

# style

INSIDE

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20

The number of songs The Killers played during their tour stop at The Patriot Center Wednesday night.

## Folkin' Around

### Singer Songwriter John Shannon Coming to Vienna

**MARIAN MCLAUGHLIN**  
Staff Writer

Having already toured the world with up and coming indie and folk artists, singer songwriter John Shannon, a modern folk guitarist, will bring his delicate vocals to the area this week. *Broadside* had the chance to speak with Shannon about his upcoming Jammin' Java show, the inspiration behind his music and his love of Native American culture.

*Broadside:* You're coming to Jammin' Java next week, is it part of a tour you are on right now?

*JS:* For now, the tour is rather sporadic, we spent some time in Europe especially France, and went here and there in the states. I've been living in Pittsburgh for a while, but I'll be moving to London soon.

*Broadside:* Why London?

*JS:* To spread the music and to keep it fresh. There's good reception there.

*Broadside:* Seems like you have gotten the chance to move around a lot. Where else have you lived?

*JS:* All over the U.S . . . I went to the Berkley College of Music in Boston.

*Broadside:* What was it like at Berkeley? Did you find it difficult to study music?

*JS:* No, not at all, I'd been doing music my whole life, but while there I used the program to connect with like-minded, young musicians. I was never too big on the institutional part; art and music institutions are oxymorons. They cater to the left brain. You can't teach anyone to be creative.

*Broadside:* I can tell you keep a natural approach to playing, you can definitely hear that in your finger picking.

*JS:* Yeah, I [take] the natural elements and try to emulate them with my acoustic songs, like the river and wind.

*Broadside:* Do you find it hard to try and to imitate such abstract sounds?

*JS:* Sometimes, but you know, when you have intent, it'll show. When you listen to things, what goes in has to come out, and sometimes it comes out through melodies. That's using your right brain.

*Broadside:* You have toured with up-and-coming acts such as Sonya Kitchell and Haale. How would that come about?

*JS:* In all simplicity, through friends. I grew up with the drummer of Haale, and I was a friend with one of Sonya's



PHOTO BY CARSTEN FLECK

band mates. I got started on my own when I gave a demo to a friend, and they in turn gave it to the right person at my label, ObliqSound. They dug it and decided to make a record, *American Mystic*, which came out last April.

*Broadside:* How did you start writing your own songs?

*JS:* I [had] always written my own stuff, but a while ago I went on what I [call] the "vision quest." It comes from Native American tradition, where you go out alone for four days and sit in a circle, only drinking water and meditating. I have been attracted to Native American

culture for a long time, way before I ever thought I could go on a vision quest. I studied a lot about survival, and one day the time came for it. It was like a sledgehammer to a spirit world, and I was ready for my trip. It was during my quest that I realized the power of my voice through song.

*Broadside:* Is there anything you want people to take from your music?

*JS:* I want my music to bring people peace when they experience it. I want them to be able to cross over into a timeless dimension when listening to my songs.

## Until the Violence Stops

### Students Star in Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologues

**KRISTEN WHITE**  
Staff Writer

With monologues such as "Because He Liked to Look At It," "My Angry Vagina," and "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could," *The Vagina Monologues* can't be overlooked this year.

To mark the movement known as V-day, Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* will be performed on Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 7 at 2 and 8 p.m. in Harris Theatre.

At the afternoon showing, there will be a talk directly after the show in which the audience can interact with the actresses. The audience is welcome to ask questions about the process, the actresses' preparation, and their thoughts about the monologues.

Ensler wrote *The Vagina Monologues* as a way to broadcast the truths about violence against women and girls, with a tagline of "Until the Violence Stops."

She started the process by interviewing over 200 women

and girls about their experiences with sexuality, their fantasies and their fears. By writing this play, Ensler was able to give these women a voice in the world.

Ensler is dedicated to creating a world where there is no sexual violence and hopes *The Vagina Monologues* will create an atmosphere of hope where this violence can come to an end.

This play has been translated into more than 45 languages and performed in over 120 countries to promote the end of violence.

Nichi Lewis, senior and director of *The Vagina Monologues* for this year's production, is very familiar with the play since she started off acting in the show her sophomore year.

Her role as director is to talk with the actresses, make sure they are comfortable with their monologues and oversee the one week intensive rehearsals before the show.

"It's a really good bonding

experience because we are all women and are able to talk about issues that we've had and how to get more into the character of the monologue we are each performing," Lewis said.

This year's performance will contain more theatrical aspects like set and stage lights to enhance each of the monologues. "We auditioned about 40 girls and decided to cast 17," Lewis said.

The main point of these monologues is to entertain the audience, while also making people realize the dangers of violence to women.

While there is laughter during the show, there are also serious stories and mature content that help the audience understand what some women go through.

"I've seen quite a few people leave the show. It's hard for some people to get comfortable since we say [vagina] over 100 times, but eventually the audience gets used to it," Lewis said.

One of the taglines and important aspects of V-Day is "Breaking the Silence."

"A lot of women have been sexually assaulted and feel like they can't come out and tell anyone about it," said Lewis. "Seeing these monologues gives them confidence to tell someone, which liberates them."

While this show is mainly geared toward liberation for women, men are welcome to attend as well. According to Lewis, violence towards women is a serious problem that everyone in this world is affected by — men and women.

Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for faculty and staff and \$25 for the general public. To purchase tickets visit the Center for the Arts Box Office, call 703-993-2787 or visit tickets.com. Ticket proceeds are donated to local women's shelters and to places where genital mutilation still occurs.

For more information visit [www.sas.gmu.edu](http://www.sas.gmu.edu)

## Too Soon for 'Worst of 2009?'

### The Uninvited Employs Horrible Dialogue, Laughable Plot

**JOSHUA HYLTON**  
Staff Writer

"I love you . . . and I have a condom." Sometimes, the quality of a film can be measured based on the first line of dialogue. *The Uninvited* proves this to be true. After that horrendously awful opening line, the film devolves into a shockingly inept, cliché-ridden psycho thriller with zero originality and a nonsense twist pulled directly from *The Sixth Sense*. It's a little early to be throwing around "worst of the year" talk, but it wouldn't be surprising to see this one sporadically pop up when those lists begin to take shape in December.

It is no secret that January tends to be a "dump month" for movie studios, where they hope to gain a few extra bucks from movie-goers by releasing films they have no faith in. Teenybopper horror flicks seem to be all the rage nowadays. Last January, we were given the appalling *One Missed Call*. This year we have *The Unborn* and *The Uninvited*, two movies that are so similar I cannot

distinguish one from the other.

That would not be much of a problem if some scares or, heaven forbid, originality were thrown into these movies for good measure, but *The Uninvited* hits the same pratfalls its genre brothers and sisters do. This includes the excessive use of the "boo scare" tactic, where everything gets nice and quiet and the camera zooms into a dark area only to have something jump out, usually accompanied by a loud musical cue. While this certainly causes a few jumps, it is never scary, but startling.

What is even more surprising is that the film stars the skilled Elizabeth Banks, who has already established herself as a terrific comedic actress. After a brief stint taking minor roles in films like *Catch Me If You Can* and *The 40 Year Old Virgin*, she has hit gold starring in about a hundred movies in 2008 alone, including *Definitely, Maybe*, *Meet Dave*, *Role Models*, and *Zack and Miri Make a Porno*. Banks is undeniably talented, firmly planted in the minds of every



PHOTO BY KIMBERLEY FRENCH

**Emily Browning in the horror film *The Uninvited***

movie-going guy for being the rare combination of beautiful and hilarious, and one cannot blame her for wanting to branch out and take on more serious roles. However, starring in a derivative, PG-13 horror movie filled with teenage angst, horrible dialogue and laughable scenarios probably is not the way to go.

Despite that, her talent is still on display and she makes the most out of her ridiculous dialogue and thin character. Just as well, the other actors

seem to be up to the task, especially Arielle Kebbel, who actually manages to squeeze out a couple worthwhile jokes underneath all of the stupidity. Jokes cannot save the film from being another horror movie designed to appeal to the people who have never seen a horror movie.

When all is said and done, it boils down to this: *The Uninvited* is the film equivalent of diarrhea. It hurts like hell while it is happening and you are glad when it is over.

## February CD Releases

### Morrissey, Mos Def Debut CDs



**Tuesday, Feb. 3**  
Bad Plus: *For All I Care*  
Bow Wow: *New Jack City, Part 2*  
Melinda Doolittle: *Coming Back to You*  
The Fray: *The Fray*  
Lisa Hannigan: *Sea Sew*  
Wynonna Judd: *Sing-Chapter 1*  
organicArma: *Discordia*  
The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus: *Lonely Road*  
Shirock: *Everything Burns*  
Two Tongues: *Two Tongues*  
Von Bondies: *Love, Hate, and Then There's You*  
Young Dubliners: *Saints and Sinners*



**Monday, Feb. 9**  
Lilly Allen: *It's Not Me, It's You*  
Courtney Love: *Nobody's Daughter*  
Mos Def: *The Ecstacy*

**Tuesday, Feb. 10**  
Dan Auerbach: *Keep It Hid*  
Busta Rhymes: *B.O.M.B*  
Missy Elliot: *Block Party*  
Warren G: *The G-Files*  
India Arie: *Testimony: Vol. 2, Love & Politics*  
Ben Lee: *The Rebirth of Venus*  
Miranda Lee Richards: *Light of X*  
Red: *Innocence & Instinct*  
Barbara Trentalange: *Awakening, Level One*



**Monday, Feb. 16**  
Jacob Faurholt: *Are You In The Mood For Love?*  
Morrissey: *Years of Refusal*

**Tuesday, Feb. 17**  
The Applesseed Cast: *Sagarmatha*  
Architecture in Helsinki: *That Beep*  
Sutton Foster: *Wish*  
Halfway Thomas: *Beautifully Strange*  
Robyn Hitchcock: *Goodnight Oslo*  
Tommy Keene: *In The Late Bright*  
William Elliot Whitmore: *Animals In The Dark*



**Monday, Feb. 23**  
Metaphors: *London! Paris! New York! Rome!*

**Tuesday, Feb. 24**  
The Bran Flakes: *I Have Hands*  
JJ Cale: *Roll On*  
Green River Ordiance: *Out Of My Hands*  
Hatebreed: *For The Lions*  
Kinky: *Barracuda*  
K'Naan: *Troubador*  
Lamb of God: *Wrath*  
Nosound: *Lightdark*  
Jake Owen: *Easy Does It*  
Tom Rush: *What I Know*  
Steve Wilson: *Insurgentes*

## Mason Celebrates Healthy Relationships Week

**EMILY SHARRER**  
Style Editor

Sexual Assault Services, The Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education, University Life, Counseling and Psychological Services, and Intercollegiate Athletics are teaming up to bring Healthy Relationships Week to students with events from Monday, Feb. 9 to Thursday, Feb. 12.

**Love Yourself - Monday, Feb. 9**

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Johnson Center kiosks A and B, students will be treated to free massages. They will have the opportunity to decorate their own pillowcases as well as learn ways to decrease self-doubt, and increase self-confidence. Also, in the Career Services Training Room at Student Union Building I, a body image workshop, *One Body*, will be held from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

**Expect Respect - Tuesday, Feb. 10**

Couples are invited to come learn how to compromise, share responsibility, be honest, make joint decisions, and be encouraged to have safe, consensual sex through two events on Tuesday. At JC kiosks B and C, students are welcome to complimentary healthy hook-up kits, chocolate hearts, fortune cookies and friendship pins from 4-6 p.m. A self-esteem workshop will also be held in the Counseling and Psychological Services Group Room in SUB I from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

**Share Appreciations - Wednesday, Feb. 11**

Wednesday's focus will be on recognizing people that have positively impacted your life by writing appreciative messages on a banner at JC kiosks A and B from 4-6 p.m. The banner will eventually be put up in the SUB I lobby. Free and confidential HIV testing will also be available from 8-10 a.m. in JC Meeting Room C.

**Communicate Effectively - Thursday, Feb. 12**

At JC kiosks A and B from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., students can learn to fight fair, and to communicate effectively and healthfully by creating messages of love and appreciation for special people in each student's life.

From 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Harris Theatre, take a look at hooking up and how to communicate in relationships by learning how to play the dating game. *Can I Kiss You?* will take a look at the questions to ask before engaging in intimacy and take away the pressures or confusion associated with becoming intimate.

At each JC kiosk event, students can also enter a raffle to win prizes with which they can pamper themselves, as well as the ones they love. For more information, contact Sexual Assault Services at 703-993-9999 or visit their Web site, [www.sas.gmu.edu](http://www.sas.gmu.edu).





ANDY MINOR, STYLE COLUMNIST

# LIFE IN A. MINOR

## PERHAPS MY DORKIEST ARTICLE YET

Those of you who frequently play your Xbox 360 may have encountered a game entitled *Braid* this past August, due for its PC release in a matter of weeks. It was an old-fashioned side-scrolling puzzle game with time travel attributes which, once mastered, proved to be a truly unique gaming experience. I was overjoyed at this, because ever since games came into the 3D realm I've been a failure. My Sega Genesis was my pride and joy growing up, and I can still beat *Sonic 2* if I've got two hours to spare. But when video games became more lifelike I stayed in the dust. *Braid*, however, combines the more complicated puzzles of a modern game with the side scrolling fun of old (the references and homages to *Mario* are frequent).

One of the things that set *Braid* apart in my mind is the soundtrack, which I discovered after a little research to be quite unique from your typical video game set list. In fact, it sort of set me off thinking about the different ways video game music has evolved, the big names that have been involved, how one can practically make a career out of it today and how incredibly catchy it can be. *Braid*'s music isn't necessarily catchy, but its developers did set it apart by picking already composed and recorded music which they felt added the perfect audio touch to the game's feel.

This is pretty different from what I was used to from my childhood, where all games like *Mega Man* and *Sonic* had signature soundtracks. The resurgence of video game music from that era is popular again today mainly because the music brings back the fond memories of playing *Mario World* until your Super Nintendo overheated.

*Braid*'s music will naturally have this same affect on anyone who has played the game, but the fact that it is previously recorded music speaks to perhaps a newer trend in the video game industry. All of you readers who aren't video gamers might enjoy the *Braid* soundtrack, not because of its affiliations to the game, but because it's relaxing and calm, sort of a more active newage which engages the listener with stronger melodies and a less subordinate tone. Perhaps some of you have even heard the music before the game was released. And no, this isn't exactly the same as *Madden '08* playing back your favorite radio hits—this is music used to control moods, add character, and help illustrate the game's scene. I'm seeing this trend in a lot of indie movies recently as well; *Juno* did it last year with The Kinks and Kimya Dawson. Wes Anderson has been doing it in his films for a long time, sacrificing most of his budget for his debut *Bottle Rocket* to the

rights to a Rolling Stones song. But unlike *Braid*, films usually have a mix of popular songs and pieces written specifically for them. Cue John Williams and Danny Elfman when you need mood music and cue Nickelback when you need a sweet promo song for Spiderman to hang upside-down to.

Yet perhaps it is just *Braid*'s unique music, the fact that it was relatively unheard of unless you were really into the whole New Age scene, that is getting me so worked up. After all, who can forget *Rock n' Roll Racing*, bringing you all your favorite Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath hits in 16-bit midi format? Then imagine my surprise as I was listening to the great 1940s Soviet jazz stylings of Eddie Rosner when he broke into a chorus of the *Tetris* theme, based originally on a Russian folk tune. Music stealing seems as alive in the video game industry as it is anywhere else music is played. *Braid* may very well be no different, but the fact that I can't get this music off my playlist speaks, I think, to something more influential. I really haven't even played the game very much, since I don't have an Xbox, so I haven't been able to form those relationships I mentioned earlier. When I hear the music from *Braid*, then, I really don't remember myself playing *Braid*, I simply hear some really good music.

# The Obama Brand

## Has Love for 44th President Gone Too Far?

**PATRICK WALL**  
*Broadside Correspondent*

His image is on everything from buttons to wine bottles and even lip balm. Posters with his likeness are hanging in bedrooms and dorms across the country. No, he's not Zac Efron, he is Barack Obama, the president of the United States.

The story of Obama's remarkable journey has been well documented. The son of a Kenyan farmer and a white woman from Kansas, Obama rose to become senator, and now, president.

Obama's popularity, especially among young people, was evident from the start, even those who were skeptical in the beginning found something in his message. Although he did not vote in the primaries, junior music major Paul Cassens was impressed by the candidate.

"I was drawn to his charisma as a leader, his presence as a speaker and a politician, and also his idealism," said Cassens.

The message of Obama

came as a breath of fresh air to many voters. His opponent, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., was one of the oldest politicians to run for president. To many Americans, Obama symbolized the future, while McCain was a symbol of the old and largely unpopular way of doing things in Washington.

"I wasn't comfortable with the idea of McCain having a 1-in-3 chance of not making it out of office [alive]," said Cassens.

During the primary season and into the general election, Obama was a phenomenon. When visiting Berlin in July, he gave a speech in front of a crowd of nearly 250,000 people.

With his popularity so great, it was only natural that companies and individuals began creating merchandise to capitalize on the icon that Obama had become. Few could have predicted, however, how popular "brand Obama" would become.

"I think, to an extent, [he] was kind of like a fashion. It was the hip thing to do, to have your Obama gear," said Kat

Reach, a freshman administration of justice major. "I think it was a fresh message. Everyone's been down in the dirt with everything the last eight years, so people were more attracted to it."

For one Mason graduate, inauguration weekend was a chance to cash in on history. Hasan Haas Mahmood, created stylized, Obama-themed shirts for the event.

"It was more a business opportunity than me liking Obama," said Mahmood. "I did vote for him, but I knew we were going to have a few million people coming into town [for Inauguration]."

Mahmood and his friends spent three days on the National Mall selling the t-shirts he had designed. Between Friday and Sunday, Mahmood estimates that he sold around \$2,500 worth of shirts, making around \$700 in profit.

"On Sunday [Jan. 18] we sold everything we had," said Mahmood, "even the shirts we were wearing."

Mahmood is not alone. In

an article written for the Canadian Press, Lee-Anne Goodman estimates that Americans have spent over \$200 million on Obama-themed merchandise.

"Not only are they stocking up at various retailers in D.C. and beyond," Goodman writes, "They've also made Obama items top sellers on eBay."

In her article, "The Brand Called Obama," Fast Company's Ellen McGirt spoke with Keith Reinhard of DDB Worldwide Communications Group Inc., an internationally recognized advertising agency. "Barack Obama is three things you want in a brand: new, different and attractive," said Reinhard. "That's as good as it gets."

Obama's popularity has never been in question. After all, over 65 million Americans voted for him in the general election. The only thing more impressive than his improbable ride to the White House may be his staying power as a commercial icon.

# February Concerts

<b>Sonya Kitchell w/ John Shannon</b> Jammin' Java Wednesday, Feb. 4 8 p.m. \$10	11 a.m. doors \$15 <b>Ne-Yo</b> D.A.R. Constitution Hall Wednesday, Feb. 18 7:30 p.m. \$64-74	<b>Anarbor</b> Patriot Center Sunday, Feb. 22 6 p.m. doors \$16 <b>Mos Def</b> 9:30 Club Monday, Feb. 23 Early show: 6:30 p.m. doors Late Show: 9:30 p.m. doors \$35
<b>Secondhand Serenade w/ Rookie of the Year and White Tie Affair</b> Birchmere Thursday, Feb. 12 6 p.m. doors \$19.50	<b>B.B. King w/ Buddy Guy</b> D.A.R. Constitution Hall Friday, Feb. 20 8 p.m. \$65-70	<b>Tom Jones</b> 9:30 Club Wednesday, Feb. 25 7 p.m. doors \$55
<b>Rodney Atkins w/ The Lost Trailers</b> 9:30 Club Saturday, Feb. 14 7 p.m. doors \$35	<b>Drive-By Truckers w/ Bloodkin</b> 9:30 Club Friday, Feb. 20 and Saturday, Feb. 21 8 p.m. doors \$25	<b>Ben Kweller w/ The Watson Twins, The Jones Street Boys</b> 9:30 Club Thursday, Feb. 26 7 p.m. doors \$20
<b>"Next Big Thing" Featuring over 20 local alt. and punk acts</b> 9:30 Club Sunday, Feb. 15	<b>Cute is What We Aim For w/ Meg and Dia, Breathe Carolina, Every Avenue,</b>	

Have a passion for culture, music, arts, entertainment, or literature?

E-mail us at  
style@broadsideonline.com

Mason student Audrey Shaffer won a bookstore gift card

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- Audrey Shaffer”

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# Virginia Is for Lovers of Chocolate

## Annual Chocolate Lovers Festival Returns to the Delight of Local Taste Buds

SHERELL WILLIAMS  
*Managing Editor*

It's back: the annual Chocolate Lovers Festival will descend once again on the city of Fairfax for two days on Feb. 7-8 bringing with it the return of several popular events from years' past. Beginning Saturday, students and residents can purchase obscene amounts of chocolate, candy, and other cavity-creating goods at the annual Taste of Chocolate featuring goods from local area confectioners, chocolatiers, and pastry chefs.

Among the new events this year are a cake and sculpting demonstration by Norman R. Davis and Zane Beg of Food Network Challenge fame, a Q&A session with Davis and Warren Brown, host of Food Network's "Sugar Rush," a harp musical performance by Jamey Turner, and The Chocolate Mile, a one-mile run through Old Town Fairfax.

For \$1, festival goers will be able to bid on and judge donated cakes and other sweet items at the Chocolate Challenge and Silent Auction in the City Hall Atrium on both Saturday and Sunday. The displays and auction will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

If you've wondered if you have what it takes to be a lawyer, test your knowledge of the law by participating in the game "So You Think You're Smarter Than a Lawyer?" at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 in the Fairfax Court House. Admission to this event is free.

On Sunday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m., Dr. Thomas Hennessey, Jr., chief of staff for the Office of the President, will speak at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. His lecture, "Growing a Great University," will. New to the festival this year is an educational live animal show titled "Last Paradise on Earth: Our Rainforests." Hosted by Animal Ambassadors, an environmental education outreach organization, the show will feature a kinkajou, macaw, iguana, boa constrictor, agouti, and a millipede.

The presentation is free and will explore how vital rainforests are to the creation of medicine, oxygen, and products, including chocolate. Jonathan Austin, a magician, juggler, and comedian will also perform on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library.

Family friendly activities such as puppet shows, circus acrobatics and fingerpainting will take place throughout both days. A free shuttle service aptly named The Chocolate Express will

run between event locations from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 7 and from 11:45 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 8. For a full calendar of events, visit [www.chocolateloversfestival.net](http://www.chocolateloversfestival.net).

### Must-Attend Chocolate Lovers Festival Events

**Chocolate Lovers Pancake Breakfast**  
*Support the Kiwanis Cup of Fairfax and grab breakfast.*

Hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Fairfax  
Date: Saturday, Feb. 7  
Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Where: 4081 University Drive, Fire Station 3  
Cost: \$6

**Q&A with Warren Brown and Norman R. Davis**

*Love the Food Network? Warren Brown of "Sugar Rush" and Cake Love along with Food Network Challenge participant Norman R. Davis and Zane Beg from The Sweet Life will answer your questions.*

Date: Saturday, Feb. 7

Time: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
Where: City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong Street  
Cost: Free

**Cake Decorating Demonstration**  
*Norman R. Davis and Zane Beg from The Sweet Life in Annandale, Va will perform a cake decorating and sculpting demonstration.*

Date: Saturday, Feb. 7  
Time: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Where: City Hall Atrium, 10455 Armstrong Street  
Cost: \$1

**Taste of Chocolate**  
*Shop all things chocolate from cakes to candies and brownies to ice cream from area chocolatiers and confectioners.*  
Date: Saturday, Feb. 7 and Sunday, Feb. 8  
Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 7, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 8  
Where: Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive  
Cost: Admission is free, pogs needed to buy treats are \$1

# Obama Fights for TVs

## Signs Bill to Stop Analog Delay

ASSOCIATED PRESS

With monologues such as "Because He Liked to Look At It," "My Angry Vagina," and "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could," The Vagina Monologues cannot be overlooked this year.

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# Bad Dorm Mate? Dealing with Your Awful Roommate

Courtney Erland  
Sherell Williams  
Christian Yingling  
*Broadside*

*Does your roommate eat your food, wake you up at 3 a.m. or have sex in your shower? Use these tips next time you need to deal with the roommate from hell.*

1. Pull out your roommate contract. Did you not do one? Get one from Housing...now.
2. Is your roommate sexin' it up in the shower? Talk about it, there needs to be (a) a time limit, (b) a signal and (c) some bleach on hand from some after-action cleanup.
3. When you approach your roommate, have a list of discussion topics so you don't forget anything.
4. Remember, violence is not the answer, do not shank your "d-bag" dorm mate.

# Taken Captures Weekend Box Office

GREG RISLING  
*Associated Press Writer*

Liam Neeson's CIA thriller "Taken" bumped off "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" at the weekend box office, raking in \$24.6 million and helping fuel the first \$1 billion January in Hollywood history.

North American box office revenues were up nearly 20 percent in January over the same period last year, reaching a record \$1.03 billion for the month. Attendance was up 16 percent over last year, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media by Numbers.

"This is exactly how you want to start a year," Dergarabedian said Sunday. "I think people feel movies are a good value for their dollar. Going to a movie is a habit people aren't willing to break."

"Taken" follows Neeson as a former CIA operative trying to track down a group of kidnappers who want to sell his daughter into the sex slave trade.

"We are thrilled. It's an all-audience movie," said 20th Century Fox distribution executive Bert Livingston. "When people come out they are going to talk about it. I think it's going to play for a long time."

"Paul Blart: Mall Cop," the Kevin James comedy about a clumsy security guard, had been No. 1 the previous two weeks. Although it dropped to second place, it earned \$14 million to boost its three-week total to more than \$83 million.

Also opening this weekend was "The Uninvited," a remake of the 2003 South Korean thriller that pits two sisters against their potentially evil stepmother. It earned \$10.5 million for third place.

In fourth was "Hotel for Dogs" with \$8.7 million, followed by "Gran Torino" with \$8.6 million.

"Gran Torino," directed by and starring Clint

Eastwood as a bigot who becomes a reluctant neighborhood hero, has now earned more than \$110 million, making it Eastwood's highest grossing film.

It surpassed "In the Line of Fire," which starred Eastwood and made \$102 million, and "Unforgiven," directed and starring Eastwood, which earned \$101 million. "Unforgiven" won Oscars in 1992 for best picture and best director.

"Slumdog Millionaire," which continues to collect honors this awards season, was sixth with \$7.7 million, bringing its total to more than \$67 million in 12 weeks, as it moves into wider release across the U.S.

Its director, Danny Boyle, won the top honor Saturday night from the Directors Guild of America.

The awards are "adding to the prestige of the film in the marketplace and making it more important for the public to see," said Richard Shamban, vice president of theatrical distribution for the film's distributor, Fox Searchlight.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.



PHOTO BY AMBERLEY FRENCH

Anna (Emily Browning, left) and Alex (Arielle Kebbel, right) are suspicious of their father's new fiancée in the haunting suspense thriller *The Uninvited*

1. "Taken," \$24.6 million.
2. "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," \$14 million.
3. "The Uninvited," \$10.5 million.
4. "Hotel for Dogs," \$8.7 million.
5. "Gran Torino," \$8.6 million.
6. "Slumdog Millionaire," \$7.7 million.
7. "Underworld: Rise of the Lycans," \$7.2 million.
8. "New in Town," \$6.7 million.
9. "My Bloody Valentine 3-D," \$4.3 million.
10. "Inkheart," \$3.7 million.

# Phelps Acknowledges Photo Using Pot Pipe

PAUL NEWBERRY  
*AP National Writer*

Olympic great Michael Phelps acknowledged "regrettable" behavior and "bad judgment" after a photo in a British newspaper Sunday showed him inhaling from a marijuana pipe.

In a statement to The Associated Press, the swimmer who won a record eight gold medals at the Beijing Games did not dispute the authenticity of the exclusive picture published Sunday by the tabloid News of the World.

"I engaged in behavior which was regrettable and demonstrated bad judgment," Phelps said in the statement released by one of his agents. "I'm 23 years old and despite the successes I've had in the pool, I acted in a youthful and inappropriate way, not in a manner people have come to expect from me. For this, I am sorry. I promise my fans and the public it will not happen again."

News of the World said the picture was taken during a November house party while Phelps was visiting the University of South Carolina. During that trip, he attended one of the school's football games and received a big ovation when he was introduced to the crowd.

While the newspaper did not specifically allege that Phelps was smoking pot, it did say the pipe is generally used for that purpose and anonymously quoted a partygoer who said the Olympic champion was "out of control from the moment he got there."

The U.S. Olympic Committee said it was "disappointed in the behavior

recently exhibited by Michael Phelps," who was selected the group's sportsman of the year. He also was honored as AP male athlete of the year, and his feat in Beijing — breaking Mark Spitz's 36-year-old record for most gold medals in an Olympics — was chosen as the top story of 2008.

"Michael is a role model, and he is well aware of the responsibilities and accountability that come with setting a positive example for others, particularly young people," the USOC said in a statement. "In this instance, regrettably, he failed to fulfill those responsibilities."

The party occurred nearly three months after the Olympics while Phelps was taking a long break from training, and this apparently would have no impact on the eight golds he won at Beijing. He has never tested positive for banned substances and even agreed to extra testing before the games.

Marijuana is viewed differently from performance-enhancing drugs, according to David Howman, executive director of the World Anti-Doping Agency. An athlete is subject to WADA sanctions only for a positive test that occurs during competition periods.

"We don't have any jurisdiction," Howman said. "It's not banned out of competition. It's only if you test positive in competition."

Phelps returned to the pool a couple of weeks ago to begin preparations for this summer's world championships in Rome. He plans to take part in his first post-Olympics meet in early March, a Grand Prix event in Austin, Texas.

Phelps was in Tampa, Fla., during Super Bowl week to make promotional appearances on behalf of a sponsor. But he left the city before Sunday's game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals, abandoning his original plan to be at Raymond James Stadium.

This isn't the first embarrassing episode for Phelps after an Olympic triumph. In 2004, a few months removed from winning six gold and two bronze medals in Athens, the swimmer was arrested on a drunken driving charge at age 19. He pleaded guilty and apologized for the mistake.

In his book "No Limits: The Will to Succeed," Phelps recounted how his first phone call was to his agent, and not his mother or coach Bob Bowman, because he knew they would yell at him.

Later, he called Bowman, who was supportive but told him, "Michael, just because you want to blow off some steam doesn't mean you can be an idiot."

Debbie Phelps, his mother, cried at the news.

"That hurt worse, maybe, than anything," Phelps wrote. "I had never seen my mother that upset."

Bowman did not immediately respond to phone and e-mail messages Sunday.

Last year, News of the World posted video on its Web site showing Max Mosley, the president of motor racing's governing body, engaging in sex acts with five prostitutes. The video was filmed by one of the women, and Mosley admitted to being a part of the scenario but sued

for breach of privacy and was awarded \$120,000 in damages. Another news break involved Prince Harry in 2002, smoking marijuana and drinking before the legal age of 18.

Olympic teammate Dara Torres said Phelps has become such a prominent figure that everything he does is news.

However, she said: "This in no way, shape or form diminishes anything he's done."

"It's sort of a double-edged sword," Torres told the AP on Sunday. "When you're recognizable, you're looked up to as a role model. He is recognizable and everything you do gets looked at and picked apart. I guess that's the price of winning 14 Olympic medals."

Jason Lezak, whose remarkable anchor leg of the 400-meter freestyle relay helped Phelps stay on course to break Spitz's record, said he was "saddened" to hear of the report.

"While I don't condone his conduct, I am a teammate and fan," Lezak said in a text message to the AP. "Unlike many fair-weather people, I am sticking by him. If my wife and I can help him in any way, we will. I believe he will grow from this and be better person, role model and teammate."

The USOC noted that Phelps acknowledged his mistake and apologized.

"We are confident that, going forward, Michael will consistently set the type of example we all expect from a great Olympic champion," the governing body said.

# Scientology Promoted in Bart Simpson's Voice

ASSOCIATED PRESS

With monologues such as "Because He Liked to Look At It," "My Angry Vagina," and "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could," The Vagina Monologues cannot be overlooked this year.

To mark the movement known as V-day, Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues will be performed on Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 7 at 2 and 8 p.m in Harris Theatre.

At the afternoon showing, there will be a talk directly after the show in which the audience can interact with the actresses. The audience is welcome to ask questions about the process, the actresses' preparation, and their thoughts about the monologues.

Ensler wrote The Vagina Monologues as a way to broadcast the truths about violence against women and girls, with a tagline of "Until the Violence Stops."

She started the process by interviewing over 200 women and girls about their experiences