

Website of the week

By Jon Stubbs
features editor

Many students probably already know what an .mp3 file is. It's a digital music file that is about 4 or 5 megabytes in size that contains an entire song. These files are played with a program called Winamp, which can be downloaded from www.winamp.com.

The best place to find these .mp3s on the web is at a site called www.palavista.com. Palavista is a search engine that combines ten or so smaller search engines into one big one. Altogether, the site can search over a hundred different ftp sites very

quickly. Just about any song one is looking for can be found at Palavista. Newer releases seem to be easier to find, however.

Now to remain legal, the downloader must delete the .mp3 file within 24 hours to comply with recently instated copyright laws. However, this is all on the honor system, because no one can really tell how long you are going to keep the file. There is no cost to download songs, and even though one is encouraged to purchase the registered edition of Winamp, the program never expires. So, pretty much, one can have access to an unlimited amount of music for absolutely nothing, provided they have adequate space on their hard drive.



Pleasantville: more than just pleasant

By Jon Stubbs
features editor

Finally moviegoers have another Oscar contender to go see in the theaters besides Saving Private Ryan. *Pleasantville*, the new release written, directed and produced by Gary Ross, proves to be more than just pleasant. It is a masterpiece fantasy that examines humanity's conceptions of morality, hate and discovering one's true identity.

Tobey Maguire stars as David, a '90s student who hasn't quite yet broken into the popularity ring at his high school; he spends his Friday nights watching the '50s sitcom *Pleasantville*, which is almost identical to *Leave it to Beaver*. As he makes preparations to watch the *Pleasantville* marathon one particular evening, David and his Miss Popularity sister, Jennifer (Reese Witherspoon) find themselves trapped inside the black and white world of *Pleasantville*. Much to David's delight and much to Jennifer's horror, they discover that they are playing the parts of Bud and Mary Sue Parker, the son and daughter of *Ozzie and Harriet* clones George (William H. Macy) and Betty (Joan Allen).

In *Pleasantville* there's no crime, dinner is always on the table as soon as one comes home to their dotting housewife, and nobody even knows what sex is. David is quick to observe that his and especially Jennifer's '90s attitudes aren't compatible with this blissful, conservative town. So he tries to keep his own as well as his sister's comparatively liberal views at bay as long as possible. However, the blandness of *Pleasantville* soon gets under their skin

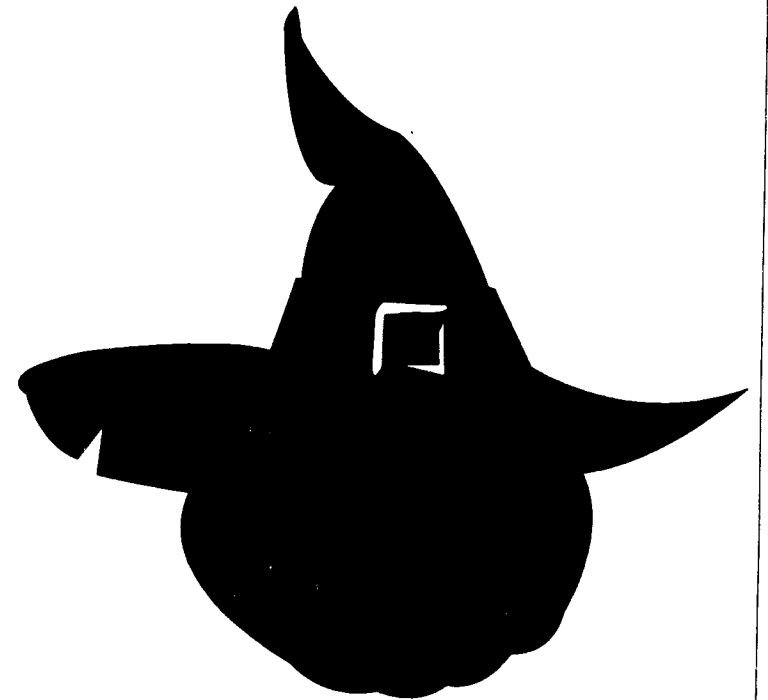
and they unwittingly begin to introduce new ideas and concepts to the denizens of this quaint little town. As the people are educated and liberated, they begin to develop the one thing that *Pleasantville* has never had: color.

It's not hard to find connections between the revolution that is happening in *Pleasantville* and various other uprisings and governmental quashings that have taken place in history. Whether Mr. Ross did it deliberately or not, criticism of historical events such as the Chinese Cultural Revolution, Communism and racism in general can be easily spotted in the film.

Jeff Daniels, who stars as Mr. Johnson the malt shop owner, manages to be amusing and powerful simultaneously. Joan Allen, who plays Betty, does a wonderful interpretation of a woman who is caught between her own liberation and her duties as a wife and mother.

Gary Ross is a brilliant writer as well as a brilliant director. After watching a black and white film for about thirty minutes, the way Ross reintroduces color to the audience is spectacular. The viewer almost feels as if she is seeing color for the first time. *Pleasantville* will make people appreciate their own lives, the opportunities they have, as well as themselves. However, *Pleasantville* is not just a feel good movie. It's an essay on human behavior; it's a study of morality in politics in governments of today and the past. The creativity that went into this film is amazing. If *Pleasantville* is not at least nominated for Best Screenplay or Best Special Effects, the Academy is as colorblind as the people of *Pleasantville* themselves.

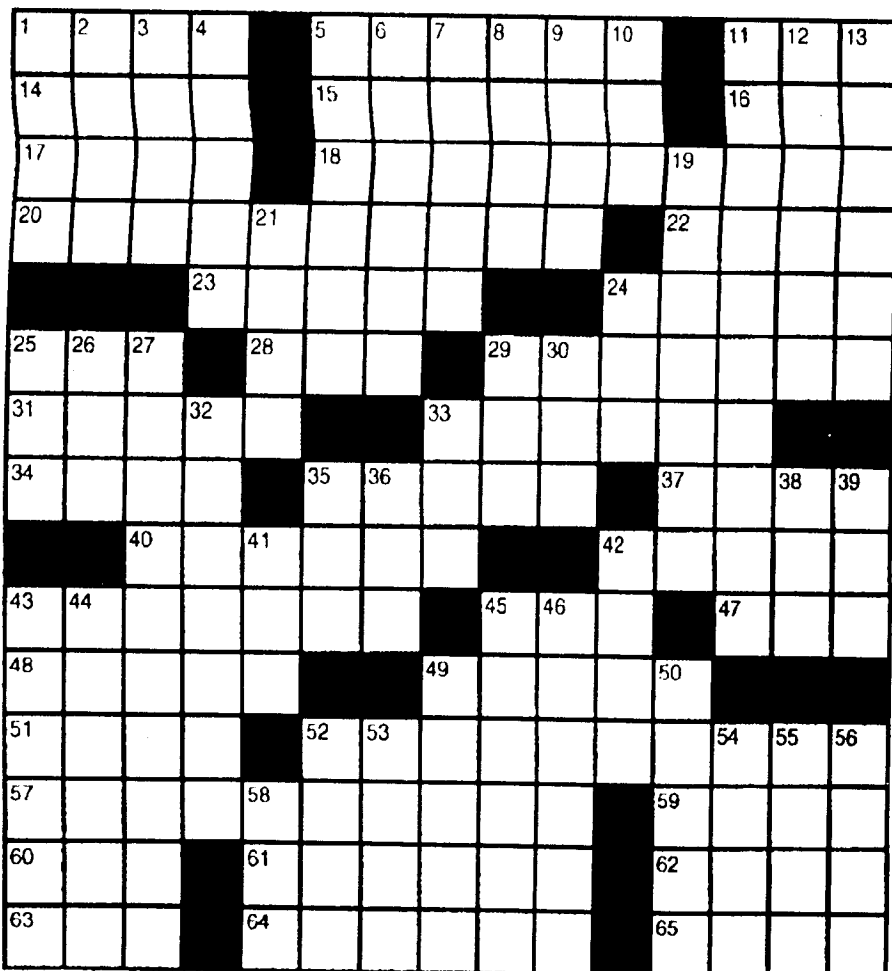
Happy



Halloween

from the Beacon staff

- ACROSS
- 1 Moves up and down
 - 5 Well-grounded
 - 11 Schedule abbr.
 - 14 Skip
 - 15 Walk of life
 - 16 Old card game
 - 17 Do it alone
 - 18 Unproved statement
 - 20 Like some shirts
 - 22 Tear
 - 23 Some rapiers
 - 24 "Rebel Without a Cause" co-star
 - 25 Gray shade
 - 28 Miss a step
 - 29 Cheers
 - 31 Abrupt transitions
 - 33 Word before bag or beetle
 - 34 Get out of bed
 - 35 Rummy
 - 37 Actress Sorvino
 - 40 Dealt in used goods
 - 42 Mortise insertion
 - 43 Take flight
 - 45 Female sheep
 - 47 Obtain
 - 48 Bishops of Rome
 - 49 Entanglement
 - 51 False mannerisms
 - 52 Within reach
 - 57 School settings
 - 59 Scottish Highlander
 - 60 You there!
 - 61 Babbling bird
 - 62 Seth's son
 - 63 Wood and Wynn
 - 64 Doubleday and others
 - 65 M. Descartes

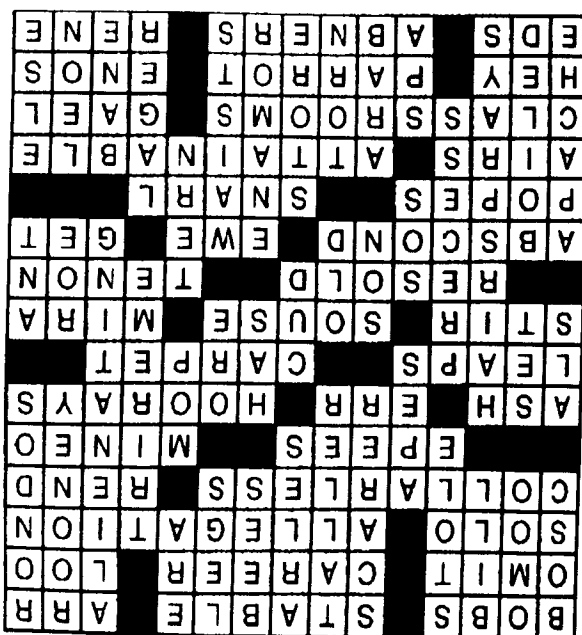


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10/29/98

- DOWN
- 1 Type of pear
 - 2 Melville novel
 - 3 List of charges
 - 4 Snatched
 - 5 Boo shouter
 - 6 Loftier
 - 7 City on the Rhone
 - 8 Hive population

- 9 Table supports
- 10 Period
- 11 Estranging
- 12 Andy of "60 Minutes"
- 13 Repetitious musical themes
- 19 Roman galley
- 21 Mimics
- 24 Floor-cleaning implement
- 25 Martino and Pacino
- 26 Matched collection
- 27 Do holders
- 29 Is down with
- 30 Bauxite or galena
- 32 March forth
- 33 Cow's chew
- 35 Abel to Adam
- 36 Over the hill
- 38 Lobster eggs
- 39 Picnic pest
- 41 Distress letters
- 42 Fork-tailed seabird



- 43 Southwest tribesman
- 44 Seethed
- 45 Fill with love
- 46 Belt locations
- 49 Main Street structure
- 50 Beer choice
- 52 Part of U.A.E.
- 53 Lacerated
- 54 Cause of ruin
- 55 Ponce de
- 56 Otherwise
- 58 Healing waters

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