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Third time's a charm for Emmys



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'The West Wing's' Bradley Whitford won his first Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama.

by Breanna Bush
staff writer

You've heard the old adage "the third time's a charm," and that's exactly what it was for the 53rd prime time Emmy Awards. The show was postponed two times previously due to the tragic events of Sept. 11. Never before had the Emmy Awards been cancelled, and it wasn't going to occur this year.

This year's Emmy Awards not only awarded those actors and actresses who gave the best performances this past year along with the best shows, it also gave notice to the difficulties that our nation faces from the previous terrorists events. They

showed not only that the United States has faith, but so do many other countries that support us.

The Emmys opened showing the United States flag and with the singing of "America the Beautiful." As pictures flashed up on a large screen of America, tears fell from some audience members, mainly actors and actresses. The opening performance received a standing ovation.

"We must go on in our American tradition and entertainment can help us heal," stated Walter Cronkite in a live telecast from Toronto. With these powerful words, the 53rd prime time Emmy Awards telecast was turned over to host Ellen DeGeneres.

"What would bug the Taliban more than seeing a gay woman in a suit surrounded by Jews?" asked DeGeneres, bringing some comedy to the show. DeGeneres also kept viewers updated on the World Series, which aired opposite the awards.

A video was shown that captured people all over the world giving their support and showing their sorrow for the tragic events that have overcome America in the past months. This video gave the United States and all other countries viewing the awards an opportunity to see every country that supports the United States.

A variety of different awards was presented during the evening. Outstanding lead actor and actress in a comedy series awards were given to Eric McCormack ("Will & Grace")

and Patricia Heaton ("Everybody Loves Raymond"). Awards for outstanding supporting actor and actress in a comedy series were received by Peter MacNicol ("Ally McBeal") and Doris Roberts ("Everybody Loves Raymond"). Outstanding comedy series was given to "Sex and the City," which airs on HBO.

Outstanding lead actor and actress in a drama series awards were awarded to James Gandolfini and Edie Falco ("The Sopranos"). Bradley Whitford and Allison Janney ("The West Wing") were given the awards for outstanding supporting actor and actress in a drama series. "The West Wing" was awarded for outstanding drama series.

Outstanding lead actor and actress awards in a miniseries or movie were given to Kenneth Branagh ("Conspiracy") and Judy Davis ("Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows"). Awards were given to Brian Cox ("Nuremberg") and Tammy Blanchard ("Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows") for outstanding supporting actor and actress in a miniseries or movie. "Anne Frank" won the award for outstanding miniseries.

"Wit" was given the award for outstanding made for television movie. "Survivor" won outstanding non-fiction program (Special Class).

'Riding in Cars With Boys' an educational experience

by Jennie Ellison
staff writer

It's hard to imagine life without regrets. We all have them. Many people spend years in therapy discussing regrets and have the butt marks on a couch to prove it. But others, like some in the working class, do not have the luxury of telling a stranger about their problems. Instead, they tell anyone who will listen. Beverly Donofrio was fortunate because her problematic life eventually became a book and now a movie.

"Riding in Cars with Boys" is a movie that proves the things you might have once regretted will be the things you will eventually be grateful for. Drew Barrymore plays Donofrio, whose unplanned pregnancy at the age of 15 is the focus of the movie because it is the basis for what happens in the rest of Beverly's life. Before getting pregnant, Beverly dreams of going to NYU and studying to become a writer. Beverly's sudden reality of being a teenage mother leaves her bitter, married and divorced by the age of 30.

The movie takes you on several flashbacks and flash forwards on how Beverly's life of promise turns out to be a life of "I'll make it up to you." That's the phrase Beverly's then-husband, Ray, played by Steve Zahn, keeps repeating. Throughout the movie, Beverly also promises she will make up all her mistakes by going to college and getting her degree. Beverly knew from the moment that she got pregnant by Ray that it was a mistake.

"You are not the guy I am supposed to end up with," is what she told Ray after he proposed, a proposal that contained the word s***. The only thing that helps Beverly at this point is that her best friend Fay, played by Brittany Murphy, gets pregnant as well. The one thing that hurts her is Tina, her other best friend, gets to live out her dream of going to NYU. Tina is played by "Roseanne's" Sara Gilbert.

The flash forwards in the movie feature a 35-year-old college graduate Beverly riding in a car

with her son, Jason, who is seen in the film as the everyday reminder to Beverly that her life did not turn out as planned. They are seeing Ray in order for him to sign papers to protect her publishers from a lawsuit for the book she wrote about her life.

The movie ends with Beverly and Jason both admitting that throughout their lives, there were several times when the roles were reversed when they should not have been. When Beverly calls motherhood a job to Jason, he becomes angry.

"I would not have been better without you...you are what saved me," Beverly tells Jason after snapping at him.

Although Beverly knew at 15 that she had the ability to be a great writer, she learned at 35 that she couldn't accomplish it without inspiration, which (in her case) was her own life.

Even though Hollywood filmmakers made several adjustments, the story basically sticks to the

you will have to make in the future.

You can respect the movie's realism, not just because it is based on a true story, but because it shows you the alternative to college, the blue-collar lifestyle. It is something that as college students we hardly see because we are taught not to want that and to go beyond it. Beverly could not accept that as her life because she knew what else was out there. She had often wished she would have been stupid, so she would not know any better.

What she didn't realize was that it's not about being stupid. It's about knowing that the "end all, be all" of your life doesn't have to be how or where you started. You go beyond what you're used to. Beverly did not get to go to college until later in life, so we as college students should feel fortunate for having the opportunity of going as early as possible. Beverly probably realizes now that she could not



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

Beverly (Drew Barrymore), Ray (Steve Zahn), and Jason (Cody Arens) share a moment of happiness in the Columbia Pictures presentation, 'Riding in Cars With Boys.'

book from which it came. The most surprising element of the film is the outstanding performance by Barrymore, whose character's age ranged from 15 to 35. Because Barrymore's character is on an emotional rollercoaster throughout the film, you will be on one, too. One minute you will want to pull out your tissue and the next minute you will be laughing. The movie will leave you reflecting on the choices you've made and the ones

have gone to college any minute sooner than she did because it would have taken away from the countless number of minutes before that when she learned one of life's hardest survival skills: patience.

**** out of 4

'Yu-Gi-Oh' cartoon - bad soap?

by Ben Herwatic
staff writer

If you have been up early enough on a Saturday morning watching the WB network, perhaps you have realized that you can't catch quality cartoon programming anymore. The only thing there is to watch is "Yu-Gi-Oh."

"Yu-Gi-Oh" has Japanese roots and seems to be a distant cousin of the Pokemon franchise, which also originated in Japan. It was introduced to the United States within the past four months and started its Saturday morning run in the beginning of October.

"Yu-Gi-Oh" is a hit in Japan, complete with video games, magazines, and a cult following. Don't be surprised if the same thing happens here. We have slept through countless hours of Pokemon movies.

The main characters within the show are Yugi, Yami Yugi (his super alter ego), and Maximilian Pegasus, who is the evil creator of the puzzle game Duel Monsters. Joey Wheeler, Tea Gardner, and Tristan Taylor are all of Yugi's loyal friends who help him defeat the evil Pegasus.

The story behind the show is Yugi, Joey, Tristan, and Tea love the new game Duel Monsters. The game has a crazy past with super mystical powers being revealed when certain puzzles are solved.

Yugi's grandfather knows the game and suggests a puzzle

for Yugi and his friends to try and solve, which Yugi successfully does. Ancient powers are unlocked and given to Yugi and he creates Yami Yugi, who has powers which no human can go up against. When the evil Maximilian Pegasus kidnaps Yugi's grandfather, the only one who can save him is Yugi. Yugi must fight round for round through a tournament, fighting and defeating various villains to reach Pegasus, his ultimate fight.

The show's choppy Japanimation methods make "Yu-Gi-Oh" hard to follow, confusing and maybe even scary for small children. It doesn't help that the story line seems to run from one show to the next. In fact, "Yu-Gi-Oh" plays out like a very bad soap.

"Yu-Gi-Oh" seems to be in the format of a video game, with each show featuring a different level until the defeat of the evil boss, Pegasus. The theme is your basic good versus evil, with good always prevailing. It's cheesy and predictable.

If you would like to say that you were a loyal follower of "Yu-Gi-Oh" from the beginning and not just another person getting on the bandwagon, check your local listings for time and channel number, otherwise, catch up on that valuable sleep.

'Joy Ride' is definitely thrilling



PHOTO COURTESY OF REGENCY ENT.

(Left to right) Lewis (Paul Walker), Venna (Leelee Sobieski) and Fuller (Steve Zahn) flee from a vicious trucker out for revenge

by Jacob Boring
staff writer

"Joy Ride" stars Paul Walker ("Varsity Blues") as Lewis, who is a good-seed college student. Steve Zahn ("Reality Bites") plays Fuller, who is Lewis' troubled brother, and Leelee Sobieski ("Never Been Kissed") is Venna who is the romantic interest of Lewis.

The story is simple. You take one everyday good guy (Lewis), you lead him astray with a less likable guy (Fuller), and you add the romantic concern for a lady (Venna). Then, you make them face the horrible repercussions of their actions. In this case, they get chased by a serial killer all over a stupid prank.

The basic plot involves a CB radio prank which is intended to be harmless, but doesn't end up

that way. The three stars end up being pursued and tormented by an insane trucker with the CB handle Rusty Nail.

"Joy Ride" is guaranteed to keep viewers on the edge of their seat. The suspense is constant as no one knows what sorts of warped torments Rusty Nail will come up with, or when he will strike next. Throughout the film, viewers are aware of the dangers immediately awaiting Lewis, Venna, and Fuller, but you never know how they will escape, then escape again, then escape yet again as Rusty Nail continues to pursue and torment his victims.

The film manages to represent the horror/suspense genre without becoming cheesy. The story seems believable enough to be genuinely scary and is written well enough to keep viewers in suspense. I would consider this film to be an excellent date film, which is more than I can say for most films from the horror/suspense genre. My date kept tugging my arm and tightening her grip during many of the frightening and suspenseful scenes.

"Joy Ride" is a Regency Entertainment Production from director John Dahl who also directed "The Last Seduction" and "Red Rock West." "Joy Ride" was written by J.J. Abrams and Clay Tarver.

***out of 4

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*Release Date: 11/9

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