

Eye on Editorials

EDITORIAL

Surgeon General Warning: SMOKING SUCKS

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If you are a current cigarette smoker and you could converse with your body about what it thinks about this habit of yours, I think it would cry. "Why are you destroying me?! Why are you killing yourself?!" It would probably say something to that effect because I don't think anyone's body would be thrilled to have toxins and chemicals that are in tar, paint thinner, pesticides and embalming fluid put into itself. Might as well put your mouth on a car's exhaust pipe – at least those have filters.

You guessed it, I'm not a smoker. Don't get me wrong, though - I have a handful of friends who are smokers and know many others who smoke too.

Like all things in life, smoking is a choice and I'm not here to tell you should stop smoking or why you shouldn't smoke because that's for you to decide. However, I will tell you that you shouldn't smoke around those who chose not to.

I don't think it's fair for people who make the conscious choice not to smoke to then end up dying from lung cancer as a result of second-hand smoke.

Second-hand smoke kills. Each year in the United States an estimated 38,000 non-smoking people die from second-hand smoke exposure – that's out of the 438,000 smoking-induced deaths a year caused by cigarette smoking, according to the American Cancer Society. A rough estimate of 4,000 troops have died in Iraq since the start of the war, according to antiwar.com – more people die each year from smoking than the amount of troops that died in Iraq? Should that be allowed?

Nonetheless, many states have boarded the smoke-free-restaurant-bandwagon. Our good ol' Philadelphia has been knighted "smoke-free" as of January 8, 2007, thanks to its Clean Indoor Air Protection Law – it "protects Philadelphians at work and in public spaces from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke by making virtually all workplaces smoke-free," as stated on http://www.smokefreephilly.com/bf_fact_sheet.cfm

And many other states such as California, Delaware, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and Montana have banned smoking in restaurants.

That is my biggest complainant – if you need to smoke, please do so outside. Most non-smoking people, including myself, would rather not breathe in cigarette smoke while eating in a restaurant. Yes, smoking outside doesn't do the environment much good either. If I had it my way, I'd ban smoking altogether, but for realistic purposes, smoke-free restaurants nationwide – with the exceptions of bars and casinos perhaps – should be the norm.

Yeah, yeah America is the home of freedom and choice. Go ahead, smoke all you want. But as a human race, we seem to lack common courtesy and consideration. So, please, don't smoke around those who choose not to.

Disco Roar WITH BRITTANY NEIMETH PALIN-TICALLY INCORRECT

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My friend and I watched the Vice-Presidential debate, and the first thing out of my friend's mouth was, "I didn't expect her to be that smart, but I didn't expect her to be like this either."

That quote says it all. I am completely shocked every time I see a McCain/Palin sticker, shirt, or sign. How can anyone support this lady (forget about McCain for a minute here)? If my last article did not convince everyone about the importance of this election I will try again.

During the Vice-Presidential debate, Governor Sarah Palin didn't answer the questions presented to her. She even told Senator Biden and the moderator that she was just going to "talk to the American people," and fundamentally tell us about herself. The point of a Vice-Presidential debate is not to just talk about yourself, Governor Palin - it's to refute the issues. But as she said, she has only been at this for five weeks, so maybe she is just slow on the uptake.

This may be just the super liberal side of me coming out in complete and utter disgust but I don't understand her. Palin rolled her eyes about a government mandated healthcare system BUT she pretty much LIVES IN CANADA! What is her deal? As an Alaskan, she should be able to accept and appreciate the fact that universal healthcare can work. Instead, she was supporting McCain's healthcare plan (obviously), which Biden commented as being the "ultimate bridge to nowhere." Wapaah Palin.

I guess in Sarah Palin's support, she is genius at dancing around a topic. This occurred so much during the debate that I almost forgot what the moderator had actually asked. If elected, she will fit right in where the Bush administration left off.

As my friend said, if McCain and Palin are elected, we are dropping out of school and restarting our life as Canadians WITH universal healthcare. And milk in a bag.



(photo courtesy of Empire Magazine)

The Empire Strikes Hack - Top 500 Movies Bash

Empire Magazine may have lost all credibility this past month because they recently decided they were going to do a list of the 500 greatest movies ever made. The way they decided to do this was by polling critics and readers alike and based on what movies got the most responses, those would be the higher rated movies, so on and so forth.

I could sit here and go through the entire list saying everything that was wrong about the list, but instead I'm just going point out the biggest problems throughout this list.

We kick off this list already filled with problems since #500 (Ocean's eleven remake) and #499 (Saw) have no business being on any list of the greatest anything. One thing that I did like is the fact that Back to the Future Part 2 got a shout out at #498 because despite what people will have you believe, there are some sequels that are better than the original and Back to the Future Part 2 is one of those sequels.

From 500-401 there are lots of films that are way too low on the list (Brick and Rebel Without a Cause) and others that shouldn't be on the list at all, (Sweeny Todd and Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull) although I can't deny being happy to see Heath-ers at #412.

400 - 301 begins poorly as well with The Incredibles being #400. My complaint this time however is that what is easily the best Pixar Movie ever made is the 2nd lowest rated on this list. However this portion of the list has some entertaining entries like Election, The Breakfast Club, and Clerks. But it's not without its ridiculous films as well (300 and Grease)

300-201 again has an entry that is way too low on the list (It Happened One Night

dorktower

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at #297) but I can't say I wasn't happy to see Pee Wee's Big Adventure sitting at #271 and Shaun of the Dead at #231. However there are still a lot of movies that are incredibly too low on this list like M at #212 and The Bride of Frankenstein at #204.

200-101 of this list really starts off correctly with classics like Before Sunrise, Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Amelie, Fargo and... Point break? Really? I want you to think about that... Point Break is a greater film than Rebel Without a Cause? I can't deny though it's nice to see Wes Anderson represented twice on this part of the list (Rushmore and Royal Tenenbaums) but strap on your seat belts because this list is about to become insane.

100-1 starts off with the right idea with movies like Network and Reservoir Dogs. The real problem with this list comes at #49 where Evil Dead 2 sits. Now I'm a huge Evil Dead fan but I think that there's a fine line between "a movie I like" and "the greatest movie ever made." Even more ridiculous is The Dark Knight at #15 and Raiders of the Lost Ark as #2. That's number 2 people! That means that according to this list, Raiders of the Lost Ark has more cultural importance than any other film ever made. And The Godfather is #1.

This list is beyond disgrace to film as we know it. There are only 2 silent films on the entire 500 film list. No City Lights, Modern Times, The General - nothing. Furthermore one of the greatest comic teams of all time The Marx Brothers gets simply one film in the whole list with Duck Soup meanwhile five of the six Star Wars movies made it on the list (that includes The Phantom Menace - are you trying to tell me Jar Jar is better than Buster Keaton?)

Is this really what our generation considers great works of art? Perhaps this is the reason that our theaters are filled with recycled junk and remake after remake. I really recommend those of you out there with Netflix or Blockbuster accounts, OnDemand or even a good pirating website to just once... instead of spending 2 hours watching Lakeview Terrence check out something pre-1975 (because it might surprise you to know cinema existed before Jaws) like Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?, Freaks or A Night at the Opera. Just remember that when you're watching Harold and Maude and you think to yourself "Man this movie is just like Juno, Rushmore, Little Miss Sunshine, Garden State, or Charlie Bartlett so how is this unique?" Remember that it was that movie that started it all. Just like Halloween seems like a boring and clichéd horror film... because it created the formula that Saw still follows.

The Lion's Eye



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