

ENTERTAINMENT

Word Of The Week:

suberose - adjective - of the nature of cork; corklike; corky.

Whenever I want to remember random thoughts, I write them on notes and pin them to my friend Jeff. By the end of the semester, Jeff was rather suberose!

National Treasure: The Book of Secrets set to release this year

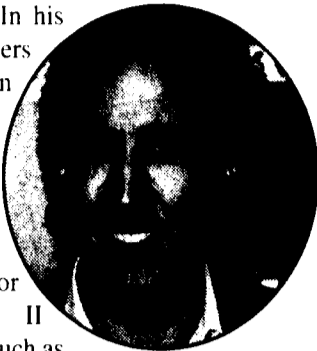
By Gabrielle Saitto
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Earlier in 2007, Jerry Bruckheimer Films and Walt Disney Pictures made the intelligent decision to create National Treasure: Book of Secrets. The movie will be a sequel to the 2004 film National Treasure. In the first National Treasure, Benjamin Franklin Gates, played by Nicolas Cage, is just one of a long line of treasure seekers. Previous family members have all tried to protect a war chest hidden by the Founding Fathers after the Revolutionary War. When he learns of a plan to steal the Declaration and find the treasure, his only option is to steal it first. With the help of his grandfather, played by Jon Voight and Abigail Chase, played by Diane Kruger, he goes on a hunt throughout the entire country to find cryptically hidden clues, one of which is on the back of the Declaration of Independence. As he gets closer to finding the chest, he realizes that not only does he have competition, but that he is also being closely followed by the F.B.I.

In the new movie, National Treasure: Book of Secrets, Cage's character Ben Gates sets out on a new global mission to find hidden treasure. A missing page from the diary of John Wilkes Booth is found, and in it, Gate's great-grandfather is accused of being a conspirator in the death of Abraham Lincoln. In an attempt to prove the innocence of his great-grandfather, Ben goes on a trek following clues from Paris to London, and then

back to America. In his journey, Ben discovers new information about his family, as well as discovering some of the world's most amazing hidden treasure.

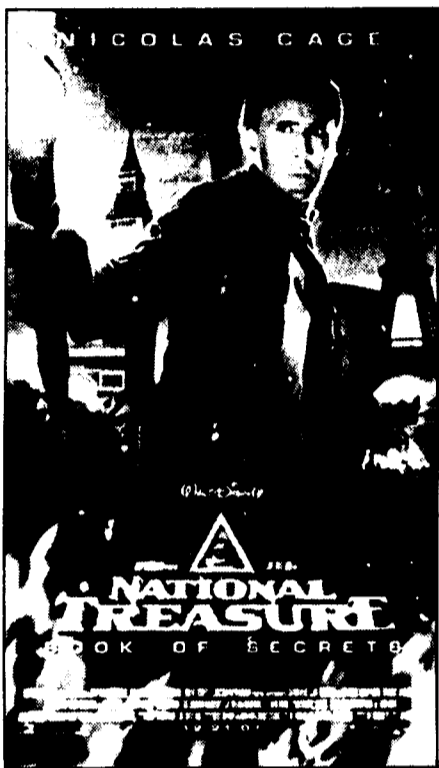
Filming for National Treasure II took place in areas such as Alexandria, Virginia, Paris, Mount Rushmore, London and the Mount Vernon Estate.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Nicholas Cage.

It was directed by Jon Turteltaub, who also directed the first National Treasure, and co-written by Cormac and Marianna Wibberley, and Gregory Poirier. The film is produced by Jerry Buckheimer. Hopefully the film will be able to do as well as the first. Originally, there were no plans to create a sequel, but due to the success of the first film, definite plans for a second movie were made in 2005. The first film earned \$347.5 million worldwide.

To promote the film, Walt Disney Pictures and Mercedes Benz has even created a sweepstakes. In this sweepstakes, there are five cities around the world which you can visit. If you visit each of these cities, you have a chance to earn an entry into the Grand Prize Sweepstakes, which gives you the chance to win a Mercedes-Benz C350 Sport Sedan, in addition to \$50,000 worth of treasure. Also, every two weeks a new City of the Week Sweepstakes begins, and if you play games in the required city, you also get a chance to win \$50,000. Ages 12 and older are eligible to participate, so all college students are welcome to try their luck. National Treasure: Book of Secrets is due to be released in theatres on Dec. 21, 2007.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

National Treasure's sequel, named The Book of Secrets, releases Dec 21.

American Gangster lives up to expectations in movie debut

By Jeff DeBello
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This weekend I had the distinct pleasure of getting to see the new film American Gangster, starring Russell Crowe and Denzel Washington. Well first of all, on a less enthusiastic note, Erie's largest movie theater, Tinseltown, decides that on opening night of the movie they would only show it on one screen. Not aware of this at the time, I show up for the movie 90 minutes early and to my surprise the last two showings of the night were in fact sold out. Which made me a very unhappy man and prompted me to include that little bit in my article. Boo Tinseltown.

Now, on a much more enthusiastic note, when I actually got to see the movie the day later it was amazing. Probably the best movie that I have seen all year. The stars of the movie Denzel Washington, as Frank Lucas, and Russell Crowe, as Richie Roberts put on amazing performances. With the movie being close to three hours long, you may expect to be bored by the plot and have long breaks without anything really happening, if you think that you are not correct. The entire movie is filled with action and plot twists that keep

you into the movie and after it ends you would never believe you just watched a nearly three hour movie.

The plot revolves around Frank Lucas, a druglord in the New York area, and Richie Roberts, one of the only cops in New York at the time that actually took the law seriously and didn't take bribes from the criminals. Frank Lucas takes New York by storm almost immediately after the death of his mentor Bumpy Johnson by providing a superior product at a lower price than the competition. He does so by getting his

heroin right from the source, Vietnam. He had the heroin shipped in on American Military planes in the coffins of fallen soldiers. Having pure product uncut by middlemen allowed him to provide his

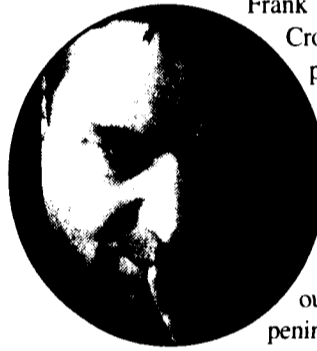


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Blue Magic to all of New York, cutting out many of the previous dealers including the Italian Mafia. As you can imagine, they weren't thrilled about that. On the other side of the law Russell Crowe's character Richie Roberts, who doesn't fit in with the other city officers of the area, takes a federal position to assist in the war on drugs. His major concern is finding out who is the major supplier of drugs in the city and take him down. To his surprise he finds out it is not in fact the Italian mafia, but a black man who apparently came out of nowhere to run the streets.

If you like good movies at all, then I'd say you have to go see American Gangster. Definitely is one of the best movies ever in its genre in my opinion. Even if gangster movies aren't your thing give this a shot, I bet you'll like it.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Russell Crowe.

Upcoming releases: Movies

Beowulf

~Dec. 16~
This legendary story offers a new, unique view of the warrior Beowulf as he clashes with the evil demon, Grendel.

Rating: PG-13.



Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium

~Dec. 16~
A strange and wonderful toy store comes to life in this movie starring actor Dustin Hoffman.

Rating: G.

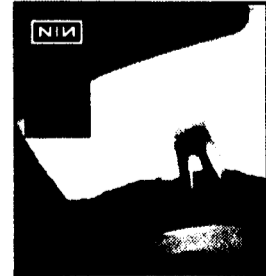


Music

Nine Inch Nails

~Nov 20~

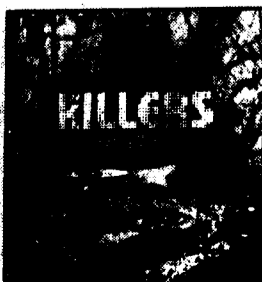
"Year Zero Remixed"



The Killers

~Nov 20~

"Sawdust" (B-Sides)



The Pact - an unforgettable read

By Aeriale Kramer
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The Pact doesn't portray a moral, nor does it teach a lesson. However, what it does do for its readers is make them question the idea of trust. How well do we know our loved ones? This novel leads readers into a compelling suspense that leaves them on the edge of their seats beginning with the very first page.

Jodi Picoult is a renowned author who started her journey towards fame with The Pact. Author of her latest New York Times bestseller, Nineteen Minutes, Picoult manages to write novels that leave her readers with experiences that could hit close to home. The Pact also delivers complex relationships, a trying courtroom case, and a peek into the life of a teenage prisoner, who could be wrongly accused.

The gripping first scene effectively entails the trials and tribulations that are vital to the plot, keeping the pace of the book moving swiftly. The Pact is the story of two families, who are not unlike many families we see today. As next-door neighbors, the Hartes and the Golds have been close since they met. Their children, Emily Gold and Chris Harte, grow up to be best friends. It is no surprise to the families when their children grow into teenagers and begin showing signs of raging hormones. Eventually their tight-knit relationship proves to be more than just a friendship. Picoult provides the necessary details to prove

that they've been "soul mates since they were born".

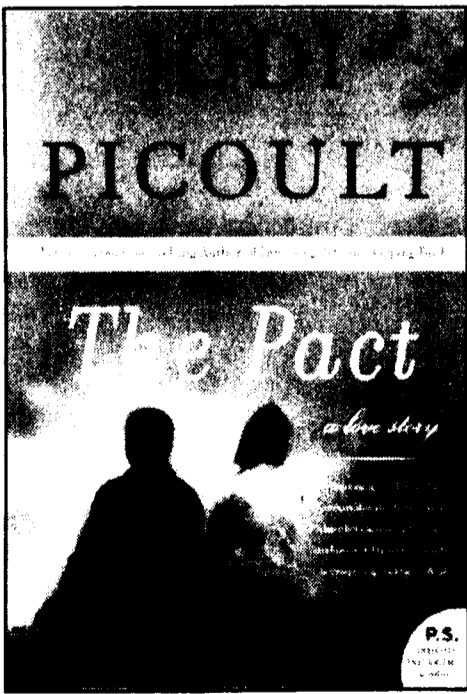
Picoult effectively guides the reader through their building relationship through flashback. She then proceeds to move from the past into the present, describing Chris panicking in the emergency room, asking for Emily, wondering where she is, only to have his parents tearfully inform him that Emily is dead.

Chris tells the police that he and Emily had made a suicide pact: they were planning to kill themselves together. The novel moves through Chris' story; prosecutors and defense attorneys gathering evidence to support Chris and tear his story down. The reader also gets to know Emily's side of the story while she was still alive, tracing her steps into the meaning behind what truly happened and how close Chris' story was to reality.

The novel is certainly complicated. The old friendship between the two families quickly disintegrate upon Emily's death. Could the one person who loved her enough to die for her have truly shot her in cold blood?

Friendships are destroyed, hearts are broken, and the meager line that separates the lies from the truth are intact only by a thread.

The Pact is an enthralling read, a novel that readers won't forget quickly, or put down easily. If you are craving a good, suspenseful read that provides startling insight into characters that will stick with you for the rest of your life, The Pact won't let you down.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Pact, by Jodi Picoult, redefines its readers' definition of trust.

SNL rising in popularity

By Samuel Levine
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Saturday Night Live, the groundbreaking sketch comedy show created and produced by Lorne Michaels, has come under heavy criticism in the past few seasons. Stars like Will Farrell, Jimmy Fallon and Tina Fey left the show's fans uneasy with replacement cast members.

But is the show finding a revival through Internet mediums such as Youtube? SNL's newest creation, SNL Digital Shorts are short segments shot entirely with consumer grade digital video cameras and edited with personal computers. Many of these segments have found their way to Internet stardom. The first breakthrough video to reach a high level of Internet success was titled "Lazy Sunday"; a rap performed by then veteran cast member Chris Parnell and newcomer Andy Samberg. The skit featured the two rapping about their Sunday afternoon, in which includes a trip to a bakery where they purchase cupcakes and see The Chronicles of Narnia at a local cinema. Upon its release, "Lazy Sunday" was made available online through free downloads on iTunes, and was viewed at least five million times on youtube.com.

The success of "Lazy Sunday" was repeated through other digital shorts, such as "Laser Cats", "The Shooting", and "Young Chuck Norris", among others. Along with the videos are various fan-made parodies and recreations. What had become a popular Internet innovation had suddenly become one of Saturday Night Live's best assets in the ways of promotion.

The show had, over time, reclaimed its popularity and legendary status. However despite its recent success found on Internet media, it will now be more difficult to access videos online. This is due to complaints from NBC Universal and many of the clips have already been taken off Youtube due to accusations of copyright infringement. The same had happened when competitor Viacom had ordered that clips of it shows had been taken off the popular video website. Videos and various clips and now only be viewed (legally) on NBC's official website for SNL to which Michael's does not understand. "I think it's simple for me," Michaels said in a statement. "If the work is good, I want the most number of people to see it - period."

More and more networks are embracing the Internet as a new media for showing their programs: many television shows could be viewed online as early as last year. At the time of this writing, many network executives refer to this type of program distribution as experimental, as they claim to be unsure of how much revenue it is capable of producing. Studios distributing their shows over the Internet is currently the main focus of the current writers strike which threatens to stop production of many television programs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Above: SNL's long time logo.