

# ENTERTAINMENT

**Word Of The Week:**

**vespertilian:** (vess-per-till'-ee-an) - adj - "of or relating to bats."

When Jeff took the full force of the truck in his chest, he could only speak with little squeaks. But hey, look at the bright side, not everyone has a vespertilian friend.

**Entertainment News in Brief**

2/2 - 2/9

**Super Bowl XLII sets TV Rating records:**

The thrilling defeat of the New England Patriots by the New York Giants last week set the record for the most-watched Super Bowl ever. The previous record was set in 1996, when the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers: about 94 million people watched. This year, that number rose to 97.5 million. According to the Neilson ratings, more people watched Sunday's Bowl than any other American TV show, except for the M.A.S.H. finale in 1983, seen by 106 million viewers.

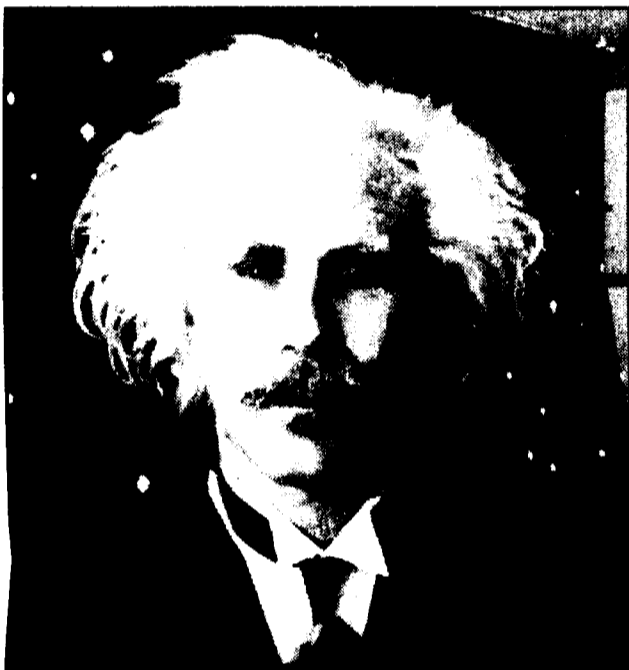
**Heath Ledger's parents react to cause of son's death**

"While no medications were taken in excess, we learned today the combination of doctor-prescribed drugs proved lethal for our boy," said Heath Ledger's mother, Kim. "Heath's accidental death serves as a caution to the hidden dangers of combining prescription medication, even at low dosage."

**Super Bowl ad cost grows to enormous amounts**

The average cost for one 30-second spot during Super Bowl XLII was \$2.7 million, according to Fox News Corporation. Some companies, such as Bridgestone Tires, achieved success with ads; others, like Salesgenie.com, failed to amuse or excite audiences. Sites such as Adbowl ranks Bridgestone first overall.

**Beacon Entertainer of the Week**  
Will Ferrell as Einstein



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**Epic talk show feud reaches new heights**

By Connor Sattely  
entertainment editor  
cs5060@psu.edu

Late-night talk show giants Steven Colbert, Jon Stewart and Conan O'Brien have finally locked horns in what some may consider the greatest talk-show battle ever. For weeks, the three hosts have been throwing insults at each other on their respective shows, most relating to who "made" Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee.

Huckabee appeared on both *The Colbert Report* and O'Brien's *Late Night* show. Originally, the argument was simply between these two comedians. NBC's O'Brien claimed that Huckabee's appearance on his show fueled the Republican's campaign to its success early on in the Iowa primary. Similarly, Colbert claimed that he also "made" the candidate, citing what he has referred to as the "Colbert bump," a temporary boost in popularity for guests on his show.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The epic talk-show battle reached its height on the *Late Show*.

point, until the hosts actually made appearances on each others' shows in the same night. Each show is filmed in a different part of Manhattan, reports CNN, but each of the three comedians still found a way to appear on each show. Pausing during each show to interview guests, the hosts battled across three time-slots and two networks (Comedy Central, NBC). First making an appearance on Stewart's *Daily Show* at 11 p.m., then on the *Colbert Report* at 11:30 p.m., the battle finally reached its climax on the *Late Night* show at 12:35 a.m. The hosts wielded weapons of assorted variety, and after a complex battle royal the hosts appeared to strike each other unconscious at the exact same time.

"Conan's claims on Mike Huckabee could not go unanswered," Stewart and Colbert said in a joint statement the day after the fight, reports CNN. "We just hope the kids out there learned that sometimes the best way to resolve a conflict is with violence."

Mike Huckabee, the prize over which all three comedians were fighting, gave a satellite message to the three comedians, attempting to end the argument once and for all. "Let's be clear: None of these guys made me," Huckabee insisted. "This great nation made me, so vote for me. God bless America and forget these three idiots."

More remains to be seen as to whether the popular hosts will resume the battle. If the writers' strike doesn't end, the argument may continue - to the delight of each comedians' viewers.

**Writers Guild of America drafts new deal proposal**

By Connor Sattely  
entertainment editor  
cs5060@psu.edu

The Writers Guild of America (WGA) may be taking a major step towards ending their three-month-old strike this weekend, as lawyers are expected to draw up a new deal proposal with Hollywood studios. The bargaining committees involved will review the details together before making the deal known to the Guild's members on Saturday in membership sessions.

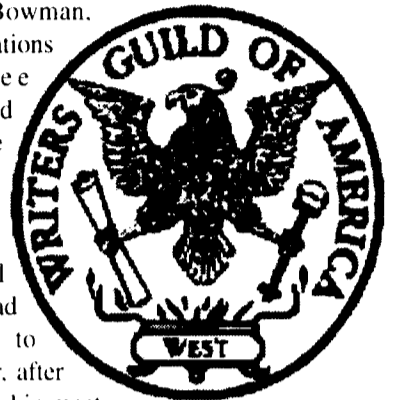
John Bowman, the negotiations committee chief, said that the WGA would not agree to the deal until members had a chance to look it over, after the membership meetings.

The deal, which would center on residual payments for Internet clips, could have a serious effect on the Academy Awards later this month, and will decide whether writers will return to TV programs for the later part of the 2007-2008 television season.

Some shows, such as Comedy Central's *Colbert Report* and NBC's *Late Night* show have been grasping for content with the writers still on strike. Some TV shows have ceased new episodes altogether, and only a few actually have writing staffs working on them.

The strike is also having an enormous effect on TV ratings, reports CNN - TV giant CBS is down 22 percent of viewers from last year; most networks experienced early-year lulls in viewership as their store of new shows was depleted. Some non-talk shows have begun to return, most notably, ABC's *Lost*, which staged its re-entry to TV last week.

If the deal is accepted this weekend, viewership could once again rise dramatically back to the major networks; some TV viewers will be very happy to do just that.



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**Upcoming releases:**

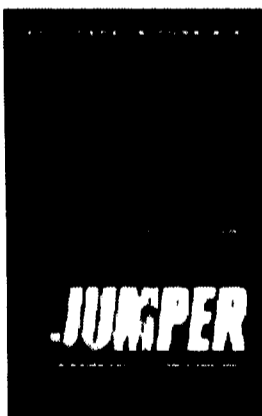
**Movies**

**Jumper**

~Feb. 14~

A science fiction adventure film that follows people who are able to transport themselves through space and time.

Rating: PG-13



**Spiderwick Chronicles**

~Feb. 14~

Based on a children's book series, a family moves from a busy New York home to a very strange country setting.

Rating: PG-13

**Music**

**Simple Plan**

~Feb. 12~  
"Simple Plan"



**Michael Jackson**

~Feb. 12~

"Thriller -- 25 Year Anniversary"



**Cloverfield - Love it or hate it: Another perspective**

By Ryan P. Gallagher  
music editor  
rpg5004@psu.edu

I want to settle this. It's either "Wow, *Cloverfield* was absolutely amazing" or "Wow, that was the worst movie I've ever seen in my life." The justifications for the latter response are often related to the lack of information given in the movie, the terrible dialogue, and the fact that "it was hard to follow." My response to this is thus: "Why don't you take an atypical approach when you sit down to watch a film, instead of complaining about how the filmmakers do not directly tell you everything that is going to happen."

First of all, you don't know anything about the monster - from beginning to end. Accept that. Accept the fact that this is not your typical movie. Accept the fact that innovation in films can be good. Accept the fact that this is going to be an in-your-face intense movie portrayed through a hand-held camera that some guy is holding the entire time. Then it may be easier to enjoy.

This is not a movie about a monster attacking the city. That's simply just not what the movie is about. This is a movie about a monster interfering with the objectives of a group of young men and women. If the reason you want to see this movie is just so you can see the monster, then don't see it. You will be disappointed (and not because the CGI is bad, it's actually pretty damn good). If you want to see it because you heard someone say that there is no movie out there like *Cloverfield*, then see it because there truly is nothing out there like it. Also, this movie is constantly compared to *The Blair Witch Project* and *Godzilla*.

Wait, what? All right, first thing's first: Except

for the fact that it is entirely shot in an untraditional way (hand-held camera, kind of documentary-esque) these films are nothing alike. As for *Godzilla*, there is a monster that attacks the city. Once again, that is the only similarity. That's like saying that *The Big Green* is similar to *Green Street Hooligans* because both films involve soccer. Come on people, open your minds.

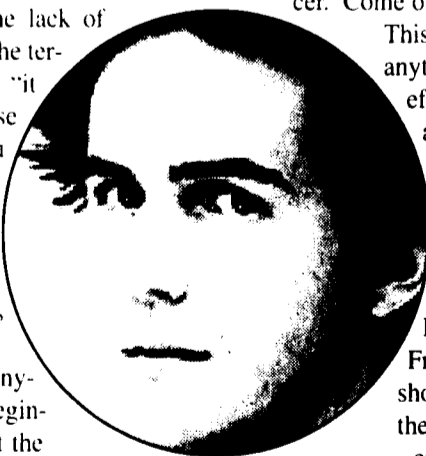
This movie does not tell you anything and that's why it's effective. You start out with about 20 minutes of footage of a kid filming a going away party that some friends are having for our protagonist. Then there is a rumble. Earthquake? Not a chance. From there on the film is shot as if the guy never turned the camera off, and filmed the entire events leading up to the ending. After the first explosion (which is shown in the trailers) the film is an

all out, intense as hell ride in a movie theater that you've never experienced. You will not leave if you have to piss. You will stay, piss your pants, and then you will like it. The characters are genuine, the dialogue is intensely realistic, and on top of all the action, this film is quite humorous. Many complained of the "annoying" or "distracting" voice of the guy holding the camera, however I felt that before the monster attacks and even consistently throughout the entire film, this man makes me laugh. A lot. I don't mean like in-your-face jokes, I mean subtle, funny and unexpected phrases continuously popping out of this guy's mouth.

All of this contributed to the wild, controversial ending. Some people did not like the ending. Personally, I thought it was amazing. I will not spoil it, but for those of you that saw it, what did you want to happen? They correctly ended the



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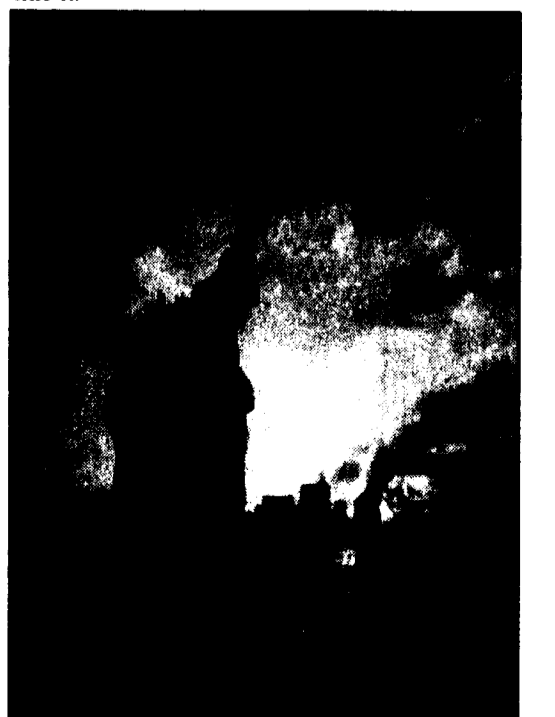


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Actor Michael Stahl-David

movie in accordance to the entire plot of the movie. It was not a traditional motion picture, where the ending is set up and written so that it all works out nice. It is meant to literally be the footage that was found after a major disaster struck - that's it.

When I first saw this film, I said "Wow, they successfully created a science fiction movie that didn't involve terrible acting in addition to a corny, stereotypical plot."

But now I realize this film is so much more than just a good monster movie. Even though they don't provide a great amount of information, there are so many things hidden in this film that ultimately leads me to say that this is one of the best films I've ever seen. It is not a sci-fi film. It is not an action film. It is not a comedy. It is not a drama. This is *Cloverfield*, and there's nothing like it.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

*Cloverfield* has generated a lot of extreme opinions, from absolute love to complete distaste.