

style

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The number of number one hits by English pop-rock quartet, The Beatles.

Mason's Capoeira Club Performs for Black Heritage Month

KATIE MILLER
Broadside Correspondent

With legs swinging over heads, slow motioned headstands and roundhouse kicks, the George Mason University Capoeira Club performance for Black Heritage Month was nothing short of striking. The event was held in the Johnson Center Atrium last Thursday night.

Black Heritage Month liaison for the group Andrias White said that the whole experience was very exciting.

According to White, the dance form is very unique and has a lot of different dancing roots, and he "hopes people got that from the event."

While two performers dance together, the rest of the group remains in a Hada, or circle, clapping and singing to the music. Although the Hada is usually closed to keep energy within the circle, it remained open to keep the audience engaged.

The group encouraged the audience to clap along while the dancers danced.

Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian fusion dance that took root from the traditions of imported Angolan slaves into Brazil during the late 1800s. Although the dance has violent periods, it's evolved into a fun form of exercise and self-



Capoeira is a martial art that uses music, poetry and Afro-Brazilian ritual movements.

defense.

"The goal is to flow with each other," said Romina Boccia, club president.

She also said that the goal is to never hit shins; injuries

usually only occur when dancers have different levels of expertise.

During one of the more intense performances, one member took a swift kick to the

shins and immediately exited the floor.

The performers were a combination of the Mason Capoeira Club and the Alexandria-based Studio Ondas,

which supervises the Mason Capoeira chapter.

"It was good to see that people who want to do stuff like this get together at Mason to do it," said Alexandra Savage, a

We're Not *That Into It* *New Love Movie Fails to Cause Sparks*



Ben Affleck stars as Neil and Jennifer Aniston stars as Beth in New Line Cinema's romantic comedy *He's Just Not That Into You*, a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

ROSS BONAIME
Staff Writer

He's Just Not That Into You shares more than a few similarities with the 2003 romantic comedy *Love, Actually*: an ensemble cast comprised of 20- to 30-somethings interacting and dealing with their problems involving love and the different ways to deal with various aspects of love. The main difference in *Love, Actually* is that it dealt with a whimsical view of the beginnings of love. *He's Just Not That Into You* deals with more realistic views of relationships, where people sit at home, staring at the phone, pondering "what could have been" and why their lives are not more like the lives of people in movies like *Love, Actually*.

This film, based on the self-help book of the same name primarily follows co-workers Beth, Gigi and Janine. Beth (Jennifer Aniston) wants to get married having spent seven years with anti-marriage boyfriend Neil (Ben Affleck). Janine (Jennifer Connelly) is more interested in decorating her new home than in her husband Ben (Bradley Cooper, *Wedding Crashers*, *Alias*). Ben meets Anna (Scarlett Johansson), an aspiring musician, who he promises to try to help with her career. But really, he is only interested in her physically. Gigi (Ginnifer Goodwin) is a neurotic mess who

clings to a form of technology with which her potential beaux can reach her. After a date with Conor (Kevin Connolly), who is preoccupied with Anna, Gigi attempts to find him when he does not call back for a second date. While doing this, Conor's best friend Alex (Justin Long) becomes a sort of love doctor to her and explains what she has done wrong is previous relationships and how to remedy this.

Since the three main protagonists are female, the film has a predominantly female perspective, making the men look like the bad guys in almost every situation. This makes for a very biased look at these relationship problems.

What makes the cast work is that almost everyone involved is well versed in both comedy and drama, but that does not make the film any less believable. Most characters' stories wrap up in a nice little package, which is disappointing due to the fresh plot points that the film delivers. Not only that, but with so many characters, some get lost in the crowd. For example, Mary (Drew Barrymore) sporadically moves in and out of the story, her only purpose being to proclaim the problems with relationships in a digital age. Many characters do not seem as fleshed out as they could have been if there were fewer characters.

Director Ken Kwapis is a wiz when it comes to TV

directing, with credits from such great shows as *The Office*, *ER* and *Freaks and Geeks*, yet his films border between humor and sappiness as witnessed in *License to Wed* and *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*. It is a shame that the humor from his TV shows do not translate to this film, but his mockumentary experience with *The Office* pays off in some of the funniest sequences where different people are interviewed based on various relationship topics. Kwapis makes the city of Baltimore look gorgeous and the quirky soundtrack makes this a nice change from the New York City/KT Tunstall-packed rom-coms of late.

But what the film does give are great performances that will introduce audiences to fantastic actors who are not very well known like Ginnifer Goodwin, who balances being needy and adorable. As the film's narrator, we see the action through her eyes more than anyone else's. Sharing the screen with A-list talent like Aniston and Affleck, Goodwin really holds her own. Cooper also shines as perfectly deceptive, yet kind of likable.

Considering the droll, predictable rom-coms that barrage the early half of the year, *He's Just Not That Into You* brings some new blood into the genre. But unfortunately it falls victim to many of the clichés and stereotypes of similar films makes the second half of this film falter.

Dance-a-Thon Raises Money for March of Dimes

KRISTEN WHITE
Staff Writer

Hours of dancing to promote awareness and raise money for the March of Dimes is exactly what Alpha Phi Omega and other members of the George Mason University community have in mind for the First Annual Dance-A-Thon.

To raise more money to hold the Dance-a-Thon, Alpha Phi Omega held a *Sounds of Hope* concert that featured Naked Steve, Justin and Nora, Zach Lewis and The Greater Good featuring Doc Nix.

"It was an amazing event that raised money and

awareness for the cause," said junior chairman Kate Collins.

The actual Dance-A-Thon event will be held on Friday, Feb. 13 in Dewberry Hall from 5 p.m. to midnight. Registering as a dancer involves raising a minimum of \$50. The dancers will dance during these hours and have breaks involving Twister and a Wii competition. There will also be a guest performance by Urbanknowlogy 101.

The March of Dimes' mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

"Dance-a-Thon will create

an exciting opportunity for students, staff, alumni and local residents to come together as a community," said Collins. Due to the success of other colleges that have had similar, effective fundraising events, the expectations for the Dance-A-Thon are very high.

"We want people to come out and have a good time while supporting a great cause and to help build a new organization on campus," said sophomore Meredith Harlow.

Visit www.danceathongmuc.com for more information about this event.

50 Years Too Late *Mousetrap Doesn't Provide Same Thrills*

KYLE RIDLEY
Staff Writer

Oftentimes only a fine line separates a classic production from a dated one. Unfortunately, for Fauquier Community Theatre's current rendition of Agatha Christie's murder mystery *The Mousetrap*, that line is crossed.

The modest production, playing at the Theatre at Vint Hill through Feb. 15, is a prime example of how the high-tech suspense we've grown used to on a movie screen can numb the excitement of mystery on a theatre stage.

With the radio reporting an area woman having been strangled to death, a group of suspicious characters conveniently get snowed-in at a bed and breakfast just outside of London. When one of the houseguests is similarly slain just before intermission, the race is on to find the killer before another victim is claimed. Everyone's got a secret and everyone's a suspect. You get the gist.

We've seen it rehashed for decades with booming special effects and intense soundtracks. It's tough competition for some playhouses, and sadly FCT has fallen prey to mainstream media's dominant reign.

Somewhere along the way, *The Mousetrap* made the shift from innovative to same ol' same ol'.

That's not to take away from the talented eight-player cast or devoted crew. The actors are all pretty flawless in their portrayals; it's nearly impossible to distinguish between the real and fake British accents.

Most notable is Richard Isaac's take on flamboyant hotel guest Christopher Wren. His energized portrayal offers needed comic relief and commands attention. Whether flailing his lean, lanky body across the stage or sitting silently on the sidelines, all eyes are on him.

Kathryn Kent-Hutchins also gives a slick performance as Miss Casewell, a confident businesswoman with a dark past. Playing a no-nonsense professional with a pressed blue pantsuit to match, Hutchins perfectly embodies the role while slyly taking drags of her cigarette.

Similar to its cast, FCT's set is also well-crafted. The simple living room format is enhanced with warm toned furniture and an elegant spiral staircase. Design props are due to whoever concocted the stormy effects of rain outside the center stage window.

Despite its mix of admirable elements, *The Mousetrap*'s overall entertainment value takes a heavy blow. By the time all of the pieces are connected at the two-and-a-half hour mark, you've grown weary of the puzzle.

Here's a case where longevity does not always equal triumph. *The Mousetrap* holds the record for being the longest running play in history, opening in 1952 and showing in London ever since.

It may have been a celebration of originality back in its heyday, but time has extinguished that high flame to a flickering spark. The burning question is no longer an anxious "Whodunit?" but instead, a tired "Who cares?"

WANT TO GO?

What's up: Fauquier Community Theatre presents *The Mousetrap*
When: Feb. 6-8, 13-15 (Fridays & Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m.)

Where: The Fauquier Community Theatre at Vint Hill 4225 Aiken Dr., Warrenton, VA 20187

Tickets: \$14 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors at www.fctstage.org or (540) 349-8760

Meet Mr. and Ms. Mason

Learn More about This Year's Homecoming Pageant Contestants

MARIA CIANFICHI
Staff Writer

If you have George Mason University spirit, enjoy eating cake, and getting free t-shirts, then come check out the Homecoming Kickoff in the Johnson Center Atrium from 12-1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9. The Homecoming Kickoff, hosted by WGMU, marks the start of Homecoming week here at Mason and includes a pep rally, the unveiling of the banners, as well as lots of free giveaways.

This will also be your chance to meet the contestants of the Homecoming Pageant. The Homecoming Pageant, where contestants will be competing for the title of Mr. and Ms. Mason, will start at 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 9 in Dewberry Hall. The contestants will be judged in three different categories. The first is formal wear and question and answer. The second category is special talents. The final category consists of Mason trivia and how well the contestants know their school.

Be sure to be on time and stay for the whole event to vote on your favorite contestant. This is sure to be a Mason event you do not want to miss.

RICKY MALKEBRANCHE
Major: Information Technology

Year: Junior
How were you chosen?: That's a good question. I figure who ever was making the decision clearly knew that I would be a fantastic contestant.

Why should you win?: Because I'm beautiful.

Organizations: Catholic Campus Ministry, Mason Ambassadors, Resident Advisor

Favorite movie: *Hitch* and *Mulan*.

Favorite concert: Can't say I've ever been to a concert but I would like to see Ne-Yo or Will Smith—he's my boy!

Why do you like Mason?: I love the people I have met here.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?: Haiti, so I could see where my parents grew up.

Which cartoon character would you be?: Donatello from the Ninja turtles. Intelligent, funny, but still could kick some butt.

CRAGIN WINKLER
Major: Physical Education and Health and a minor in Dance

Year: Junior
How were you chosen?: I was chosen by my sisters in Chi Omega.

Why should you win?: I feel like I am a good representative of George Mason and what I feel it stands for. I

have pride in Mason to the point where my towels are green and gold.

Organizations?: Chi Omega and the Masonettes dance team.

Favorite movie?: It's a toss up: *The Little Rascals* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

Favorite concert?: My Favorite concert was The Leg Warmers, an '80s cover band.

What do you like most about Mason?: I love the campus. I think it is so unique that we live in a city yet parts of campus still have that country feel. My favorite place on campus is right outside SUB I looking out at the Quad where the benches are because it ties the beauty and diversity that this university represents.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?: If I could travel anywhere I would travel through time and become a Beatles groupie!

What cartoon character would you be?: Patti Mayonnaise because I love Doug and I love a man that can write me a song.

ANTHONY DICARLO
Major: 1st: Government & International Politics 2nd: Conflict Analysis & Resolution Concentration: International Conflict

Year: Junior
How were you chosen?: I was chosen to participate because a couple of my friends said, what the heck do you have to lose by trying? I figured, it would give me something to do for a week besides the same old boring routine of just attending classes and meetings.

Why should you win?: I think I should win the pageant because from the day I set foot on campus, I have bled nothing but green and gold. Through the different organizations that I am a part of, I have tried to make Mason a better place for students, and I have tried to just enjoy my college experience. I believe in my school, and I would do whatever it takes to make sure that Mason is always well represented.

Organizations?: Chi Psi Fraternity, Student Government, Mason Ambassadors, College Republicans

Favorite movie?: *Rocky II*

Favorite concert?: Rick Astley ("Never Gonna Give You Up")

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?: Italy

What cartoon character would I be?: Cartman.

MARIAM AL-KONSHAW
Major: Government & International Politics

Year: Sophomore
How were you chosen?: I was chosen to be a participant in the pageant because I applied and Program Board accepted my application.

Why should you win?: I believe that I should become Ms. Mason because I would enjoy representing the university and would do a respectable job as its representative.

Organizations?: Kurdistan Student Organization and I try to play intramural sports once in a while—unfortunately, I'm not that good.
Favorite movie?: *Rush Hour*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and *Forrest Gump*.

Favorite concert?: Ben Harper

What do you like most about Mason?: My favorite thing about Mason is the diversity and opportunity. I love International Week and seeing the spirit and pride that every student can be a part of whether by learning, dancing, or eating!

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?: Switzerland, Russia, Morocco, or Italy.

What cartoon character would you be?: Belle from *Beauty and the Beast*.

RYAN ALLEN, running as drag queen, REANN BALLSLEE

Major: Communication, with a concentration in PR

Year: Senior

How were you chosen?: I chose to participate because it's my last year at Mason and I wanted to do something my friends and I had always talked about.

Why should you win?: I don't really want to win. I just want to have a good time. And get more points than at least one real girl.

Organizations: I'm sponsored by GMU's Pride Alliance, but I'm also a member of GMU Players.

Favorite movie?: *To Wong Foo Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar*

Favorite concert?: Madonna's Re-Invention Tour, but I'm looking forward to Britney's Circus Tour in March.

What do you like most about Mason?: My favorite part about Mason is that everyone's pretty fabulous.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?: If I could travel anywhere it'd be to Tokyo.

What cartoon character would I be?: I think I'd be Minnie Mouse, cause she's a classic beauty.

ANDY MINOR, STYLE COLUMNIST



LIFE IN A. MINOR

AFTER THE BOWL, THE BOSS SHOULD HANG UP HIS BOOTS

You have to chuckle at the Super Bowl's halftime show picks since “Nipplegate” way back in 2004. It seems that until 2004, no nipples had ever been seen, and the shockwave of such a lewd sight sent amoral ripples through our staunchly moral society. I would hate to see what would have happened if that nipple had appeared any earlier—we might not have been able to handle it.

Since the nipple, however, we have been greeted with a string of the oldest, most wrinkly men the rock n' roll world has to offer. This of course excludes Prince, who doesn't age, doesn't lose sex appeal, and can control the weather, i.e. making it rain during “Purple Rain.” So when I saw Bruce Springsteen on stage last Sunday night I knew the trend was continuing; there would be no nipples in that show, at least hopefully not.

But it was Springsteen's sound that kept me from changing the channel back to the *Puppy Bowl* on Animal Planet. I wanted to hear how he and his E-Street cronies sounded because, despite their old age, the Boss has a knack for keeping his sound as fresh as when he was playing in Asbury Park, N.J. every weekend. This was the mindset I had when I was a lowly junior in high school, and I was offered a floor seat to see Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band play at nearby FedExField in Maryland. I had a violent cold throughout the whole affair, but it was still an incredible experience. They played a two-hour set with a one hour encore. All the hits were

covered: “Born to Run,” “Rosalita (Come Out Tonight),” “Thunder Road.” I got to hear, in person, the howling banshee-tone projected from Springsteen's pipes during “Jungleland.” For that one night I was a dirty teenager driving my 1970 Plymouth Duster up and down the Jersey Turnpike, making promises to myself about how I would get out of my hometown with my girl by my side and really make a difference in the world. All I needed was my guitar and gas at 65 cents a gallon. I spent the whole Metro ride home from the show in a feverish haze, my nose clogged, my throat sore, my body kept alive by the ringing of true rock n' roll royalty in my ears. I also got to see Max Weinberg, which was really cool.

Springsteen's Super Bowl performance, however, was a little lackluster and boring. Perhaps it was mere contrast to those vibrant memories I have from my not-so-distant youth, but the music just didn't sound the same. When I saw the Boss a mere five years ago, he still sounded young, as did the band, which in turn made the fans feel young. But the Super Bowl show featured a version of “Born to Run,” the title track from the Boss' biggest album, at a slower, more relaxed tempo that laid back in the beat like an old man lays back on his orthopedic back pillow. The song is namely about running, specifically convincing a woman to run somewhere with you. You don't want to lay back into it—that's about as convincing as the guy who sells the

ShamWow on TV. If anything, the music in that song should mimic the lyrics: driving forward with the force of an eight cylinder gas-sucking muscle car.

That performance sort of put the final nail in the coffin as far as the Boss is concerned. In recent years I have turned down opportunities to see him play because I know he is no longer focused on what he once was. In the business we call this a period of “Bad Bruce.” Note the stint in the '80s when Springsteen separated from the E-Street Band; thus began the first era of Bad Bruce. When I saw Springsteen in high school, we had temporarily left a Bad Bruce era, which was not signaled by his album *The Rising*; it was a little bland. It was his tour that brought back his old sound, and this is why I was so impressed and why I cherish those memories so much. But when the tour ended, we were greeted with more Bad Bruce, as he released *Devils and Dust* and *We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions*. Both of these albums were pretty much solo recordings, and none of the songs on either of these came close to exciting me like a single track on *The Wild, the Innocent and the E-Street Shuffle* or *Born to Run* or *Darkness on the Edge of Town*. Perhaps I'm just a little too old school, but when aspects of the Bad Bruce eras begin to change things from the Good Bruce eras, like what happened with “Born to Run” at the Super Bowl, I'm on the side of keeping the Bad from the Good.

UNIVERSITY LIFE

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GMU Players Take Three

GMU Players is putting on their third studio production of the season, *Hay Fever*, in the Black Box Theatre on the first floor of the Performing Arts Building. Written by Noel Coward and directed by Andrew Hawkins, the play is set in Cookham, England in a countryside house. Each

member of an eccentric Bohemian family invites a guest down for the weekend, resulting in the comedic torture of each guest with melodramatic theatrics. Performances will be at 8 p.m. Feb. 11-14 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 14 and 15. The performance on Feb. 11 is a free preview, but tickets for the

other performances start at \$3 with a George Mason University ID and \$6 for general admission. There are a limited amount of free student tickets available, so hurry to the Concert Hall Box Office to get yours!

—Michelle Renaud,
Broadside Correspondent

A Plugged in Society Can't Disconnect

Cell Phones Continue to Become More Technologically Advanced



More people are moving away from using pay phones, and are now using cell phones.

JARED TRICE
Staff Writer

A capitalistic society is nothing without its consumers. American consumerism fuels the fire of domestic and international economies by constantly demanding newer, thinner, faster, sleeker, smaller products. With this demand, it comes as no surprise that technological advances are never far behind. It is clear the mobile phone industry sets the standard for rapid supply-and-demand response.

It is almost a conservative assumption that this generation of college students either received, or know someone who received, a mobile phone before they could technically be labeled a teenager. Sure, these would have been the long, brightly-colored, antenna-sporting phones that had a screen only large enough to see that your mother was calling, but still, you were the envy of your peers, and, although you may not have realized it, you alerted Nokia of the enormous, untapped potential in this developing market.

In 2008, there were an estimated 3.3 billion mobile phone subscriptions worldwide. CTIA The Wireless Association estimates that the U.S. alone holds 271,641,421 mobile phone subscriptions. The number is impressive considering the

estimated population of the U.S. is approximately 305,000,000, allocating 89 mobile phones per 100 people. More impressive still is that the U.S. is dwarfed by 28 other countries boasting a higher ratio of mobile phones. Topping the list is Taiwan with 106 phones per 100 Taiwanese.

Since the late '90s, mobile phones have undergone rapid evolution. The first "brick" phones were thinned down, and as technology advanced, those thin phones became tiny. At some point in the early millennium, the color screen was introduced and a wave of new potential broke out. The color screen allowed phone makers to conjure endless possibilities for their products, and for the first time in a long time, technology had to catch up. According to their website, Research In Motion released the Blackberry in 1999. The Blackberry, and other smartphones, introduced consumers to this waiting technological potential: Smartphone users could now check and send emails, make calls, send texts, browse the web and manage a schedule all on one handheld device.

The introduction of such a capable device instantly transformed the world in which we live. With this smartphone, as we now refer to these devices, the tradition of the nine-to-five job became antiquated.

Employers wanted an ambitious and driven staff, a staff that would not balk at the idea of answering emails on the morning commute and would never be too out of touch on their lunch break. A vacation destination seemed to be redefined as a relaxing work environment for these ambitious employees. Slowly, inevitably and in the name of productivity, the florescent lights of the office were encroaching on our personal lives.

A new philosophy had been imbedded into the minds of Americans. The smartphone is now the must-have device. Nightfall over North America no longer meant slumber, certainly there is light somewhere—Tokyo, Singapore, Moscow—and with your smartphone in hand, you were connected.

Empires were created from this new, ever-connected mindset. As MySpace and Facebook swept through campuses throughout the world, mobile phone producers saw even more untapped potential in the addiction to log on. In June 2007, marketing superpower Apple introduced the iPhone.

Combining a phone, an iPod, email and internet all into one device was genius. The device instantly appealed to the crowd that may have considered a smartphone a bit unnecessary. When Apple reduced the iPhone's price in 2008, it became

almost as pervasive as the iPod among the Millennials, the named coined for Generation Y.

Professors at George Mason University have varying mobile-phone rules. Students of Professor Ellen Todd, a loyal Mac user, and Professor Jessica Mathews, an iPhone owner, are certainly familiar with the professors' humorous yet unwavering approach to the absolute dismissal of mobile phones during class time. Still, in every semester and in every class, regardless of a professor's personal regulations, a phone will ring. Silence will fall and students' heads will begin to turn, and one terrified student will silence the phone and wait for the professor's reaction.

With the development of these handheld computers, the communication platform of humans has evolved—devolved some may say—into a fabric of virtual social networks and text communication. Some may predict that we are forming into the society as witnessed in E.M. Forster's *The Machine Stops*, a society where tangible human contact had long gone the way of the Dodo. Nevertheless, smartphone users cannot deny the convenience, efficiency and productivity that the devices offer, even if that capability turns red lights into an opportunity to check your email.

The Fray Sticks to The Same Routine

Band's Sophomore Ablum is Nothing New

DYLAN HARES
Staff Writer

Alternative pop-rock is a tight group that is easily identifiable. Coldplay, Keane, Augustana, and many other piano-driven, minor-key, mid-tempo groups fall neatly here and are easy to pick out of the modern rock scene which includes punk, alternative and heavy metal. The Fray has been one of my favorite alternative pop-rock bands for a long time now because of their emotionally charged lyrics and catchy piano riffs.

Their debut studio album *How to Save a Life* was on the border of iconic, as college-aged kids identified with their distinguishable singles. Personally, I thought *How to Save a Life* was very well-crafted, well-thought out and a great addition to the collection of anyone who finds themselves through this genre.

The Fray's self-titled sophomore album, *The Fray*, doesn't really have the same impact. The main problem isn't that lead singer Isaac Slade's lyrics aren't good or that the piano isn't minor enough, it's that The Fray doesn't tread any new ground.

With Blender Magazine and Rolling Stone magazine giving The Fray subpar scores, I had hoped that I could stand in defense of one of my favorite bands. Sufficed to say, *The Fray* is very average and much of the same. A lot of the songs could easily fit on *How to Save a Life* and this album just seems more like an expansion of it.

The opening track, "Syndicate," showed some positive qualities of the band's previous work, yet pointed the



four-member ensemble in the artistic direction necessary for their follow-up album. It has much of Slade's writing style; using ambiguous, but relative analogies for what he is trying to say and the piano riffs are simple and effective.

The song is moody and keeps moving the whole time, but not much has changed. Hopefully, Slade croons, "All that we know for sure is all that we're fighting for."

I did enjoy track two, "Absolute," because there seemed to be a lot of tempo experimentation and flying

vocals over the chorus. The song also showcased the increased emphasis on guitar on this album, and it was used quite effectively. Track three is the first single off the album, "You Found Me." It is a good single and a catchy ballad, but a lot less piano-driven than "How to Save a Life" or "Over My Head," two of their singles off of the first album.

The song seems to be a conversation with God and the role he plays in someone's life, highlighting Slade's talent for writing personal lyrics. The song sounds like the band is tapping Augustana's "Boston."

Track five, "Never Say Never" is almost identical—save for the lyrics—to two or three songs on *How to Save a Life* and doesn't really make me think this is the follow-up album we've been waiting for.

Track eight, "Ungodly Hour," is extraordinarily intimate and a good niche that the Fray should settle into. Unfortunately, the album ends with an average track that doesn't leave me feeling good.

All in all *The Fray* by The Fray is a very average album and is not at all spectacular. Perhaps they set the bar too high for themselves, but they definitely could have done a lot better.

M.I.A. Says Grammys Could Be Labor Intensive

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) M.I.A.'s planned performance at the Grammys might be more labor intensive than most.

The pregnant rapper is nominated for two Grammys, including record of the year for her hit "Paper Planes." She could give birth to her first child at any moment. Yet she has agreed to perform during the Grammy telecast, to be aired live on CBS on Sunday.

M.I.A. said she'd been asked to perform with Jay-Z, T.I., Kanye West and Lil Wayne on the Grammy-nominated "Swagga Like Us," which is based on a sample of "Paper Planes."

But in a recent interview, she admitted that she worried

such a performance "might induce labor."

"When I read these books on childbirth they are like, 'If you want to induce labor, try having a game of arm wrestle with your friend.' I am like, 'Oh my God, my option isn't an arm wrestle it's like being onstage and with Jay-Z and Lil Wayne and Kanye and T.I.' To me that is really exciting, to be a nine-month pregnant woman," she said.

M.I.A. has had a lot of excitement already in the past year. Not only is she due to give birth to her child with fiancé Benjamin Bronfman and nominated for Grammy awards, she was nominated for an Oscar for her song "O Saya" from "Slumdog Millionaire," which she wrote with A.R. Rahman.

"It was literally like day by

day, you know somebody is like 'You have been nominated for a Brit (Award), and then it was like 'You are nominated for an Oscar' and it was like ... I was just really confused by it all," she said.

Besides dealing with all the awards hoopla, the 31-year-old is working on a new album as well as producing her new artist, Rye Rye.

M.I.A., who says she doesn't know the sex of her baby but calls it "he" anyway said the baby is already a fan of what it's been hearing.

"Every time I go for an ultra scan the baby is like in crazy positions with legs star-shaped and stuff. It's not like in a baby position at all," she said. "I feel like he is used to base lines and beats and receptive to that, which is cute."

Etta James Mocks Beyonce for Laughs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) Etta James says she was joking when she said she "can't stand Beyonce" and would "whip" the singer for performing James' hit "At Last" at an inaugural ball for President Barack Obama.

The 71-year-old singer tells the New York Daily News she "didn't really mean anything" by

her remarks at a concert last week.

James says: "Even as a little child, I've always had that comedian kind of attitude. ... That's probably what went into it."

Even so, James says it stung that she wasn't asked to sing her most famous song on the historic night.

James says she liked

Beyonce's version but thinks she could have done a better job. She says it's "a shame to say that."

Beyonce portrayed James and sang the 1941 song written by Mack Gordon and Harry Warren in the film "Cadillac Records" last year.

Beyonce's spokeswoman did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

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All You Need is Love...or a Box of Tissues



The Holiday We All Love to Hate

GRACE KENDALL
Connect Mason Director

On my calendar, Feb. 14 is decorated with a big, fat, hate-filled red X.

Full of groping hands and broken hearts, Valentine's Day is perhaps the loneliest holiday on a single person's calendar. While couples wander rose gardens hand in hand, singing each other sickening love songs and getting lost in each other's eyes, singles are sitting in dark rooms crying and scouring Craigslist's "Missed Connections" in hope of a heart-shaped miracle.

So, when your Valentine's Day ends in tears or handcuffs as is inevitable, don't blame me—unless the handcuffs are accompanied by a sweetly consenting partner.

That said, not all hope is lost. Feb. 14 is a day like any other, but you can take simple steps to make it suck a little less. From one single fool to another, here are ten easy suggestions for how to make this Valentine's Day more memorable than usual.

10. Eat your weight in fine imported chocolates. You may be a poor college student, but one night's worth of quality sweets is an appropriate indulgence. Time may not heal all wounds, but Godiva does a pretty good job.

9. Strip to your skivvies and blast awful post-relationship pop music. For men, this means quality time with Jack Johnson or Radiohead. Ladies and gay boys, I recommend Avril Lavigne and Sasha Fierce. "All my single ladies, put your hands up!" If you blast it at top volume, maybe you can drown out the sound of being alone.

8. Stalk your exes. Nothing says "You'll regret breaking up with me" better than a good stalker. Stand outside his house

with a bottle of tequila in one hand and a brick in the other. Oh yeah, he will want you back. Or he will pay.

7. Suffer through a reality television marathon. Television likes to celebrate pointless holidays by showing an entire season of shows nobody liked the first time around. This is proof that either the producers are all single and taking it out on America, or too busy getting it on with their lovers to care about what's on T.V. But this can be to your advantage: Nothing will make you appreciate what you have more than three hours of *Bromance*. Think of it as the *It's a Wonderful Life* of Valentine's Day.

6. Burn things. That shirt she gave you for your last birthday? It will look much better with flames tearing through it. That teddy bear he gave you at Christmas? It was made to be barbecued. When you can't ease the searing pain inside, just douse all remembrances of ever having loved in gasoline and watch it burn.

5. Read a trashy romance novel. Books with Fabio on the cover or the *Twilight* series are solid choices. Keep some tissues nearby, because you're going to be completely irrational about 40 pages in. It's guaranteed that you will shout helplessly at the main characters, snot dripping down your nose as you vent the repressed emotions from all of your previous failed relationships. It's much better to project these emotions at books rather than people; when you throw them at the wall, nobody gets arrested. Plus, reading a novel speeds up relationships wonderfully, so you can breeze through the heartbreak and get back to the sweet whispered promises of forever and the really good sex.

4. Fake a valentine. Send yourself some flowers, set your Facebook relationship status to "it's complicated" and refuse to share the juicy details with anyone. Lord your secret (fake) relationship over your less imaginative single friends and watch them wither with the realization that even someone as socially-defective as yourself managed to snag a valentine.

3. Spend some time alone with your . . . thoughts. Unlike your last girlfriend, the ladies in *Playboy* will never leave you or go through your e-mail inbox. Be adventurous and splurge on the good porn; it is a holiday. It's not like your roommate will notice . . . he's too busy getting it on with his significant other anyway. Douchebag.

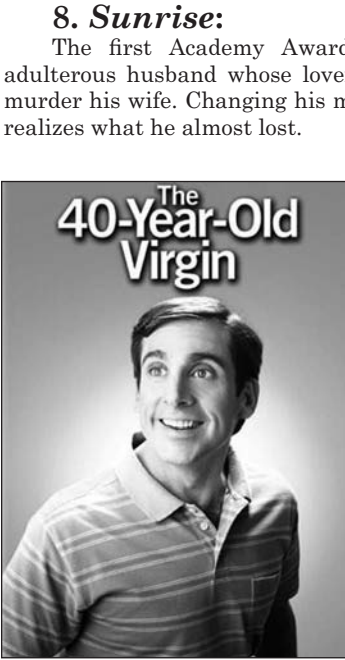
2. Get drunk. Eventually the harsh reality of your loneliness, magnified under the lens of cupid's chosen holiday, will catch up with you. It doesn't matter what you told your friends—"This is a fake holiday, I don't even care"—by 11 p.m., you'll be staring at the ceiling from your tear-stained mattress wondering where it all went wrong. For most college folks, alcohol is the natural remedy for that line of thought. Just make sure you've shut down your laptop and cell phone—nothing is worse than an overly emotional holiday drunk dial. "Oh Jenny, I love you . . . we were meant to be . . . hold on, I've got to puke."

1. Cry. Because at the end of the day, you're still a bitter lonely hag who couldn't snag even a casual relationship to get you through the loneliest holiday of the year. But keep your chin up: you've got 365 days until Valentine's Day rolls around again. That's plenty of time to find your soulmate, or at the very least some cute 20-something to hook up with.

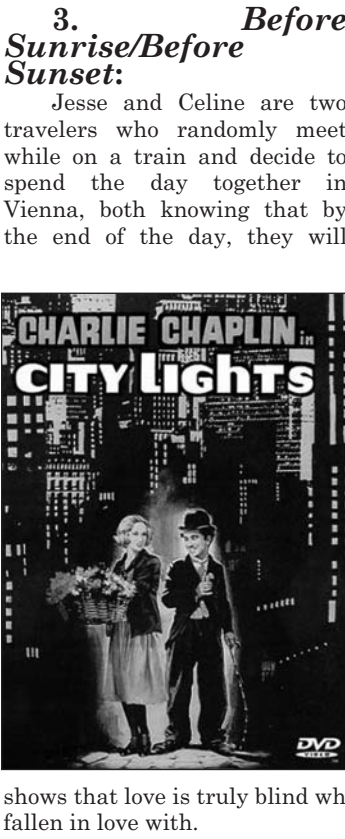
On-Screen Romance: Best Valentine's Day Movies



been missing most in his life.



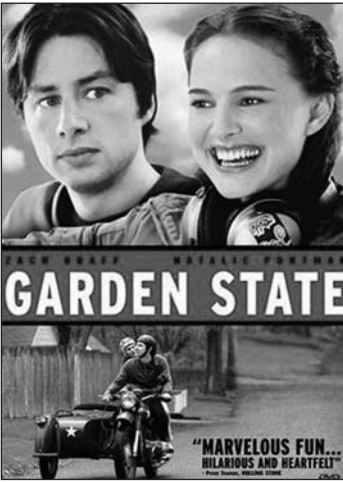
4. **The Shop Around the Corner:**
James Stewart and Margaret Sullivan play two employees at a shop who can't stand each other. However, they both believe that they may have found the loves of their lives in their unknown pen pals. What they do not know is that they are writing to each other and are falling in love fast.



shows that love is truly blind when she sees him and right away knows that this is the man who she has fallen in love with.

10. **Brokeback Mountain:**
This film has become pigeon holed as "that gay cowboy film." But at its core, the story is simply about unattainable love and how love can appear in the most unlikely of places.

9. **Garden State:**
Zack Braff's 2004 writing and directing debut takes Braff's character home for his mother's funeral, but he stays for the quirky Sam, played by Natalie Portman. Sam not only teaches him about the lighter side of life, The Shins and unusual yet happy families, but about what he has



7. **The 40-Year-Old Virgin:**
Steve Carrell's breakthrough role showed that in a relationship, there are more important things than sex and that a film can be both equally raunchy and romantic.

6. **It Happened One Night:**
Clark Gable plays a journalist who decides to help a recently married heiress, played by Claudette Colbert, return to her new husband to get a divorce in exchange for an exclusive story. But, while the two are stuck together and must work side by side, they start to see something in each other.

5. **WALL-E:**
Pixar's story from 700 years in the future of the last robot on earth who is left to clean it up is a lonely and touching story of finding love for the first time and doing anything to keep it. The love story between the archaic little guy and the technologically superior EVE, is one of the most simple, yet complex and beautiful love stories in recent years. And it's between robots.



2. **Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind:**
Director Michel Gondry is known for his mind-bending films, but ESOTSM is also heart wrenching. The story of a couple going through a procedure to forget the memories of their past lover asks the question, is it better to have loved and lost then to have never loved at all?

1. **City Lights:**
In this 1931 classic, Charlie Chaplin's iconic character of The Tramp falls in love with a poor, blind girl. Unfortunately, the girl is misled to believe that The Tramp is rich, therefore leaving him to attempt to seem as such. When The Tramp finds out about a procedure that could restore her eyesight, he goes out to find the money. When she can finally see, he worries that she will not love him knowing that he is not rich, but in fact poor. However, City Lights shows that love is truly blind when she sees him and right away knows that this is the man who she has fallen in love with.

Artist of Famed Obama Poster Arrested in Boston

JAY LINDSAY
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) A street artist famous for his red, white and blue "Hope" posters of President Obama has been arrested on warrants accusing him of tagging property with graffiti, police said Saturday.

Shepard Fairey was arrested Friday night on his way to the Institute of Contemporary Art for a kickoff event for his first solo exhibition, called "Supply and Demand."

Two warrants were issued for Fairey on Jan. 24 after police determined he'd tagged property in two locations with graffiti based on the Andre the Giant street art campaign from his early career, Officer James Kenneally said.

One of the locations was the railroad trestle by the landmark Boston University bridge over the Charles River, police said.

Fairey, 38, of Los Angeles, is scheduled to be arraigned Monday in Brighton District Court, said Jake Wark, a

spokesman for the Suffolk District Attorney.

Wark said Fairey would also be arraigned on a default warrant related to a separate graffiti case in the Roxbury section of Boston.

Fairey has spent the last two weeks in the Boston area installing the ICA exhibit and creating outdoor art, including a 20-by-50 foot banner on the side of City Hall, according to a statement issued Saturday by the museum.

The museum said Fairey was released a few hours after his arrest. Boston police confirmed Fairey had been released, but did not know exactly when or the amount of his bail.

A man who answered the phone at Fairey's Los Angeles studio, Studio One, declined comment.

"Shepard Fairey was completely unaware that there were any warrants for his arrest. Had he known, he would have resolved all such issues before the opening of his art exhibit at the Institute of

Contemporary Art in Boston," his attorney, Jeffrey Wiesner, said in an e-mail.

Fairey has been arrested numerous times for drawing on buildings and other private property without permission.

His Obama image has been sold on hundreds of thousands of stickers and posters, and was unveiled at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington before Obama's inauguration.

The image is the subject of a copyright dispute with The Associated Press.

Fairey argues his use of the AP photo is protected by "fair use," which allows exceptions to copyright laws based on, among other factors, how much of the original is used, what the new work is used for and how the original is affected by the new work.

A California lawyer who has represented Fairey in the copyright case didn't immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment on the arrest.

The College of Visual and Performing Arts Alumni Chapter and University Career Services presents the 4th Annual

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The Kiwanis Club of Fairfax served a pancake breakfast in the Fire Station 3 with proceeds going to their organization.

Wedding cakes were on display in Town Hall.

For Chocolate Lovers Only

CHOCOLATE, from FRONT

saved,” said Davis. “It’s like Thanksgiving leftovers. They always taste better the next day,” said Brown. At the Taste of Chocolate, an average of 100 people crowded into Old Town Hall where vendors sold everything from cakes to scones, sour patches to solid milk and white chocolate lips, along with other cavity-creating sweets. The admission line for

entry wrapped around the block to Old Lee Hwy. “It’s been really good. There’s been a nice steady line outside, nice steady line going upstairs, so I think it’s doing well today,” said Ashley Lederer from the Sweet Life Café in Fairfax, Va. The Café is owned and run by the family of Fairfax Mayor Robert F. Lederer. “Everything’s good, nothing’s bad here,” said 24-year-old Mason alumnus Ashley Watts who came to the festival with friends

specifically for the Taste of Chocolate event. “Everybody’s real enthusiastic and loving chocolate here,” said Connie Miller of Connie’s Chocolate Confections in Alexandria, Va. Miller sold chocolate dipped strawberries, bananas, and rice krispies treats at her table along with her famous chocolate fudge sauce that she sells at Farmer’s Markets in Alexandria and in four different stores in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. Though her

daytime job is being a midwife at Fairfax Hospital, Miller says she’s been making the sauce for over 25 years and follows her grandmother’s recipe. Sunday’s events featured an educational session with live animals from the Animal Ambassadors and a speech by George Mason University Chief of Staff Tom Hennessey. For more information about next year’s festival, visit www.chocolatefestival.net.



Zane Beg, co-owner of The Sweet Life, and also a real estate broker was one of three panel members that held a Q & A session with aspiring bakers.



Above: Vendors were invited to sell their chocolate and pastries in Town Hall during the Taste of Chocolate.

Left: Norm Davis owner of The Sweet Life and a Food Network competitor taught a class on cake decorating in City Hall.

PHOTOS BY COURTNEY ERLAND | PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER



From the Heart and Not Your Wallet

Valentine’s Day Gift Ideas For That Special Someone

GABRIELLA LEONE
Staff Writer

Roses are red, violets are blue, this Valentine’s Day I will be your “what gift to give” guru. Let’s face it, we are college students who are living on a tight budget and at the moment the economy is doing poorly, making us even more cautious with our spending. I know most of you love bugs are groaning at the idea that you have to buy your significant other a Valentine’s Day gift, but let’s look at your options. This year, do not go to a drugstore to buy some cheap confections, stuffed animals or flowers. While these are easy gift ideas, they are boring, generic and predictable. If you want to save money you can make something that will be more meaningful and better appreciated. Some homemade gifts you can get your loved one include, mixed CDs of your love’s favorite songs, a collage or scrapbook filled with pictures and souvenirs from times that you have shared with each other

or a coupon book of sexy, naughty or cute things you will do for your girlfriend or boyfriend. If you want to get even more creative, cut out a lot of hearts and write down things that you love about your sweetheart, or make a memory box that you two can fill with special things throughout the year. If you aren’t as crafty as some people and buying something is easier, buy your boyfriend or girlfriend tickets to a concert or show of their favorite performer or a cool digital picture frame. Other store-bought gifts that will impress your other half include gift cards, a particular item that you know your girlfriend or boyfriend has been eyeing, or something sexy that you would like to wear, or have worn for you, later in the evening on Valentine’s Day. While store-bought gifts are easier, however, they sometimes they lack that personal feeling that is so important to exhibit on Valentine’s Day. Things Remembered, a store located in Fair Oaks Mall, can help you

with this problem. Things Remembered offers a unique collection of items ranging from shot glasses to jewelry boxes, all of which can be personalized. You simply pick the item that you believe your significant other will like, then write down the message you would like engraved onto it. For your girlfriend, you may want to buy a necklace from Things Remembered, that has “I will love you forever” or both of your names engraved onto the back. For your boyfriend, you could buy a watch or a picture frame and have a similar message engraved onto it. Any gift that you buy for the love of your life will make them happy, but the ideas above will help ensure that your loved one knows just how much you care and appreciate them. However, Valentine’s Day is not about expensive gifts, tasty chocolates or frilly cards but it is about showing the person you are with that you recognize the relationship that you are in with them and that you love and care about them very much.

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