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WHAT'S INSIDE

Features Crime Stoppers



See Page 4 **CSUSM** Radio

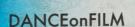


See Page 5

Arts & Entertainment ZBT Comedy Night



See Pages 6





See Page 7

Man arrested in connection disappearance of local teenage girl

BY BEN ROFFEE **News Editor**

The search for Chelsea a local high school girl that disappeared last week, will resume this week despite treatment of the case by local law enforcement as a homicide. King, a 17 year-old Poway resident, disappeared while on a run at Rancho Bernardo Park near Lake Hodges Thursday evening. Authorities have already identified a suspect in connection with disappearance. According to Bill Gore of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, officers apprhended John Albert Gardner III Sunday afternoon outside of Hernandez Hide-A-Way, a restaurant in the small Lake Hodges community known as Del Dios. Gardner, a 30 year-old registered sex offender, now faces charges of first-degree murder and rape by force.

At a press conference last evening, Sheriff Gore said, "evidence was discovered to link Gardner to Ms. King in such a manner as to warrant his arrest." Though the Sheriff's department would not elaborate, evidence linking physical Gardener to the crime has been found in the area where Chelsea King disappeared.

Chelsea's mother, Kelly King, told reporters on Monday that investigators identified Gardner's



Image courtesy of the Department of

John Albert Gardner III arrested on suspicion of the murder and rape of Chelsea King.



DNA on victim's underwear found near Lake Hodges. Gardner's previous criminal history includes a guilty plea to multiple counts of forcible lewd acts with a child and false imprisonment, landing him a six year prison sentence in May 2000. Sheriff Gore said Gardner has been uncooperative interrogation, their offering no insight on his potential role in the crime. Although the search continues for King's body, authorities

insist they may still be able to implicate Gardner without locating the victim. Levikow from the San Diego County District Attorney's office said, "There are murder cases that get tried without a body. There is one going on now."

Parents Brent and Kelly King insist they will continue to search for their daughter, aided by friends and volunteers from around the community. Those involved in the search have relied heavily on social networking sites like Image courtesy of the King Family

Facebook and Twitter to spread up to date information. Those interested in volunteering can go to Chelsea King Search Center located at 11858 Bernardo Plaza Court. More information on search efforts can also be found online at http://www.findchelsea.

Authorities have requested those with any information relating to the disappearance of Chelsea King to contact the Sheriff's Department at (858) 565-5200.

CSUSM hosts first ever San Marcos Round Up

BY JAMES ROCHE Pride Staff Writer

Cal State San Marcos is hosting the inaugural San Marcos Round Up on March 13 where students will have the opportunity to take part in a 5km race or an 11km race, according to a press release by the office of communications.

The Carlsbad-based company In Motion Inc. is organizing the event, which is due to start on the Mangrum Track on campus

Hugo Lecomte is director of Campus Recreation on campus, which is helping co-host the event. Lecomte said, "The running event is going to be one of the best ones because we have

a very strong company helping us, a company with a lot of experience. It's a very easy event-if you don't feel like running you can walk it. It's a cheap price for this event, so it might be your first opportunity as a student to participate to a running event."

See Round Up, Page 3

Thrive food stamp program

BY SARAH GADDIS Pride Staff Writer

San Diego County, California State University San Marcos, and San Diego State University are partnering together to form "Thrive San Diego," a program that will help families sign up for food stamps.

students **CSUSM**

joined forces with SDSU students to work with staff at nine different locations, where families will be able to go and be considered for aid. According to various news sources, including KPBS Broadcasting and North County Times, the county's plan came about after research placed

See Food, Page 3

THEPRIDE

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The Oscars

Who should win and who is going to win?

BY BILL RHEIN Senior Staff Writer

The Oscars are like the Super Bowl for me. This year I am really excited for the award ceremony and the solid list of nominated films and actors. Based on the consensus of the

Golden Globes and BAFTA awards, the British equivalent to the Oscars, the winners are mostly predictable.

Both awards for supporting actors go to people who played two of the most evil characters last year. I would be very surprised if Christoph Waltz does not win the men's award for his role as the sadistic Nazi in "Inglourious Basterds."

Mo'Nique, who was predicted to win before her film was in theaters, should pick up the award for role in "Precious," where she plays a psychologically and physically abusive mother.

The lead actors are a little more difficult to predict. Colin Firth won the BAFTA for Best Actor for "A Single Man," but I think Jeff Bridges will take the Oscar for his role in "Crazy Heart."

Bridges, famous for playing The Dude in "The Big Lebowski," gave a stirring performance as country singer who is past his prime, and I think it would be a shame if he did not win.

As for female actors, the five nomi-

nees are all likely candidates. I doubt Meryl Streep or Helen Mirren will win for their respective roles because they have each won the award previously. It will come down to if the Academy wants to award Gabourey Sidibe, for her breakout role in "Precious," Carey Mulligan, for a well-rounded performance in the coming-of age story "An Education," or Sandra Bullock, for her years of work in Hollywood leading up to her performance in "The Blind Side."

But the big winner is going to be "The Hurt Locker." This

summer indie film passed more people by, but it is cleaning up at other award ceremonies. Not only will it win for its screenplay, editing, cinematography, and sound, but I guarantee it will win Best Picture and Director. I doubt the other likely film, James Cameron's "Avatar," will top Kathryn Bigelow's story of the bomb squad in Iraq. Despite the predictability of the awards, I hope it will be a fun show to celebrate my favorite medium.



Image courtesy of Jonathan Olley

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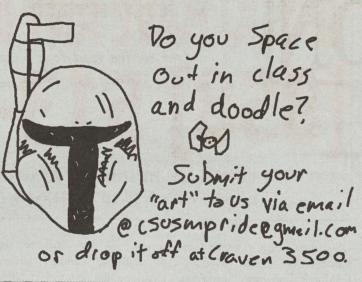
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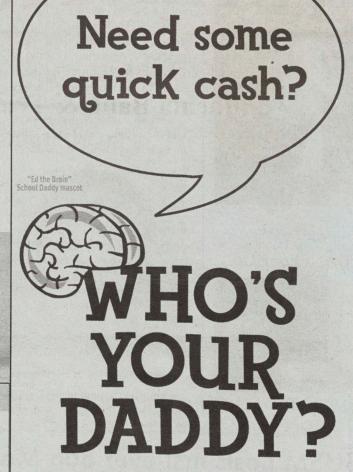
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From ROUND UP, page 1

Students pay \$15 for the five km race and \$25 km for the 11km double peak challenge if they register before March 10. The price of each race will rise by \$10 after March 10, and registration will be open from 6.30am until the races start, according www.inmotionevents.com/ events/San_Marcos_Fitness_

Roundup.htm. Students, who wish to register, find out more information or ask questions should go to this website.

The two races differ in both their length and where they are run. "The 5k, which is I think a 3.1 mile course, goes around the campus. It's mostly on campus and circles all around the campus and the start and finish will be on the track. It's an amazing

event, 5k is a great distance; you can either walk, jog or run.

"The other event is the 11k. This one is more challenging. It will go to the top of the mountain that you see outside the university and there is a park called double peak. It's mostly on trails and it's a very big challenge because there is a lot of elevation gain so it's a big race for heart rate," said Lecomte.

Both the races are due to start at 8 AM. However, the students running in the 11km race will be released in a series of waves and not all at once. The event also allows faculty, staff, and the outside community to take part.

There is also reason for those who do not which to compete to come to the event. "Everybody can sign up to be a volunteer, also on the website, so if they don't want to register to race or to run or to walk, they can always volunteer for this event," said Lecomte.

There will also be a festival at the event, which involves venders, food and music by The North County Cowboys.

A portion of the event's proceeds will go to the Cal State San Marcos Athletics Depart-

From Food, page 1

San Diego last of America's 24 metro areas, on the amount of food stamps given to eligible

The program was announced on Feb. 22 with supervisor Ron Roberts, CSUSM President Karen Haynes, and SDSU President Stephen Weber in attendance.

"This partnership, with the help of the students of these two universities, could be of significant assistance for the people who want to be enrolled," said

In North County San Diego, three offices are available for families wanting to be evaluated: Interfaith Community Services, 550-B W. Washington Ave., Escondido, North County Lifeline, 200 Michigan Ave., Vista, and North County Lifeline, 707 Oceanside Blvd., Oceanside.

The change is not a new one. County officials say that progress has been made since April of

2009 when the Board of Supervisors discussed the issue. According to county officials and North County Times, 165,000 locals are now collecting food stamps. Along with evaluations, students will also be helping provide the families with free tax preparation

Fox 5 San Diego received a

statement from County Supervisor Greg Cox: "With this initiative, we are providing a one-stop shop for low-income families to receive free tax preparation and food-stamp screening from students to help put nutritious food on their table." Ten students are volunteering on CSUSM campus with sixty more from SDSU.

Need a job next semester? Got writing experience? The Pride is looking for various positions for next semester, email pride@csusm.edu for details.

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Lighting up at CSUSM

Hazards of social smoking

BY KATRINA KISTLER Pride Staff Writer

Every year, hundreds of thousands of deaths are due to smoking related illnesses. Here at California State University of San Marcos, students who smoke take up a significant portion of the student population.

In 2005, based on a new state law, from Title 8 California Code of Regulations section 5148, has affected how CSUSM views oncampus smoking. On the CSUSM campus, there are nine designated smoking areas for students, faculty, and staff to use. This law means that at CSUSM smokers can only smoke in designated areas.

Students can experience many harmful affects from smoking or from exposure to second-hand smoke. Cathy Nguyen, CSUSM's health educator, said, "There are many risks associated with cigarette smoking. According to The Health Consequences of Smoking: A Report of the Surgeon General, smoking causes approximately: 90% of all lung cancer deaths in men, 80% of all lung cancer deaths in women, and 90% of deaths from chronic obstructive lung disease.

"The adverse health effects

from cigarettes smoking accounts for an estimate of nearly one of every five deaths or 443,000 deaths in year in the US. Besides lung cancer and an increase in coronary heart disease," Nguyen said, "smoking can cause respiratory diseases such as emphysema, bronchitis, and chronic airway obstruction."

All of these health risks associated with smoking could affect any student here at CSUSM, whether lighting up or from exposure to second-hand smoke.

Another factor as to why students light up deals students who socially smoke with peers. Nguyen also provided information about CSUSM and the students that are lighting up. She said, "According to the National College Health Association results from a survey that was administered to CSUSM students in the Spring of 2009, 64% of our student population does not smoke and has never smoked a cigarette. Of the 36% of students that have used cigarettes, only 15% of that group has smoked a cigarette within the last 30 days."

This data shows that over half the student population is not lighting up. According to data only, the social aspect of smoking does not



necessarily affect CSUSM students. ers to and from my classes and car. As a student here at CSUSM

With less than half of the student population smoking at CSUSM, it is important to understand how some of student body sees smoking on campus.

Chris Rahn, CSUSM Student, said, "The designated smoke areas on campus aren't strategically placed. Every day I walk by smokers to and from my classes and car. As a student here at CSUSM I wish I did not have to be around smoking on such a regular basis."

Another student, Tiffany Walker, had a different opinion. Walker said, "Smoking on campus doesn't bother me. As long as students are smoking outside, they can do as they please. If I really had a problem with smok-

Image courtesy of edubuzz.org ing, I would walk another way."

Smoking on campus is something that affects students here at CSUSM. Knowing the health risks associated with smoking is also important information for any student. If any students are interested in finding ways to quit, contact the Student Health and Counseling Services to make an appointment.

Police Beat

responded to a call from bookstore staff stating that a theft was in progress. Officers responded, but suspect had already fled. Staff witnessed suspect leave with multiple books. After officers reviewed security cameras, it was determined that there were two offend-

Police ers involved. Suspects left from through an emergency exit.

One book was returned from Discount Campus Books after being sold back. No arrest has been made. Suspect with pects are both white males in their early twenties, both medium build. One wore a white baseball hat, white offend-

other had brown hair and wore a gray shirt and black shorts.

If anyone has information, you can contact CrimeStoppers. CrimeStoppers is an anonymous tip hotline that anyone can call and report information on any crime. The hotline was established in 1984 and has been valu-

able to over 3,900 cases, 105 being homicide, according to their website. In 1999, Campus Crime Stoppers was formed allowing students the opportunity to become active in protecting their campus. Rewards up to \$1,000 are also given to callers if an arrest is made. The number is (888) 580 TIPS.



UniversityVoice

Photos by Sarah Gaddis / Pride Staff Writer

"What are your thoughts on the March 4th Teach In?"



"Anybody in this country should have a right to talk, or then we can't really say that we live in a free country. I'll be attending and I'll be showing my support."



"I totally agree with it. I'm totally okay with professors standing up and fighting for what they believe in. And us, as people who are about to go into the workforce, to see that, to see that you do have options, and people can make a lot happen if they get together and organize and move forward. "



"I think it will bring a lot of awareness to the situation. I'm pretty sure [teachers] aren't allowed to talk about it, or they're not supposed to be giving their opinions [about] the matter. I understand that the teachers have lots of stressful things; they have to do research and maintain the classes that they teach. They have a lot of work to do. I understand that."



"I think it's important for the teachers to have their time to have what they need to say and I think it's a good idea that they stream it in class to get everybody else aware, all their students aware of everything, because we are in hard times. So, I think the teachers need to say what they need to say. I probably will go, yes."



"Well, honestly, I think it great that they are doing this because I think that the teachers [they] already, like, put so many extra hours into, like, being a professor that aren't paid for. Now that I know about it I might go because I've kind of been against the budget cuts and where things have been cut, so maybe I will go now that I know about it."

James Davis

Rachel Busnardo

Natasha Cameron

Jen Hylander

Janaya Boulais

Blaring tunes, CSUSM college radio hits airwaves

BY SANDRA CHALMERS Editor-in-Chief

Roaring into our twenties, CSUSM has upgraded into the twenty first century and introduced its first radio station.

Taking a closer look at CSUSM's first radio station and the students inside the studio and on the airwaves, The Pride got the privilege of having a Q&A with the maker behind CSUSM College Radio. P=The Pride

Rosario Vizcaino, President of CSUSM College

Radio. P: whose idea was it to start a college radio station?

RV: "I started CSUSM College Radio in the fall of 2008 with the help of my classmate Ryan Mcelroy. It initially started as an idea for a class project, which unfortunately was dropped by our professor and a few classmates because it wouldn't meet the requirements for the assigned project at that time."

CSUSM radio station and that we would be the first students to come up with it."

P: How did the project evolve and get developed?

RV: I recruited my classmate Ryan Mcelroy, who is one of the founders and the current treasurer of CSUSM College Radio. We immediately went forward with the process of forming a club, which was finalized at the end of November in 2008.

With the minimal support we initially had, I had then decided that coll e g e radio would happen no

matter what.

P: How did you start a radio station from scratch?

RV: "I acquired the domain help of Ryan, I made a simple name and created a web page "It wasn't over for me for the radio station. I hosted it use and yet it would be robust.

just yet I knew there was no on my server and immediately We tested it and loved it."



"With no expectations of the outcome, we then went over to Student Life and Leadership on campus and made a live demo which generated an immediate positive chain reaction. We had created the first CSUSM college radio, which by the way it has been granted full status as an organized club on campus as of February of 2010."

"Yes we are new and we plan to be here for a long time!"

> P: What is your mission statement?

> > R V: "By the students for the students!" P: What

type of radio tion would you

consider yourself? RV: "CSUSM College Radio was founded with a purpose in mind and that is to encourage and promote cultural diversity on campus. So send us your request and if you feel you have the courage to talk on the radio email us collegeradio@csusm.

P: How can students listen in and interact with college radio?

RV: "Please go to www. csusm.info and send us your request through our contact page. You can chat with us or simply call us at (760) 670-

P: What does college radio strive for in the future? What will become of college radio?

RV: "College Radio is here to stay."

P: What are unique projects will our college radio host?

RV: "We will cover news, sports, current events and your favorite music."

CSUSM College Radio primarily runs through online streaming, their interactive website offers video shows of the most recent student organization fair and they are eager to begin offering footage and live radio casting from sport-

Baseball team hits homerun season for CSUSM

design that would be easy to

ing service. With

DLLEGE RADIO

stream-

BY KATRINA KISTLER Pride Staff Writer

Here at CSUSM, the baseball team is up to bat and gives our small athletic department a big

The CSUSM baseball team has started out their season with eight wins, five losses, and one tie. This season has proved to be difficult, but the cougars have stood strong.

"There have been a lot of injuries this season, but the players and team have exceeded my expectations while dealing with a tough schedule," said baseball coach Dennis Pugh.

The CSUSM baseball team rested these past two weeks and now is looking forward to an away game against Chapman University on March 5 at 2:00 PM. The following game will be March 6 playing Chapman again with home field advantage at 2:00 PM. located at Escondido High School.

"A lot of people don't know about CSUSM's baseball team. We love our fans, but we would love it if even more CSUSM students and fans could make it to our games," said Eric Julienne, a current Senior.

With the new softball field built for the 2010 season, athletics on campus have gained support from students/staff/faculty. Now, the baseball team awaits their turn for a home field here on campus. Even with their home fields spread out around San Diego at Escondido High School, Poway High School, and Point Loma, the team's season thus far has shown a great amount of success and dedication.

"I think our team should do pretty well this season though. Hopefully, we can make it to playoffs and win," continued Julienne.

On March 9, the cougars will be playing a double header facing Illinois Tech at 11:00 AM and at 6:00 PM at Escondido High School. The next two days the Cougars play Illinois Tech again on March 10 at 6:00 PM and on March 11 at 6:00 PM located at Escondido High School. Cougars then play Concordia at Poway High School at 6:00 PM on March 16. This will be a tough game for the Cougars, but hope to pull out a win against Concordia. The cougars finish up that busy two weeks playing Vanguard on March

Spencer Pardon is on the left and Eric Julieene is on the right.

ASEBALI

16 at 6:00 PM at Poway High School. With these next two busy and tough weeks, CSUSM cougars are looking to come out with some wins.

The players this season have high expectations for suc-

cess this year. Junior, Spencer Pardon said, "In the season so far, we have been doing pretty well. We had a tough game against Cal Baptist, but are looking forward to a strong rest of the season."

If any students/staff/faculty are interested in heading out to some of the upcoming games they can find more information at: http://www.csusm.edu/athletics/sports/baseball.html. GO

COUGARS!

Photo by Katrina Kistler



Photo by Katrina Kistler



Surf Report



Sunny

High Tide: 10:16 AM Low Tide: 4:14 PM **Wave Height: 3 ft**



Slightly Cloudy

High Tide: 11:04 AM Low Tide: 4:47 PM Wave Height: 5 ft



Summy

High Tide: 11:59 AM Low Tide: 5:19 PM **Wave Height: 5 ft**



Slightly Gloudy

High Tide: 1:12 PM Low Tide: 5:53 PM Wave Height: 5 ft

SAT



Sumy

NEED

WRITERS

High Tide: 8:25 AM Low Tide: 3:19 PM **Wave Height: 8 ft**

ZBT Comedy Night



True to his reputation, Claude Stuart, a self-professed "Beaker" (Muppet) look-alike, brought the audience to tears with his fastpaced and high-energy routine.



ZBT's Sean Fahmy, a founding father with a penchant for comedy, was the Master of Ceremonies for the inaugural comedy event, marking his first ever standup performance.



Photos by Ben Roffee Filling in for Robert Zapata, Byron Bowers took the stage with a pull-no punches improvisational flare that had the audience reeling with laughter.

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DANCEonFILM: Poetry in motion

BY MALLANE DRESSEL Pride Staff Writer

The third annual DANCEonFILM Festival was shown on the CSUSM campus Wednesday February 24 at 6:00pm as part of the Arts and Lectures, featuring a collection of short films involving the most current in dance filmmaking production technology. These films were selected from DANCEonFILM's open auditions from all over the world, along with the New York Dance Films Association's col-

Emmy Award-winning documentary and dance filmmaker, Larry Asakawa, Kara Miller, a teacher of video dance at CSUSM,

tional dance group, came together to create this festival. The goal of the event, in Larry Asakawa's words, is to "bring more ground-breaking dance films to San Diego and Tijuana" in order to "encourage creative dance filmmaking locally and internationally, and to invite local dance filmmakers to join in an artistic dialogue with the world."

The event contained short films mixing experimental dance with different mediums, such as animation, graphic design, and music, which according to Ray Weagraff, a student of CSUSM, made the pieces "...really abstract, they had no real boundaries, very contemporary and interpretive." His favorite was an Argentinean piece titled "Chamame" because

of "...how the whole story flowed," and he referred to it as being whimsical. "Chamame" was one of the rare films in the festival that had a story line. In the film a women tells an extravagant tale of being carried down the river by lily pads, and then rescued by a fisherman.

Once films concluded the audience had

and UC Irvine, and Minerva Tapia, a director, the fortunate opportunity to question the filmeducator, and choreographer for her interna- maker Greg King, the co-maker of "Chloes,"



Chamame: Silvina Szperling, Argentina, 2008

A delirious, chameleon woman gets carried away by the Parana River stream. She becomes one with the plants or the fish; is at times a heroin and at times a victim, until she is rescued by a fisherman.

one of the films shown at the event. In his film, two women create a dance incorporating the idea of waiting around a bus stop in Brooklyn. King described the film as being a "...very improvisational piece," and that, "...its sort of a love poem about Brooklyn." He believes the images in the film "...shows a perfect collision of the new and the old." The audience could conclude that he is referring to the older elements of the barbershop and the graffiti, being integrated with the new neon glowing bus shelter. Also the unique choices in the films editing and compositions gave a newer look to another

wise stagnate image. King felt like he had a lot of freedom on creating this film because they ...treated the editing as being just as important as any of the dance movement."

This event possessed a wide range of different styles of dance matched with artistic elements in order to reveal diverse interpretations and emotions. The experimental techniques of editing used in the films are helpful to any novice filmmaker. Any student involved in art, media, dance, or filmmaking should attend this event next year because it's beyond just being educational, it's entertaining as well.



A little girl discovers a praxinoscope, where she observes animated images of a ballerina. The animated image transforms into a real dancer

who transports us from Paris to Montreal in a surrealistic magical world.

Becoming: Joseph Johnson Camí & Ayelen Liberona, Canada, 2009 An ancient woman moves like a praying mantis as she blends gracefully through changing landscapre. She leaps through a cornfield to lure Man into one final battle.



Little Ease [Outside The Box] Ami Ipapo and Matt Tarr, USA, 2008 Photos courtesy of http://dancefilmfestival.com/ A new take on a classic piece of choreography conceived in 1985 by extreme action pioneer Elizabeth Streb. Through the use of the camera, we remove obstacles to the conversation between performer, environment and witness, taking this inspiring and athletic movement out of its typical context.

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Gabrielle: Stephanie Weber Biron, Canada, 2009

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http://www.csusm.edu/careers/cougariobs/index.html



BY BILL RHEIN Senior Staff Writer

Alice In Wonderland

Starring Johnny Depp and Mia Wasikowska

Directed by Tim Burton

Only Burton and his fantastic imagination could have directed this story following the original Disney film. Wasikowska has her break out role, playing Alice, who returns to Wonderland to dethrone the red queen with the familiar characters from the original story.

Brooklyn's Finest

Starring Ethan Hawke, Don Cheadle, and Richard Gere

Directed by Antoine Fugua This film may look like just another cop drama. Yet, this film might have pot considering director Fugua and actor Hawke also worked together on the modern cop classic "Training Day." The story will focus more on internal conflict as the officers in this film attempt to clean rough neighborhood.

The Secret of Kells

Starring Brendan Gleeson and Evan McGuire

Directed by Tomm Moore and Nora Twomey

This animated film is only opening in New York City this week, but it should open in other independent theaters

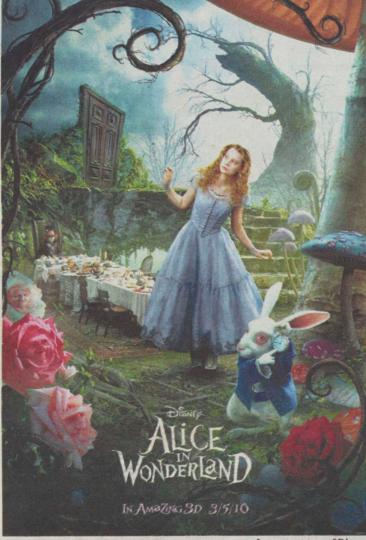


Image courtesy of Disney

since the Academy nominated story about a young boy trying for Best Animated Film. This international hit is a fantasy

to save his home using a magical book.

cial aspect to this type of film

is can it create the tension and

the suspense? The crazies defi-

nitely delivers on this account,

there are numerous scenes con-

structed purely on tension that

will keep you glued to the edge

of your seat. The slow build up

Craziness hits the nation

BY JAMES ROCHE Pride Staff Writer

The Crazies hits the nation on Feb 26, starring Timothy Olyphant and Radha Mitchell the movie is about a small town in Iowa that becomes infected by a toxin that turns its residents in to psychopaths.

All seems perfectly well for Sheriff David Dunn (Timothy Olyphant) in the town of Ogden Marsh until he is forced to shoot a citizen at a local baseball game. Suddenly the town's residents

begin to change as a mysterious toxin takes hold causing them to turn deadly. Sheriff Dunn, his wife Judy (Radha Mitch) and two other survivors find themselves the only unaffected people around. To survive they must get out of the town and away from its residents, while also avoiding the military who have taken drastic measures to stop the infection from spreading.

Having seen the movie I can say that it did not disappoint and lived up to the expectations I had. I feel the most cruof the music and the different use of camera angles create the tension needed to keep the audience focused for the' heart in your mouth' moment. If you are the kind of person that likes movies that make you 'jump out of your seat' then this one is for you, countless scenes can make the viewer leave their chair. So if you know your partner is a bit 'jumpy' then take them to see this, they'll be holding on to you for support all the

way through. However, for me some of the scenes became a little predictable, as it was clear towards the end that the 'jump out of your chair' moment was coming, and as a result I wasn't surprised when it did. I felt that the characters were quite believable for most of the

movie; Timothy Olyphant plays his character quite well. Not being an A list Hollywood star

DVD RELEASES

Tuesday, Mar. 02

By Bill Rhein /Senior Staff Writer



"BITCH SLAP"

Also out this week are the B-movie spinoff "Bitch Slap," about three women on the run in an post-apocalyptic setting, and "We Live in Public," a documentary about the impact of the internet on social interaction.

Rotten Tomatoes: 40/100 Internet Movie Database: 4.6/10



"GENTLEMEN **BRONCOS**"

This film, from the makers of "Napoleon Dynamite," had the ingredients for a good film including a cleaver concept and actors Jermaine Clement and Sam Rockwell, but the over-quirky nature of the film, combined with its lack of direction makes this film hard to enjoy. It might be worth renting by those who enjoy eccentric

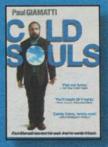
movies. Rotten Tomatoes: 16/100 Internet Movie Database: 5.7/10



"WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE"

One of the hits from last fall, this adaptation of the children's book is an enjoyable watch. The loaded cast of actors providing voices to creatures and director Spike Jonez are enough of a reason to see it. But the way the film explores love and anger through a child's imagination is intriguing, but might be too dark for kids.

Rotten Tomatoes: 73/100 Internet Movie Database: 7.5/10



"COLD SOULS"

This indie comedy/drama popped up in limited release last year and never made it nationwide. However, Paul Giamatti puts in a great performance in this low budget comedy for viewers who do not mind a film challenging their mind. This is a great concept film for anyone who enjoys surrealism and existentialism.

Rotten Tomatoes: 75/100

Internet Movie Database: 6.7/10

Rotten Tomatoes scores are based on a percentage of critics who liked the film and are found on rottentomatoes.com. Internet Movie Database scores are based on the average rating of voters on imdb.com.

Images courtesy of amazon.com

(in my opinion) benefits him greatly as he is not expected to throw everyone aside and save the day without even a scratch on him. His character seems to have a connection with his wife and he shows a good range of emotion throughout as he does suffer setbacks and does not just coast through the movie.

The psychopathic residents are quite realistic both in their appearances and actions, this is something I was most relieved about. The last thing you want is the 'bad guys' to look fake, it would ruin the entire movie, fortunately this is not the case here.

A few drawbacks I noticed within the film are the common 'last second save' that these types of movies have, where the main characters are seconds away from death before they are saved. In addition, the rule of 'never split up' is not followed in this movie; this happens quite a few times in this movie and will have you wondering why he keeps leaving his wife all alone.

Also depending on whom you are, you may like it when every detail is explained however this is does not happen here and you are left wondering about a few things at the end.

Overall, The Crazies is definitely worth going out to watch, the tension will keep you interested right through to the end.

