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Endless summer

Construction on Highway 270 to Pullman affects everyone, but roadside businesses like Prairie Bloom Nursery are taking the hardest hit. See page 4.

A vineyard in Lewiston

After decades of drought, a new winery in Lewiston is using grapes grown just down the road. See page 6.

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在封面上：

葡萄正在茂盛生长在Umiker葡萄园在Lewiston。

由Carissa Wright/Summer Arg拍摄

Summer Arg

ACP Pacemaker finalist, 2003-04

SPJ Mark of Excellence winner, 2005

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That's all, folks!

With this issue, the Summer Arg concludes its second year. Just like last year, it's been a good one. We'll have one more standard Argonaut on July 18, then we're off for a month-long break before getting back into the swing of biweekly papers and actual news.

It's been a summer, for sure, but there's still plenty of it left before classes start again, so get outside and enjoy it. After a somewhat rocky start, the weather seems to be looking up (the temperature, that is) and there are plenty of places in and around Moscow to enjoy it.

The Aquatic Center has waterslides. Granite Point is just over 30 minutes away, and Wawawai County Park is just down the road from the cliffs. East City Park is shady and cool, and Rendezvous at the Park is coming up the weekend of July 20. Sitting on a bench in Friendship Square in the early evening is a great way to pass the time, especially if you bring a good book along. There are hundreds, even thousands of them out there, so go find one.

Me, I'm waiting for the new Harry Potter.

Carissa Wright
Editor in Chief
argonaut@uidaho.edu

Crossword PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Decorate anew (3)
5 Made a lap (4)
8 Ton apart (5)
14 First garden (4)
15 Blockhead (4)
16 Away from the coast (7)
17 Choo (4)
18 Chili (4)
19 Red wine of Bordeaux (4)
20 Friendly (4)
22 Singalong mode of speaking (7)
23 Broad satire (7)
24 Joining together (8)
27 Commanded (8)
29 Lower digit (3)
30 Muscular strength (5)
34 Four de (4)
35 Quote as an authority (9)
36 Sacred service (8)
37 Klimer poem (10)
39 Weeding implements (8)
40 Tennis great (9)
41 Operated (8)
42 Feel (4)
43 Hair-styling cream (8)
44 Fortress (9)
47 Lobbed missile (7)
48 Tokyo to Kyushu, e.g. (9)
50 Records (4)
51 Person of great influence (8)
52 Singing fiddler (9)
53 Ade (8)
55 Eve's mate (7)
56 In a short time (6)
58 Make a formal retraction (10)
61 Gone by (7)
62 Split apart (8)
63 Supermarket passageways (10)
64 For each (6)
65 Ann and Arg (10)

DOWN
1 Insert (4)
2 Swelling (5)
3 Jeans material (5)
4 At hand (6)
5 Manneker (4)
6 Move upward (7)
7 Half an African (3)
8 Sumptuous quality (9)
9 Like mosaic pieces (10)
10 Factory (11)
11 Divide into sections (12)
12 Wind dir. (6)
13 Taboo spray's letters (11)
21 Benefit (10)
22 Radioactivity unit (10)
23 Musical units (10)
24 V-formation fliers (9)
28 "Monica" (8)
29 North Carolina ion (10)
31 Stair piece (5)
32 Sports activities (10)
33 Very small (5)
34 Revolutionist (6)
37 Three-pronged weapons (5)
38 Hotel charges (5)
39 Smell the waste (6)
40 Garbage Air (5)
41 Cause injury to (5)
42 Inspire to love (5)
43 Twang (5)
44 Tree knot (5)
45 Taj Mahal's wife (9)
46 Make amends (6)
47 Patches (5)
48 Coach (5)
49 Persian (4)
50 Walkie garland (5)
51 Searce sound (5)

Solutions

1:5 3:5 7:3 1:2 9:1 7:6
2:1 4:5 1:6 3:4 5:2 3:8
3:2 5:7 4:9 2:6 1:1 8:3
4:8 5:3 2:7 1:9 3:6 7:2

Sudoku PUZZLE

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solutions from 7/6

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UI STUDENT MEDIA BOARD

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Check out the Summer Arg on the web!

www.argonaut.uidaho.edu
Businesses tested on rocky ground

By Christina Navarro
Summer Arg

Plant lovers on the Palouse have had to endure rocky road conditions to tend neighbors a green thumb in the last year, while the Moscow-Pullman Highway has been under construction.

The Washington State Department of Transportation’s project to widen Highway 270 has affected roadside businesses in more ways than one.

Nursery employee Harriet Hughes said the recent road closures for blasting had lowered customers, and the nursery was at a loss.

“We’re fairly certain our customer and sale numbers are down,” said Hughes.

Owner Tim Eaton said variables such as the nursery’s location, being a seasonal business and the timing of the construction has made it very difficult.

“We’ve been extremely affected — more so than others,” he said.

Having experienced last year’s construction effects, Eaton thought he was prepared for construction this time around but was faced with a dying inventory and no customers.

“Gravel piles obscured the view (of the entrance) last summer... Now they’ve returned.”

Tim Eaton
Owner, Prairie Bloom Nursery

The ambiguity of the driveway entrance poses a safety concern for Nursery customers.

“I don’t think (WSDOT) has addressed the danger of getting into our driveway,” Eaton said. “We had to put orange barrels out front. (WSDOT) said that’s enough, but they’re all along the highway.”

The entrance to Prairie Bloom Winery is surrounded by piles of rock and sand during the expansion of the Moscow-Pullman Highway.

“We felt once the highway was done it would be safer,” Havens said. “For us this has a real advantage.”

Leigh Ann Decker, manager of Crossroads Nursery and Garden Gifts located near the Moscow end of the highway, believes that though construction is hurting business right now, it will make the highway safer for commuters.

“I think that having the stop-light out here on the corner of the highway and Airport Road has helped us already,” she said. “The light has definitely improved the safety of this road. We used to have screeching tires all day long and horns blowing, and already that has diminished because of the light. The intersection was so unsafe, but now with the light, it’s much easier for people to come to us safely.”

Decker said she’s sure the construction has also affected Crossroads, but isn’t sure to what extent because of the nursery’s location.

“I haven’t had any customers complain,” she said. “We’ve had a good season so far, so I don’t know how it could have been if we hadn’t had any construction, so it hasn’t really bothered us too much.”

Paving will commence mid-July, and the road is expected to be open for traffic in October.
Pita Pit on the rebuild, slowly

By Jeremy Castillo
Summer Arg

Moscow’s Pita Pit franchise, owned by Rod Johnson, is still looking to reopen the popular restaurant months after a fire forced him to shut down temporarily. Since the business-closing blaze, he’s been searching for a new location and waiting for his insurance check to come. “Insurance companies don’t move fast,” he said. “I haven’t received any more to start rebuilding.”

At 9:16 a.m. on April 20, an electrical fire started by faulty wiring caused $60,000 worth of damage to the Pita Pit and closed Main Street for the rest of the morning. “It was real bad luck and bad timing,” Johnson said. “It was (before) Mom’s Weekend, so we took a big hit in sales.”

Still, he has remained strong and sees the silver linings around the black smoke clouds. “You never want your restaurant to burn down,” Johnson said. “But luckily I had insurance ... Plus, the fire chief (Ed Button) said if it happened in the middle of the night, half the block would have been gone.”

Johnson also knew that he wanted to reopen immediately, and planned to use the insurance money to do so.

In the weeks following the fire, University of Idaho students showed their support and loyalty to the Pita Pit.

Todd Armstrong, UI sophomore, sent a letter to The Argonaut in May saying the business should move onto Greek Row and set up shop in the Phi Kappa Tau house. To him, this would end the debate over whether Ethan Steel House or Sigma Phi Epsilon deserved the fraternity’s old digs more.

Armstrong said he and friend Chris Armstrong came up with the idea one night while talking about Pita Pit withdrawals.

“It just came up how funny it would be if Pita Pit took over the house over on Greek Row,” he said. “We didn’t even think it’d be printed.”

They agreed Armstrong could take credit for the letter and Armstrong created the Facebook group “Pita Pit on Greek Row.”

“I made the group because I thought it would be fun and people would get a kick out of reading it,” Armstrong said. “There was way too much tension going around campus in regards to the Phi Kappa Tau house and I wanted to throw out a sarcastic comment into a situation that had been blown way out of proportion. That, and we need our Pita Pit.”

Johnson was glad to see the outpouring of support from UI students despite knowing he wasn’t going to reopen the restaurant on Greek Row.

“The Pita Pit franchise in Pullman is right on (Washington State University’s) campus and business tanks when school’s out,” he said. “But I am very happy about the sentiment. It shows the loyalty we have from regular customers. I hope they come back.”

Right now, Johnson is in lease negotiations to reopen on Sixth Street, where Moxie Java once operated. That location, he said, would be ideal because of its closeness to campus, access to a drive-thru and more parking.

“Over the last few years, the parking in downtown Moscow has become more and more of a nightmare,” he said.

Johnson is looking at other storefronts, including where the old shop was on Main Street, but wouldn’t disclose any other locations.

But no matter where the Pita Pit reopens, which Johnson roughly guessed would be in August at the absolute earliest, the customers on campus will be happy to see the flatbread franchise back.

“I was about to transfer to WSU just to be closer to one,” Armstrong said. “I think we Vandals can appreciate it more now that we’ve been without it.”

Local/BRIEFS
Clarkston woman turns last dollar into a new home

Darla Ciboci, Clarkston resident, walked into Lewiston’s Liberty Mart with $7. She bought cigarettes and a lotto ticket that turned out to be a dud. After rummaging through her pockets for loose change, she scraped enough to buy a second ticket, the magic piece of paper that awarded her $27,000.

After taxes, Ciboci ended up with a shade above $18,000, money she used to buy a house. Ciboci, who cleans RVs for a living, won’t have to pay rent again after realizing her life’s dream of home ownership.

California dance on UI campus

Lineage Dance of Los Angeles will run its concert, “Dancing Through the Ages” tonight at 7 p.m. in studio 110 in UI’s Physical Education Building, on the UI campus. The concert, a mix of dance, video and photography, recently premiered in the City of Angels and is now touring the nation. Tickets are on sale at the door and are $8 for adults, $6 for students and $4 for children.

Volunteers needed for dorm check-in

University Residents need people to help new students move and check into the residence halls on Aug. 16 and 17 for two-hour blocks between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. both days. Volunteers can staff an information booth, distribute handouts, transport boxes and do other jobs. They will get a t-shirt and snacks. Call Leah Andrews at 885-7883 or e-mail her at leah@uidaho.edu with your name, t-shirt size and desired time.

A/C shut-down for Ed Building

The Education Building will not have ventilation, cooling or heating from 6 a.m.-5 p.m. between July 16-20 due to an air handler shutdown for air conditioning maintenance.

ITS Help Desk has new location

The ITS Help Desk is now located in TLC 128. Its phone number (885-4357) and e-mail address (helpdesk@uidaho.edu) are still the same.
Bringing wine back to the valley

Clearwater Canyon Cellars seeks to make high-class wines from grapes grown in the Lewiston-Clarkston valley

By Carlissa Wright
Summer Arg

One hundred years ago, the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley was one of the Northwest’s premier grape-growing regions. Wines produced from valley grapes took 17th at the 1903 World’s Fair, and growers from California’s Napa Valley often traveled to the area to compare notes and to find out the Lewiston growers’ methods. When Prohibition took effect, the wine industry plummeted, vineyard owners lost hope, and the industry never fully recovered.

Today, Clearwater Canyon Cellars, owned in partnership by four local couples, is doing their part to renew that legacy. Their first wine, Renaissance Red, was released last year and is made in part by grapes grown in Lewiston. It sold out in five months with no advertising — word of mouth was the only marketing method the winery used.

One of the vineyards Clearwater Canyon contracts with is Umiker Vineyards, which is owned by Coco and Karl Umiker, who are also partners in the winery. The Umikers planted their first grapes at the vineyard in 2003, and the 2004 harvest made up part of the winery’s first release.

When Coco’s grandfather settled in the area, he built a home where the three-acre vineyard currently lies. Though Coco says she never wanted to be a wheat farmer, like he was, growing grapes was one of her passions and it would keep the land from sitting empty.

Kari, a research support scientist at the University of Idaho’s soil sciences department, said about an acre of the vineyard is currently producing usable grapes. The remaining two acres are not yet established, and will take another year before the vines are strong enough to commercially produce grapes.

Being close to the grapes, Coco says, aids immensely in crafting a stellar wine.

“You can really dial it in,” she says. By taste-testing grapes constantly as they approach ripeness, the winemaker can decide right down to the day when they are ready for harvest. It’s difficult to coordinate, she says, when the grapes are grown five hours away in Yakima or the Columbia Basin, two of the other locations where Clearwater Canyon buys grapes.

Patty Switzer, another partner in the winery, said that because its current production location is in a residential area, they haven’t been able to open a tasting room or a retail store. However, the winery will be moving in September to a new location in the Port of Lewiston, where the partners plan to host tasting events and offer a selection of retail products.

“We won’t be open full-time,” Switzer says, partly because all of the partners in the winery (save one, who is retired) have other jobs. But winemaking has become a commercial enterprise, just the

Local Calendar

Today

“Summer of ‘42” at Hartung Idaho Repertory Theatre presents “Summer of ‘42,” a story of three hormone-driven teens living through the summer in war-torn, WWII-era Nantucket, at 7:30 p.m. in Hartung Theatre. Tickets are $18 for adults, $16 for seniors and $11 for youth.

‘Away From Her’ at the Kenworthy

“Away From Her” (PG-13), a story of a man who’s Alzheimer’s-stricken wife transfers her affection to a wheelchair-bound mute, plays at 7 p.m. at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for children 12 or younger.

Equaleyes at John’s Alley

Equaleyes brings the funk, rock, reggae, bluegrass and numerous other genres to Moscow from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at John’s Alley.

Saturday

‘Elvis People’ at Hartung

Idaho Repertory Theatre presents “Elvis People,” a series of stories of how The King influenced the lives of ordinary folks, at 7:30 p.m. in Hartung Theatre. Tickets are $18 for adults, $16 for seniors and $11 for youth.

‘Away From Her’

“Away From Her”, 7 and 9:35 p.m., the Kenworthy.

Sunday

‘Summer of ‘42’ at Hartung

“Summer of ‘42,” 2 p.m., Hartung Theatre.

‘Elvis People’ at Hartung

“Elvis People,” 7:30 p.m. Hartung Theatre.

‘Away From Her’

“Away From Her,” 4:25 and 7 p.m., the Kenworthy.

Monday

Summer session starts

Today marks the first day of late session summer school classes.

‘Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds’

The UI Arboretum and Lionel Hampton School of Music faculty presents the “Summer Breezes and Sweet Sounds” concert at 7 p.m. at the north end of the Arboretum, near the upper pond.

Tuesday

‘Elvis People’ at Hartung

“Elvis People,” 7:30 p.m. Hartung Theatre.

Kapakahi at John’s Alley

San Francisco band Kapakahi (a Hawaiian word for twisted, bent or confused) gives Moscow a taste of Californian reggae, ska, and hip-hop from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at John’s Alley.

Wednesday

Horse Feathers on Idaho Commons Green

Portland indie/folk trio Horse Feathers will play from noon-1 p.m. on the Idaho Commons Green as part of the noontime summer concert series.

‘Flushed Away’ at the Kenworthy

“Flushed Away” (PG), a story of an uptown rat that gets flushed and ends up in London’s sewers, plays at 1 p.m. at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre. All seats are $2.

Thursday

‘Much Ado About Nothing’ at Hartung

Idaho Repertory Theatre presents “Much Ado About Nothing,” Shakespeare’s classic comedy, at 7:30 p.m. at the outdoor stage of Hartung Theatre. Tickets are $18 for adults, $16 for seniors and $11 for youth.

‘Waitress’ at the Kenworthy

“Waitress” (PC-13), a story about a pregnant waitress who starts a romance with the town newcomer for one last chance at happiness, plays at 7:30 p.m. at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre. Tickets are $5 for adults, $3 for children 12 or younger.

The Astronaut Farmer on the Tower Lawn

Campus recreation presents “The Astronaut Farmer” (PG), starting at dusk on the Theophilus Tower Lawn.

Plane Ticket Home lands in John’s Alley

International band Plane Ticket Home will play from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at John’s Alley.

July 13

‘Much Ado About Nothing’ at Hartung

“Much Ado About Nothing”
A hundred years ago, Lewiston wines routinely took top honors at international competitions. But in the last 60 years, only one wine has been made entirely from grapes grown in the valley.

Umiker Vineyards encompasses approximately three acres of land, one of which is currently producing grapes commercially. The other two are not yet established. The majority of the vines are Merlot and Cabernet Franc.

"This is a part-time job," she says. "I wouldn't consider it a hobby anymore."

Though the newest wines, from the 2005 harvest, have not been officially released yet, they are available at select tasting events and through the winery's mailing list. The September release, Coco says, includes the first commercial wine made only from grapes grown in the valley in more than 50 years — the winery's first step toward the goal of creating premier wines from the valley.

"Making wines from valley grapes is pretty unique," Coco says. "No one else is doing it." Supporting local industry and keeping production within the valley are perks, but the history behind wine in the valley is what created the drive.

Switzer said that the eight partners learned about the valley's winemaking history during a symposium of grape growers in 2002. Robert Wing, a University of Idaho graduate and winemaker was speaking.

"He's what inspired the winery and the vineyard," Coco said.

Wing had been researching the wine-related history of the area for years and became interested in the history. In the 1970s, he planted an experimental vineyard in his backyard in Lewiston.

Thirty years later, Karl added, it was still going strong, and Wing decided that grapes were still a viable crop for the Clearwater River valley.

A hundred years ago, 80-acre vineyards stood where housing developments now sprawl. Entrepreneurs bought large tracts of land and planted grapes they thought might take in the climate. But in 1910, Lewiston's citizens voted to make the city dry, and when Prohibition followed soon afterward, the industry was crushed.

This was all known before Wing's research, Coco said, but the knowledge was scattered.

"No one had taken the time to compile all that history," Coco said. "It was being forgotten."
‘Summer’ hits all the right spots

By Matt Doyle
Summer Arg

If Friday’s performance of “Summer of ’42” is any indication, then this Idaho Repertory Theatre production is looking at a long and successful season.

Experience laughter, pain and honesty in a musical about three hormone charged teenagers in this provocative, nostalgic and reflective period piece.

Hunter Foster and David Kirshenbaum’s theater adaptation of the popular book and film, “Summer of ’42” is about three sex-starved teens who sing their way through a war-torn summer vacation on Nantucket Island.

The sharp dialogue plays around with the boys’ delicate youthfulness by incorporating lines that reveal their immaturity and their naive infatuation with sex.

Eventually, Hermie’s juvenile infatuation blossoms on his journey from adolescence to early maturity as he falls in love with Dorothy, an older, lonely war bride.

Dominated by sexual references and lewd jokes, the story makes Hermie’s eventual transition into maturity all the more appropriate.

It is as though both the audience and Hermie reach a point where they begin to yearn for something more substantial than sex jokes.

A group of seductive young chorus girls sings along with a fast-talking radio broadcaster to help transition many of the scenes, and World War Two references occur throughout the dialog to place the piece in its proper context.

One of the most breathtaking features of the production is the cleverly detailed set created by scenic designer Stephanie Miller.

Enhancing the realism of the dialogue, the beautiful, multi-layered set includes everything from a vintage movie marquee to a white-washed beach house. Dean Pantaja’s careful lighting techniques complement the set by adding a sense of depth and space to the limited stage size.

see the SHOW

“Summer of ’42” will play at 7:30 p.m. July 6, 10, 14, 17, 21, 25 and 28 and at 2 p.m. on July 8. All shows are at the Hartung Theatre. Tickets are $18 for adults, $16 for seniors and $11 for youth, and are available at the Hartung ticket window or at www.ticketswest.com.

The cast of the show delivers a powerful performance that evokes sheer delight, and lead actors April Wolf and Jeremiah Davis will surprise both regular and first-time theatergoers alike. All the actors prove themselves by delivering powerful emotion in both song and speech.

The production will continue its run at the Hartung Theatre this month with a final performance on July 28.

Touched by the King

By Christina Navarro
Summer Arg

According to American Demographics Magazine, 84 percent of Americans say that their lives have been touched by Elvis Presley in some way. The vignettes that make up “Elvis People” bring that statistic home.

Seeing “Elvis People” is exciting, funny, nostalgic, and a bit sad at times — but the new play is worth every minute.

Directed by Chip Egan, Idaho Repertory Theatre’s take on Doug Grissom’s “Elvis People” shows the many sides of The King, and his fans, over time. Like Presley, this show has it all — the moves, the tunes, the expressions and the lines.

Throughout a series of vignettes, each character is brought to life by the actors. Each actor changes roles as often as Paris Hilton changes outfits, but the actors skillfully embody each of Grissom’s characters and bring them to life.

Illustrated by great costumes, hair (or wigs) and makeup, each scene tells a story about an Elvis fan, or fans, from a different time period.

In the beginning, teenager’s rebellious streak against his parents sparks a secret affair with her Elvis records.

Humorous characters include a mouthy army lieutenant, a group of fans who have made their lives as servants to The King and fans that spread word of Elvis sightings and conspiracies ablate like a wild fire.

A scene about the “Seven Levels of Elvis” is classic.

There’s the Level One Elvis impersonator who jumps at the sight of a black wig on the road and exclaims “Look! Elvis hair on the road!”

Our character brings us all the way to Level Seven, when the car sale and Vegas jobs are long gone, the days of being a full-time Elvis impersonator over, as a younger, better Elvis with thicker sideburns takes over the show. The character’s days of talking and moving like Elvis, even off the job, are over.

A modern-day mother who lost a child to a drunk driver and a Vietnam veteran are two of the more heartfelt, sentimental characters. Their stories don’t just tell or show how Elvis got them through their hardships, but really have the power to move the audience.

The play, with its collection of characters and their stories, demonstrates that it’s not just the music that touched the lives of others, but the legend — and how it lives on.

Those with suspicious minds, surrender to the play’s charm because one can’t help falling in love with “Elvis People.”

With only a few more shows of “Burning Love” from July 15-22 at 2 p.m., if you’re planning to watch it, “It’s Now Or Never.”

see the SHOW

“Elvis People” will play at 7:30 p.m. July 1, 7, 8, 18 and 24 and at 2 p.m. July 15 and 22. All shows are at the Hartung Theatre.

Meet the author of ‘Facing the Music’

Clay Eals, author of “Facing the Music,” will be at BookPeople of Moscow from 4-7 p.m. on July 7. The new book is a biography of Steve Goodman, a folk singer-songwriter who passed away in the 1980s from leukemia.

Mosaics class at Dahmen Barn

Mardi Bolick will use objects she found as fodder for her mosaic class that will run from 1-3 p.m. on July 14 at Artisans at the Dahmen Barn. The class costs $20 and is for ages eight and above. The limit is 10 students, so register by July 7 by calling (509) 229-3414.

Free Concert at 1912 Center

The Heart of the Arts, Inc. presents a free concert by the Rendezvous Chamber Players from 6:30-8 p.m. on July 16 at the plaza in the 1912 Center, located on Third Street across from Moscow High School. Peri’s Garden will sell food and beverages.

Art Walk heads to Palouse

The town of Palouse, Wash., will host the Art Walk Palouse Invitational throughout the month of July. The opening reception will be held from 1-5 p.m. on July 7. The walk will feature more than 40 artists exhibits throughout downtown Palouse, including 22 at The Bank Left Gallery, which will also have a glass-blowing demonstration and live music. Illustrator Shelley O’Haas from Harrington, Wash. will do a book signing at the opening reception as well.
By Matt Doyle  
Summer Arg

If conventional humor with a coherent plotline is your style, then scratch “Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters” off your list of summer rentals.

The film, which is based on the popular 10-minute long Cartoon Network show, had a limited theater release and little publicity.

Against the odds, the film managed to turn a budget of $750,000 into $5,520,368 in box office sales. Some may that think that for a 10-minute cartoon, an 87-minute version is just too long.

If you like the show, however, keep your calendars marked for the August 14 DVD release date — it only gets better.

Since ATHF is known for its arbitrary humor, here are four spots in the movie that should serve as a sample of what to expect:

00:01 — Things begin with a cheeky song from a familiar chorus line of movie snacks strutting down the theater isle. While gliding across the screen, they remind you to buy plenty of food, to mind the rules and that indecent exposure is a Class 2 felony.

01:44 — The creators are honest people. Less than two minutes into the film you are informed that if you do not like the movie, leave, because regardless, “your money is now our money.” Better yet, the movie is going to be spent on drugs. It is as though the writers are mocking you for being sucked into an 87-minute long cash trap.

40:00 — At this point in the film, the Hunger Force’s neighbor, Carl, is involuntarily strapped to a three-story robotic exercise machine that forces him to work out to pulse-pounding techno music. After destroying his house, the machine starts to give birth to miniature robots.

1:08:00 — Fry Lock explains the strange back-story of the Hunger Force. The viewer discovers that the Hunger Force failed their original mission, which was to stop world hunger in Africa. Distressed by the memory, Fry Lock makes a frank confession: “I couldn’t live up to my father’s backwards, retarded expectations. I came (to New Jersey) to follow my dream ... of dancing professionally ... in the nude.”

The Hunger Force attempts to construct and use an exercise machine that is also a transforming, birth-giving robot for half the time.

Regularly deviating from the plot in order to give many of the recurring characters some screen time, the story struggles to explain the origins of the adventurous trio.

After watching 10 minutes of the film, you get the sneaking suspicion that the storyboard process involved taking a bunch of ideas, writing them on pieces of paper, and then drawing them out of a hat. So take this film with a grain of salt, people.

And for die-hard ATHF fans out there — have fun.
Exercising in the summer heat

By Corrine Schmidt
Special to the Summer Arg

The biggest running races and outdoor activities take place during the summer. The weather is reliable and people have time off to train.

However, the heat comes with a potential problem for those who strenuously exercise in the sun.

Ailments such as heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat strokes can cause problems ranging all the way from discomfort to death. With the proper precautions, however, these setbacks can be prevented.

**Proper hydration**

Craig Bennett, head athletic trainer at the University of Puget Sound, said there are many things an athlete can do and consider to avoid heat-caused illnesses. One of the most important steps an athlete can take is to be sure to get enough water and sodium to help aid the body's natural cooling processes.

Summer athletes should consume much more than the recommended eight 8-ounce glasses of water per day to make up for the amount of water they lose through sweat, Bennett says. A basic guideline for athletic water consumption is to drink 16 ounces of fluid 1-2 hours before exercise and to drink 6-12 ounces every 15-20 minutes while exercising. After exercise, Bennett recommends replacing every pound of weight lost with 16-20 ounces of water.

Keep in mind, it is also possible to over-hydrate and get hyponatremia, a fatal condition that occurs when your sodium concentration falls too low. This can happen if you drive excessive amounts of water, thus diluting the sodium in your body.

Adding too much salt in their diet because of the sodium lost through the body's natural cooling processes.

“When you sweat, you lose sodium and sodium is important for brain function,” Bennett explains.

As for what types of liquids athletes should drink, Bennett suggests a combination of water and sports drinks, since sports drinks help replace sodium. He also recommends that athletes avoid caffeine, a diuretic, which will cause frequent urination and dehydration.

However, different athletes prefer to hydrate differently.

Amberly Beckman, former captain of Emmet High School's girls' cross-country team, says she prefers water over sports drinks because of the intense sweetness in most sports drinks, which makes them less refreshing.

“Gatorade isn't everything people make it out to be,” she says.

**Time your run**

Though proper hydration is one of the biggest factors in staying cool, athletes can take other steps to beat the heat.

Avoiding the hottest times of the day and running instead in the morning or evening can help.

In Moscow, the hottest times of the day are usually around 3-4 p.m.

However, many people do not have the flexibility in their schedule to choose when to exercise. Glenn Mosley, a journalism professor at the University of Idaho, runs whenever he has time.

“(The time I run) varies wildly around work schedule and personal life,” he says. He often ends up running at the hottest times of the day and says he copes best by slowing down his normal pace.

Bennett agrees that slowing your pace or shortening your exercise time can be beneficial.

He says that it is important to know your own personal limitations and to listen to your body — measuring heart rate can be a useful way to monitor what your body is telling you.

**Proper attire**

The clothes and accessories you wear for exercising can also make a difference. Because darker colors absorb heat, lighter colors are often better at keeping you cool.

Clothes made from a special material that wicks sweat away from the body can keep athletes cooler than cotton clothes, which often trap heat in.

Because the head absorbs lots of heat, as it is the closest body part to the sun, hats can provide shade.

Long sleeves can be worn to avoid sunburn if they are made from a breathable material. Cotton or other similar materials can cause more harm than good by keeping heat from leaving your body.

If you decide against long sleeves, regular applications of sweat-proof sunscreen designed for athletes should be enough to stave off sunburn. Whatever form of sun protection you choose, it is important to protect yourself from harmful rays in some way or another.

“If you're smart, you put on sunscreen,” Beckman says. "It also helps to run in the shade if you can."

Whether you follow all or parts of these suggestions, it is important to keep summer heat in mind before exercising in it.

“Temperature should be one of the main concerns, especially if you are running by yourself,” Bennett says. “(Heat-caused problems) can happen to anybody if you don't plan or prepare for it.”
Running ragged

By Joe Lawrence
Special to the Summer Arg

What exists between the twin peaks of Mount Horrible and Mount Misery in north Oregon? 57 miles of pure devastation.

Every year, a group of up to 70 runners gathers in the small rural town of Asotin, Wash., elevation 800 feet to run a route following Forest Service roads through the winding, hilly back roads of northern Oregon and southern Washington. The race ascends to an elevation of 6194 feet before tumbling down into the rustic city of Troy, Oregon, where the race ends.

This grueling race, called the Mount Misery Relay, is put on by the Seaport Striders every year in late June, and directed by Lewiston resident Bill Chandler. Mel Nicholas first suggested the route to Chandler in early 1990, and he established it as an official race soon after.

"It was a hairy ass road, I mean, it was just murder, you know," Chandler said, reflecting on his first thoughts of the route.

"You get in those elevations and after a while you get to feel like you're wearing a backpack."

The relay's rules limit each team to six runners, with the intervals determined by the individuals themselves. Pre-registration is encouraged, but race day sign-ups are accepted as well. The $40 entry fee pays for a shirt, dinner and medals for the winners. After the race, runners enjoy a catered dinner by Shilo Oasis and take a dip in the nearby Grande Ronde River.

The 16th annual Mount Misery Relay was held on June 30. A team from Elk, Wash., calling themselves "Six Sexy Beasts" captured first place with a time of 5:40 — that is, five hours, forty minutes. Larry Carroll of Spokane ran the race solo this year and is the fifth person in the race's history to do so. He finished in a world record time of 10:08:48, even after helping to fix a flat tire along the way.

Chandler encourages all high school and college age teams to sign up, adding that a $15 discount is offered for students wearing school colors on race day. Contact Chandler at (208) 746-8287. More information on the race can be found at www.seaportstriders.com.

Mt. Misery Relay Race
Official Course Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEG</th>
<th>RUNNER</th>
<th>TRIP TIME</th>
<th>DIST/ELEVATION</th>
<th>SLAPER TIME</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>5.25 M</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Start at 800 feet above sea level. Nice pavement. Turn right at 2.0 miles. It doesn't get any better than this...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.25</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>5.4 M</td>
<td>1:30</td>
<td>And IT GOES!! Just have all that dust and gravel. Better get used to it. Rolling hills and cows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.68</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>10.65 E</td>
<td>3:15</td>
<td>More rolling hills and cows. Turn LEFT (rolling east)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>3.5 XXH</td>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Flat first half. (you know what we mean) then straight up. Keep a spare set of knees handy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>4.3 XXXH</td>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>More IT! Why are we still running? Much! Starts out climbing...keeps climbing...ends climbing...just the idea!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>3.6 XH</td>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>This is a piece of cake compared to Leg 5. It's less than 1.0 miles, so how come it feels like 10? Maybe it's because there aren't any air miles above sea level. More of the same. Did you remember the oxygen tank?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>4.1 XH</td>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>No air at mile above sea level. More of the same. Did you remember the oxygen tank?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8   | 30.6   | 950       | 5.1 XXH        | 3:30        | Cim for a mile to reach 5:506 feet above sea level, then it's downhill all the way. (Yeah right!)
| 9   | 35.3   | 870       | 4.6 XH         | 3:30        | Drop fast first few miles...then back up...be careful of the rocks as you look out at the vast views of the course. |
| 10  | 40.5   | 750       | 5.65 XH        | 3:30        | Start dropping fast. Turn right at 4 miles. Watch the steep part. You'll need those spare knees now. |
| 11  | 45.5   | 670       | 5.0 H          | 3:30        | Add an "x" to this leg if it's hot and dusty. You can't buy shade here. Turn right at the intersection. |
| 12  | 51     | 550       | 5.1 XH         | 3:30        | If you like bleeding toe nails, your going out this one! Sometimes use a pair of shears during recency. Campouts!! |

You made it!!

See you next year!

The Seaport Striders running club sponsors the annual Mt. Misery race. From the 11th year of competition, this race description gives an idea of the challenge the course poses.

Daoist hermitage offers the public a glimpse of quieter life

By Jeremy Castillo
Summer Arg

Some people come to reflect on their lives, others arrive seeking a new philosophy and some wish to want a quiet place to re-examine their priorities. The lifestyle at the Genesee Valley Daoist Hermitage provides all three.

"People in America need space," says Charlotte Sun, director of the hermitage. "They come for a personal retreat."

The only time of the year when non-residents are allowed in, this weekend will see the hermitage's annual open house, running today until Monday.

The hermitage, located on the Genesee-Troy road, is the only one of its kind in the United States. It hosts students who are pursuing a variety of studies, including Chinese medicine and philosophy.

"Some (new residents) are already starting to study and plan on going deeper in their studies and get better instruction," Sun says.

Betta Bunzel has known Sun for nearly three decades and has worked at the hermitage since April 2000. In that time, she's seen numerous people pass through the farmhouse's doors and leave with their own unique experiences.

"Each person is attracted by a particular facet of the complicated nature of a residential facility that offers the teachings of Daoism by a true teacher," Bunzel says. "I don't count (how many people have come and gone) but am assured that the quality of the interaction received by those in attendance is genuine." The hermitage is tucked away in the valley, far from the sight of any possibly random passerby. It is not advertised in any way and no signs lead to it or indicate you've arrived. Most of its publicity comes through word-of-mouth.

"It's closed to the public because we don't want people coming in whenever," Sun says.

Stays at the hermitage can last a few weeks or months but Sun, says one woman recently left after an eight-year residency.

The open house is a chance for prospective residents to get a taste of what life there is like, as it's not for everyone.

"It's a time every year that we set aside for people at a distance to experience the hermitage who want to see what it's like before they make a commitment," Sun says. A typical day starts with an early rising and a session of Qi Gong, a form of meditation based on oriental martial arts.

After mealtime, it's time for work-study, which varies from resident to resident, except when it comes to tending to crops. "No matter what the specialty," Sun says, "everyone is pulling weeds."

On Saturday mornings, Sun and her husband, Da-Jing, are at the Farmer's Market, selling food to Moscow residents.

While the hermitage provides produce and greens for the Moscow Food Co-op, Sun says her products are ignored there more often than at Friendship Square, where customers tend to see Oriental food as novel.

"Some people come by, look and then go on," Sun says. "But some people want to try new things because they are bored with the American diet. They buy things to take home and cook and get excited to buy more. I like to teach them how to use (the ingredients)."

Instruction is a big part of Sun's life. She sometimes teaches classes at the University of Idaho and teaches at Moscow School of Massage. And a teacher of hers in China, where she lived for 30 years, inspired her to open the Genese Valley Daoist Hermitage.

Sun and her husband moved to the Palouse in 1993. She remembers the day she saw the land where the hermitage is now standing.

"We came up in wintertime and were looking for property," Sun recalls. "It was snowing so hard, we couldn't get to the road. But we finally made it up there, looked at it and bought it because it felt right."
SUMMER ON THE RANCH: LIFE AS A BOY SCOUT RANGER

What keeps me coming back

Living in the mountains of New Mexico, sometimes I wonder what I’m missing back in Idaho. I have a few friends that are getting married this summer and I wish I were able to celebrate with them. There are also other celebrations I’ve missed or will miss including birthdays, Father’s Day and Independence Day. I’ve missed spending time with old friends and family. But births are what I regret the most. I’ve missed the births of my nephew Jason and now my niece and goddaughter Katelyn. I could also be working on an internship or taking summer classes or doing something toward my future. But I suppose if I weren’t backpacking and spending time outdoors here in New Mexico, that’s what I’d be doing back home except I’d also have to find a real summer job and work on the side. I guess that’s what is so ideal about being a Philmont Ranger: Backpacking and spending time in the woods is the job.

What first brought me to be a Philmont Ranger was a combination of discontent and restlessness. I used to spend my summers working manual labor in Moscow — landscaping, doing minor maintenance and digging ditches. It paid well, but after five summers the money wasn’t enough to keep me happy. But more than that, I was fully aware that sticking around town every summer did nothing to stimulate me or broaden my education.

The last time I punched in as a grunt was in 2004, and the following summer I found myself waking every morning to a job that challenged me, pushed my personal limits and erased my comfort zone. I guess something about this place and this job has been embedded into me and for the last few summers I have felt called back. Originally, I returned for selfish reasons, but recently I discovered that maybe I am coming back to Philmont for something else.

My job as Mountain Trek Coordinator pays fairly well and there are a few perks to working in Ranger upper leadership, but as I said before, the pay isn’t necessarily enough to keep me content. Now that three of my summers have been invested in this place I feel compelled to stay longer and see that these investments have been worthwhile. Also, perhaps I am obligated to pay back the mountains and the trails and the crew’s youth for everything they’ve taught me. Perhaps there is some sort of legacy I can leave for the future or some sort of effect I can still have.

I was speaking with my friend Sarah, one of the Associate Chief Rangers, who’s been working in the department since 2003. She admitted that her first few seasons she definitely came to Philmont for herself and then in the past two summers, she’s come to understand that she’s out here working for bigger reasons.

Sarah came back last summer to work as Rayado Trek Coordinator. She came because she had the opportunity to work in a program that she believed in and because she knew she would be able to ensure the program continued to thrive. Now as an ACR, Sarah is here because she knows she can provide beneficial leadership to the Ranger Department.

Members of Ranger leadership gather at Miranda Camp in late May.

That’s it for this year’s Summer Arg!
Be sure to keep an eye on the Argonaut Web site (uiargonaut.com) for updates in the next few months, and look for the Freshman Orientation issue on July 18.
'Once' gives us a new kind of movie musical

By Daniel Hirsch
The Stanford Daily (Stanford)

Like any independent film with a quirky and irreverent love story, "Once," by writer-director John Carney, contains many of the usual elements: Sullen, camera-shy and drum-beat guy meets adorable and quirky girl, who does charmingly quirky and irreverent things in this film. It's her Czech accent and her passion for dragging a vacuum cleaner down the streets of Dublin like a Cocker Spaniel, (as the film's title suggests) "Once" is a musical.

We're not talking about a "West Side Story" or "Oklahoma," kind of musical. "Once," gives us a movie musical for the muted-indie-acoustic-folk crowd. Glen Hansard stars as the heartbroken singer-songwriter playing on the streets of Dublin trying to get by on his music, but has to work in his father's vacuum repair shop. When not moonlighting as an actor, Hansard is the front man for an Irish rock band The Frames, a band for which Carney once played bass.

Czech vocalist Marketa Irglova joins Hansard as the aforementioned girl who sells roses on the street and plays the two meet and begin talking when the girl's lover needs some fixing. She is taken by his evocative guitar playing. He soon learns that she plays piano and writes her own songs. And before you can say C major, they are making beautiful music together. Hansard and Irglova do indeed sound nice together, both on and off the screen. In fact, many of the songs from "Once" can be heard on Hansard's solo album "The Swell Season" on which the two collaborated. In this light, it's hard not to see the film as a sort of documentary of their real story (they are dating in real life as well). Carney's camera work grounds the realist of the film. He shoots many scenes with a hand-held camera creating an almost cinema verite quality. In the opening shot, a junkie relieves himself in an alley only a few feet from Hansard singing his heart out to a gray and gritty Dublin avenue. The whole film walks a strange line between its subdued and mellow realism and the theatricality of a musical. It only really deviates from real life when Hansard and Irglova burst into full song in the back of a bus or in the middle of a piano shop.

This of course is a convention of musicals—that characters sing irrationally and often. In one scene, Irglova goes into a convenience store in the middle of the night to buy batteries so she can listen to Hansard's demo on her Walkman. As she walks down the street in her pajamas and slippers she sings sweetly as she thinks of lyrics to his tunes. It's somewhat unrealistic and definitely theatrical, but the whole thing is done so effortlessly that it has a haunting, transcendental effect. Her gentle crooning of "If You Want Me" is somehow as natural as if she is humming privately to herself. In another notable scene, Irglova and Hansard go to a party full of musicians in which everyone shares a song. Carney's direction is so gentle and rooted in realism that the scene lacks any pretense or contrivance. People sing with such ease in "Once" that it suggests our own lives could be a bit more musical.

"Once" does fall victim to many of the cliches of quirky love stories. Often its suffers from its own mellowness and noticeably lacks dramatic tension. Yet, when Irglova and Hansard get together and play, they are as rousing and uplifting as a huge Busby Berkeley number, but in their own quiet, bittersweet and acoustic way.

America needs to re-evaluate policies

By Etsa Silanku
Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

It's never going to be easy to admit, but U.S. policy in the Middle East is in tatters. In just a matter of days, everything that has happened in Gaza, Afghanistan and the Lebanon has cemented the view that the interests of the United States are better served if it stayed out of this region rather than continue with its unsolicited power brokerage.

Hamas, the extremist group listed as a terrorist organization by the United States, Britain and the European Union, has taken over Gaza — the 140-square-mile strip of land on the Mediterranean Sea along Israel's northern border. After a day, a massive bomb went off in one of the busiest places in Afghanistan, killing more than 30 people. It was reported that this is Hamas'wers' first terrorist attack in Afghanistan since the U.S. invasion in 2001. On the same day, Lebanon was busy firing Katyusha rockets into Israel. At the moment, there are few, if any, safe areas in Iraq, including the so-called fortified green belt. Iraq is not getting any safer, and the United States is learning an avoidable but harsh lesson on the limits of its expansionist policies.

The decision by Hamas military leaders to violently re-occupy Gaza is a tragedy. The escalation in chaos and factionalism couldn't be any less harmful to citizens than the U.S. withdrawal of aid to the Hamas-led parliament. One might even say Hamas' actions would permanently damage the desire of many Palestinians for an independent state. But even more catastrophic is the recent decision by the Bush administration to end support for the government of Mahmoud Abbas, viewed as corrupt and sectarian with no political influence.

It wouldn't be the first time the United States has gotten it wrong in the Middle East — or anywhere else — and perhaps will not be the last. A few years ago, not even Israel was in support of the U.S.-backed with withdrawal from Gaza. The commander in chief of the United States of America, with all his military correctness, insisted. Not only that, he even went ahead to facilitate the holding of elections — Washington Style — in the hope of creating a Palestinian state.

The president of the United States believes in democracy. He believes in majority rule, freedom, justice and the like. He is also a very kind person. He gives aid and supports weak regimes. He even sends his soldiers to fight wars on behalf of other countries, even if his people don't like the idea. George W. Bush has a very big heart, but when terrorists like Hamas win elections, his definition of democracy ceases to be the same.

This is very interesting because by withholding aid from Hamas, it has only served to bolster its support among Palestinians as the legitimate power that stands for their interests. In the eyes of the Palestinians, Hamas is the entity that won elections against the U.S.-backed Fatah regime and sacked American-trained insurgents in Gaza. That is no mean achievement for a locally trained militant group.

It may take a lot of guts to admit it, but by the time we finally come around, the record won't validate in their verdict: the old maxim of Western imperialism, expansionism, democratization or whatever you call it is falling woefully. The divide and rule tactics of supporting moderate against extremists is simply antiquated.

Ask history's gatekeepers and they will tell you America, more than any other country, has acted in ways that have created the so-called demons — which sometimes come back to haunt us. We then turn around frantically to exercise them after realizing the overpowering effects of their tentacles.

If the United States continues in its ways, post-9/11 will have no choice but to sound the death knell. But America can avoid this if — and only if — it faces up to the reality of the suffering masses in one of the world's most neglected, dangerous and bankrupt regions, the reality that the United States cannot act as an umpire in a region in which it has no legitimacy. There is one way to do this. As the nation celebrates its independence, it presents a splendid opportunity for America not only to reflect on its values and aspirations, but to rethink its foreign policy, especially toward the Middle East.
Students adopt new means of cheating

By Jill Rosenberger
Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

Writing answers on hands, making a cheat sheet and wandering eyes are becoming a thing of the past. Many students are using other methods, such as cell phones, iPods, calculators and other gadgets to cheat in class.

"Writing on the back of your hand can now be something that can be scanned into a PDF (portable document format) file and then put on an iPod or cell phone," said Andy Alt, assistant director for the Office of Judicial Affairs. "It is just a different way of cheating than writing on the brim of your hat or on the bottom of your shoe."

Electronic devices have more memory space than the limited space on your hand, hat or shoe and are easier to conceal.

"I think cell phones are probably the most popular device that students use to cheat," said Christopher King, sophomore in performing arts.

"However, I think as more students get iPods and MP3 players that can hold images and larger files, they will become the more popular ways to cheat."

Classroom cheating has evolved since the advent of the technological age.

"Technology shapes the kinds of cheating that can be done and gotten away with in the classroom," said Michael Bugaje, director of the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication.

"It is not the intent of technology to teach students how to cheat, but it is the effect of technology that students adapt their cheating to the medium."

Students are continuing to cheat every day, whether it is using electric devices in class or copying and pasting from the Internet to create their own paper in other people's words.

"We tend to think of cheating as an in-class exam, multiple choice type of exercise," Bugaje said. "What technology has shown us is that there are all sorts of inventive ways to cheat."

Plagiarism is another form of academic dishonesty.

"If you lifted a sentence or paragraph longer out of a some established work, there is a real good probability that I can figure out where it came from in a few seconds," said Kim Smith, professor of journalism and communication.

Smith will type in a suspicious sentence into a search engine to figure out if a student has plagiarized a portion of their paper.

"We had a case here in the department recently that the person not only plagiarized their paper, but their main source was Wikipedia," Smith said, referencing the Internet's popular free-content encyclopedia. "Wikipedia is usually one of the first search results on Google."

At Iowa State, approximately 150 to 200 cases of academic misconduct are reported a year, Alt said. Approximately two-thirds

'Transformers' jam-packed with awesome visuals, '80s nostalgia

By Victor Fuste
The Stanford Daily (Stanford)

Robots. In. Disguise. If those three words don't get you to stop reading this review and into the theater, you clearly did not grow up in the '80s. After spending countless hours as a child in the midst of the endless battle between the heroic Autobots and the evil Decepticons, transforming them from cars to robots and back again, you might say I'm a fan of the Transformers. Now, director Michael Bay's live-action "Transformers" takes one of my favorite childhood memories and brings it into the 21st century with explosive results.

The plot of "Transformers" is topical at best. Both factions of giant robots have landed on earth looking for the something called the Allspark. Some of them are good, some of them are bad. The good ones protect humans, the bad ones kill them. This isn't Shakespeare by any means. There are plot holes and glaring logic issues galore, but I guarantee that nobody is plopping down their nine bucks to see the next Oscar contender.

The plot is thrown in almost as an afterthought. Sam Witwicky (Shia LeBeouf) and all the human characters dominate the first half of the film with some pesky character development. Fortunately, it doesn't take long for the action to get in gear and when it hits the road, it's in high gear. Smartly paced, "Transformers" makes sure that we care about the characters first because if the giant robots had shown up at the very beginning to blow up buildings, the human characters could be collateral damage for my attention.

"Transformers" thrives on action and this is where Michael Bay flexes his blockbuster Cineplex muscles. Shot with the slick visuals and the mesmerizing slow motion silhouettes against the sunset he is known for (see "Bad Boys II"), the film is beautiful in an a way only a Michael Bay movie can be.

The Transformers license was ready-made for Bay. Explosions, car chases, explosions, guns, explosions, hot women (Megan Fox), explosions, snarky one-liners and explosions are all present and are dripping with cool. Cynics called the cartoon a half-hour toy commercial but to call the film's blatant, yet strangely appropriate, product placement by GMC anything but a two-hour commercial would seem silly. Bay embraces his commerciality to deliver an unapologetically sellable movie — expect to see the new Transformers on toy shelves and a sequel in theaters sometime in the next few summers.

As a fan of the franchise, watching cars transform into walking, talking robots with hundreds of moving parts is a visual feast. Top it off with the inclusion of Peter Cullen (the original voice of Optimus Prime in the cartoon) as the new Optimus, and the film pushes it over the top in terms of nostalgia. With some less than subtle references to the show's theme song and the 1986 animated film, fans of the Transformers will be tickled pink by the producers' (Steven Spielberg included) respect for the giant robots. "Transformers" is certainly not more than meets the eye, but damn if it isn't fun to watch.
Velvet Revolver cemented as rock ‘n’ roll legends with ‘Libertad’

By Marc Shapiro
The Diamondback (U. Maryland)

When Velvet Revolver formed earlier this decade, many critics hailed it as the great supergroup destined to fail. The bands four-fifths of Velvet Revolver came from Stone Temple Pilots and Guns N’ Roses—crammed decades worth of feuds, drug use and excess into just under a decade of limelight. Could these same guys, with a little age and newfound sobriety, keep it together and crank out some good ol’ rock ‘n’ roll? Hell yeah, they can!

Velvet Revolver’s latest album, “Libertad,” which is Spanish for “freedom,” has Slash, Duff McKagan, Matt Sorum, Scott Weiland and Dave Kushner all hitting new musical high points. On its second album, VR has become an extremely cohesive musical unit, with more mature songwriting and more extra-hard rocking.

“Libertad” opens with the high energy of “Let It Roll” and “She Mine.” Slash sounds a bit reserved in his first guitar solo, but amps it up at the end of the song with some speed picking techniques. On the straight-ahead rocker “She Mine,” Weiland’s raspy drawl and double-tracked vocals—reminiscent of his STP days—dominate.

“She Builds Quick Machines” is VR at its best, with all pieces of the song working together. The rhythm guitar, bass and drums hold down a bluesy-rock rhythm while Slash and Weiland play off each other in the verses. The toned-down bridge shows the band’s ability to build from soft to hard while Weiland is wailing. Slash kicks in right on cue with a bluesy, heavy-metal solo.

VR’s softer side appears several times on “Libertad.” “The Last Fight” favors vocal melody and chord progressions over faster strumming. On a harder song, the band would use heavy guitars and cymbal crashes to build up the ending. On “The Last Fight,” the song’s backing vocals provide the climactic build-up.

All things rock are found on this album. “American Man” brings some classic rock vibes into the chorus. “Mary Mary” injects melodic vocals and guitar into a grungy song. “Just Sixteen” exemplifies VR’s fast-paced, riff-driven hard rock.

“Spay,” the heaviest song on the album, just rocks its way through riff after riff.

The best thing about Slash’s playing on this album is all of it sounds so quintessentially Slash. It’s got the same face-melting flavor he introduced on GN’R’s classic “Appetite for Destruction:” a combination of blues, heavy metal and rock. Whether he’s using the talk box, wah pedal, slide or just straight playing, his lead riffs seem to be perfectly crafted off Weiland’s vocal melodies and the rhythm guitar. When soloing, Slash is not off his own little world, but follows the band’s changes exactly, giving his solos immense shape and depth.

Weiland also seems to be hitting vocal and lyrical landmarks. “Pills, Demons & Etc.” is a brutally honest letter, perhaps to his former self with lyrics like “you got your demons and your wasted life.” The laid-back music of “Gravedancer,” the album’s closer, allows his vocal range to shine.

“Libertad” stands strong next to the legendary catalog of these musicians. VR shows no evidence of being plagued by any of its members’ past problems, and has cemented themselves as one of today’s most intense rock bands.
For love of the game

Athletes from 13 western states compete at UI for a chance to play on the national team.

The Olympic Development Program (ODP) camp is in Moscow for the month of July, bringing hundreds of girls from 12-14 to UI. The ODP camp offers soccer players a chance to compete at a higher level than most school or club teams.