

# Taking a journey thru toon town

Trev Stair  
Capital Times Staff

The coming of fall often sends many students into fits of unmitigated terror as a new school year begins. However, this lurking presence is overshadowed by the far more insidious threat of a new television season.

Each year the networks try to entice the population with mundane retreats of old standbys. Does anyone really want to see another show about lawyers? Or cute families? Or tough, but sensitive cops? Not really.

While television increasingly becomes a void of creativity, many boob tubers are threatening to actually (gasp!) turn off the set. Well, rejoice couch potatoes! Here is an alternative to put a little fun back into your television viewing: cartoons.

Yes, that's right, cartoons. Who can't remember sitting in front of the television on a Saturday morning, munching a bowl of Super Sweet Sugar Pops cereal (or some other like-minded part of a nutritious breakfast), and watching Saturday morning cartoons. These animated wonders often served as the only reason to get up on one's day off.

However, over the past several years, many cartoons have broken free of their Saturday morning berth, and settled into more accessible time slots. Many of these shows are just as entertaining to adults as they are to the little ones. Below is a guide prepared for any hearty soul willing to test the animated waters:

## Batman, The Animated Series (FOX)

This series follows the lead of the Batman feature films by offering a darker version of the Caped Crusader. Fans of Adam West need not apply. However, while this Batman may not boast many laughs, it does sport a fairly impressive film noir look. Supported by excellent animation,

this is probably the best looking cartoon on television today. The stories are usually fairly solid, but sometimes lapse into comic book silliness. At the very least, *Batman* will always offer something interesting to look at. **GRADE: A**

## Beavis and Butthead (MTV)

Here's a cartoon that will never be confused with the Smurfs. At its very best, *Beavis and Butthead* offers some hilarious tongue in cheek satire of rock music and pop culture. At its worst it tries to see how many different euphemisms for the male genitals it can cram into an episode. The show's humor lies in its sheer depravity. However, its shtick has a tendency to wear on the nerves. Also, animation connoisseurs will no doubt find the show's animation clunky and awkward. If this is the case, or if you are already annoyed by Beavis and Butthead's laugh, then you may want to look elsewhere. **GRADE: C**

## Loony Tunes (Various Stations)

Still the reigning and undisputed champ. There has been no better drawn, written, or produced cartoon ever found on television. This fact is no doubt attributed to the show's roots in motion pictures. Its strength lies not only in its quality production, but in the great characters it has created. Take, for instance, Bugs Bunny. No other cartoon character could both entertain a 10-year-old, and inspire academic dissertations on his sexual preference (yes, there have been actual studies). Even the show's fringe characters, such as Marvin the Martian, have ingrained themselves into American lexicon. **GRADE: A**

## Ren & Stimpy (Nickelodeon)

This cartoon arrived on the scene like a blazing meteor, but unfortunately has shown signs of

burning out just as fast. The show's unique animation style and bizarre fascination with bodily functions have become its trademark, but it was creator John Kricfalusi's manic vision that set it apart. Creative disputes with Nickelodeon led to Kricfalusi's firing, and the quality of the show has suffered. It remains to be seen whether Ren & Stimpy can recapture its old glory. **GRADE: C**

## The Simpsons (FOX)

An indication of the talent of *The Simpsons* writing staff came when Conan O'Brien, a Simpsons' writer with no credentials in front of the camera, was given the job of host of NBC's *Late Night Show*. No other show on television fits more satirical gags into one thirty minute episode than *The Simpsons*. Quite simply, it is one of the best written shows on television. Now that the distraction of show's marketing blitz has subsided, the show can finally be appreciated. **GRADE: A**

## Speed Racer (MTV)

MTV brought this cartoon from the 1960s out of cancellation and into cult success. Yes, the animation is clunky. Yes, the dialogue is wooden, and downright silly. But, somehow the show creates a charm all its own. The transposed sixties fashions and ideas along with the show's outrageous plot devices, create a humorous (albeit unintended) effect. *Speed Racer* is sort of *The Brady Bunch* of the cartoon set. **GRADE: B**

Well, there you have it. What are you waiting for? Throw away the TV Guide. Grab a big bowl of Super Sweet Sugar Pops and get ready for television that will bring back memories of early Saturday mornings.

# Matthew Sweet produces an alternative alternative

## ALTERED BEAST MATTHEW SWEET

Looking for an album which features new and good music from a young artist who truly possesses talent to speak of? Tired of overblown "alternative" acts which just can't deliver? Look no further - Matthew Sweet is what you're looking for! If you have heard the last album he put out, *Girlfriend*, you know to expect good music. If you haven't heard Sweet before, brace yourself for some good stuff. Sweet demonstrates a musical styles which draw from such influences as: the Beatles (esp. Lennon), Cat Stevens, Neil Young, the Eagles, and America. Matthew Sweet is probably one of the most underrated artists in the business. Take my word for it; if you listen to classic rock and are tired of the same bunch of songs, go out, buy this album, and listen without prejudice. You won't regret it.

-Sean LeBlanc

## 14 SONGS PAUL WESTERBERG

If you've seen the movie *Singles*, then you've heard Paul Westerberg. He has two tracks on the movie soundtrack. If you are a fan of the Replacements, then you are no stranger to him, either, since he is the frontman of that group. Few can deliver bluesy songs like Westerberg can, and if he ever manages to break through to the mainstream, some of this album's tracks would become jukebox standards everywhere. Though Westerberg has been labeled as alternative, he actually plays good, straight guitar rock with no frills. Good music to get real smashed to and something like you would hear from a good fraternity band at a (ahem) college of some size.

-Sean LeBlanc

## THE LAST SPLASH THE BREEDERS

This just may very well be the album in which the Breeders finally shed the label of "good girl band" and settle for just being a "good band". Breeder's front person, Kim Deal has created a more sonically bombastic sound on this CD than any found on the band's previous efforts. In the past, the Breeders relied heavily on Deal's whispery vocal styling, but *The Last Splash* delivers a distortion filled wall of sound that echoes Sonic Youth. Despite this, the album still remains accessible by balancing the guitar pyrotechnics with catchy accompaniment from the rhythm section.

The only drawback of *The Last Splash* is the occasional artistic flights of fancy Deal makes. Some tracks are haunting, but totally incomprehensible. These tracks have the tendency to wear on the nerves after repeated listening.

-Trev Stair

## IN ON THE KILL TAKER FUGAZI

If you think the likes of Nirvana and Pearl Jam are what alternative music is about, bzzzzzz! Wrong chicken. Fugazi is what alternative music is about - they have managed to keep true to their fans while recording on their own record label, thus avoiding the influence of major labels who often try to mold bands into what they think will sell.

If comparisons to other bands must be made, think of the Sex Pistols attitude with Metallica's style thrown in, and add a dash of Sonic Youth; that'd be as close as you could get to describing Fugazi. If you like it hard, fast, and loud give it a listen. But, this is not merely run-of-the-mill head banging material; this album has real lyrical content, though at times quite provocative: "We draw lines and stand behind them/That's why flags are such ugly things"

-Sean LeBlanc

## RISE BAD BRAINS

I thought these guys broke up a long time ago, but alas I was wrong. Seeing as there is only 2 members left from the original outfit, Darryl and Dr. Know, it's not surprising their sound has changed.

Musically this album lies somewhere between Red Hot Chili Peppers and Van Halen. The first song "Rise" has MTV play-ability and is actually relatively good, but the music declines rapidly into funk with metal solos. If you want a good Bad Brains album try *1 against 1* or some like minded earlier release.

-Jason Weller

## SWEET RELIEF: A Benefit for Victoria Williams VARIOUS ARTISTS

Combining a number of MTV stars into one CD, there are only a few memorable tracks from this compilation CD.

Pearl Jam, Buffalo Tom, Shudder to Think, and Matthew Sweet provide the most entertainment, although buyer be warned the general sound of the songs tend to resemble a collage of "alternative" rock, with the exception of several country sounding tracks.

Unless your searching for music to sleep by, your money would be better spent on something with more energy.

-Jason Weller

# The Fugitive is the runaway blockbuster of the summer

Ann Knorr  
Capital Times Staff

This summer sizzled as Hollywood released some of the hottest movies of '93. The box office attractions ranged from Tina Turner's biographical story, "What's Love Got to Do With It" to the prehistoric tale at "Jurassic Park."

Various students were asked what their favorite summer film was. The results prove one thing: The stars in Hollywood have a lot to shine about this year.

The suspense thriller, "The Firm" came in fourth on our student poll.

Tom Cruise plays a young, eager attorney who is swayed into joining a prestigious law firm. However, the members have a few secrets and will do anything to stop him from revealing what he knows.

Our next film was ranked third by many of the women on campus, and even a few men, as a true romance. Although they are

separated miles apart, Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan are drawn together through the help of a young boy and a radio talk show host in "Sleepless in Seattle."

Even though students rated this next flick number two, it spent several weeks as the number one movie of the summer. Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern find that

messing with creation can be deadly. When they try to control some of the most ferocious

creatures ever to live, they soon find out that "Jurassic Park" is just

one more man-made idea gone wrong.

Finally, at the top of our list is the smash hit, "The Fugitive."

This thriller will keep you on your toes. Harrison Ford finds himself running from the police for a murder he did not commit. As the police tighten their grip, Ford swears to find his wife's real murderer.

So there it is, the top four summer films of '93 according to the students here at PSH.

I hope everyone has a great

semester and I'll see you at the movies.

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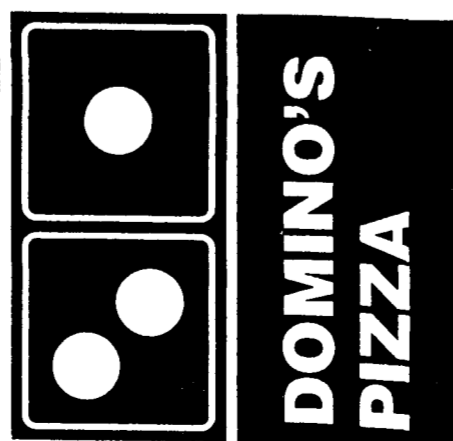
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