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I'm living in the '80s

by Autumn Brown
staff writer

Remember back in the day when MTV was born, Madonna was like a virgin, and ET phoned home? Just when you thought we could put it all behind us, a show dedicated to the '80s winds up at your door.

Well, Fox has done it again, first with "That 70s Show" and now "That 80s Show." The '80s was a decade where the clothes, hairstyles, music, and even recycling ruled American lives. For those who forgot what the '80s was all about, don't worry. There are plenty of jokes referring to the time when Ronald Reagan was king, Atari ruled, and breakdancing was a club standard.

This half-hour comedy takes a trip down memory lane for those who both loved and hated the '80s. The show takes place in 1984, the year which introduced the Huxtables on the "Cosby Show" and when Culture Club's "Karma Chameleon" was constantly reworded in tape decks. During this time the show's cast, a group of 20 year olds, tries to

find its way through sunny San Diego. The plot centers on Corey and Katie, who live with their Dad and Roger, Corey's friend. Corey, a striving young musician, hopes to make it big into the music industry, but runs into difficulty in a decade based on financial success. On the other hand, Katie, an ultra-positive sweetheart, embodies the typical child of the '80s. Rounding out the characters are



The cast of "That 80s Show" (from l to r) Tuesday, Corey, Katie, Rodger, Margaret, Sophia, and RT appears Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. on Fox.

Some wish to relive the time, while others cringe at the thought of the return of this decade. Either way, the '80s are here to stay and this is evident in music, fashion, and television. Take a trip back every Wednesday night at 8 p.m. to the time when spandex and

Sophia, Corey's ex, Margaret Smith, the quirky record store owner, and Tuesday, a punk rocker with a mohawk.

Of all the components that made up the '80s, the music had the greatest im-

act on this decade. This is why the show's creators employed the lead character Corey at a record store called Permanent Record. This show could not properly represent the '80s without the music, which is why the series features many alternative tunes from this era. From the Go Gos, to Michael Jackson to Cyndi Lauper to Duran Duran, believe it or not '80s music set the stage for today's flashy entertainers. The theme song captures the feeling with the lyrics "I'm living in the '80s."

leg warmers were the fashion statement and Ferris Bueller was a hero. Unlike its predecessor "That 70s Show," "That 80s Show" targets Generation X with the hopes that the '80s will live on forever.

Music ignites Games' spirit

by Jeanine Noce
A & E Editor

An array of world-class talent opened the XIX Olympic Winter Games last Friday night at the Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium in Salt Lake City. Country and folk music performers ignited the "spirit within," the theme of the Olympics for more than 72 million households who attended or watched the televised broadcast.

Utah's own Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Utah Symphony began the program by performing the National Anthem. The Cathedral of the Madeleine also lent their voices to this inspirational opening.

Contemporary artist LeAnn Rimes sang a moving piece while children ice skated around her on stage. Later, the country music trio the Dixie Chicks played a downhome song that was in keeping with the country western theme. R & B artist R. Kelly also performed the song "The World's Greatest."

Sting, a world known artist, sang a single cello as accompaniment. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma played alongside Sting on the moving stage that was encircled by glistening lights. The performance was astounding due to the use of a single instrument heard by more than 50,000 spectators in the stadium.

Local a cappella group Eclipse and local folk group the Desert String Band/Bunkhouse orchestra sang and danced their versions of

songs and musical numbers filled with national pride and spirit. Native American performers Rita Coolidge and Waela also performed throughout the program and composer, performer and Native Indian Robbie Robertson sang a patriotic piece.



"These performers helped celebrate the theme "Light the Fire Within" and the power of the Olympics in...the show of a lifetime," said Mitt Romney, SLOC president and CEO. "At the Opening Ceremony we salute the passion and courage of the athletes who gathered in Salt Lake to compete in a spirit of harmony and spirit of friendship."

In all, the three-hour event cost about \$37 million. The Salt Lake City games had the largest ratings for an Olympic ceremony ever, with one-fourth of the country tuning in.

Organizers of this year's Olympiad hope that the musical performances by multiplatinum pop music superstars will give the Olympics a new

flavor and will lure more viewers. "I think that the singers definitely added to the performance. R. Kelly's song 'The World's Greatest' fit well for the Olympics, especially after 9-11," said Jamie Triscuit, majoring in MIS.

Artists such as 'N Sync, Nelly Furtado, and Creed will be performing. Each night, following the medal presentation in downtown Salt Lake City at the plaza, NBC will broadcast one song from every concert.

"Music is so inspirational, so celebratory," said Gail Seay, executive producer of the production team at Olympic Medals Plaza. "We're hoping the athletes, the medal winners, will come and jam onstage with the bands every night, gold medals and everything."

When the acts were booked, organizers tried to match specific sports with music that fit. Country group Brooks & Dunn will play Saturday night when the medal ceremonies for alpine skiing, speed skating and biathlon events will take place. The snowboarders wanted to hear Smash Mouth, who will perform tonight. Creed will perform on Tuesday, when medals are presented for short-track speed skating and freestyle skiing events.

It was difficult for all of the events to match with the performers. 'N Sync will serenade the winners of the men's slalom event on Feb. 23.

'Rollerball' just stops

by Daniel J. Stasiewski
staff writer

When a film's rating can go from an R to PG-13 with a snip here and a chop there, it's easy to realize something is missing. Such cruel cutting loses everything for director John McTiernan's "Rollerball." While it's certainly not the only failure, choppy editing weakens the structure enough for every other flaw to cause a complete collapse of this incredibly rotten sci-fi remake.

After missing out on his chance to join the NHL, Jonathon Cross (Chris Klein) gets some career advice from Marcus Ridley (LL Cool J). Ridley's suggestion: join his Rollerball team. With some hesitation, Cross makes the switch to the extreme sport of Rollerball. The rookie thrives in his new sport until a teammate is horribly injured. Fellow Rollerballer Aurora (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos) easily proves the accident was no accident. All evidence leads to the sport's avaricious owner Alexi Petrovich (Jean Reno). Soon Cross discovers that Petrovich will do anything—even kill—for television ratings.

"Rollerball" is terrible. There isn't an easier way to describe it. Even more disgusting than the film itself, however, is the amount of effort put into making this movie so awful. First, there are the hours of editing out violent scenes that could have brought on at least a rewarding cringe or two. Instead, the editing hacks out pieces of footage, which causes one continuity error after another. My favorite cut has to be a shotgun blast that hits a guy who is initially standing still, but manages to catch the pellets in midair. The sound is even muted to eliminate the force behind any hard hit. Sure, the editors save us from a few gratuitous splatter shots, but "Rollerball" could have used a few.

MGM continued to shred its money with the atrocious costume design and generally mediocre visual effects. Even though the movie revolves around the most brutal sport in the world, most costumes consist of cartoony helmets and hokey jumpsuits. The masquerading Rollerballers wear anything from jester hats to second-rate armor rip-offs from "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." Professional wrestlers don't look this campy.

"Rollerball's" unimpressive pyrotechnics and horribly choreographed action sequences make up the rest of its visual features. Explosives are strategically placed (like in most productions), but the visual effects department doesn't hide the fact, at all. Always three feet to the right or five feet behind, the little explosions were handled with all the skill of a 5-year-old with a sparkler.

You can anticipate the action sequences that go along with these pyrotechnics which is another major flaw. Every time a person is hit or a stunt is performed the stunt person noticeably expects the blow. A moment of preparation can be detected right before impact, and the fantasy world that is already having problems staying together falls further apart.

I'm not even going to mention the acting because Tom Hanks couldn't have saved this movie. That's because the one part of "Rollerball" that didn't get any effort (and by effort, of course, I mean money) was the screenplay. After throwing us into the story without any background to speak of, writers John Pogue and Larry Ferguson assault us with inane characters and bad dialogue. The closest we ever get

to learning about the characters are a few NHL remarks about Cross and Ridley's constant need to remind us he's really an accountant.

Aurora is probably the most important character, only because every plot point is channeled through her. She conveniently gets every necessary piece of information, and gets to make keen observations like, "Don't you know they track you with those things," as she throws a cell phone away. I don't know whether to call her Velma or Nancy Drew when it comes to solving this mystery, but I can certainly call Cross, Scooby. His character is the stupidest hero I've ever encountered. The stereotypical dumb jock, Cross can barely string together a sentence, but his athletic prowess and dumb luck still helps him save the day.

Even with the garbled screenplay, the biggest joke remains a 15-minute night vision sequence halfway through "Rollerball." In moderation and as a point of view shot,



James Caan appears in "Rollerball" along with LL Cool J, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos and Chris Klein.

night vision can be a nice addition to a film. "Rollerball," however, proves night vision should never be used as the primary shooting technique. These scenes give the film a "Blair Witch Project" type instability and make it seem even more amateurish than before. But the technique is made worse when the filmmakers try to explain the night vision through Cross' clever observation, "I haven't seen a light in about an hour." It's hard to believe McTiernan would use that line in place of a little artificial lighting in the rural Wyoming location, but there are many questionable aspects of this film.

I don't think I'm overstating when I say "Rollerball" is the worst movie of the year. True, it is only February, but it'll take a film of the caliber of "Freddie Got Fingered" to steal the title away from "Rollerball."

NO STARS out of 4

'Romantic Moments' coming to Warner

The music of Brahms will surround the audience as the Erie Philharmonic, with special guest Eduardus Halim, performs the "Concerto for Piano No. 1." Maestro Hugh Keelan will conduct the Philharmonic in "Romantic Moments," a program of music from romantic composers, Saturday at the Warner Theatre.

Brahm's "Piano Concerto No. 1" was originally conceived as a symphony, but he later decided that it was a perfect vehicle to highlight piano virtuosity, from the dramatic opening to the rippling trills to the powerful conclusion. Sir Edward Elgar's "Symphony No. 1" has been called "a salute to English national heritage."

It is a colorful and dramatic piece full of orchestral flourishes in the style of Brahms.

The performance begins at 8 p.m. at the Warner Theatre, located at Eighth and State Street. Ticket prices

start at \$22. Group, student and senior discounts are available. Call 455-1375 or visit the Erie Philharmonic Orchestra box office at 1006 State Street. A \$5 open rehearsal will be held tonight at 6:30 p.m.

Best of the best

Feature films with the highest number of nominations for this year's Academy Awards:



"The Lord of the Rings"	13
"A Beautiful Mind"	8
"Moulin Rouge"	8
"Gosford Park"	7
"Amelie"	5
"In the Bedroom"	5

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New Releases

<p>Movies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Crossroads' 'Hart's War' 'John Q' 'Super Troopers' 'Return to Neverland' <p>*Release Date: 2/15</p>	<p>Video*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -'Hearts in Atlantis' 'Pandaemonium' 	<p>Music*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expose Greatest Dance Mixes -Chris Isaak -'Ali' Soundtrack 	<p>DVD*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -'Hearts in Atlantis' -'Fresh' -'Peter Pan' -'Britney Spears: Live from Las Vegas'
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