

STUDENT LIFE



New Line Cinema 2005

Don't "crash" Wedding Crashers

By Matt Davidson
contributing writer

Wedding Crashers is the zany comedy that follows two Washington D.C. bachelors, Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn, as they...crash weddings. Their philosophy on the entire concept of the wedding is that, due to the romantic nature of a wedding, all the women present become marriage-seeking nymphomaniacs, and a sort of funny montage proves them right in the beginning of the movie. After a while, Owen Wilson's character, whom I do not remember the name of, becomes love sick and grows tired of the countless number of beautiful women he sleeps with every spring. But his friend Vince Vaughn, whose character name I also do not remember, talks him into crashing one more wedding where he finds the girl of his dreams, who is played by some pretty girl with brown hair whose dad in the movie is Christopher Walken.

The rest of the movie is incredibly predictable and full of the same tiresome character antics that were funny for maybe the first 20 minutes of a nearly two hour long movie. This movie was hyped up by a number of my friends as the funniest movie I will ever see they were wrong. The funniest part of the movie was a face that Christopher Walken made during a game of pick up football.

The character of the nice clever guy that Owen Wilson portrays in every movie he's in is getting extremely tiresome (for examples see Shanghai Noon, Shanghai Knights, Armageddon, Meet the Parents, Starsky and Hutch...) Although Vince Vaughn's character is also very similar to other ones I've seen him play, I will never get tired of it because he's just so damn sassy.

This movie was probably most disappointing because of the writing. I thought it was a great concept for a movie, but the general content became redundant and played out by the end. If it were perhaps a half hour shorter, then I think it may have been a much better movie. For me it just seemed to be three or four funny jokes wrapped up in a bunch of crap. But the one thing that would have saved the entire movie would have simply been more Christopher Walken and I think we can all agree on that.

The wonders of USB thumb drives

By Jeremy Korwek
staff writer

A Universal Serial Bus (USB) flash drive sometimes, ok most of the time, is called a USB thumb drive, or plainly a thumb drive. Many, if not all, of the students at Behrend use these wonderful devices. Many use them to store those all-important or should be all-important projects for class. Sometimes the more advanced users use them to store that drawing for engineering class that took them three hours to get the little hole lined up straight.

But on the other side of the table, compared to running the thumb drive from the computer, the thumb drive can actually run the computer! Many of you are wondering, "What the heck is this guy talking about!" What I am talking about is that there is a whole world of things you can do with a thumb drive besides storing that six page essay for English 015 on it. The thumb drive that you carry around can boot up almost any computer you want, opening a whole new realm of possibility for that little piece of plastic and wire.

Every time you turn on a computer, an integrated system called the BIOS (Basic input/output system) activates and follows the settings given to it and eventually boots up your operating system and most likely that operating system is some version of Windows. What you can do as the user is

set up the BIOS so that the thumb drive sitting in your pocket becomes what the BIOS looks at to start the operating system. This procedure requires that you have a several things:

- * A large enough USB thumb drive
- * A BIOS that can boot from a USB drive
- * A USB Drive that has the proper files to boot up
- * A computer you have permission to boot up with a USB drive (your computer, your friends' computer, but NOT the Departments of Defense's main server or the library computers, just as an example)
- * And a user who can configure all of this without destroying the computer or the USB Drive

If you don't meet all of these requirements, especially the last two, DO NOT attempt to boot up the computer from the USB drive as you could damage your computer or the USB Drive and your college experience. To start off, you need to have at least a 256MB thumb drive. Which is a standard size. Larger thumb drives are considered a better value. If you're going to boot up a computer that you think meets all the requirements, but you are not sure than check the internet for reputable sites that have detailed explanations about the processes needed to accomplish such a task.

Next, you need to know what you want to

do with it. Do you want to carry around your favorite internet browser? Currently, I only know of Firefox having a portable sibling. You can also download a portable Microsoft Outlook style email client called Thunderbird. Thunderbird is made by the same people who brought you Firefox and there is a full version available as well. These can both be found by just "Googling" "portable Firefox" or "portable Thunderbird."

Now there are many other programs that can be run perfectly fine from a USB thumb drive.

One of the more interesting ones is an open source program called Abiword. The name gives it all away. Abiword is a word processing program that is almost exactly like Microsoft Word, except for the fact that it can be carried around on a USB thumb drive. Why do this? Well it's an easy way to have a familiar word processing program that can work on almost every computer you meet up with.

Even though it seems like there are only a few programs that you can use on a thumb drive, there are only a few mentioned in this article. If you want to find out more about using USB drives in "unusual" ways, ask around. Both online and in the real world there are many people willing to help you get started.

Unearth to rock Forward Hall with Metal on Friday

By Matt Grohlmund
contributing writer

If for some strange reason you find yourself wandering down Peach Street Friday around 5:30 p.m. a few blocks down from Grasshoppers on a Friday night, you might notice an unusually high amount of piercings, long hair, and Pantera T-shirts and people pushing each other around in a circle and trying to bum cigarettes off of you. That is because around downtown Erie fans of hardcore and metal music all know that for many years Peach Street's Forward Hall has been at the center of the local live music scene.

However, this Friday, September 16, you are really not going to want to wear your Grateful Dead tie-dye T-shirt down there. The Forward Hall will become the launching point for

hardcore/metal band Unearth's nationwide club tour.

However, Unearth is not just those few kids that used to scream indistinguishable lyrics over sloppy guitar parts at your youth group meetings. These guys have a live show that has probably caused more severe headaches than the computers on the main floor of the library. "We prefer the club atmosphere," says Unearth front man Trevor Phipps, "where there is simply just more energy and a better show from all points."

Unearth's fast-as-your-skull-can-take-it performances have been dubbed "energetic and heartfelt," while their original sound can be summed up as "charismatic riffs, thought provoking lyrics and pummeling breakdowns."

Their onstage energy speaks for itself. This is a band that got its name

out there by using the oldest and purest means possible for underground music: they packed up what they needed and went out on long, extensive tours aimed at their kind of audiences.

They let the fans decide if they were any good and now they'll be spreading their brand of music, along with a plague of migraines, all across the head banging country.

And it won't be the first time. Unearth has found gigs as diverse as "a cross Canadian tour with Slipknot and Killswitch Engage, a second stage spot on the infamous Ozzfest 2004, as well as the Headbangers Ball tour in the fall of 2004 with Hatebreed and Damage Plan." Opening up for Unearth this weekend are Nora, A Life Once Lost and Since The Flood.

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