



Harbinger

Anthony is all about the hugs!

INSIDE:

William Rainey Harper College's Student Newspaper
Volume 35 Issue 8 Week of April 14th, 2003

SHOCK AND AWE

The view from the Harper Homefront: while war in Iraq rages on, day-to-day life at Harper is almost normal

**By Sean Kelly,
Patrick Andrews,
and Katie Klemp**

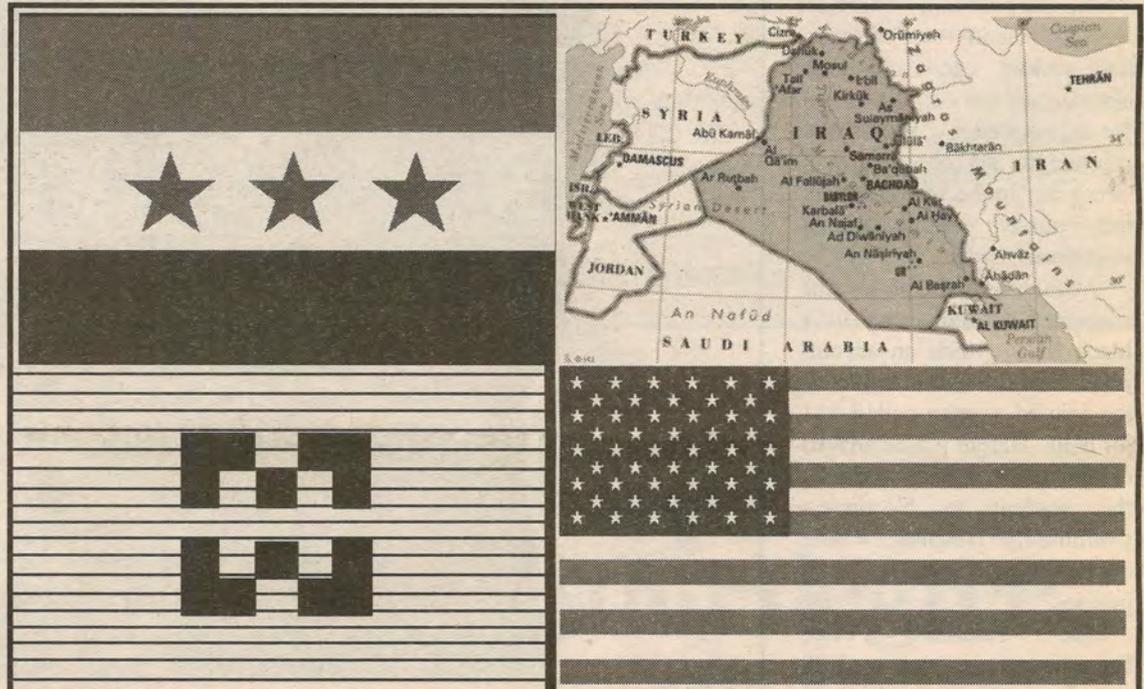
As a coalition of nations began a merciless air, bombing, and land campaign against Saddam Hussein's ruling regime in Iraq, Harper College students and faculty act like the rest of the nation- they wait and watch.

"I don't feel that I've been thoroughly convinced that we should be in a war," said Harper Professor John Curran. Many of those interviewed seemed wary of war in general, and more specifically the United States' motivations for it.

As of this writing, allied troops were advancing from both the north and south, had captured the coastal port city of Umm Qasr, were making steps to secure multiple cities throughout Iraq, and had just finished taking control of Iraq's Saddam International Airport. Troops are now encircling and entering Baghdad, Iraq's capital, largest city, and suspected hiding place of the ruling regime's key members.

While the Army, Navy, Marines, and Special Ops forces are on the offensive, President Bush made orders for the United States to be on the defensive. While on a National level such arrangements have been made for the Coast Guard to receive up to 7,000 new vessels, smaller organizations- such as Harper College- have stepped up security to go along with the nation's "Code Orange" terrorism alert.

The war has come under fire from the international communi-



Watching on CNN, gossiping in hallways, and debating it in classrooms, the war in Iraq has become the next hot topic for Harper students.

ty from nations such as Germany, Russia, and France, who claim that all diplomatic options had not been exhausted in disarming Iraq. Despite that fact, Russia refused to use it's veto power over any UN resolution the US submitted so that it would be free to be decided by world opinion, Germany still promises to defend US bases within Germany, and France has stated that it will enter the war if Saddam Hussein uses any chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. The opinion of all three countries, however, is that the war could have been averted had weapons inspectors been allowed to stay and search longer.

"I think it's not right, because I think they should have given the UN more time to investigate for mass destruc-

tion weapons," said student Asad Khan.

Casualties have already started to pour in. This has only fueled the fire in the United States, for both pro-and-anti war activists. The pro-war groups say that we should be supportive of the cause our troops are dying for, while those against the war say we should be removing our troops from a situation that causes them this harm.

"I am supportive of our troops but I feel that we have no reason at all to be over there," said student Pete Cangialosi.

Another cause for debate is the cause of the war- is it Saddam's weapons of destruction, is it the oil fields that supply the world with fuel and money, or is it the people of the region

itself? The name of the conflict, Operation Iraqi Freedom, seems to suggest the last.

"I support our troops but am confused as to why we are fighting for Iraqi Freedom," said student Jackie -----, who voiced a concern shared by many: why is the freedom of another country America's business?

US and British forces have made record gains in a minimum amount of time, getting from the borderlands to Baghdad in only a couple of weeks, and with a comparatively small number of casualties.

Through victory, withdraw, or compromise, everyone's opinion on all sides of the conflict echoes that of student Jennifer Scharringhausen:

"I wish it was over."

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N E W S

After assault and robbery, search is on for Harper thief

By John Krupa

Harper police officers continue to search for a man wanted for the strong-arm robbery and battery of a Harper College student. The assault took place Feb. 11, at 1:20 p.m. in parking lot 5.

Harper police say the incident began when the victim—a white, 32-year-old, Arlington Heights woman—was sitting in her parked car. A man approached the car and asked for a cigarette. When she reached to get one, the man struck her in the face and took her purse containing an engagement ring.

According to the police, the suspect fled the scene in a black SUV, which an accomplice drove. Within minutes, the injured woman called 911 for help. Harper police arrived on the scene shortly and sent the student to Northwest Community Hospital, where doctors treated her for facial injuries.

The Palatine Police Department says that at 1:28 p.m. they received a call from a man who found a purse at the intersection of Roselle Road and Euclid Avenue. The man brought the purse to the station, where an officer identified it as the Harper student's stolen bag. The bag did not contain the engagement ring.

"This is an isolated incident," said Director of Communications Phillip Burdick. Head of Public Safety Mike Alsup went on to

#030040



ABOVE: a computer-generated composite sketch of the man wanted in connection to a robbery/assault in the Harper college parking lot. He is a Male/Hispanic or Caucasian, approx. 20 years old, 5'5" or 5'6", last seen wearing a ski cap, a black "puffy" jacket, blue jeans, and white shoes. Anyone with information should contact Public Safety.

characterize the attack as "an anomaly." Alsup also says that no crime of this seriousness has happened at Harper since he joined the department in 2000.

Public Safety also says they have picked up patrols and

have canvassed lot 5 for witnesses since the attack. "This was a crime of opportunity," Alsup said. "Students should always be aware of their surroundings regardless of the time of day."

The police produced a composite sketch of the attacker. The individual is Hispanic or Caucasian, in his early 20s, and approximately 5 feet 5 inches.

the Harbinger

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EDITOR IN CHIEF:
Anthony McGinn

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Aaron Kessler

A & E EDITOR:
Heathor Mumford

ASSIGNMENT EDITOR:
Georgia Latta

LAYOUT:
Sean Kelly

PHOTOGRAPHY:
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WRITING STAFF:
Habib Behrouzi
Charles Caan
Ben Eaton
Stuart Millar
Katie Klemp
Heather Mumford
Stephanie Wolferman
Ken Lowe
Kathleen Kudia

CONTACT INFO:

847.925.6000 ext 2461
News Office: 847.925.6460
Fax: 847.925.6033

Mail:

The Harbinger
A367
William Rainey Harper
College
1200 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, IL 60067-7098

PHONE NUMBERS:

Business:

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The Harbinger is the Harper College student publication published bi-weekly throughout the school year, except during holidays and final exams. It is distributed free to all students, faculty and

administration.

The Harbinger's sole purpose is to provide the Harper community with information pertaining to the campus, surrounding activities, and events of note.

LETTERS POLICY:

We welcome letters to the editor and replies to our

editorials. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Signatures will be withheld upon request. All letters and content are subject to editing.

ADVERTISING:

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lege administration or Board of Directors. Inquiries should be forwarded directly to the advertiser, and all purchases are at the discretion of the consumer.

Sit back, relax, enjoy the suit

On Feb. 21, 2003, Miriam Fisch, a high school English teacher from Evanston, Ill., filed a lawsuit against Loews Cineplex Entertainment for "failing to start movies at scheduled times and showing commercials for up to 10 minutes."

Attorneys of Fisch, Mark Weinberg and Douglas Litowitz, are looking for other plaintiffs to step up saying they want "truth in labeling."

Fisch attended a 4:45 p.m. showing of Miramax's "The Quiet American" at Loews Piper's Alley in Chicago and the movie was delayed four minutes.

Fisch says, "Realistically, four minutes is nothing, but where do we

draw the line." Loews responded with "We believe this lawsuit is frivolous and completely without merit."

The suit seeks damages of up to \$75 per plaintiff under a class action with compensation of lawyer fees.

Both attorneys also run a Web site called NoMovieAds.com, which has been flooded with visitors and e-mails since the lawsuit was filed.

This might be a reminder of Stella Lieback's lawsuit. Lieback was awarded \$480,000 for having the "excessively" hot coffee scald her. Or the better one, also involving McDonald's where a lawsuit was filed that its food

made the plaintiffs fat, with the mother of one of the children saying, "I thought McDonald's was healthy for my son."

How many of us were ready to have hot coffee thrown in our faces or stuff our faces with cheeseburgers eight times a day? I know I was. But what are these lawsuits saying about our great nation? Have we become a "sue happy" country where we have to be careful what we say because saying the wrong thing can land us in court? Is anything that happens in this world not subject to lawsuit? Can I sue the transportation department because the yellow light on traffic lights isn't long enough? I would put

money on it that someone has thought about it.

This woman was sitting in a movie theatre for FOUR minutes more than she really had to. What if the Miramax logo had funky effects that lasted four minutes long? Do you think she would sue Miramax for wasting her time? I don't think so. Was she mad that she paid \$9 and that she's an impatient person who doesn't want to sit through another commercial? Probably. Is this a publicity stunt? Maybe. Or is it that she really feels jaded by the movie industry **when they say that a movie starts at a specific time?**

I know I have said to myself, on more than one

occasion, "When is this movie going to start?" But has it ever driven me to think about going to a lawyer and saying, "Look, I want to sue the John Doe Cinema because they showed a two-minute commercial and the movie started two minutes late." No, are you kidding me? Just as Matthew Kearney, chief executive of Screenvision, says, it's ridiculous. I work hard for a living and I am not about to have some schlep take me for all I'm worth because it's the new American way. Take a vacation people, unless you are going to sue the Bahamas for not having enough palm trees.



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Success in a Volkswagen

By Habib Behrouzi

Turning passions into hobbies, and then into dreams, has always been a traditional way of satisfying that kid in us. But turning that dream into a reality and into a complete success is something many people don't experience. Could any passion, hobby or dream turn into a success? Well, Rich and Katie Lindstrom found it in a simple Volkswagen.

They own Dubwerks, a tuning/repair shop specializing in VWs and Audis. If you are asking yourself, "What's so special about that?" I would answer with, "Well, they have customers who come from different states to have work done, and word and name of their business have gone as far as the UK." Not too shab-

Audi. "People were coming in to get performance work done and the owner of Coach House wouldn't do it because of liability issues. So I took on the side work and got the word out that I can do performance tuning." Coach House ended up closing down and Rich and Katie were left at a crossroad of opportunity.

When did all this craziness start with the both of them?

Katie grew up around VWs all her life because her dad would tinker around with them. You can say that it's in her blood.

Rich always read VW magazines, looking at these monsters that people would build. He would always say to himself, "Man these are some BAD (slang

the church was completely filled with VWs and they drove off not in a limousine but in a VW Bug. That and they have VW tattoos. I think we have "diehard" checked off.

All their performance itches started with the air-cooled Bugs, which Rich and Katie both have. It wasn't till 1997 when they got involved with the water-cooled VWs, a scene that was growing bigger and bigger by the minute. Then fast forward to February 2001, when all the waters have been tested and Rich and Katie moved Dubwerks to its present location.

Why Volkswagens?

"People who drive VWs are a different breed. It's like you're part of a family. Since the Honda scene took off because the cars and parts were cheaper, VWs have been looked at as an underdog. So the challenge of having a four-door family car that keeps up with the big boys is exciting," says Katie.

What is Dubwerks accomplishing right now?

"We strive to run an honest business and that's what we're doing. We don't try to take on too much and we just stick with what we know," says Rich.

Since Dubwerks opened, they have built some outstanding cars including a Matrix Engineering 3.0 Turbo VR6. There are only two in the world.

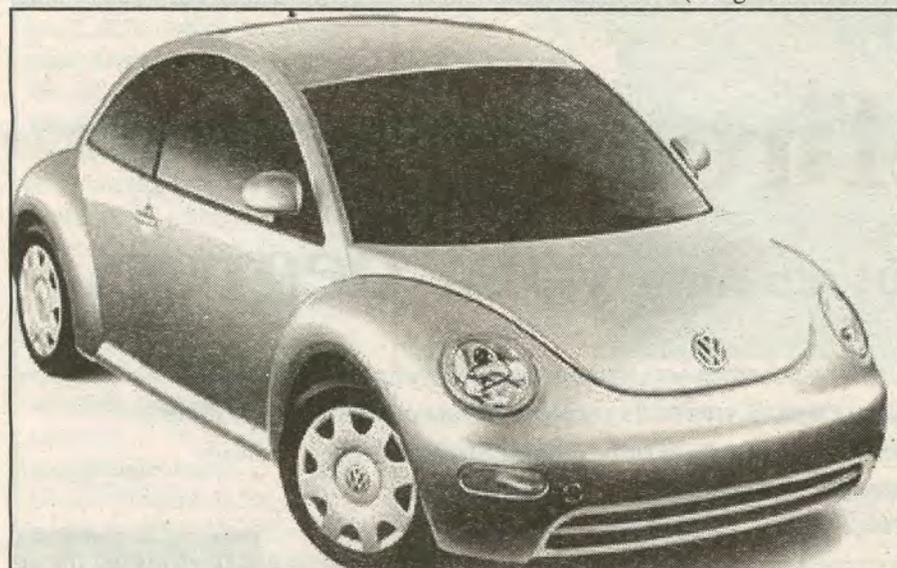
What keeps Dubwerks going?

"Customer Satisfaction is what makes it worth it. Seeing the smiles on the people's faces as they drive off makes it worth the stress," says Katie with a smile, thinking about some of her customers. Rich and Katie also emphasized how important it is to network with other people and



The Dubwerks shop in Libertyville, IL.

Photo Courtesy of www.dubwerks.com



Volkswagen's "New Beetle" is one of the cars Rich and Katie have worked on.

Photo Courtesy of www.mtv411.com

by for a small shop based out of Libertyville, Ill.

Rich and Katie started Dubwerks in February 2000 and ran it out of their garage in Round Lake, Ill. It was a trial period to see if there was a good potential for business. Three years ago there were only a handful of Volkswagen/Audi enthusiasts, and it's been growing ever since.

What inspired Rich and Katie to start Dubwerks?

"Volkswagen performance," said Rich. Rich worked at Coach House in Crystal Lake, Ill., which was a repair shop specializing in German cars, mostly VW and

for "exceptional" rides!"

However, Rich had a moment of revelation, which prepared him for what was to come. "I had a 69 Chevy pick-up that was a beast. It had raw power. There was a night where I pulled up to a light and a second generation VW Jetta pulled up next to me. It was obvious we both wanted to race. The light turned green and this little Jetta whizzed off leaving me behind. I sold my truck that week and bought a Rabbit."

Not diehard enough for you yet? How about the fact that on their wedding day, the front of

other shops. "New shops are opening and competition is going to be there, but if we all network together, we can create a better business for the customer."

"We get mad when we hear about other shops ripping people off. That's why we are here for the customer. We don't push them into buying anything. They get what they want and we're here to offer advice and to try to make things affordable. Comparing labor costs, we are one the lowest around," explains Rich. That is also why Dubwerks has so many loyal and devoted customers that keep coming back for more.

What are some of the biggest challenges? A big challenge for Rich and Katie, but a key to their success, was turning their hobby into a career.

"Everybody is watching and listening. If we go to the track and our car does not do well, that reflects on the business," says Katie.

"Not only that, but on a more personal level, trying to get away and wanting to be mix with the crowd is hard to do now. We go to the shows and want to be Rich and Katie, but instead, we're Dubwerks. However, it's something we accepted and it's something we're known for. I've never turned anyone away on a question or advice."

Other business challenges in today's market is Internet companies and group buys. Although both might offer great deals for the consumer, it hurts the shop owners, and distributors are cracking down on them.

"Sometimes, you have to support your local tuner," says Katie, winking.

The future looks very bright for Dubwerks. Plans for a bigger location, a bigger showroom, and a dyno are in the back of Rich's and Katie's minds. Making their own product is something else they want to tackle.

"We're not here because auto tuning is trendy. We're here because we love doing this. We would still do this if we were millionaires," both Rich and Katie say.

During the interview, Parin Bhatt, a long-time customer, walked in. I asked him why he keeps coming back.

Parin says, "Because they're ordinary people that do very exceptional work."

That they do in seeing Katie's six-speed, supercharged VR6 Jetta. She surprises many people in thinking that it's just a four-door family car. It is, indeed, that - but on steroids.

Dubwerks is a fully licensed and insured shop. They can diagnose any mechanical problems and they also handle extended warranty work, which says a lot about the quality of their work.

They are also a distributor for GIAC (Garrett Integrated Automotive Corporation), a reputable chip software company for VWs and Audis.

If you have any questions stop in at their shop at 225 Peterson Road, Libertyville, IL 60048 or call them at (847) 573-9691. You can also visit the website at www.dubwerks.com.

On the road of life, there are ordinary cars and there are Dubwerks-built cars. Dubwerks-built cars wanted.

Savage Secrets of Succe\$\$

By Georgia Latta
and
Lynda Wellhausen

Lynda Wellhausen: Why did you decide to go into economics?

Terry Savage: Because of my high school history teacher, Dr. Angus James Johnston III, who believed that all history was based on economics. As I look at the war now...and oil and all that discussion, I am reminded of him. When I finished my first book in 1987, there was a huge book party at the Channel 2 studios and he came and spoke on the podium because in the introduction to that book, I thanked him for sparking my interest in history. Then I went to the University of Michigan and took American Studies; it was history and economics and literature, and I knew. Then when I got this summer job at a brokerage firm, I went 'oh my gosh, that's where it all comes together, everything I've ever learned comes together in the prices of stocks every day.'

LW: Who would you say is your role model?

TS: I think I have always blazed a trail. I've never copied. I was the first girl broker that I knew, I was the first girl trader that I knew. I was the first girl on TV talking about money that I knew. So, I'd love to be a role model for others, but I kind of just blaze my own trail.

LW: Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

TS: My first boss, a guy named John Elliot, when I

Most people like money, but do they understand it? If they had attended Terry Savage's lecture, at 8 p.m. at Harper College on March 4, they could lay claim to a few more monetary IQ points.

Held in Harper College's Health and Wellness Center, Savage's lecture treated us all to a whirlwind lesson on smart financial planning.

"Make your money work as hard for you as you work for it" seemed to be one of Savage's strongest themes. Savage claims expertise on a popular topic - money. More than that, she presented a winning attitude and upbeat spirit. Despite inclement weather, she showed up early, a smile on her face, ready to speak with the audience.

Unfortunately, for those audience members hoping to purchase Savage's newest book, "The Savage Truth on Money," published in October 1999, the person in charge of bringing the publication didn't make the lecture because of the weather.

Cyrus Johnson, coordinator of student activities and one of the people who helped organize Savage's visit, says that he didn't feel too disappointed by the fact the books weren't available at the lecture. "The Harper bookstore carries the book, and no one would want to see this guy hurt or killed while trying to get here from out of state."

For example, do you know that if 75 years ago you invested \$1 in a diversified small cap fund and reinvested the dividends, that fund would be worth over \$6,000 today? Or do you know that owning a strong portfolio and even asset diversification can help you beat the market?

Headache much?

Okay, maybe the definition of a small cap fund eludes you. Or maybe the concept of reinvesting dividends means nothing to you, or maybe you can barely see around the next bend far enough to balance your own checking account.

So what relevance does this have for you and your life? Only this, statistically speaking, investing your money has proven to be profitable. Not only will investing help you to SAVE money, but also informed invest-

ing may even help you to GROW your money.

Asset diversification means spreading your money around. It means putting some of your money in the bank, some of it in stock, some of it in bonds, some of it in your pocket. So, if tragedy strikes in any of these places, your finances will not be wiped out.

Reinvestment of dividends refers to the stock market. Some companies pay out dividends to their stockholders. This means that if the company has made money, they give you a little cash. To reinvest it means to take that cash and buy some more of the company's stock, also sometimes called "capital gains reinvestment."

Confused yet? Well, people hire stockbrokers and CPAs and listen to people like Terry Savage because of this confusion. As in most disciplines, the jargon that goes along with explaining money and how it can work for you can be confusing and intimidating.

But, some additional information provided by Savage should come across loud and clear. She predicts that by the time 20- and 30-year-olds get to an age when they need social security, there will be no more social security. She also predicts an age/class war between the baby-boomers and the twenty- and thirty-somethings because of these lacking funds. Maintaining any reasonable standard of living means not relying on the government and being smart with your money today.

Savage says:

"There are two types of financial personalities, spenders and savers." She claims that being either type of person does not relegate you to being incorrect. However, you need to take an honest look at how you use money. In addition, according to Savage, spenders married to spenders need credit counseling, spenders married to savers have marital difficulties and savers married to savers have a happy retirement.

So what if you tend to be a spender who's married to a spender and want a happy retirement instead of credit counseling? She doesn't say, but you can

infer that one or both of you better retrain yourselves to become savers. In addition, Savage goes on to explain that financial success means obtaining knowledge, and using self-control. So it seems that a spender, lacking self-control, faces the condemnation of trying to live off Social Security, which won't exist when you need it. So it's the street for your 62-year-old butt.

Savage claims that one of the biggest economic devastations we will face in our lives looms as the cost of long-term care or nursing homes. She claims investing in a long-term care insurance policy for yourself and for anyone in your family whose long-term care you may be responsible for to be the best way to combat these costs.

She also cautions us all to avoid credit cards or buying items on a payment plan when we can avoid it. She states that the 70s, 80s and 90s seemed to be the times to spend and go into debt, but that the new millennium should be a time to stay out of debt and to gain capital. Sounds good. But what about those of us already wallowing in debt? Savage urges those of us with less than perfect credit rating to research help by calling the Consumer Credit Counseling services at 1-800-388-2227.

Savage claims the title of Financial Expert through hard work. Her work has brought her many TV appearances, radio shows, a personal financial column at the Chicago Sun-Times, positions on the board of directors for companies such as McDonald's, The Quaker State corporation, Devon Energy and The Broadway Stores. She has also won numerous awards including a Directors' Choice Award and an Emmy.

Savage also holds the position of the first woman trader on The Chicago Board of Options Exchange. People like Savage, winners like Savage always leave us common folk wondering how they do it - maybe reading her book will tell us how. If interested you can obtain her book at the Harper College bookstore or by visiting Savage's Web site at www.terrysavage.com.

was a secretary on my way to graduate school with a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, no less, took an interest in me, and believed that a girl could do and be interested in finance and he was a great inspiration at a time when girls were not allowed to think about having careers in finance.

LW: What do you do during the day?

TS: I am insane. Today I had a 7:30 breakfast meeting at the "Merc," a 10 o'clock corporate governance meeting for the McDonald's ward, I wrote one column, prepared one TV show, answered three dozen e-mails and took my dog to the hair dresser to get him cut and picked him up and did a TV show and came out here...and all on only two cups of coffee, maybe three.

Then, I inquired about what young people should be aware of regarding the economy:

TS: Young people should be aware of this: You get ahead by playing tomorrow's game not yesterday's. What worked yesterday by definition won't work tomorrow because everybody gets it. What worked in the 70s, 80s and 90s was being in debt and borrowing. ... The game of the new millennium is to be out of debt and to have capital. To save and invest, but not to borrow, that's how you'll be successful in the future and the people who play the old game and are buried in debt are gonna get trapped by it.

A R T S and ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR
HARBINGER
QUOTE OF
THE DAY:

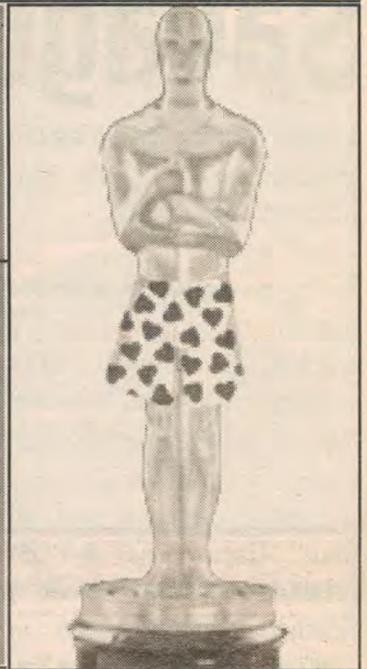
"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron."

-Dwight Eisenhower, April 16, 1953

And the Harby goes to...

By Anthony McGinn

Attention Hollywood: we know exactly where you can stick your friggin' statuette. We've got the real deal on what's worthy of praise. And unlike your so-called "award," it isn't an honor to just be nominated for ours! (Note: the views of Anthony McGinn do represent the views of the Harbinger staff, but only because he has our families.)



Honestly, does anyone care about the Oscars anymore? I know I don't. After continuously snubbing great films from the best picture category (Mullholand Drive, The Virgin Suicides and Almost Famous) and handing out awards to individuals just to appease the general public (Denzel Washington for Training Day {Oh, come on! How hard is it to play a bad guy for two hours? There was no arc, no holding back, just over the top aggression.})

As a dedicated film buff, I have decided to present my own awards on behalf of all the films and categories that other award shows overlook.

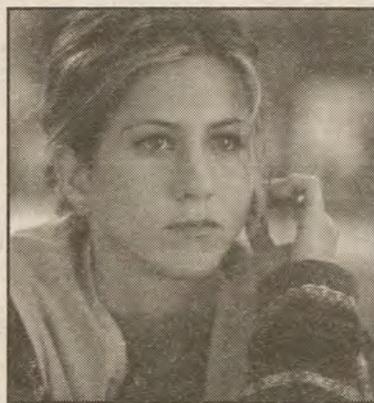
Best Picture: Donny Darko
Granted, "Donny Darko" is a lame title, but the final product



Adam Sandler in *Punch Drunk Love*.

makes up for it. This film has everything you go to the movies for: originality, action, suspense, love, humor, time travel, and giant bunny rabbits. Jake Gyllenhaal displays his acting range as he gracefully dances on the thin line separating

rationality from insanity.



Jennifer Aniston in *The Good Girl*.

Best Actor: Kieran Culkin: "Igby Goes Down"

This rising star has much more depth than his older brother ever did.

Best Actress: Jennifer Aniston: "The Good Girl"

TV stars who make the leap to film usually fail miserably and the cast of "Friends" is no exception (remember "Ed" with Matt LeBlanc?). Aniston takes her innocent, glamor image and is surprisingly convincing in her role as a middle age woman falling in love with a teenager.

Most Underrated film: "Punch Drunk Love"

Paul Thomas Anderson tells a strangely beautiful love story through technical aspects. His ingenious use of symbols, framing and lighting help make this art house picture a classic. Just the fact that he was able to

direct Adam Sandler in a serious drama is noteworthy.

Most Overrated Film: "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

I don't understand what the hype was about. I mean it was good, but not great. There are many low-budget romantic comedies that blow "Greek Wedding" away. "Chasing Amy" being the prime example.

Most Intense Denigration of Women:

National Lampoon's Van Wilder.

Most Intense Denigration of Men:

Having to sit through the "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood."

Best Indication That We're Getting Older:

Little Harry Potter is finally going through puberty.

Best Supporting Actor: Andy Serkis as Gollum, "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers."

Although Gollum was a CGI animated character, but Andy Serkis had to perform all the tasks and emotions of this cute little character, and turned him into a complex basketcase.

Best Supporting Actress: Jena Malone, "Donny Darko"

Jena shows her acting depth in the best picture of the year. Her acting is a huge step up from her one dimensional role in "Life as a House."

Most Gratuitous Use of Sex to Sell Tickets:

The Kirsten Dunst rain scene in Spider-man. Fun, but pointless.

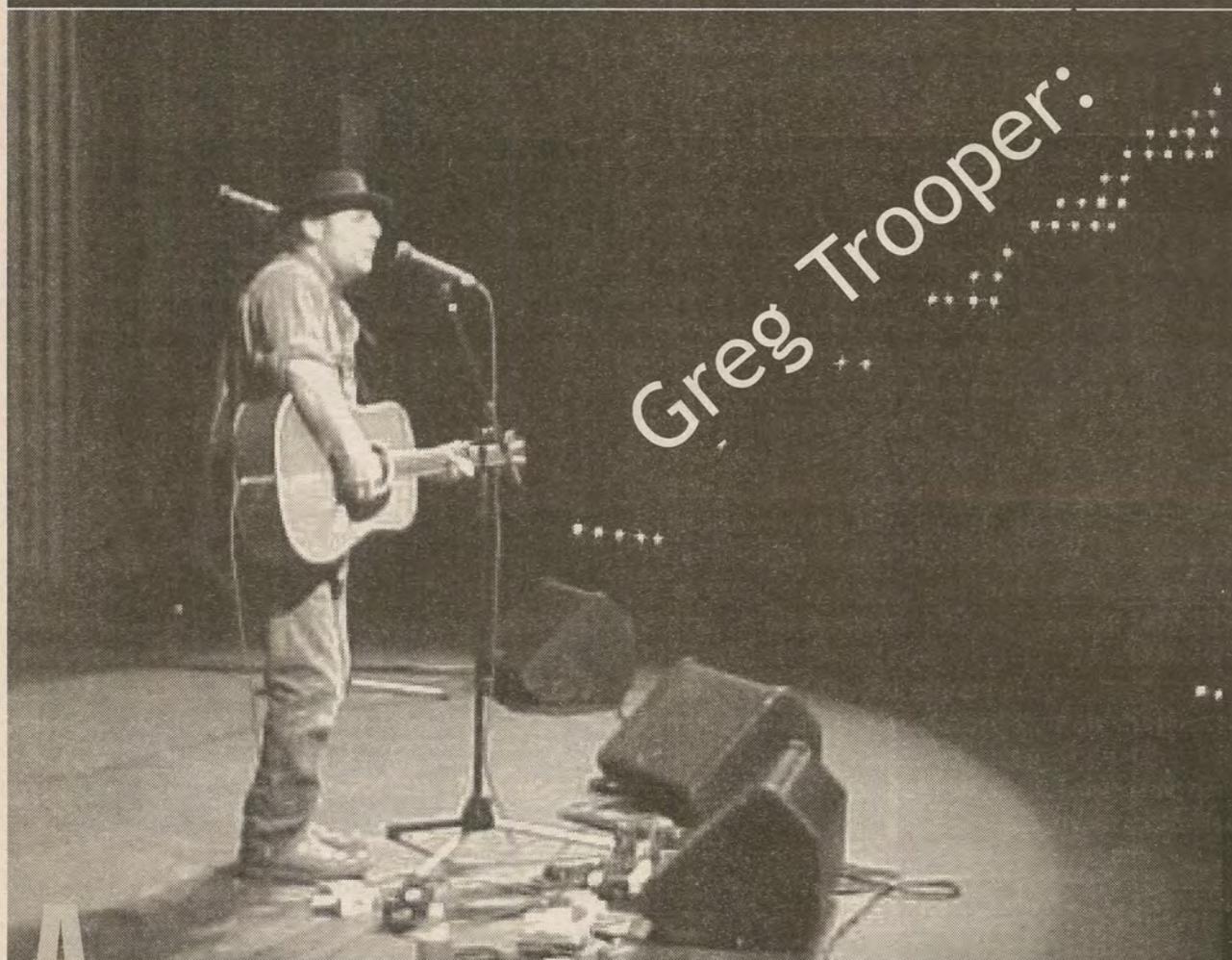
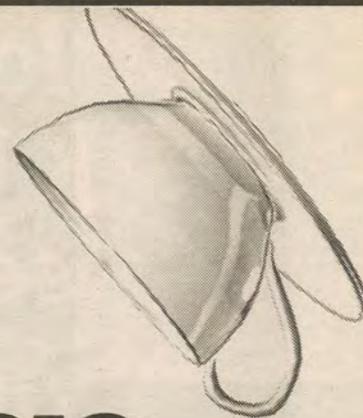
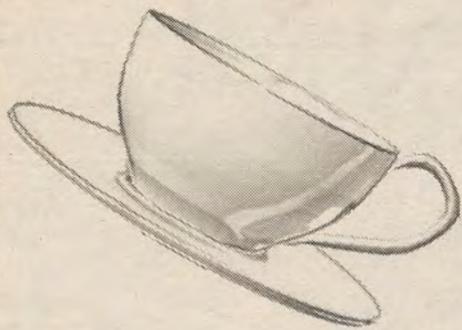


Gollum and his human counterpart, Andy Serkis.

JAVA JAMS:

HOT COFFEE,

COOL MUSIC



Greg Trooper.

As the war in Iraq stepped up outside thousands of miles away, a lucky, select group of people in the J Building theatre found themselves enthralled by word of a different kind of trooper than the CNN-watching set.

Greg Trooper. The acclaimed singer-songwriter may have been the opening act of Java Jams' two-act final night, but his skill and personality had all the weight, applause, and audience participation of a headliner. A lone man with a guitar and a sense of humor, Trooper did more than just warm up the crowd- he set it on fire.

Trooper is, more likely than not a non-entity in the average Harper student's CD collection, which may be because he'd be hard to file amongst the other bands said average Harper student frequents. Does one slip him in among such folk rock crooners as Dave Matthews? No, you can understand what he's saying far too easy to lump him among DMB clones. Do you stick him in with your dad's country-western music? No, he'd probably hit Billy Ray Cyrus over the head and rip his achy breaky heart out of his chest. It is clear how Trooper would like to be classified- despite his New Jersey origins.

"I decided I wanted to be a country star. Not just a

"Sometimes it takes no more than a drop of water to fill the glass that holds your hopes and dreams."

-Greg Trooper

singer, a country star..." Trooper said to the crowd, and nodded in a way that suggested he didn't know the next step to becoming a country star. But he knew- isn't it obvious?

"So I bought a hat... moved to Nashville... it's still up in the air whether it worked or not."

Trooper leans in close over his guitar like he wants to whisper chord changes into the headstock, clomps his foot loud enough that the audience can hear it and take it as a percussion section, and strums the strings with a ferocity that lets the audience know where the deepening, pick-shaped grooves in the guitar's face came from.

For someone who claims to be "country," Greg Trooper certainly doesn't look the part. Short, dark-haired, with a more Northern fashion sense, Trooper has had fans- who

look like the Marlboro man- tell him that when they see him perform for the first time, they don't see the Greg Trooper they had envisioned- they see "Joe Pesci playing Greg Trooper songs."

Trooper informed the audience that in Nashville, musicians sit around all year trying to write Christmas songs. The hope is, you'll get picked up for a Garth Brooks Christmas compilation album, and you'll get royalty checks every December like a gift from Santa.

One of the highlights of the night was Trooper's interesting take on holiday music, entitled "Mohammed Ali, the Meaning of Christmas."

"A Catholic/Jewish kid from New Jersey singing about a Muslim teaching him about Christmas," he laughed.

And after getting the audience sufficiently charged, he got them to accompany him on vocals. "I know, opening act wants to do a sing-along, oh God... but I'm telling you, sing along, good song. Don't sing along... tanks."

After sufficient encouragement along the lines of, "That was terrible," the audience eventually got it.

One of the most telling songs of the evening, one which summed up Greg Trooper's lyrical proficiency, was the song "Everywhere," a song about war.

It wasn't the right war, but it was the right message, one that the whole audience seemed to feel. While shock and awe raged thousands of miles away, the crowd was treated to such lyrics as "In this mouthfull of sand, which comes first, the country or the land?" which called up images of the sand we'd been seeing lots of on CNN as of late.

Even more telling was the chorus, which left an echo across the coming weeks:

"Over here, over there, it's the same everywhere... a boy cries out for his mama, before he dies for his home."

The seriousness aside, Greg Trooper's performance was mostly an amiable one. His personality and humor carried the show.

"All the great singer/songwriters can talk and tune at the same time," Trooper said, and treated the audience to a minute and a half of dead silence while he tuned the strings.

Early on, he tried to casually slip into the conversation that his albums were for sale in the back. "Was that too soon? Oh well... I'm not in this for the love, I'm in this for the commerce."

When Trooper's set wrapped, it left the audience ready for more- a need that Robbie Fulks would be more than willing to fill. Though Fulks was the headliner, Trooper by himself would have been worth the seven dollars' admission.

Which begs the question? Why was the theatre half empty?

Remember this at next year's Java Jams.



Java Jams: Chapter 6, Adam Richman start series with a bang

By Janine
Slayton

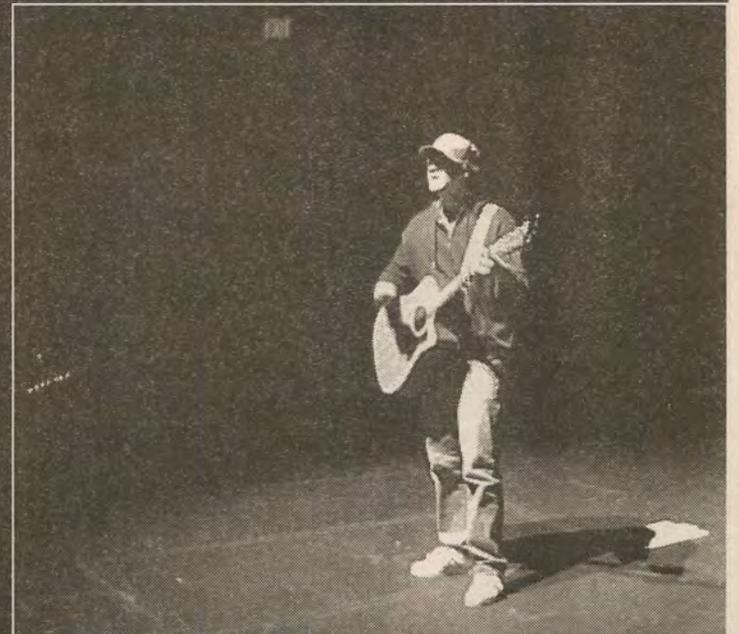
Thursday, March 6, the Java Jams series kicked off with Chapter 6 and special guest Adam Richman.

Richman opened the show, coming out on the stage with nothing but himself and a guitar. Richman is a Washington, D.C. native who has toured with bands like The Roots and Good Charlotte, among others. While he could have passed for any other college student when he first stepped on stage in his blue jeans, hooded sweatshirt and green baseball cap, that changed as soon as he opened his mouth and began to sing. With a voice that sounded angsty, yet incredibly smooth and strong, Richman seemed to captivate the audience with his voice. In between songs he showed off his humorous side, making jokes and telling stories about his life. His comments and stories to the audience enhanced the show because it helped them understand where his songs came from. It was also fun because he was able to laugh at himself. His easy-going personality and his incredible talent made his entire performance incredible. It was disappointing when the time came for him to leave the stage, but his follow-up certainly did not disappoint.

After Adam Richman, the award-winning a cappella group Chapter 6 took the stage. After their first song, I was unsure what to think of them. The group, comprised of Luke Menard, Jarrett Johnson, Nathan Pufall, Aaron Dale Stonecipher, Chuck Bosworth, John Musick and arranger Mark Grizzard, are very Christian-oriented. After the first few minutes, though their harmonies were no doubt impressive, I was afraid I was in for an hour and a half of gospel music – not an especially appealing idea. I was pleasantly surprised, however, when I discovered that was not the case. The group, whose harmony was perfect, sang songs ranging from “And They Praise God” to Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody,” to their self-penned, ‘50s-style Krispy Kreme jingle. They had a very impressive set, mixing



LEFT Chapter 6 sings in all their a capella glory. Right: Very special guest Adam Richman proves why he is very special.



Photos by Heather Mumford

their incredible vocal talent with a silly sense of humor. They roused the crowd and kept everyone wanting more.

One of the more memorable numbers of their set was when they chose two girls from the audience and serenaded them to the BeeGee’s “How Deep is Your Love?” As always, their humor was present in their actions as they pretended to fight one another over the girls on stage. They also presented to the audience their six-minute version of “The Wizard of Oz,” with each of them portraying a different character from the movie. It was a hilarious rendition, but the focus still never left their voices.

Adam Richman and Chapter 6 kicked off Java Jams with a bang March 6. Between the two of them, they provided a nice balance between sincerity and humor. Richman brought some angst and heartbreak with his set, while Chapter 6, with their full voices that made you forget there was no band with them, brought more upbeat songs and humor to the night. Both Richman and Chapter 6 were incredible performers who made the entire night a hit.

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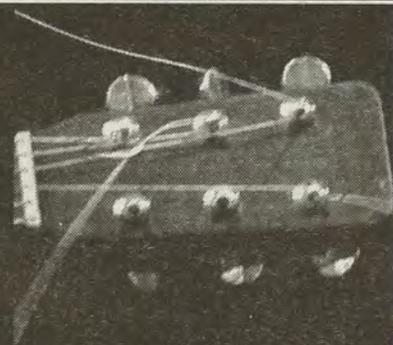
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Country Conversion:

Java Jams headliner Robbie Fulks changes Sean Kelly's preconcieved notions about "hick" music



Robbie fulks strains his vocal chords on one of his many, many songs at Java Jams.

Photo by Patrick Andrews

Okay, I confess. Like many of you, country music was something to frown upon. It seemed to me to be a bunch of lackluster instrumentals and whiny lead singers coupled with a twangy sound and over-the-top sob stories. It just didn't seem to have any relevance to a person like me, who has no intention of climbing into a whiskey bottle and crying my tears away over the girl who done left me (and took my hound dog with to boot).

I own a Pontiac, not a pickup. Then I found out that country music isn't just for slack-jawed NASCAR fans. At Java Jams, Robbie Fulks' gangly frame stomped into my consciousness like a foul-mouthed stork with a guitar.

One of the first songs he played set the tone for the evening, a catchy little ditty called "You Can Kiss My Cracker Ass if that's Country," in which he ripped on the current repackaging of country for the pop audience with such lyrics as, "you can make a star out of an 18-year-old girl, you can spend a million dollars and call it a pearl," or referencing songs he'd heard on the radio's "country" station, "it had a steel guitar and I think it made mention to a truck." Now, I'd always hated the Dixie Chicks and LeAnn Rhimes, so this was a good spot to hit me- but now I hated them because they weren't "pure" country.

Nice trick. Then he started to truck out his other songs. Fulks and his band ticked better than a Swiss watch, belting out song after song of Southern-tinted rock and roll with slick professionalism.

"What a band, I tell you what... they all sing!" Fulks shouted at the end of one song, and it's the truth: even the drummer had a mike, so that they could weave strong four-man harmonies. It was the tightest live band I'd seen play, at Harper or otherwise.

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Besides the slightly southern-fried rock and roll, they also had a string of fun, funny songs like "Hey Sexy," or "I Told Her Lies," which started out with him telling an anecdote about his girl inviting him back to her place, but wanting to know: is it

my body, or the person deep down inside? Which leads to the heartfelt chorus of:

I told her lies,
I told her lies
Big small tall short
Every shape and size
And when she opened up the door
I knew I'd won the prize,
I couldn't tell her what I thought
So I told her lies

"Shit... there's kids in the audience," he exclaimed at one point, "man, I've been saying fuck this, fuck that... they're like, eight."

For me, something interesting was happening. I didn't mind that I was listening to country music. This wasn't irritating like Garth Brooks. It wasn't cutesy like LeAnn Womack. It wasn't toe-tapping, it was toe-spasming.

Part of this may have been because the band knew their audience. There was nary a ten-gallon hat in sight, and they had skewed everything towards a college audience, from their near-alternative dress, to their comment that their bassist was the only one with a real job. His reply?

"It's not a real job, I work at a college." The only thing more fun than watching a band that

doesn't get along is a band that pretends not to get along. The way the musicians gently, or not so gently, ribbed each other showed a real rapport that carried over to their playing. When Fulks's guitarist began to play one of his own songs, he cut in with, "You know, I wasn't done f-----talking..."

Or when he began taking requests. After a few names had been called out, Robbie lamented, "What a lousy field of choices." His guitarist shot back, "Hey, they're all yours."

And the song he ended up playing?
"Billie Jean."

Like, by Michael Jackson.

That's right: a country band doing a cover of an 80's song by Michael Jackson. And it sounded damned good.

The highlight of the evening was his song "Anything for Love," the second song off his album "Couples in Trouble." A long, rocking ballad that went on for a long time but I wanted to go on forever, this song would have been at home in any hard rocker's repertoire, and it kicked my ass.

So, here I am: a country music convert, trying to spread the gospel of Robbie Fulks. I'm not the only one, either- our photographer went and bought the album within days of seeing it (available at Tower Records). We're listening to it now.

But one things troubling me, and Fulks' guitarist put it best:

"Look at this great big thee-ate-er half full of people... keep it down..."

Half-empty!? One of the best acts Harper's had in years, and it's half friggin' empty? These bands are pure entertainment value, they are good, they are fun, they sound great,

and it's cheaper than a movie. Mark my words:

If you do nothing else at Harper College (and admittedly this is what Harper students are known for) go see Java Jams. You won't regret it.

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EOE

Six feet under, three seasons in

By Janine Slayton

The Season 3 premiere of "Six Feet Under" aired Sunday, March 2, starting the season out in a mind-bending, thought-provoking way. Season 2 ended last year with Nate Fisher going in to have brain surgery, and this season picks up during the operation, with the surgeon running into complications. During this, the familiar white light of the show infiltrates the screen and a tombstone with the name "Nathaniel Samuel Fisher Jr." appears. The idea of losing such a major character is a hard concept to grasp.

The first thing they show after this is each member of his family and their reaction to his death. Next, Nate comes in, and the 15 minutes or so of the episode show him wandering from room to room in his house, each new room seeming to represent an alternate life he could have lived. This sequence ends in a confrontation between Nate and his dead father in which Nate demands to know whether he is actually alive or dead. Once again the screen goes white and shows Nate's tombstone; only this time the year he died is

blank.

Then there is a flash-forward to seven months later, with Nate and Lisa at a barbeque and Nate talking about his near-death experience in surgery.

Another major shock, almost greater than the idea of Nate being dead, is the discovery that he and Lisa have married. Where did Brenda go?! She is a necessary and much missed element in this episode, and hopefully she'll return soon. After being presented with the major changes in Nate's life, we begin to look at the rest of the family

once again. David and Keith have decided to attend couple's counseling to improve their relationship, Claire is struggling in art school, and Ruth is loving being a grandmother to Nate and Lisa's daughter. There is a sadness behind all of them, though, as if each of them is searching for something he or she just can't find.

Another interesting aspect of this episode is Nate's flashbacks to the scenes he envisioned at the beginning of the episode. When these flashbacks hit, he feels like he is experienc-

ing dejavu. It is clear that Nate's encounters at the beginning of the show and his flashbacks to that a few months later are significant, though it is far from clear why that is at this point.

The first episode leaves many questions and ideas open to be explored the rest of the season and seems to set the third season up to be very interesting and thought-provoking. So tune in and enter the twisted but always interesting lives of the Fisher family on "Six Feet Under," Sunday nights at 9 on HBO.

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It's the "Top," but of what?!

By Stephanie
Wolfman

Honestly, I just want to see a good movie. It doesn't have to be "Oscar-worthy"; it just needs to be entertaining or interesting. The film "View From the Top" possesses neither of those qualities. It was a film that had trouble finding a release date, and after viewing this film, I can see why. It is a sad sight to see a qualified actress like Paltrow limp through this sad excuse of a film.

Speaking of Gwyneth Paltrow, she plays Donna, a woman who longs to see the world. She finds that working in the luggage department won't get her there, so she decides to become a flight attendant. She starts at a low-grade airline, forges some relationships, and then tries out for Royal Airlines. The majority of the film deals with Paltrow as a part of the Royal Airline family: kissing butt as a trainee and continuing to be Miss Perfect through her rise to the top. Her character's perfection, like when she has the fastest trainee score for shouting "assess the window," makes her annoying and just hard to root for at times (especially when people who hardly know her say she is meant for something great). The character is so flawless that she is appalled when her friend, played by Christina Applegate, steals soap (this foreshadows her shady behavior).

Along with Applegate, Paltrow establishes relationships with Kelly Preston and falls in love with Mark Ruffalo. Both characters really don't have any personality. Preston only lasts for 30 minutes into the film and isn't missed, while Ruffalo, who was excellent in "You Can Count On Me," phones in a performance as Paltrow's boyfriend. Together, they lack chemistry and their last scene together comes off more awkward than

romantic.

Chemistry isn't the only problem with the film: it offers no laughs and isn't fun to watch. Even Mike Meyers can't save the film with his performance as the lord of the trainees. His best scenes are already showcased in the trailer, so the rest of his gags are a disappointment. This film is a sad example of "the trailer is better than the film." The film seems to try very hard to offer other laughs, but they fall flat. There is a cat fight between Paltrow and a disgruntled friend, which made me look at my watch, rather than laugh.

Something "View From the Top" has in common with films I have recently reviewed is that it has a tired story. It is the same tale of a girl with big dreams going to make something out of herself. Not to say that is a bad story line, but when you toss in a predictable climax with a cheating friend and a choice between her career and boyfriend (we do live in the 21st century, yet women still can't have both: we only can either have love or work), it makes the film painful to watch. Plus, you have the cliched ending where Paltrow chooses love over work, and professes her love when she thinks no one is listening (but, guess who is?).

These complaints are only a few of a film that is the opposite of its character: it is riddled with flaws (like the editing that offers no concept of time). The film is like an airplane ride, where you are kept in your seats and there is nowhere to escape. Then, consider me the Paltrow character on her first trip: all I wanted to do was scream in agony since I knew this film was going to crash and burn.

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Back to the beginning: 9/11

By Georgia Latta

With the war in Iraq near the close, but the war on terrorism still burning across the world, we ask ourselves: why? It has been a year and a half since the catastrophic events that sent us down this path, and Georgia Latta is here with a reminder, and a remembrance.



No one wants to break a firefighter's heart. So on September 11, 2001, when Lt. Gerry Rogan of the New York City Fire Department asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of his brother firefighter Matt Rogan, the other men on the force looked away. They muttered inconsistent phrases, making vague references, labeling Matt as "unaccounted for."

Finding no one willing to answer his questions, Gerry searched for the answers himself. He went for two and a half days with one priority in mind - to find Matt...
 Find Matt...
 Find Matt...
 Find Matt...
 But Matt would not be found.

"My younger brother [Matt Rogan] was a firefighter assigned to ladder 11. They were on the top floor of the Marriott

Hotel which connects the two towers, the North and the South [towers]. Their assignment was to search and evacuate the top floor. They had completed that and were waiting for the elevator. The first tower came down and cut the Marriott Hotel in half. They were in the wrong half of the hotel.

"I was thinking that a transformer had exploded because I didn't see the hole where the plane had penetrated."

Gerry stands about 6 feet 2 inches. He has a kind, weatherworn face, underscored with a salt and pepper mustache. He seems trustworthy, reliable and a little shy. The buttons of his uniform glitter from the bright lights in the auditorium, and his New York accent shows up when he says words like "coffee," pronouncing it more like "coy-fee."

"I work in the Bronx, pretty close to the Westchester border. I went into work [that morning after seeing the attack on television]."

The men in Gerry's fire-house had the responsibility of coordinating the efforts of the surrounding rescue workers.

"I was trying to do some administrative work to get them set up, directing traffic - that type of thing. It was about 4 o'clock (he stutters and his voice rises slightly) when the thought crossed my mind: 'Maybe ... I know my brother would go if he were working. And ... what are the odds?'"

Gerry made some phone calls, and after receiving unsatisfactory responses, he decided to go to ground zero that night.

"I got down to ground zero at about 11 o'clock. I committed myself to not leaving without my brother. I asked around, and no one knew. All the chiefs, all of the higher-ups are usually able to tell you at the drop of the hat where people are, what they're assigned to do, what their tasks are. No one could answer any questions.

"There's one image that sticks out in my mind of that night. There was a knee sticking out of the rubble and I thought, 'Oh, that looks like a mannequin.' So I walked closer and I shined my light on it and you could actually see the meat. That's how we were identifying bodies, by putting a body bag

there. ... As the crews came in [they found the body bags], that was the starting point in recovering that person or persons.

"It was really eerie. You'd find wallets and you'd pick up the wallet and there would be a picture of a couple on their wedding day, children. It was just really, really sad ... someone's life right there in your hand."

Gerry finally went home to tell his family that his brother probably would not be coming home at all because he had perished in the attack.

In addition to the horrific images searing Gerry's memories, existential questions that never bothered him before started encroaching on his consciousness, questions like:

"Is it really worth it? What am I doing here? I've got five more years left until I retire, am I going to be able to make that? Am I going to die in chemical warfare?"

Harper College held a photo exhibit in the New Performing Arts Center, depicting different scenes from the terror attack. Dick Schonhoff of Northern Trust Bank brought us the exhibit and Gerry joined him.

The pictures floated on black backdrops and served as memories of the tragic event, underscoring the horrifying message that we in our prosperous and stable environment possess broad and debilitating vulnerabilities, and we have been careless.

The red, the white, and the dull:

America is a nation founded on war- it's even in our national anthem. But that doesn't mean that Americans have the attention span for it. So if you're reading, Dubya, (one word at a time, tiger) here's some suggestions to keep our interest.

-By Sean Kelly

By most accounts, victory in Iraq is very near. Despite that, we could be entrenched in the desert nation for a long time to come, keeping the peace and helping rebuild a shattered country. Which means that for many months we will be exposed to a barrage of media coverage on radio, TV, and in the newspapers.

This coverage is boring.

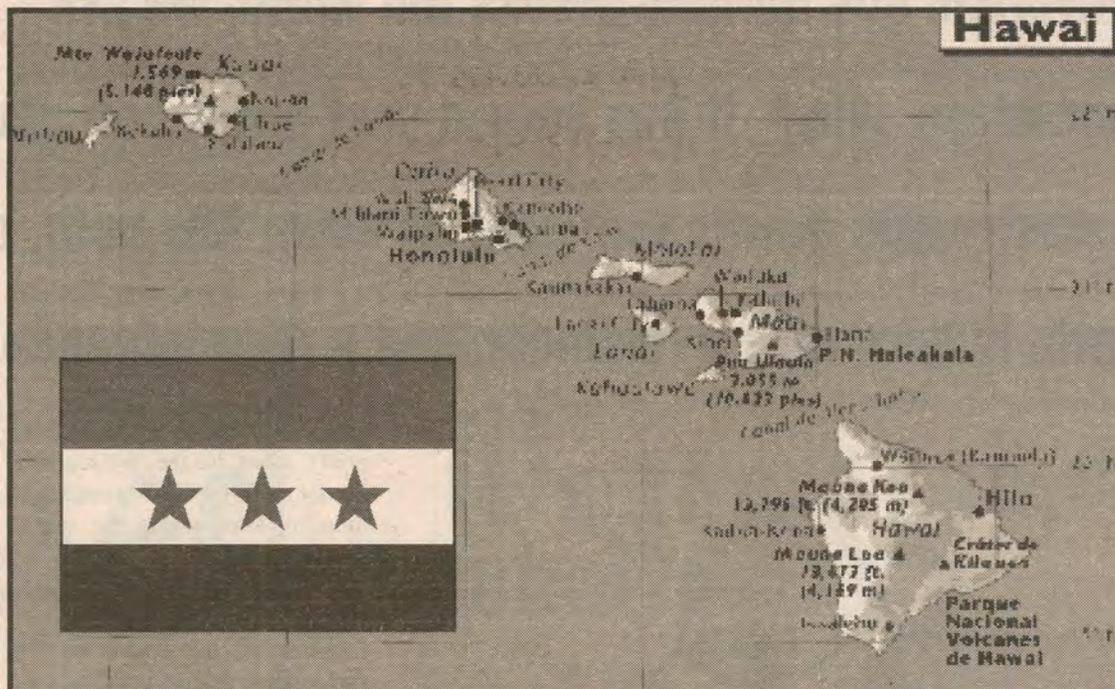
Don't get us wrong, we support our country in all of its endeavors. However, when compared to the wit and sparkle of an episode of "Friends," or the intense drama of an episode of "24," we find ourselves asking questions like, "Isn't this war over yet?" and, "When is somebody going to shoot that Wolf Blitzer guy?"

So, to increase morale on the homefront, and to renew interest in American armed conflict, we've drafted a list of ways to make Iraq more palatable.

-Humor needs to be re-injected into combat, to help compensate for the fact that special reports edge funny shows like "The Simpsons" off the air. As such, grisly combat footage will now be voiced over by Bob Saget. With his full range of political commentary and spongy sound effects, the war will become something you can watch with your children.

-Night vision green is somewhat dull, and hurts the viewers' eyes. It will be replaced with designer colors such as teal, magenta, lime, and any other color that Apple Computers uses.

-One of the things that makes war coverage different is its lack of commercialism- something that your average materialistic American can't understand. So from now on, individual battles will have corporate sponsorship: "The Fall of Tikrit: brought to you by McDonald's." This will



Suggestion: Iraq is a barren, desert wasteland with no possibility for post-war tourism. Moving Iraq to a better locale prior to their liberation could go a great distance towards making the war popular and rebuilding their nation afterwards.

help the war blend in with all the other reality TV shows on the air, as well as help pay for the war without direct taxpayer involvement.

-No one disagrees that General Tommy Franks has done a fantastic job in his command of our troops in Iraq... but he hasn't done a DRAMATIC job. From now on, the Iraqi theatre of operations will be directed by Stephen Spielberg, with a twist ending by M. Night Shyamalan that will either show that Saddam Hussein has been dead all along, or that George W. Bush is, in fact, unbreakable.

-While we're on the subject of Saddam dying, every time we say we've killed him, he pops back up like a toaster pastry and makes us look like a bunch of idiots. So if he does it again, we should cover it up by circulating a story that he did in fact get blown up and is now a wandering member of the eternally-hungry undead,

in search of human flesh.

-Many Americans have little experience with combat strategy. To help outline it for them with a familiar face and million-dollar voice, battles will be reviewed and diagrammed by noted war correspondent John Madden.

-Saddam Hussein has had the ability to strike fear and command respect wherever he goes in Iraq, and yet every time he speaks on TV we get a nasal-voiced, stammering interpreter spitting out incoherent sentence fragments punctuated by the occasional "God is great." To make Saddam and the other members of his regime sound like the cruel overlords of part of the Axis of Evil like they're supposed to be, they will now have their speeches voiced over by either James Earl Jones or Michael Clark Duncan.

-A desert uprising against the regime will either be led by Mark Hamill, or by a David Lynch-

directed Kyle MacLachlan (from the back of a giant worm, of course).

-George W. Bush will now be played by Charlton Heston or Clint Eastwood.

-The war will have a slogan: "This time, it's personal."

-The US government will now use 1-800-CALL-ATT spokesman Carrot Top... for target practice.

-The Iraqis need to be cuter. Replace them with Ewoks.

-The 103rd infantry unit will now be replaced by an elite corps of soldiers, who are well versed in all forms of combat: the American Gladiators Pyro and Gemini.

-A bit of advice for President Bush: we all know that this war is either a quest for oil, an attempt

to finish what your father started, a grab for personal legacy, or a hand-waving tactic to get re-elected. If you want us to keep our minds off of that, make it seem like it's really all about a love triangle between Josh Hartnett, Kate Beckinsale, and Ben Affleck.

-Hurry up and invent those lasers already.

-The Iraqis possess none of the tactical ability or technological advancements that we have enjoyed in the past twenty years. To make things fairer, all major assaults will now be led by five thousand Civil War Recreationists.

-Give the war a weekly, half-hour time slot right after "Will & Grace." Better yet, send Will off to war: it would be a wonderful way to outline how that whole "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" thing is shaping up.

-Since celebrities are so intent and opinionated regarding the war, let's institute the draft just for them! We'll send in an entire division of action movie stars!

-To further insult the French, we will abandon everything else we've gotten from them, up to and including Pepe' Le Pew, Paris Illinois, French Kissing, the core of our language dating back to the Norman Conquest of 1066, the Statue of Liberty, and the modern system of democracy.

-To settle this once and for all, Dan Rather will be sent to find out whose side God is on.

I think it can be agreed, that if these changes are enacted quickly, it will increase the ratings for the war tenfold. Because, after all, isn't that what this is all about?