

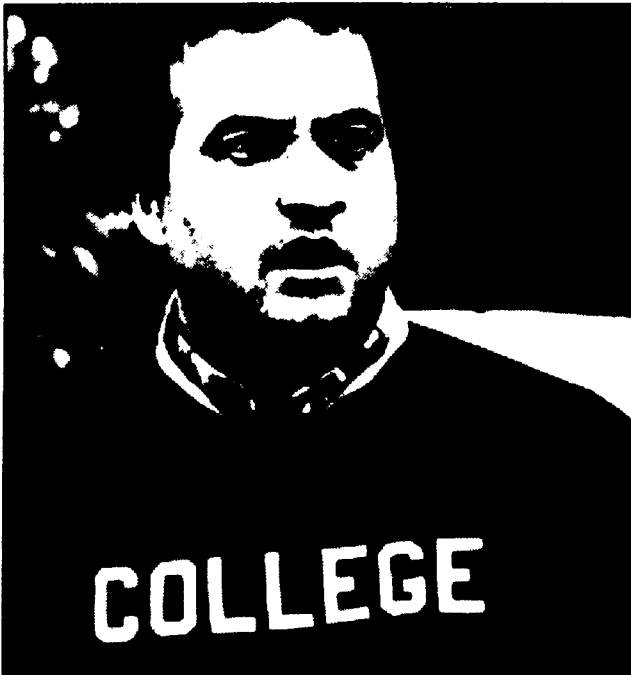
ENTERTAINMENT

Word Of The Week:

tumid - adj. - marked by swelling, swollen, enlarged

At the construction site, a shovel dropped four stories and landed on Jeff. After we ran down there, we could spot him easily because of his tumid head.

Beacon Entertainer of the Week
Jim Belushi



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Entertainment News in Brief
1/25 - 2/1

Brittany Spears Admits Mental problems
The pop star was admitted to the emergency room with what she has called "mental problems." She has sought help from a psychiatrist and the problems are "treatable," according to her manager.

Shows refuse to air video of Heath Ledger
A recently surfaced video of Heath Ledger at a party where drugs were allegedly used will not be aired by several shows, including "Entertainment Tonight" and "The Insider." Rumors have said that the video shows Heath Ledger taking drugs on the day of his death.

"Lost" returns to TV
"Lost" returned to TV last week despite the ongoing writers' strike. Some analysts wonder whether the show has lost momentum due to the strike's hiatus, but the wildly popular show has still generated a large amount of excitement.

Rock Band turns wannabes into rockers with fusion of gaming and music

By Evan Koser
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Getting with friends to form an "air band" has been taken to a whole new level with Harmonix Music System's new game *Rock Band*, destined to change the music industry.

The game *Rock Band*, released in the U.S. on Nov. 20 for the Playstation 3 and Xbox 360 consoles, provides music fans with a "missing link" between air instruments and their real-life counterparts. By the end of release month, the game had already sold more than 312,000 units. This was a huge surprise to the developers at Harmonix, a group located in Boston and started up by a couple of MIT students wishing to make the experience of playing music accessible to the masses.

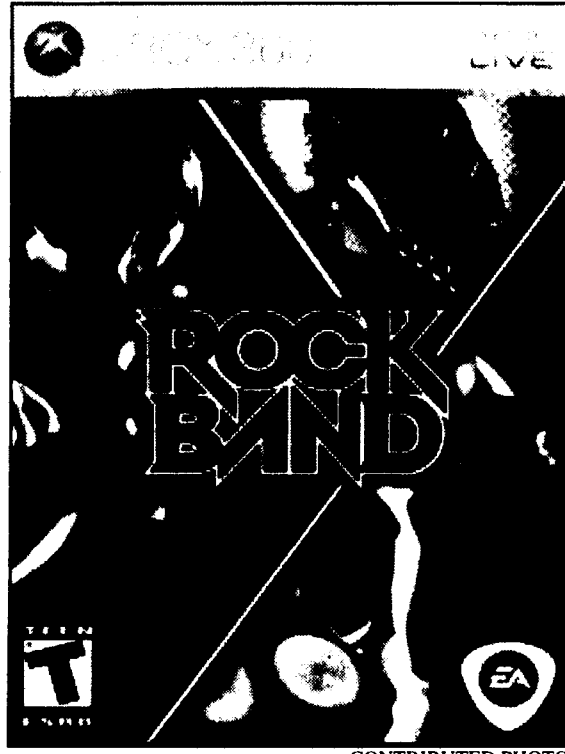
At a whopping \$170, the game comes with a Fender Stratocaster guitar controller and the new drum kit controller. The game allows up to four players, with two using guitar peripherals to emulate the bass and lead guitar, one playing the drums and one player imitating the vocals of the song. Much like Harmonix's previous game series, *Guitar Hero*, players are required on each of the levels of difficulty to accurately press buttons that correlate with on-screen scrolling notes,

with the exception of the vocalist who is required to accurately match pitch.

"I've played *Guitar Hero*," says first-semester freshman. Keith Stanton, "but I like that I can switch instruments. I play with my friends and I do vocals. I like having that option to finally be able to switch around."

The game features a variety of songs with music spanning throughout the past four decades, but also giving gamers the option to buy more songs that are available for download. "New songs will be available for download every week, with players able to tailor their game to their favorite genres or bands" says MTV, publisher of the game. So what does this entail for the declining music industry? Just as musicians tested the novelty of downloads a few years ago by releasing songs online at the same time as on CD, MTV is working with labels to release playable versions of new tunes alongside their debuts in established formats. And with each song running at twice the going rate of a legally downloaded song, gamers are more than willing to cough up two dollars to play a virtually unlimited amount of songs.

With things for the music industry beginning to look up and sales for *Rock Band* at a record high, gamers and musicians alike have high expectations for the future of music sales and quality gaming.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rockstar is quickly becoming a huge college success.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Viewers dissatisfied by Meet the Spartans

By Connor Sattely
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Meet the Spartans debut this weekend was met with some success among viewers as the flick topped out *Rambo* for the number one spot.

The spoof of 2007's *300* took in an estimated \$18.7 million in its first weekend, narrowly edging out *Rambo*, which took \$18.2 million.

The spoof features King Leonidas, played by Sean Maguire, and his captain, played by Kevin Sorbo, as they try to defeat hordes of Persians with only 13 men.

Perceus, played by Ken Davitian (Azamat in "Borat"), leads the invading troops, and Carmen Electra plays the part of Queen Margo, Leonidas's husband.

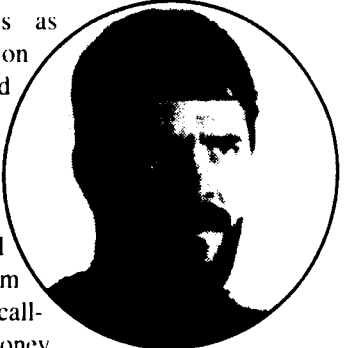
The movie, however, for a large part failed to satisfy its audiences, even though the crew of the movie also took a major part in the creation of *Epic Movie* last year.

Yahoo movies' "User Rating" system gives the movie an average rating of a C-. By contrast, *Rambo* has a user rating of B+ and *Cloverfield*, which rolled in at fourth place with \$12.7 million, got an average user rating of a B-.

Comments on the net include such jabs as "Imagine death on film" (IMDB), "Kind of like a hammer to your skull" (Yahoo Movies), and many more. Several users try to warn potential viewers away from seeing the movie, calling it a "waste of money and time."

One reason for the movie's success financially could be simply because of the success of the movie it mocks. *300* was released last year and featured much of the same plot. It instantly became a classic amongst young adults and teens, spawning some of the most oft-repeated lines since Will Ferrell's *Anchorman*. *300* dragged in \$210 million in the box office during its release in theatres, and found success with younger viewers.

While *Meet the Spartans* was met with general disgust by its viewers, it signals perhaps a more important trend: the spoof movie will not be going away any time soon. Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Media By Numbers, insists that "Fox has really locked on to something that's extremely popular." While this may be true, viewers can only hope that the next spoof movie that comes out has not only substance, but quality.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Actor Sean Maguire.

Top 8.5 College movies



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO #1 - Animal House.

1. Animal House
2. Old School
3. Accepted
4. Back to School

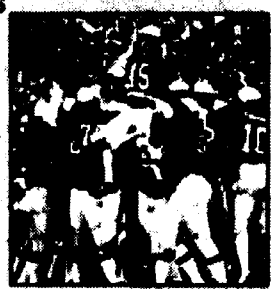


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO #4 - Back to School



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO #2 - Old School

5. Revenge of the Nerds
6. Puddlecrusers
7. PCU
8. Rudy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO #8 - Rudy

- 8.5. Van Wilden

Upcoming releases: Movies

Fool's Gold
~Feb. 8~

A treasure hunter, played by Matthew McConaughey, searches for lost treasure with his wife (Kate Hudson).

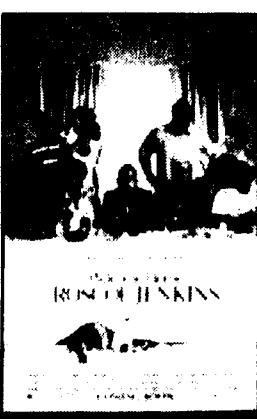
Rating: PG-13



Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins
~Feb. 8~

Martin Lawrence plays a radio DJ that returns to his small town family after living in LA.

Rating: PG-13



Music

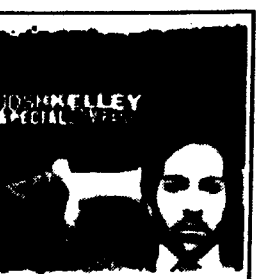
Sheryl Crow

~Feb. 5~
"Detours"



Josh Kelley

~Feb. 5~
"Special Company"



SAG Awards reach highest ratings in a decade



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Connor Sattely
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The 2008 Screen Actors Guild (SAG) awards, held on Jan. 28, featured a diverse mix of winners. *No Country for Old Men* was the only movie to take more than one awards (Outstanding performance by a cast, Outstanding performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role - Javier Bardem).

Leading role awards for movies went to Julie Christie (*Away From Her*) and Daniel Day-Lewis (*There Will Be Blood*). *American Gangster* rounded out the list as Ruby Dee took the best supporting female role award. Day-Lewis dedicated his award to actor Heath Ledger, in remembrance of the man's tragic death earlier in the

month. *The Sopranos* shined in the list of primetime TV awards, winning all "drama series" awards. The popular show took three awards for outstanding performances: Male Actor (James Gandolfini), Female Actor (Edie Falco), and Ensemble.

Alec Baldwin and Tina Fey also took an award apiece for their roles in *30 Rock*. *The Office* took an award for an outstanding performance by an ensemble in a comedy series. Kevin Kline (*As You Like It*) and Queen Latifa (*Life Support*) won awards for the best male and female actor in a TV movie or miniseries.

Some critics of the show cry foul on behalf of actor Hugh Laurie, who did not get an award for his portrayal in TV series success *House*.

Charles Durning, perhaps most well-known for his 1973 role in the Best Movie recipient *The Sting*, received the SAG's "Lifetime Achievement" award. The award, which includes recipients such as Frank Sinatra, Gregory Peck, and Clint Eastwood, honors actors for "outstanding achievement in fostering the finest ideals of the acting profession."

Durning, who has made several appearances in many popular movies over the last 30 years, also had a very distinguished military career. He was among the first troops to land at Omaha Beach on D-Day, was taken prisoner during the infamous Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded the Silver Star and four Purple Hearts.

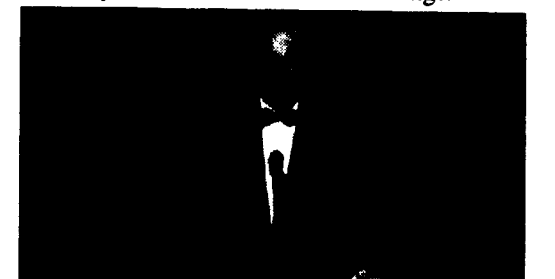
One of the biggest stories of the SAG Awards

show, however, came not from the award recipients, but from the show itself. The ratings for the show were up from last year, the highest since its move to cable in 1998, and an estimated 6.1 million people watched it. However, many predictions had the SAG awards reaching more success with viewers, but it did not even compare to the Academy Awards' success last year, which was watched by almost 40 million people.

By contrast, *American Idol* reached almost 30 million viewers on Tuesday, and another 28 million on Wednesday.

The writers' strike posed many difficulties to award shows this month, but granted the SAG awards the right to hold their award show without having to cross picket lines in return for support.

It appears that even with the writers' strike going on, the SAG is going to need to try even harder than their glitzy 2008 showing to pull viewers from other programs. The Oscars and the Academy awards still dominate in ratings.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Daniel Day-Lewis dedicated his SGA award to Heath Ledger, days after the actor's tragic death.