

# "Gilmore" a must-see for anyone

by John Hafner  
Collegian Staff

For centuries, golf has been regarded as a gentleman's game - a sport proud of its etiquette and tradition.

The most successful golfers are models of the game's rich heritage. Take Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, for example. They display sportsmanship both on and off the course.

With such a long history and untarnished reputation, it seems impossible that one man could single-handedly turn the world of golf upside down. Unless that man is Adam Sandler.

Famous for his lead roles in "Billy Madison" and "Airheads," Sandler stars as "Happy Gilmore" in Universal Pictures' latest comic hit.

A wanna-be hockey player bouncing from job to job in between tryouts, Happy casually converts his wicked slap shot to a monstrous 400 yard drive.

With the encouragement of a local club pro, Happy reluctantly enters a local tournament, the winner of which receives exemption on the Professional Golfers' Tour.

After learning that the government will repossess his

within ninety days, Happy decides to turn "pro" in a desperate attempt to help her.

It's obvious from the start that Happy is out of place. Wearing a hockey jersey, sweat pants, and hiking boots, he is surrounded by well-dressed, well-groomed professionals who consider him to be little more than a sideshow freak.

Happy's long drives give him a definite advantage, but the rest of his game - especially his behavior - needs serious refinement.

Many of Happy's fellow pros, especially "Shooter" McGavin, an arrogant player threatened by Happy's overnight fame, believe that the golf course is no place for a thrash-talking, blue collar bum.

But this gentleman's game is also a multi-million dollar business, and one fact cannot be denied: Happy draws the big crowds. And big crowds mean big profits for network executives.

Despite Shooter's persuasion and a couple hundred years worth of tradition, Happy is allowed to stay on tour and actively compete.



**Fouuuuuur:** When Bob Barker and Happy Gilmore (Adam Sandler) team up, the friendly game of golf becomes a contact sport.

His barroom behavior on the links attracts a new breed of beer-guzzling, punch-throwing, body-painting fans who are almost as crazy as Happy, their hot-tempered hero. Together, they create a new sport, "full contact golf."

With a modified hockey stick for a putter, a homeless man for a

caddie, and his grandma's love for support, Happy proves that he has what it takes to compete - and win.

"Happy Gilmore" is definitely a must-see. It tells the hilarious tale of a reluctant golfer with a heart of gold. The film's plot has no suspense, no mystery, no complex characters - just an

ordinary, average guy out to have a little fun and kick some butt.

"Happy Gilmore" has been in the top ten of movies since it opened a week ago. "Gilmore" stars former SNL member, Adam Sandler.

## "Congratulations, I'm Sorry"

by Joe Ryan  
Collegian Staff

It is truly rare in music for an artist's second major-label CD to duplicate the pure energy and time spent on its predecessor. For the debut album, a group has years to write, perform and rework the songs. They aren't preoccupied with touring or with celebrity. The artist has his choice of a number of songs written at leisure and performed to perfection.

The Gin Blossoms' second major-label CD "Congratulations, I'm Sorry," is surprisingly melancholy and somewhat disoriented. On "New Miserable Experience," their first album, the group scored four singles which all received a great deal of radio airplay. The songs on this album had a sense of young rebelliousness and irresponsibility. Partying and slacking were recurring motifs on this fun, high-spirited album.

Formed in Tempe, Arizona in 1987, this t-shirt and stubble clad quintet were inauspiciously referred to by the *Phoenix Gazette* as "a contemporary rock quintet." In 1992, just before "Miserable" was released, original member and guitarist Doug Hopkins was kicked out of the band and subsequently committed suicide. His influences can be heard on such songs as "Hey Jealousy." He was later replaced by Scott Johnson who provides the guitar work on the later album.

Robin Wilson, the band's leader, estimated that the group

played 350 shows in two years to promote their first album opening from everyone from Toad the Wet Sprocket to the Neville Brothers and they made a half-dozen appearances on David Letterman. They also contributed to the compilation "Kiss My Ass," a tribute album to the eclectic seventies icon Kiss. They also scored a top 10 hit with "Until I Hear It From You" from the Empire Records soundtrack. It gave the movie (which never received widespread release but is available at video stores), and the album itself a huge boost and gave the group a prominent reputation as a group that can carry a soundtrack.

The Gin Blossoms' "Congratulations, I'm Sorry" may lack the sharpness of guitarist Doug Hopkins' songs, but it evokes the same sound and mood as "New Miserable Experience." Their first single, "Follow You Down," is a solid, infectious tune with lots of hit potential. Slower songs like "As Long As It Matters" provide the accentuation for their faster, more wistful singles much like a good parent scolding her child for his rambunctiousness.

Singer Wilson discourages anyone from deriving too much message from his lackadaisical lyrics "I think, in general, I mean, a lot of our lyrics are pretty silly, you know? I always thought the lyrics in 'Hey Jealousy' were kind of stupid, I don't know. It's just kind of juvenile. But that's OK, I mean it's more about sounding good."

Perhaps there are times where lyrics are simple lyrics.

In overview of "Congratulations, I'm Sorry," I would suggest it to any Gin Blossoms' fan. I definitely think it's lacking compared to their first album; the innocence has been taken from their music. As is often the case with artists' sophomore albums, the little extras that made their first effort so special has been replaced by

what record company executives might feel are "safe, likeable lyrics and catchy tunes." The main components that made the Blossoms what they are today are still omnipresent on this album, however. Robin Wilson's voice (perhaps their signature), and the catchy combination of soft-rock, adult contemporary, alternative, and country have come together on this album making it a definite Gin Blossoms album.

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