stepping on four arrowed foot pressure pads representing up, down, left and right. Players select their anticipated level of difficulty, mode and music to accommodate their dancing style. Following the prompts on the screen, players must simulate a variety of dance moves. When a player misses, their life-gauge decreases until it's "game over!"

But this game is only just the beginning. Less than six years ago, the Dance Dance Revolution series, which boasts 18 models, emerged in Japan. The phenomenon generated much attention and initiated a

worldwide dancing frenzy. Cal Poly jumped on the party train last year when it purchased two of the machines, one solo and one partner machine.

"It's really popular," said Paul Locke, manager of McPhee's. "Kids love it, everyone loves it."

Although DDR machines are expensive (they range from \$3,000-12,000), students can test their dancing skills for a mere 50 cents.

Michael Richter, an aerospace engineering sophomore, said that he used to dance nearly two games every day, five times a week, because he enjoyed it so much.

"It's a lot of fun and it's definitely worth checking out," Richter said. "The pulsating pink lights seduce passers-by like Tristan Negranti, liberal arts freshman, but not everyone is game for the game."

"Lots of people look like they're getting a good work-out," Negranti said.

The non-stop mega-mix of songs, such as "Afonova" by Revenge and "Drop The Bomb" by Society D, demand agility and speed. In fact, the moves require such pre-

cise dexterity that frequent dancers visit www.ddrfreak.com for step charts. This website also features a DDR dictionary which defines the dancing jargon. "Air," for instance, indicates the number of jumps in a song, whereas a "hand plant" occurs when a dancer uses his hand to hit the floor panel.

Compared to Namco's "Tekken" or Capcom's "Marvel Vs. Capcom 2," which both display warning signs for "life-like animated violence," Konami's "Dance Dance Revolution" is suitable for all ages.

Richter is disappointed in the volume level of DDR at McPhee's, because the jukebox often drowns out the techno tracks with rap music. However, he still encourages others to give the dance machine a try.

Sarah Taylor, a psychology senior, can't wait to strut her stuff on the dance floor.

"I want to bust a move on it!" she said.

Onlookers can only hope she'll play "La Senorita" by Captain T, a sassy song sure to tease others into "slowing their moves."



Top Albums - July 12

1. Nellyville
Nelly
2. The Eminem Show
Eminem
3. Irv Gotti Presents The Inc
Various Artists
4. O, Yeah! Ultimate Aerosmith Hits
Aerosmith
5. Let Go
Avril Lavigne

— from **billboard.com**

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\$1.00 BOETLES! \$1.00 RAILS!

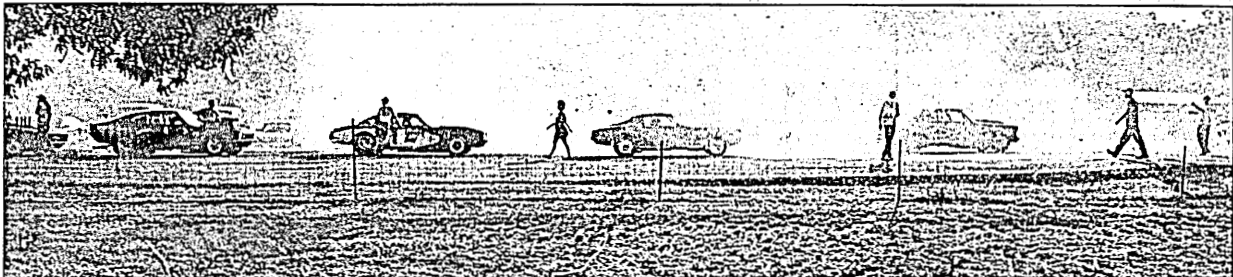
PLUS MANY MORE

DRINK SPECIALS

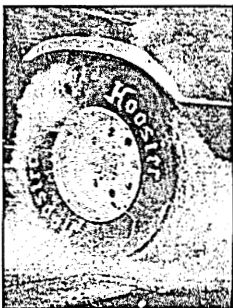
ANY?

351-1800

19 TO ENTER
21 TO DRINK



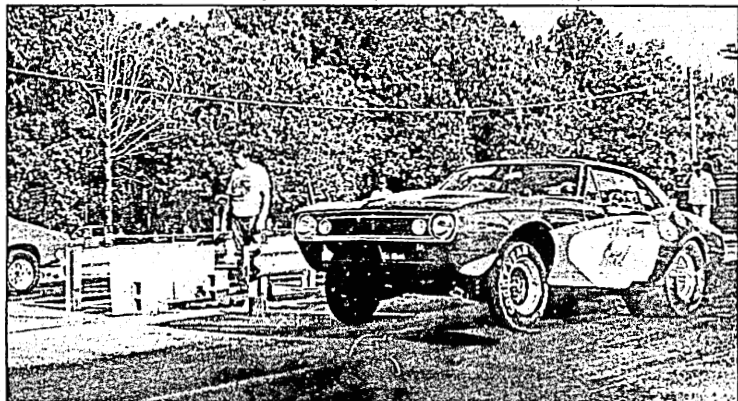
A line of cars waits for their turns to race, driving through the smoke from tire spinouts and the heat of the summer Saturday afternoon. The I-57 drag strip in Benton has races every Saturday evening.



Nothing but speed

I-57 drag strip
kicks up dirt every
Saturday at more
than 100 miles
per hour

A car's tire smokes while spinning on the hot asphalt of the drag strip before a race. Drivers spin out before the races to warm their tires and make them stick to the pavement better.



The front wheels of "Ludicrous Speed" driver Rene DeGroof's Camaro heave off the ground with the force of the race start. DeGroof, an SIUC graduate, is a Super-Pro racer but delivered pizzas in his Camaro before he turned it into a hot rod.

STORY BY ARIN THOMPSON

PHOTOS BY ALEX HAGLUND

They back up slowly. More than one ton of steel and a rumbling motor idle with the rear tires in a shallow stream of water. The wet tires pull forward slowly. With one foot planted on the break, drivers push the accelerator to the floor and beyond until the tires scream and the body pitches against its own girth. The cars want to go, but the drivers refuse to let up.

The tires spin until pendulous gray clouds bellow out from beneath the cars, removing any residual dirt and oil, heating the tires so the rubber will stick to the track when the time comes.

The rancid smell of burnt rubber fills the noses of spectators in the stands, and eardrums rattle as up to 1,705 horse power revs up behind the yellow line — this is why they come to Benton every Saturday.

"This will shoot your ears out," said Rene Sr., father to "Ludicrous Speed" driver, Rene DeGroof.

And he was right. The sun burnt faces lit up with awe as "Tiny Mite," the track record holder, took off. The rumble wasn't heard — it was felt.

Todd Suhling, owner and driver of "Tiny Mite," was attempting to break his own record with the Outlaw Pro-Modified 2000 Chevy S10 that looks more like a rocket from outer space than a car.

The record at the I-57 1/8-mile drag strip stands at 4.5 seconds with the maximum speed at 165 miles per hour.

"As hot as it is, I don't think we'll break the record," Suhling said.

Suhling also holds the record at a 3/4-mile

track with 6.84 seconds at 204 miles per hour. He started racing with a 1985 S10 and decided to stick with that model.

"I always drag race on the street, and finally I got serious about it," Suhling said. "We like to drag race. Car shows, you just sit around and get bored."

Families litter the drag strip grounds, sucking on root beer floats and hotdogs. The Holland family sits in the bed of their white pick-up truck, pulled into the parking spot backward for a close view of the starting line.

"We've come every Saturday for eight years," said Elaina Holland. "I never came until we started dating," she said, glancing over at Paul with a smile.

The Hollands only miss a Saturday if one of them is sick. Their 3-year-old son, Dalton, was tightly hugging an over-sized pair of black earmuffs to his tiny, blond head while the cars took off at intervals of around two minutes.

"The first weekend he came home from the hospital, he came up here," Elaina said. "Yeah, he's ready for Jr. Dragsters already."

For the Hollands, it's worth the drive from Herrin to go to the drag strip every Saturday to have fun.

"All our friends race up here," Paul said.

"It beats sitting in a theater," Elaina added.

"At least you get your money's worth here."

Dan Mullens, the owner and manager of the track, has been running the track for one year now. The track has been a fixture near Benton and West Frankfort for 30 years.

Saturdays are broken into multiple categories. There is the Super-Pro category in which the fastest, most sophisticated cars race for \$1,000. The Pro category is made up of cars that use a foot break. The E.T., or estimated time, class is

for armature drivers with souped-up cars. There is also a Trophy I and Trophy II class for street-cars.

The Jr. Dragsters is a category for 8- to 16-year-olds. Mullen's daughter, Amy, races a dragster. The dragsters are long and narrow cars that are low to the ground and pack a wallop on the track.

"She could beat a Corvette," Mullens said. "Her top speed is 87 miles per hour. It's so exciting to see your kid race."

Rene DeGroof, 32, has been racing since he was 16 in the family pick-up truck. DeGroof, an SIUC graduate, was sitting outside his car trailer next to the Camaro he bought when he was 18. He delivered pizzas in the Camaro until he decided to turn it into a racing machine. The car has changed immensely since his high school days.

"If I delivered pizzas in it now, it'd be really fast," DeGroof said while walking into his trailer.

Ernie, a black mutt, sat in the air-conditioned trailer on a large green pillow. His tail was wagging, and his tongue was flapping against his lower lip.

"If this trailer leaves without him in it, he'll be pissed," DeGroof said. "He loves to go to the races."

DeGroof races anywhere there is money to be won.

"Last year we went to Cancun with the money," DeGroof said. "It keeps my wife happy."

Motorcycles also race on the strip running alongside I-57. The lights blink yellow three times and then pulsate in a luscious green. The cycles erupt with a noise resembling what killer bees might sound like if their attitudes were plugged into a Peavey amplifier with distortion.

With all of the speed and only one-eighth a mile of track, it's not farfetched for somebody to get hurt. But it's rare for someone to get hurt, according to Kirk Magsig, one of the track workers.

"We're as careful as can be," Magsig said.

The most recent accident was an off-track complication of heart trouble. Just in case, the track pays for an ambulance to be on grounds at all events.

Erin Robertson, 11, and Heather Eastwood, 15, come to the drag strip every Saturday from Goreville.

"We have friends that we come to see," Robertson said. "Our friend, Cody Arbin, races the Jr. Dragsters," Eastwood added.

Everybody shows up around 4 p.m. and stays until the last cars have torn down the black track, which can sometimes be as late as midnight.

"We've been out here 'til 4 a.m. before," Mullens said.

Whatever time the racing actually ends, the crowd and the drivers are always ready for the next run down the strip.

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The signal lights on the I-57 Drag Strip flash to green, sending two cars or motorcycles hurtling down the track at triple digit speeds. The races are set up so that drivers race against an index of their own speeds rather than the other drivers.

The Outlaw Pro-Modified 2000 Chevy S10 "Tiny Mite" roars down the eight-mile track. With over 1,700 horsepower, "Tiny Mite" was the premier attraction of Saturday's races and was there to break the track's speed record at 165 mph.

