

Yes, the Florida voting system has confused many. However, voting for the VH1 "My VH1 Music Awards" did not. All you had to do was log on to www.vh1.com and vote. It really was that simple, and this time the winners are certain, there is no recount needed.

The awards, hosted by John Leguizamo, were held on Thursday, November 30 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. They were broadcast live on VH1 at nine o'clock. More than four million fans logged online to vote for their favorites in categories such as "Your Song Kicked Ass but Was Played Too Damn Much," "Most Entertaining Public Feud," "You Want Fries With That Album?," "Double Threat (Musician/Actors)," "Must-Have Album," and "Welcome to the Big Time!" The nominees consisted of such artists as Creed, Destiny's Child, Vertical Horizon, Christina Aguilera, 3 Doors Down, Faith Hill, 'N Sync, Britney Spears and The Red Hot Chili Peppers. Artists such as No Doubt, Bon Jovi, Creed, U2 and Christina Aguilera all performed their hits for a crowd of fans.

And now time for the awards! Despite her absence at the awards, country singer Faith Hill cleaned up in three categories, "You Want Fries With That Album?" for her Pepsi endorsements. She also picked up "Sexxiest Video," and "Woman of the Year." "[VH1] fans there have been really supportive of my career," Hill told Launch.com. "I'm a new face to that network, so hopefully they'll go to VH1, then dial over to CMT and see all the other cool artists that we have."

My VH1 Music Awards

by Susan Taylor
staff writer



Creed frontman Scott Stapp accepts a My VH1 Award with the band (Top Left). Gwen Stefani finishes a performance with No Doubt (Top Right). Scott Weiland poses with The Corrs (Bottom Left) and the Dave Matthews Band celebrates backstage (Bottom Right).

Another big winner of the evening was Creed, in the "2 For 2," "Welcome to the Big Time," "Group of the Year," "Song of the Year (for 'Higher')" categories. "The fans voting for this award, that gives us the ultimate sense of accomplish-

ment," Scott Stapp told the press backstage. "We love our fans so much and they're so good to us. We feel like we give so much and they give us back tenfold. We feel like we couldn't ask for anything more." Rock legend Carlos Santana went

home with the "Man of the Year" award and the "Your Song Kicked Ass but Was Played Too Damn Much" for his "Smooth" collaboration with Rob Thomas of Matchbox Twenty. The "Most Entertaining Public Feud" award went to Eminem vs. Everyone, beating out Napster vs. Metallica. The "Coolest Fan Web Site" went to nancies.org, a site dedicated to the Dave Matthews Band. DMB also went home with the "Best Live Act" award, which Leguizamo presented to them at their seats. Dave Matthews Band did not get the "Best Stage Spectacle," however, as that went to Metallica and the San Francisco Symphony.

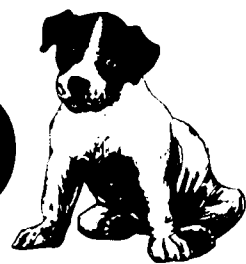
Teen heartthrob Ricky Martin left with an award ("Booty Shake"), which was accepted by a giant pair of buttocks, but other teen heartthrobs such as Britney Spears and *N Sync left empty handed.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers grabbed the "Must-Have Album" award for "Californication," as well as the "Pushing the Envelope Video" award for the single's video. "Beating Creed once or twice is good enough for us," Kiedis stated. Flea told reporters backstage that the band will begin work on a new album with longtime producer Rick Rubin in February. However, he said that the band is reluctant to plan anything because they worry it won't be as good as their spontaneous efforts.

Thursday night appeared to go to the big name stars like Sting, Bon Jovi and Santana intertwined with Creed and Faith Hill. All in all, it was a star studded Los Angeles night for fans from all over.

Sic' Em FIDO

by Deanna Symoski



Strike 3: Down(ey) and out in Beverly Hills

His November 3 interview with *Entertainment Weekly* spoke of things that weren't good for him--fried zucchini sticks and ranch dressing. Those were the days for Robert Downey, Jr., whose face--watery-eyed and disheveled-- appeared on the cover of the magazine only a month later. This time it wasn't to celebrate his new-found success on *Ally McBeal*, but to once again report an incident concerning drugs and the law.

Downey was arrested November 25 in Palm Springs, California, after a secluded weekend in a room at the Merv Griffin Resort. An anonymous caller tipped off police to Downey's room, saying there was a man inside with an ounce of cocaine and weapons, according to the 911 tape. Though no weapons were found, Downey was charged with possession of cocaine and methamphetamine, being under the influence of a controlled substance, and committing a felony while on bail. This was his third arrest.

All the reports hint at a tone of tragedy, perhaps because recovery finally seemed possible, even probable, for the talented young actor. By all accounts, he had helped save *Ally*, and *Ally* looked like it might have finally saved him. Movie offers were pouring in, and Downey was optimistic about finally returning to work and a bit of normalcy.

But the conflicting *EW* covers tell a different story. They speak of the instability of lives hooked on the Hollywood Habit, and the instantaneous plunge they can take. But whether Downey returns to prison or rehab or some combination of both, the attempts to salvage his image and place (or misplace) blame are moot. The truth might be best.

Robert Downey, Jr. is a drug addict; his movie star status does not make him less so--obviously. No longer is he an actor who does drugs. He has officially become a drug addict who occasionally does some acting. Tragic? Yes, but only as tragic as anyone else who cannot, despite a cavalcade of second chances, clean themselves up. Forget the accounts that will claim Downey was framed. Ignore the stories about him that tug on your heart strings. This is strike three, and at this point--after rehab and a year in prison--that's a decision.

The court system, for once, has not failed. It has not failed the public by letting a famous criminal (and yes, by law, drug addicts are criminals) go unpunished, and it has not failed Downey by letting a movie star slide. He was sentenced, he did his time, and he was released--clean. But that, apparently, is not enough.

Now a repeat offender, Downey deserves the punishment that any "civilian" in his position would receive. Harsh? Yes, but only as harsh as the combination of help and redress to which anyone else might be sentenced. The idea is to take a serious problem seriously, and address it with the delicate balance of compassion and castigation that this country's judicial system, as imperfect as it is, deems appropriate.

"For whatever reason, I felt I had to have something more...And I chose to believe that I found that something in drugs," Downey told *Entertainment Weekly* in that November 3 interview. "But this is the buzz. We're sitting out here, the sun is hot, and I've created zero wreckage today--and I intend to create no more."

If publicists and friends really want to help Downey they will realize the things about him that I have here, and they will sacrifice status for a dose of reality. Optimism and good intentions will not solve his problems, no matter who wishes him luck, how much he works or how talented the industry says he is. Acting is not his anti-drug, as the commercials might suggest. Downey's only anti-drug is sobriety and this time, with the stern fist of the law and the absence of excuses, he deserves the time to achieve it.

Holiday Movie Preview

Semester break offers a few moments of much-needed relaxation, but also some of the year's best films as Oscar hopefuls try to sneak in under the wire. Here's a list of the new releases slated for the end of 2000.

December 15

1. *Chocolat*
2. *Dude, Where's My Car?*
3. *Family Man*
4. *Pollock*
5. *The Emperor's New Groove*
6. *The Gift*
7. *What Women Want*

December 22

1. *Before Night Falls*
2. *Cast Away*
3. *Dracula 2000*
4. *House of Mirth*
5. *Miss Congeniality*
6. *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*
7. *State and Main*
8. *Traffic*

December 20

Finding Forrester

December 25

All the Pretty Horses

December 29

Shadow of the Vampire

'Felicity' cuts in to real life

by Katie Galley
editorial page editor

When the show *Felicity* premiered on the WB in 1998 it got lost in the rank of other teen angled shows such as *Dawson's Creek*. By the end of the first season, the show had taken on a life of its own and everyone wanted to know, "would it be Ben or Noel?"

Why is the show so popular? Maybe because the college students on the show seem to have endless money, and the nicest dorms in the world. Whatever the reason, the show's ratings have continued to climb, despite the loss in length of Kerri Russell's hair. Does the show adequately represent college life though? After all there are no dorms like that at Behrend.

Some of the issues that the show has tackled are date rape, unplanned pregnancy, the morning after pill, testicular cancer and habitual drug and alcohol use-- all subjects that are familiar to college students worldwide. And along with tackling the issues, the show manages to do it with some humor thrown in.

When one of the lead characters thought there might have been with a problem with his testicle, he asked his friend for help stating, "Dude, feel my



Felicity's Keri Russell (Left) in a deep discussion with a co-star.

nut." Moments like that, mixed with the day to day things in life make the show appealing to college students, relating on a level that they can identify with.

What about the central theme that runs through the show? The theme was presented in the very first episode when Felicity left her cushy scholarship paid for education to follow a boy on a whim to New York City. Independence and following your heart--this is the theme that threads all college students together, the tie that binds.

We are all struggling to learn what we want out of life, who we want to be, what we stand for, and through the characters on the show we can see a little bit of ourselves in all of them.

New Releases

Movies

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
Proof of Life
Vertical Limit
Dec. 8

Video*

*N Sync: *Making of the Tour*
Batman Beyond: Return of the Joker
The Cider House Rules (Bonus Edition)
Reindeer Games (Director's Cut)
Sopranos: The Complete First Season
Road to El Dorado

Music*

Cypress Hill Live
The Full Monty
Etta James:
Matriarch of the Blues

* Special Thanks to Media Play for all of your help!

DVD*

*N Sync: *Making of the Tour*
Batman Beyond: Return of the Joker
Road to El Dorado
Scary Movie
Shaft
Sopranos: The Complete First Season

* release date 12/12

