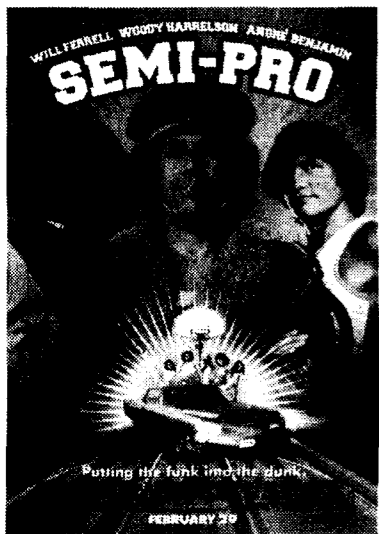


ENTERTAINMENT

AUMILLER CRITICS

By **KRIS AUMILLER**
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Get outside and smell the fresh air. Spring is upon us and that means one thing for me: Baseball season. Meaning for all of you that movies aren't exactly my number one priority at this moment in time. Even though there hasn't been an issue for a while, I've only made it to the movies once and bought one new DVD. I'll make more of an effort next time around. So, I'll throw an old favorite off the shelf for the third movie.



SEMI-PRO
Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson. 1 Hour. 30 Minutes

Will Ferrell has always been known for his special brand of comedy. Lately, he has been letting me down. The days of "Old School" and "Anchorman" seem to be eluding him with every movie he makes. However, with the premise of the movie, and with myself being a sports guy and knowing the

background of the ABA (Sort of...), this seemed can't miss...

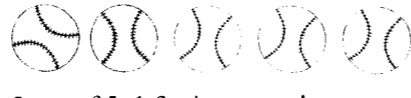
Set in 1976, Jackie Moon (Ferrell) is a singer who uses the profits from his one hit single "Love Me Sexy", which he stole from his mother after she died, to buy a basketball team in the American Basketball Association, the Flint Tropics (Please tell me you can see the ridiculous-ness of a team called the Tropics in Flint, Michigan). By doing so, he became the owner, head coach, and starting power forward. The ABA Commissioner (David Koechner, "Anchorman") announces plans to merge with the NBA, but only four teams will move to the more established league. The Tropics, the worst team in the league, are in danger of dissolving. In response, Jackie argues that the teams with the four best records overall should be merged into the NBA.

After some arguing, the Commissioner agrees to accept Jackie's offer. Now that the Tropics have somewhat of a shot to be an NBA franchise, Jackie trades away the team's washing machine for Ed Monix, (Harrelson, "White Men Can't Jump") former backup point guard for the NBA Champion Boston Celtics. Soon, the commissioner reveals that as well as having a top four record, the Tropics will also have to have a stable fan base and have an attendance of at least 2,000 fans every remaining game of the season, which sets Moon on a rampage of marketing that would put Bud Light to shame.

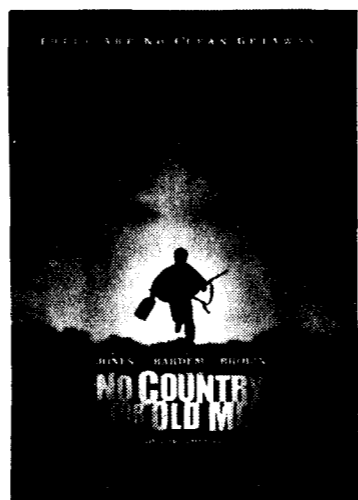
I really wanted to like it. I really tried. However, it let me down. "Semi-Pro" has its funny

parts just like any other comedy, however, it doesn't make up for the a lot of the drab and boring stuff, such as the side story with Woody Harrelson that never really gets explained. Ferrell misses again and cashes in on another big paycheck. On a side note, never cast André Benjamin in a main role ever again. He is ok in a side spot, but never in the spotlight.

RATING:



2 out of 5. 1 for its spotty humor and 1 for the part about the alley-oop.



DVD REVIEW: NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem 2 Hours, 2 Minutes

I always go see the movie that wins best picture as soon as I get the opportunity. Not only that, I am partial to what the Coen brothers throw on the big screen. If you don't think you have seen a movie of theirs, I know you have. "Fargo,"

"O Brother, Where Art Thou?," or "The Big Lebowski," ring a bell?

The film opens with shots of desolate, wide-open country in West Texas in June 1980. In a voiceover, the local sheriff Ed Tom Bell (Tommy Lee Jones, "Men in Black") tells of the changing times as the region becomes increasingly violent. The antagonist, Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem, "Collateral"), and his unique weapon, a captive bolt pistol, or air gun, are introduced as Chigurh strangles a sheriff's deputy, escapes custody, and steals a car by using the bolt pistol to kill the driver. Meanwhile, Llewelyn (Pronounced Lou-Ellen) Moss (Josh Brolin "Grindhouse - Planet Terror"), hunting deer near the Rio Grande river, comes across a collection of corpses and one dying Mexican. Obviously, the aftermath of a drug deal gone awry. He also finds two million dollars in a satchel a short distance from the massacre. Initially taking the money and leaving the Mexican to die, Moss suffers a pang of conscience later that night and returns with water for the dying man. Discovered by returning Mexican gangsters, this good deed sets off a chase in which the hunter and hunted frequently switch roles, as the gang of Mexicans, Moss, Chigurh, and Bell chase each other and the money across the Texas and Mexico landscapes.

So, I have to be an absolute student nerd for a minute and say something (Hopefully professor Rios is reading this). I was astounded by the sound in this movie. There was only about 15 minutes of music in the entire

movie and 10 minutes of that was in the credits. Therefore, the rest of the movie had to be dealt with so delicately sound-wise that it gave me so much respect for the Coen's that I feel the need to go to Hollywood and bow to them. Jones was a perfect cast as the "innocent," old sheriff. Bardem came out of nowhere to play the sadistic Chigurh to earn his best supprting actor award.

RATING:



5. Deserved best picture...and there was a silenced shotgun



"OLD FAVORITE:" KISS KISS BANG BANG
Robert Downey Jr., Val Kilmer. 1 Hour, 42 Minutes

A lot of people told me I needed to see this movie for a while just due the fact that Val Kilmer ("Batman Forever") was playing a comedic role again. For those of you that don't have HBO or haven't seen his spot on "Entourage," find someone who has bought it and borrow

season 1 about the Sherpa.

The movie is narrated by a small-time crook, Harry Lockhart (Robert Downey Jr., soon to be "Iron Man"). He is self-aware and talks to the audience at various times through the movie. Harry finds himself caught up in an acting audition by mistake when he is running away from police after a failed robbery. Posing as an actor, he is brought to Hollywood for an audition, where he meets homosexual private-eye "Gay Perry" (Kilmer), who is there to aid Harry in research for his role in the movie. Harry is introduced to Hollywood parties and meets his childhood dream-girl, Harmony Lane (Michelle Monaghan, "Gone Baby Gone"), who in fact, back in high school, had sex with everyone but Harry. The story sees all three finding themselves involved in murder cases similar to the detective stories (Jonny Gossamer) which Harry and Harmony grew up reading.

So, I didn't give much of the movie away. It's a must see. Kilmer destroys his role as Gay Perry. Bottom line, I love when Val does comedy and he doesn't do enough of it. Downey plays a criminal all to well (Well, he has experience, where is my drum beat?) Monaghan backs them both up perfectly to balance out the trio to make a perfect movie. It's an all out entertaining movie that can brighten up anyone's evening easily.

RATING:



4 out of 5. Please see this.

'Southland' aims low, hits lower

By **MATTHEW SHORTALL**
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Before one picks it up to rent, "Southland Tales" is quite interesting, in large part thanks to the storm of controversy it generated when it first premiered at the Cannes Film Festival back in 2006. Though many had high hopes for "Southland Tales", the black comedy - science fiction hybrid was universally panned, as many criticized the plot as sprawling and nonsensical (more than a few critics deemed it the worst movie ever to be presented at Cannes). As a result, (after much editing) the movie premiered in November of 2007 in just 63 theaters, and grossed only \$275,380 domestically (\$356,408 worldwide). Though most critics continued their relentless assault

on "Southland" a handful began to defend the eccentric little movie, hailing it as an innovative, original work of art. Throughout the mess, one thing was sure: audiences had to decide for themselves when the movie was finally released on DVD on March 18.

"Southland Tales" is still interesting as it pops into the DVD player. The back of the case for the movie describes it as "an ensemble piece set in the futuristic landscape of Los Angeles, as it stands on the brink of social, economic, and environmental

disaster". Not only that, the ensemble cast is intriguingly eclectic, and consists of Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Seann William Scott, Kevin Smith, and Sarah Michelle Gellar, among many others. It's even written and directed by Richard Kelly, who created and helmed the college kid staple



Wood Harris and Amy Poehler star in the lackluster "Southland Tales"

"Donnie Darko".

After the opening credits finally role, however, the movie begins to frustrate. The plot begins with an America in peril after twin nuclear bomb attacks in El Paso and Abilene, Texas, two catastrophes which compel the country to reinstate the draft in what has been dubbed as "World War Three". The country overwhelmingly turns to the Republican Party (the film, which more than hints at its political alignment, shows a quick clip of two elephants having sex), though liberal extremist groups (such as the Neo-Marxists) sprawl up in the political upheaval. As a result of the global conflict, America has lost its connections to foreign oil, and as a result contracted a German company to create "Fluid Karma" a contraption of inexhaustible energy which is powered by ocean currents. Unforeseen by the engineers, (later

in the movie) "Fluid Karma" causes the Earth to spiral out of its axis through space, and as a result the space-time continuum is damaged. The audience is then introduced to Boxer Santaros (The Rock), a movie superstar with Republican ties, who inexplicably vanished for three days, until he reappeared in Nevada with his memory erased. As he returns to California, he meets up with Porn-Star-With-A-Heart-of-Gold Krysta Now, a well-meaning ditz who hosts her own talk show which deals with "issues like abortion, terrorism, crime, poverty, social reform, quantum teleportation, teen horniness, and war".

Whew! A lot of plot for a two hour movie, everything mentioned up to this point takes place in the first five minutes of the film, and is narrated by demented and disfigured Iraq War veteran Pilot Abilene, played by (Tobey Maguire? Jake

Gyllenhaal? Nope.) an unconvincing Justin Timberlake. In fact, all of the actors are difficult to believe, as they all seem to be parodying themselves (it is as if they are a bunch of giddy teenagers shooting their first youtube video).

As the movie limps on, it utterly disappoints. Bad acting aside, the dialogue is so ridiculous and the plot so abstract that it is impossible to ever grasp an appreciation of the movie. It seems as if Richard Kelly bit off more than he could chew; "Southland Tales" would have been much better off if it had been given the time to gestate into a polished trilogy, instead of crammed into a ridiculously short timeframe and budget (around 15 million). For those who have five bucks to spare looking for a good train wreck, this movie fits the bill. Everyone else, however, should ignore "Southland Tales".

Campus Event Calendar: April 2008

April 8, 2008

The 5th L

9:30 p.m.

Stacks Stage

The hip-hop culture is comprised of four elements: break dance, emceeing/rap music, graffiti and the DJ's on the turntables. Spoken word, however, consists of poetry, theatre and a touch of hip-hop flavor. David Ross (native son) and Femi Lawal (The Dri Fish) are members of The 5th L, performance poetry group. They have opened for international recording artists such as Musiq Soulchild, Saul Williams, Ursula Rucker, Fertile Ground, Jaguar Wright and KRS-One on numerous occasions. The 5th L are not only skilled in performance poetry, but are known to host events as well as their own venues. They have committed their talents to avidly

introducing creative writing & dramatic reading to elementary through high school students. The 5th L pushes the envelope whenever they display their spoken word theater productions, such as Good Fellas, Penniless and The Bridge Of Ages. Native Son aka David Ross is a resident of Baltimore City, a poet and the author of Speech Impediments. David has been humbly inspiring audiences through exquisite lyrics since 1997. This award-winning artist delivers a captivating performance - enlightening listeners on cultural, educational, family, political, self love, social, and spiritual issues.

The 5th L has a passion for artistic expression and with their words intend to inspire the planet in a positive way.

** Open to Public**

April 10, 2008

"Take Back the Night" Vigil

8:00 p.m.

Vartan Plaza

A History of Take Back The Night Take Back the Night's roots may lie in 1877 when women protested the fear and violence they experienced in the night-time streets of London, England. Others believe that the first rally occurred in 1976 when women attending the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women lit candles and took to the moonlit streets of Belgium to denounce the continuation of violence against women. While the origins of Take Back the Night may be disputed, its impact is undeniable. Since its inception, thousands of marches and rallies bearing the name "Take Back the Night" have taken place worldwide. Join Penn State Harrisburg this

evening to Take Back the Night.

Open to Public

April 17, 2008

Craft Night

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Community Center

You bring the creativity...we will bring the supplies! A different craft each month.

** Student ID Required**

April 22, 2008

Spring Luau

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Vartan Plaza

Join us in celebrating this traditional springtime event. Lots to see and do as we welcome spring! This year we welcome live music from "Anthem".

Open to Campus Community

9:00 p.m.

Student Center

Dance your night away in rhythm of merengue, salsa, cumbia and enjoy an authentic Puerto Rican dinner menu! Latin Gala event is a culmination of PSH's popular Latin Dance lessons series and it will feature a demonstration by instructor Ms. Loida Esbri and her students, as well as "Grupo Latino" band performance. True holiday of Latino culture, rhythms and flavors!

** Open to Public by reservation**

April 30, 2008

Alexandra McHale,

Comedian

9:30 p.m.

Community Center

Alexandra McHale was thrilled to make her network debut on NBC's

The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. She performed on CBS's The Late Show with Craig Kilborn, as well as Comedy Central's popular show, Premium Blend. Alex is a frequent commentator for VH1, offering her unique point of view on shows such as "I love the 80's" and "Supersecret TV Formulas." In addition to appearances at clubs, Alexandra has headlined at over 300 colleges and college students across the country voted her "Female Entertainer Of The Year" two years in a row. After her first appearance at Montreal's Just For Laughs Festival, The Hollywood Reporter cited Alexandra "one to watch." The San Diego Tribune has called her "a gifted and bawdy young stand-up" while Variety has described her act as "sassy, off color, but never crude."

Open to Public