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The Behrend Beacon

behrcoll5@aol.com

Gust blows the new cast of 'Real World' into the Windy City

New city, new people, new drama: 'The Real World Chicago'

by Autumn Brown
staff writer

It's time to take another trip into the world's newest and greatest obsession, reality television. Chicago known for the Bulls, the Bears and the Cubs, now has a new team in town called the "Real World." As if we hadn't had enough of the "Real World back to New York," which began and concluded last semester, MTV decided to bless its viewers with a bonus season of the "Real World in Chicago."

If you think that the "Real World" has gone on too long and the excite-

ment has faded, think again. After all, it's not your momma's soap opera. Even though the show got off to a slow start, this season will be like no other. With a cast that is all mixed together like a fruit salad, 30 minutes of drama is almost guaranteed, not to mention commercials by R&B group City High, which offer episode summaries with a musical twist.

The cast includes your All-American guy, two homosexuals, a naive beauty with a kidney infection, a Southern belle, an immature wanna-be player, and a self-centered drama queen. Given the cast, what more could one ask for?

Every season the cast-mates receive a job assignment, which



'The Real World Chicago' cast (left to right) Aneesa, Cara, Chris, Keri, Kyle, Theo, and Tonya.

they must perform as part of the living arrangement. This time the lucky seven must partake in the job of lifeguarding. It's not as easy as it seems. In order for them to gain certification each of the seven must pass a CPR course and a 500 meter swimming test. By the end of the third episode only three housemates passed the test and the remaining four were jobless.

By this time in the game everyone knows the deal with the "Real World." After all, this is the 11th time MTV decided to take a crack at throwing seven strangers into a house and record their every move. Throughout the season the housemates will deal with issues ranging anywhere from homophobia to foster care.

For some, the "Real World" has become a soap opera that they never

miss on Tuesday night, even though MTV airs the programs repeatedly. The show has become a constant college favorite, with the slogan that tempts you to "find out what happens when people stop being polite and start getting real." So, next Tuesday night at 10 p.m., round up some friends and get ready for your welcome into the "Real World."

"Real World Chicago" fact:

Since its inception, the series has moved through Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, Miami, Boston, Seattle, Hawaii and New Orleans.

The price is still right after 30 years

by Jeanine Noce
a & e editor

"Come on down. You're the next contestant on 'The Price is Right.'"

Can you imagine saying this phrase for the past 30 years? Well, Rod Roddy and Bob Barker have done just that and millions are still watching.

The "Price is Right" celebrated its 30th anniversary of the show from the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas. For the first time in its history on CBS the show went on the road on Jan. 31.

After three decades of television the game show is still going strong. Even Behrend's faculty and students continue to watch the show. Last semester, the Behrend women's soccer team attended a taping.

"I watch the show because someday I want to be in the audience and selected as a contestant," said Dawn Russell, majoring in elementary education. "I am watching all of the games so that I can learn the ways to win all of them."

Communications professor John Kerwin, who has worked in television production, said "'The Price is Right' has a great formula. It is a no-brainer, the prizes are great and everybody likes to win something." He stated that the game show deals with a subject that everyone should know something about, which is prices of various household and larger items.

"In this show you can win something for nothing," said Kerwin. "The

show keeps sustaining. It draws modern-day, young and old similar to the lottery."

The show opened with the usual "Barker Beauties" in sparkly evening gowns, along with Las Vegas show girls in costume. If that wasn't enough, the games were played with more expensive prizes. A car, convertible and truck were the prizes for



Bob Barker, Rod Roddy and the Barker Beauties traveled to Las Vegas for the 30th anniversary special. More than 1,500 would-be contestants were present.

the game "Triple Play" where a contestant won more than \$60,000 worth of vehicles in one game. She also claimed a trip to Alaska in the original bidding in contestant row and racked up \$1,000 while spinning the "Big Wheel."

Even the "Showcase Showdown" had more to offer. A contestant who won claimed a trip to Rio de Janeiro, a sail boat, two gold and diamond watches and \$5,000, totalling more than \$40,000 in prizes.

More than 70 games are played on "The Price is Right." Plinko, the most popular game where a contestant can win \$50,000, was played. Triple Play,

In the Bag, Squeeze Play and One Away were the other games showcased.

"The Price is Right" continues to be as popular as ever. More than 10,000 would-be contestants showed up, but only 1,500 tickets were available. Police had to be called in to disperse the mob.

Funny clips were shown throughout the evening on the show from Rio: Barker receiving kisses from women and men, people falling while spinning the "Big Wheel" and even women's chests falling out of their shirt.

Some older viewers may remember that the show originated in 1952 with Bill Cullen as the host. Mark Goodson, the show's creator, offered Barker the position after revising his original concept in 1972.

"The Price is Right" is the longest running game show on television.

"This is the only game show that is left on daytime television," said Cathy Mester, Behrend communication professor. "There used to be three or four in the 1980s, but now talk shows are the big thing. Barker is the Tom Cruise of the older generation. Many older women think that he is attractive."

Barker has won 11 Emmy Awards for hosting the series. He recently told TV Guide that he has no plans to retire soon and has renewed his contract.

'Brotherhood of the Wolf' roars

by Daniel J. Stasiewski
staff writer

All too often the portrayal of cryptozoological legends on film results in a cheesy B-movie about Bigfoot that does nothing to explore any real-life enigma. In Christophe Gans film, "Brotherhood of the Wolf," the French director falls for the opposite. While exploring the legend of the Beast of Gevaudan, "Brotherhood of the Wolf" turns out to be a better plot-heavy mystery than the action flick it proclaims itself to be.

Between 1764 and 1767 nearly 100 French citizens in and around the town of Gevaudan fell prey to a mysterious wolf-like creature simply called the Beast. King Louis XV of France, whose nation has the rumbling of a revolution, sends naturalist Grégoire de Fronsac (Samuel La Bihan) and his Native American companion Mani (Mark Dacascos) to investigate the vicious monster.

After a failed large-scale hunt and scores of new murders, a French military commander is put in charge of the search. Fronsac is left out until the commander forces him to construct a monster from a dead wolf carcass, thus giving the French public a bogus sense of relief.

Unsettled, Fronsac and Mani go in search of the real Beast only to discover a broad conspiracy against the King in the holiest of places.

It's hard to imagine a film starting out with a pointless fight scene and its stars, but "Brotherhood of the Wolf" miraculously pulls it off. Writers Stephane Cabel and Gans don't

leave the essentials of an action movie behind with gratuitous battles and tacky action hero lines. Their focus on an amazingly packed screenplay, however, turns attention from the simple fight choreography to a fictionalized investigation of an overlooked French legend.

While the screenplay does develop into a thrilling adventure tale, one flaw can be found in its length. The 2 hour and 22 minute movie becomes dull at points. Usually, this occurs during the needlessly drawn-out fight sequences. These little interruptions in the generally unyielding plot aren't half as harmful as they could have been to a lesser-scripted film, but disruptions make the "action" scenes feel oddly boring.

Now, the captivating mystery behind the Beast does tend to take the forefront in "Brotherhood of the Wolf." But, director Gans never forgets the film is also a period drama. While the examination of French revolutionist politics obviously influences the plot, the film doesn't preclude itself from delving into other aspects of 18th century France such as prostitution, colonization, and religious ignorance. Beautiful art direction and fabulous costume designs complete an extravagant vision of a growing state of peril.

With a comparatively low budget, "Brotherhood of the Wolf" not only boasts superior costume design but also glorious visual effects. Though most of the Beast scenes are done by playing off of its "Predator"-like mystic, the actual action with a computer-generated Beast rivals most Holly-

wood productions. An attack scene in farmhouse, I swear, was only designed to show off what a filmmaker can generate with only \$25 million dollars.

Anyway you look at it, however, the Beast was a fantastic dose of eye candy. As far as acting is concerned, one performer can be easily singled out above the rest of the cast. Relative newcomer Emilie Dequenne is striking as Fronsac's love interest. Her dramatic portrayal of a romantic young woman deprived of liberation only by her class values is compelling and powerful.

Dequenne's significant presence in her supporting role undoubtedly ensures a tremendous future in film worldwide. While Dequenne's performance resonates throughout the film, Dacascos' role as the silent warrior Mani remains a dominant background presence.

His strongest emotions are exposed early on in the film during the atrocious wolf genocide, but the martial arts star of films like "Double Dragon" gives his finest performance to date.

It's not as if "Brotherhood of the Wolf" wasn't a decent action film. The amount of focus on plot is not something every action movie has but should. A vicious but extravagant period piece, "Brotherhood of the Wolf" is definitely a film worth biting into.

★ ★ ★
out of 4

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New Releases

Movies

- 'Big Fat Liar'
- 'Collateral
Damage'
- 'Rollerball'

Video*

- 'Captain Corelli's
Mandolin'
- 'Ghost World'
- 'Extreme Days'

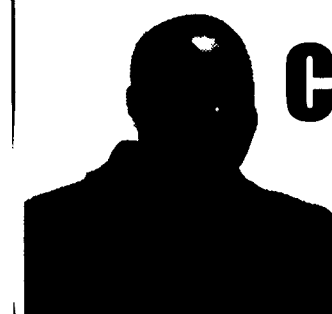
Music*

- E-Dub
- The Remix Album
- Jennifer Lopez

DVD*

- 'Captain Corelli's
Mandolin'
- 'Ghost World'
- 'Blind Date'

*Release Date: 2/8



Chris Flix's Video Picks

A weekly entertainment guide
to current movie rentals

by Chris Alibaruho
staff writer

Once again Behrend movie watchers, Chris Flix returns on the scene to give you the high and low of this week's movie rentals.

Pay close attention to what I have

to say, because Valentine's Day is just around the corner. What better way to spend the romantic evening than curled up in bed watching a movie with your significant other?

With that in mind, I suggest you pick up "Kiss Of The Dragon" starring martial arts sensation Jet Li and Bridget Fonda. Li stars as a Chinese detective in Paris, who is somehow framed for murder and has to fight his way to prove his innocence. Fonda does a great job as a helpless prostitute caught up in all the madness. Unlike the typical action flicks of your average "Dolph" or "Jean-Claude", this movie not only kicks ass, but it also has a good story to it.

You might be wondering how this movie ties into the whole Valentine's Day theme. Well, you could probably look at the relationship between Fonda and her sadistic pimp as a love story if you really wanted to...or maybe settle for the fact that the title has the word "Kiss" in it. It's a stretch, but this is a great movie, either way. Li rocks.

Chris Flix Grade: A-

If anyone on this campus is suffering from insomnia, I do believe I have the cure. My prescription is a

sure-fire way to knock out anyone who comes in contact with it. My only precaution: Do not use if you are allergic to Woody Allen.

"Curse Of The Jade Scorpion" is a quirky comedy starring Allen, Helen Hunt and Dan Aykroyd. Allen plays a chauvinistic insurance fraud investigator who absolutely hates his new female boss, played by Hunt.

I wish I could tell you more about the movie, but I fell asleep. Apparently the movie has something to do with hypnotism, which is pretty hilarious because this mind-numbing movie will put you in such a deep sleep that you won't be able to wake up even if you wanted to, until you hear the sound of your VCR rewinding the tape. I only liked this movie because I haven't had such a good nap since I was a baby. It's better than any sleeping pill on the market. I am sure of it.

Chris Flix Grade: D+
Now get to your video store movie watchers and take my word for it. This is Chris Flix, your number one movie man, and I will see you next week.

*Chris used to be a manager at a movie theatre in Virginia and is currently an employee at Giant Eagle's Iggle Video.