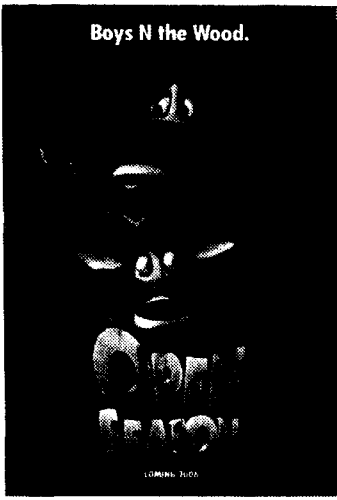


# DICK'S PICKS

By **ANDREW 'DICKIE' SCOTT**  
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## Open Season



The phrase "Open Season" typically has a certain connotation to it, especially to men who enjoy the great outdoors. It usually denotes going into the woods at 5 a.m. and spending hours upon hours waiting for an unfortunate animal to wander into the wrong clearing, or to bite on the wrong lure to end up as the horns or a lacquered fish hanging on the wall of someone's den. However, in this instance, it takes a more lighthearted spin on "Open Season."

In this CG animated comedy, expect to see a wide variety of wildlife in their "natural environment" and their hilarious antics when interacting with each

other and humans. The story focuses on a Kodiak Grizzly Bear named Boog, voiced by Martin Lawrence.

Boog was rescued as a cub by a kind hearted wildlife ranger and has become as domesticated as the average canine, enjoying the luxuries of sleeping on a padded mattress, prepared food, and excessive amounts of attention from his keeper and the people of Timberline, the town in which he has lived his entire life.

Boog has it pretty good until he comes by a scrawny Buck named Elliot, voiced by Ashton Kutcher, with one antler strapped to the roof of a truck. To Boog's surprise, this poor excuse for a wild animal regains consciousness and begs Boog to help him escape.

Not seeing any harm in it, his bear claws slice through the rope restraining Elliot allowing him to escape, enraging the paranoid hunter Shaw who not only wanted Elliot as a trophy but believes animals are conspiring to reverse the "natural order" of things and overthrow humans. From this point on Elliot's hyperactive personality sucks Boog into a series of mischievous events that end up getting both of them set back to the wild.

Despite Boog's size and impressive roar, his bark is worse than his bite and all the wild animals are quick to humiliate and harass him. On top of that, Boog has no survival instincts. He can't catch fish, can't climb trees (due to some very protective

hooligan squirrels) or even "go" in the woods...you know, when nature calls, he just can't answer.

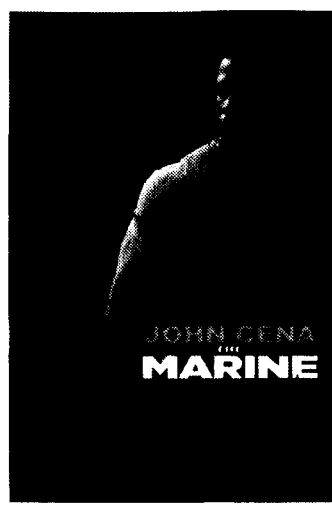
In a desperate attempt to get back to the life he had, he tries to find his way home with the help of Elliot, who is not the master of the wild that he claims to be. As a result, he and all the other animals are eventually caught in the hunting grounds the day Open Season begins, but Boog won't go down without a fight and rallies that animals large and small to fight back and show the hunters just how crazy and dangerous the wild can be.

Besides Lawrence and Kutcher the voice-over cast is packed with talented actors and actresses including Billy Connelly, Debra Messing, and Gary Sinise. *Open Season* has a very entertaining plot and keeps a very good pace, allowing for plenty of comedy while still carrying the serious moral of the story. The only problem is that the story as a whole is somewhat played out and a couple of scenes are quite dull and stretch on half a minute longer than they should. It is still a very funny movie that combines just enough innocent and crude humor to make it entertaining to both children and adults; making it an all around quality film worth watching over and over again.

I give *Open Season* 3 out of 5 nuts.



## The Marine



Spearheaded by the likes of Andre the Giant in the romantic comedy *The Princess Bride* and Terry "Hulk" Hogan in the short lived television series *Thunder in Paradise*, professional wrestlers have expanded their careers into the realm of acting (as opposed to what they already do for a career). This is a trend carried through to today with Kane in *See No Evil* and, most notably, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson in a variety of films. The most recent silver-screen blend of the wrestler-actor comes from John Cena in the WWE production, *The Marine*.

Cena plays the highly decorated specially trained Marine Corp. Sergeant John Triton who is recently honorably discharged from the Corp. After getting home and "reacquainting" himself with his

gorgeous wife Kate, Kelly Carlson (Nip/Tuck), Triton gets back out in the work force as an office security guard with a buddy of his. To say the least, the job doesn't work out and Triton is left questioning what to do with his life without the Corp.

Kate suggests they take a trip and they hit the road. Meanwhile, a group of ruthless criminals, led by Rome (Robert Patrick), steal 24 million dollars in diamonds and make their get-away.

The phrase, "wrong place at the wrong time" never had truer meaning than when Triton and his wife pull over for gas shortly after the "fun loving" bunch of sociopaths and are quickly involved in a chaotic shoot out and massive demolish of the station. The end result leaves John Triton knocked out and his wife as a hostage. From that point, Triton pulls on all of his Marine Corp. training to chase down and rescue his wife.

The rest of the movie is a non-stop rollercoaster of gunfire and explosions the likes of which have not been seen since Arnold Swartzenegger's *Commando*. Action packed and adrenaline pumping fight scenes are lightened up with sarcastic rhetoric and a certain nod towards one of Robert Patrick's most well known roles.

Again, very much like the older Swartzenegger films, *The Marine* shows one man's ability to overcome insurmountable odds and cause untold amounts of property

damage while barely getting a scratch on him.

As to be expected, this is simply a "guy movie" and a damn good one it is. None of that boring drama or excessive screen time cluttered with dialogue.

With only a rating of PG-13 this movie could have done a lot more to help desensitize its viewers and incorporate more gratuitous sexuality. Cena deserves a lot of credit for portraying a Marine very well, clearly showing respect for the men and women of the United States Armed Services and even incorporating the theme into his ongoing wrestling career.

He has a lot of potential to make more movies but probably does not have the versatility in his roles of Dwayne Johnson, who was exceptional in his recent film *The Gridiron Gang*. If you're a girl, after seeing this movie, you'll further believe men are small-minded-violent-macho-adrenaline junkies and will feel more comfort in the superiority of your sex. If you're a guy, you'll want to eat red meat, fight, drive fast, and/or lift weights; maybe even at the same time.

I give *The Marine* 3 out of 5 nuts for massive amounts of action and excessive explosions, losing points only for the content not shown due to its rating.



# 'Play beyond' PS2 with Sony's new PS3

By **OLIVER EISLER**  
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Five hundred and ninety-nine US dollars: that is the price of the premium version of Sony's next-gen console, the PlayStation 3. The PS3 is considerably more costly than its fellow next-gen consoles, the Nintendo Wii and the X-Box 360. The reason for this several hundred dollar price gap is due to PS3's wholly superior hardware.

The PS3 possesses a 3.2-GHz Cell processor, developed jointly by Sony, Toshiba and IBM; as well as a PowerPC-based "Power Processing Element" and six accessible 3.2-GHz Synergistic Processing Elements.

The Graphics Processing Unit is based on the NVIDIA G70 architecture, which focuses on maximizing per-pixel computation in favor of raw pixel output.

The PS3 supports numerous SDTV and HDTV resolutions. For the optical drive, a wide variety of DVD and CD formats are supported, including Blu-ray Discs. In the premium version of the system, a 60

GB hard disk is pre-installed. In the 60 GB configuration, flash memory can also be used.

As evidenced by the above, the Nintendo Wii and X-Box 360 cannot compete with the PS3 as far as hardware is concerned. It integrates and surpasses the best its competition has to offer.

In addition to its own capabilities, the PS3 achieved the impossible by making the PlayStation Portable a useful part of a gamers' experience. This is no easy feat considering that the PlayStation Portable was voted "the most useless system of the year" three years in a row by *Wizard Entertainment* magazine.

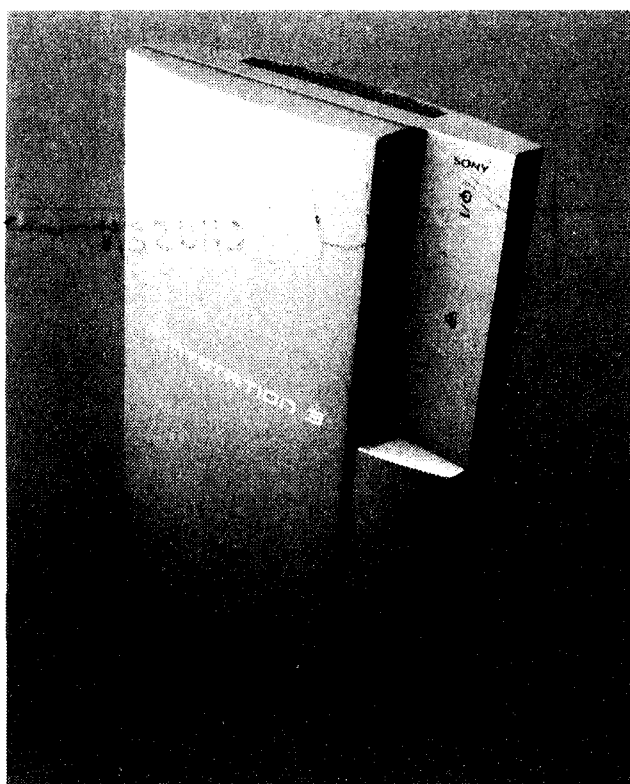
The PSP can connect with the PS3 in various different ways, such as being used as a real-time rear-view mirror in the Formula One 06 racing game.

It is also possible to download PlayStation 1 games onto the PSP via the PS3, therefore allowing you to play all your favorite PSone games on the go. In addition, like its predecessor, the PS3 is fully backwards compatible. Ultimately, what makes or breaks a system

are its games. The following are highlights of games currently out for the system:

*Resistance: Fall of Man* – a first person shooter that takes place in an alternate-reality version of the 1950's. An intelligent race of chimera has already taken over Asia and most of Europe with only Britain remaining.

You play as Sgt. Nathan Hale, who after being infected by the chimera, seems to be the only hope for mankind. The back-story ends there, leaving the player to uncover



The sleek new look of the Playstation 3 is only one benefit to buying Sony's newest member of the Playstation family.

the rest of it as the game progresses. Be sure to pay close attention to the

back-story hidden in the game's intelligence reports, they explain away certain alleged "plot-holes."

*Tekken 5: Dark Resurrection* – Man meets dinosaur in an all-out struggle for existence. Filled with blood, gore, and man-eating raptors, this game is not to be missed by any fan of rampaging dinosaurs.

*Genji: Days of the Blade* – The sequel to the original Genji, it is one of the more popular games out for the PS3 right now. Often recognized for its presentation at E3 rather than for its actual content, *Genji: Days of the Blade* allows players to reenact ancient samurai-battles with astonishing historical accuracy. That being said, it should be noted that the underlying story involves fighting giant enemy crabs.

In addition to the above, the following are some games to look forward to in the coming year:

*Sonic the Hedgehog* – Speeding faster than the month of February, everyone's favorite supersonic hedgehog makes his PS3 debut on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Virtua Fighters 5* – On February 20<sup>th</sup>, gamers can get ready to break

a leg, an arm, and whatever part of their opponent's body they feel like. Although the rating is still pending, if the rumored ability to rip out your opponent's spine is true, then this game will probably end up with an MA rating.

*Formula One Championship Edition* – The Championship Edition of the best-selling racing game premiers on the PS3 in late February.

*F.E.A.R.* – Short for "First Encounter Assault Recon," the premise of this game is simple. You shoot things, they hurt, they bleed, and you watch them die. Simple.

*Grand Theft Auto IV* – Here's the big one. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, Rockstar will release the latest installment in their line of the controversial best-selling *Grand Theft Auto* series. Expected to be another instant hit, *Grand Theft Auto IV* is expected to boost PS3 sales significantly. Rated MA for a good reason, squeamish people be warned.

Not as strong as some of the classic Nintendo launches, but still the greatest of the next-gen launches, the PS3 has a promising future.

# Winterize yourself with our simple, easy tips

By **MARIN BENDORITIS**  
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Just because the days are shorter and colder, doesn't mean that safety has to be sacrificed. In fact, more steps should be taken in the winter to protect your skin, health, and car than in the warmer months.

A few extra minutes spent fixing your car or putting on a hat can save time and grief later on. Here are some easy tips to keep your winter stress free; a little time spent preparing now can save you valuable time later on.

1) The most important advice for the winter is keeping your car in good shape. You do not want to start your car in the morning and hear that angry chugging sound.

The Car Talk website suggests fixing small problems before the weather becomes too bad; you do not want to be stuck on the side of the road during a snowstorm.

2) You can never be too prepared when it comes to car safety. Keeping an emergency kit in the back of your car that includes a blanket, warm gloves, an ice scraper and some

sand or ice melt is a simple tip that will save you lots of time later on.

3) Check your car battery and charging systems. When the weather gets cold, your oil will become less viscous, putting strain on the battery.

Also, batteries lose power as the temperature drops; so replacing your battery in the winter or just making sure it has enough charge is an easy step to prevent future problems.

4) Car Talk also recommends buying winter windshield wipers. They keep ice from building up on the blades and are able to push snow and ice off the windshield easier than just regular blades.

Make sure the windshield and wipers are clean of ice and snow before you drive. Visibility is key while driving in the winter.

5) Keeping your car healthy is as important as keeping yourself healthy. Because of the cold and increased time indoors, more people are more susceptible to becoming sick in the winter than in the summer.

Getting a flu shot annually and seeing your doctor when you

start to feel ill are two good ways to prevent illness.

6) According to Health Services, the most important way to keep yourself healthy in the winter is to wash your hands.

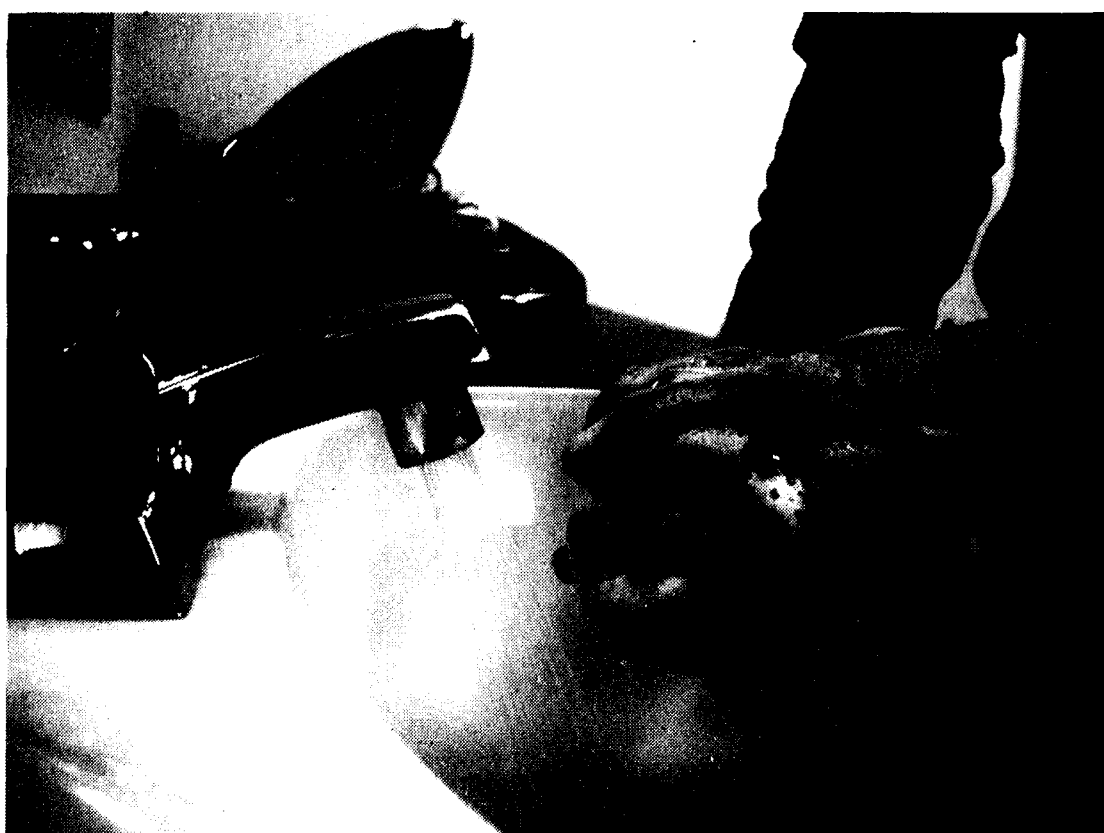
Use hot water and do not just run them under the faucet.

It is recommended to sing the 'Happy Birthday' song in order to kill as many germs as possible.

7) A common misconception in the winter is that you have the flu. Although you may feel stuffy, it is probably a cold.

Health Services recommends taking over the counter medication that is directly related to your symptom.

Taking medications that encompass multiple symptoms can make you tired and are too strong when you only have one or two symptoms.



Washing your hands is the recommended way to keep healthy all year round, use hot water and lots of soap to kill bacteria on your hands. It is recommended to sing 'Happy Birthday' to time yourself.

Use a decongestant for a stuffy nose; cough medicine for a cough, etc.

8) Although the temperature may be low, that does not mean that the UV rays

are not harmful. Applying sunscreen in the winter is just as important as in the summer.

Use a moisturizer with a SPF to help moisturize and protect your

skin. A Chap Stick or lip balm that contains aloe and an SPF can protect your lips from being chapped.

9) Besides your physical health, your mental health is important to take care of in the winter. Many people are affected by SAD, or Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Because of the short days, the basic lack of light and the cold weather can make people feel depressed. Many different approaches can be taken to counter SAD, such as 'light therapy' (tanning), exercising or even taking a vacation to a warmer climate.

Even though classes may be in full swing this winter, and you may be worrying more about checking online to see if classes are cancelled, it is important to follow these simple tips to keep safe.