

The Big Hit makes up in action for what it lacks in plot

by Jon Stubbs
features editor

Mark Wahlberg plays the Forrest Gump of hitmen in this past week's release, *The Big Hit*. Wahlberg's character, Melvin Smiley, is charming and polite, but not all that intelligent. He's involved with two women: one who is embezzling money from him, and the other who is not quite sure she wants to become engaged to Melvin because he's not Jewish. Melvin is a likeable but pathetic guy who lets everyone take advantage of him, even his co-workers.

Outside of his quiet family life, Melvin kills people. He works for a steady boss which informs Smiley and his associates of whom to dispose. It is understood that their loyalty to Paris, their boss, is of utmost

importance. Which is why things go awry when Cisco (Lou Diamond Phillips) plans an unauthorized kidnapping.

Because he needs the extra money to support his mistress, Melvin

The plot doesn't develop much more after that, however the brilliantly directed action scenes keep the audience's attention throughout the film. Director Che-Kirk Wong and director of photography Danny

Nowak do amazing tricks with light and effects in the film to keep viewers from getting bored. Fiery explosions reflect in swimming pools; characters appear to actually be in danger as cars roll down hills after them.

The *Face/Off*-like action in *The Big Hit* may stem from the fact that one of the film's executive producers, John Woo, directed *Face/Off*. It can be said that there is just as much invigorating action in *The Big Hit* as there was in *Face/Off*. There may even be more.

Along with loads of action, *The Big*

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agrees to participate in the kidnapping of Keiko Nishi (China Chow), the daughter of Jiro Nishi, a wealthy businessman. However, unbeknownst to Melvin and the other kidnapers, Nishi has just recently gone bankrupt and Keiko happens to be Paris' goddaughter.



(Left to right) Crunch (Bokeem Woodbine), Vince (Antonio Sabato, Jr), Cisco (Lou Diamond Phillips), and Mel (Mark Wahlberg) are a quartet of hitmen in *The Big Hit*.

Hit is dotted with light humor in a few scenes. Running gags throughout the movie such as the harassment that Melvin takes from a video store for an overdue tape and Melvin's hit-pal Crunch's addiction to porno add enlightening moments to the film.

Although *The Big Hit* is packed with action, it's not what one would

call a smart action film. It is predictable and the plot development and character development are minimal. However, the film still remains entertaining for the most part, probably because of the skillful directing and artwork, as well as the intense action scenes.

So, with everything taken into con-

sideration, *The Big Hit* is worth your time if you think *Face/Off* and *Die Hard* were good action movies. But if your idea of the perfect action movie is a plot-heavy film such as *The Hunt For Red October* or *Patriot Games*, save your \$6.25.

**Penn State-Behrend students
Bill Ross and Brian Ashbaugh
will be in the spotlight
this summer.**

How about you?

(They're taking Theater 100
during Summer Session.)

Almost 70 classes are being offered at Penn State-Behrend in 3, 4, and 8-week sessions beginning May 13th or June 15th. Why not get at least one class out of the way for fall semester?

Stop by the Office of the Registrar for a complete schedule, or look it up on the web at <http://www.psu.edu/registrar/soc/summer/bd/>



Bowling club forms at Behrend

by Scott Warofka
staff writer

If you saw recent films such as *The Big Lebowski* and *King Pin*, did you feel the urge to go and roll a couple frames? If you answered "Yes," there is a new organization on campus comprised of others that share this desire. The Student Government Association recently voted in favor of recognizing the newly formed Bowling Club as a student organization.

Tricia Michel, 02 DUS, is one of the founding members of the club. Michel said that the goal of the club is "to get people out together to have fun." She said that the idea of forming a club came to her and several of her friends when they realized how much fun they had bowling on a weekly basis.

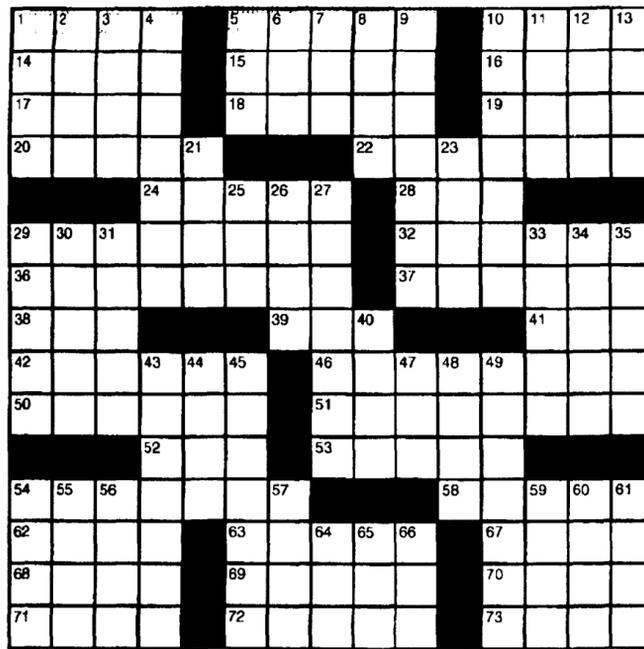
So what if you are not all that good at bowling, but you would still like to participate? Brendan O'Donnell, 08

History, said "I've never really gone, but I'd like to learn." Michel said that the club is open to anyone and "It doesn't really matter what your skill level is. We're not very competitive." Michel continued by adding that the club aims to "...promote fellowship."

The Bowling Club will meet on Thursdays at 10:00 p.m. Anyone interested is encouraged to stop by Eastway Lanes.

ACROSS

- 1 Droops
- 5 Walked worriedly
- 10 Put away
- 14 Chicken quarters
- 15 Revere
- 16 Finish line
- 17 Dancer Pavlova
- 18 Painter of ballet dancers
- 19 Oklahoma city
- 20 Green years
- 22 Stored fodder quantities
- 24 Meir of Israel
- 28 Plant secretion
- 29 Inhabitants
- 32 Queasiness
- 36 Cures
- 37 Splendiferous
- 38 Individual
- 39 Humorist
- 41 Plaything
- 42 Rock debris at cliff bases
- 46 Lather
- 50 Superlatively timid
- 51 Tugboat attachments
- 52 Shaft of light
- 53 Hold the tiller
- 54 Courtyards
- 58 Mischievous trick
- 62 Brogue or wingtip, e.g.
- 63 Minute amounts
- 67 School on the Thames
- 68 Buddies
- 69 Muse of lyric poetry
- 70 Capital on the Gulf of Guinea
- 71 Delta deposit
- 72 Spread here and there
- 73 Pour out



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DOWN

- 1 Beat it!
- 2 Top-drawer
- 3 Departed
- 4 Tiny, shiny disk
- 5 Cushion
- 6 Fruit beverage

- 7 Gear tooth
- 8 Historic times
- 9 Fashion creations
- 10 Get fogged
- 11 Zesty bite
- 12 Sheriff Andy Taylor's kid
- 13 Ties the knot
- 21 Auctioneer's last word
- 23 Hawaiian feast
- 25 Hawaiian garland
- 26 Sketched
- 27 Lends a hand
- 29 Trivial stuff
- 30 Peasant girl
- 31 Fine-grained corundum
- 33 Preliminary work
- 34 Create a chasm
- 35 Unfathomable chasm
- 40 Whistle blast
- 43 Most macabre
- 44 Son of Isaac
- 45 Thwarts

answers
on
next page

- 47 Overwhelm
- 48 Private sch.
- 49 Brownish-orange horses
- 54 Small vipers
- 55 Siamese, today
- 56 Gain momentum
- 57 Alphabetize
- 59 On
- 60 Alaska town
- 61 Recognized
- 64 Black goo
- 65 Supped
- 66 Pen dame