

Review

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

By Lane Hollifield
Staff Writer

Awesome! Tubular! Gnarly! All describe Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the new action-adventure feature which offers entertainment for all members of the family.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is the latest in a series of movies to turn comic book heroes into big-screen blockbusters. This began last year with the mega-hit Batman, and continues this summer with Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and the much ballyhooed Dick Tracy.

The plot of Turtles is quite simple. New York City is in the middle of a crime wave which has

left the already ineffective police force baffled. However, this is no ordinary crime wave; the man behind this crime wave is an evil master ninja called The Shredder.

Shredder is one mean looking dude, with a costume covered in spikes and claws. Not the sort of guy that one would want to meet in a dark alley, or anywhere else, for that matter.

The majority of Shredder's gang, known as The Foot, is comprised of teenagers who steal for their master while he trains them in the art of evil ninjitsu. Shredder has brainwashed these teens by playing on their insecurities. He tells them that the outside world and their parents have rejected them. He tells them that he will be their "father" and together they will form a "family."

Their hideout is every teenager's

dream, a vast warehouse filled with every arcade game imaginable, huge skateboard ramps, free soda, food, cigarettes and nonstop rap music.

What would an adventure movie be without a heroine? The heroine in Turtles is ace television reporter April O'Neil. O'Neil is a modern day Lois Lane with an attitude. She'll stand up to anybody.

When our girl April is attacked in the subway by a group of evil ninjas, what does she do, faint? No, she attacks them with her purse. This may not be the most intelligent thing to do, but she's got guts.

What kind of heroine does not have a love interest? Casey Jones fills the requirement here. Jones is a former hockey player turned crimefighter. O'Neil and Jones share a kind of love-hate relationship which reminds the

turtles of old Moonlighting shows. Now to our heroes. They're mean, they're lean and they're green. So look out evil ninjas of The Foot, 'cause "major league butt-kicking is back in town." In case you haven't guessed it, they are the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

The Turtles and their mentor Master Splinter live in the vast sewer system of New York City. The Turtles are just like any other teenagers, complete with their surfer jargon, like "cowabunga," and a mad craving for pizza.

What would any self-respecting hero be without a secret origin? In the case of the Turtles, their origin could also be a lesson in the hazards of carelessly dumping toxic waste.

Fifteen years ago, while wandering the sewers in search of food and shelter, a rat (Splinter)

came across a broken terrarium with four little turtles (our heroes), which were drinking liquid oozing out of a container marked "RADIOACTIVE." Splinter took the turtles home and discovered, the following morning, that they were growing and taking on semi-humanoid form. The turtles next developed the ability to speak.

Splinter trained them in the ancient art of Ninjitsu, which he learned from mimicking his master. He named his four "children" Michelangelo, Leonardo, Donatello and Raphael, after great Renaissance artists.

The action in Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is nonstop. The fight scenes are excellently staged, especially when the Turtles go into battle on skateboards.

Probably the most outstanding aspect of this movie is the costuming. Costume designer John

Hay has created unbelievably realistic costumes for the Turtles, Shredder and Splinter. Not only are these costumes great visually, they allow the actors high mobility. The Turtles do a great number of backflips and other martial arts moves without any noticeable difficulty.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is a film that the whole family will love, not just the kids. Even those who go in with the attitude of, "God, I can't believe I am here," will enjoy this film. The entire audience finds themselves rooting for this band of heroes as they face the evil of The Foot. The film is fast paced, full of great one-liners and is the kind of wholesome entertainment that made the Star Wars and Indiana Jones series so popular. This may well be the box office hit of the summer.

Getting to know...

Carla Berry

By LeeAnne Treadway
Staff Writer

Carla Berry, a UNCA junior majoring in criminal justice, lives and breathes sports.

"I don't have much time for other activities or hobbies. I go to classes in the morning. Then I have practice in the afternoon. We get through with practice at 4 p.m. Then I have to go eat at 5 p.m. because I have study hall from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every night.

"And this is my schedule every day. I don't have much time for anything else.

"I like playing sports. I get bored sitting around reading or watching television.

"I don't like being inside. I like to be outside riding my bike or fishing.

"I always wanted to play college ball and to be a college athlete.

"Sports is my life," said Berry. Born in Alabama, Berry attended Middle Tennessee State University her first year. She then transferred to UNCA.

"I went to Middle Tennessee

State University to play basketball, my favorite sport. Softball was second and very close to being my favorite.

"The basketball team there was Division I. While I was there, we went to the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] tournament.

"We went to a lot of big places that you don't get to go to while playing ball at [smaller schools]. It was a lot of fun.

"I really didn't like Middle Tennessee State University, though. It really was too big.

"Even though I enjoyed playing basketball there, I didn't get along well with the coach. Our personalities conflicted.

"I was involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes while at Middle Tennessee State University.

"At the time, I was majoring in psychology, and I knew that UNCA had a really good reputation for psychology. I talked to a coach [from UNCA] and she offered me a scholarship," said Berry.

Berry accepted the scholarship. Last year, she played basketball for UNCA and ran cross-country

as well. This year, she played basketball again but didn't run cross-country. Instead she plays softball.



Berry

Sports has taught Berry more than athletic skills and discipline.

"Through sports, I've learned a lot about people. I used to think of only sports and that's it. There is life after sports.

"Through sports, I've learned to compromise and cooperate with other people and to get along with

them. I've learned a combination of things through sports.

"I got the opportunity to go places, do things, and meet people that otherwise I would have never gotten to do in my life if it wasn't for sports.

"After years and years of playing sports, Berry is looking ahead to her future.

"I've played basketball since I was 6 years-old and softball since I was 8 years-old.

"After playing basketball for fourteen years, I'm burned out and I'm having to learn that there really is life after sports," said Berry.

Berry has decided to leave UNCA after this semester and move closer to home.

"I'm leaving UNCA after this semester. I'm going home to Alabama, and I'm going to finish up my degree at a senior division college which only has upper level classes, probably at Athens State.

"Plus, Athens State is near my house. Four hundred miles away from home is a little bit too much for me.

Although Berry will enjoy being close to home at Athens State University, she doesn't regret

attending UNCA for two years.

"I'm really going to miss the people. I've had a lot of good times at UNCA.

"I won't miss the mountains, though. I'm used to land being flat like it is in Alabama. I'm certainly not going to miss the cold winters either.

"People said it would be cold, but I didn't expect it to be this cold." Snow is not an everyday winter occurrence in Alabama.

"This year in Alabama was my first white Christmas. When I woke up, there was maybe one-fourth of an inch of snow, not a lot. But by the afternoon, I was wearing a T-shirt and shorts again like usual. We had a big snow my senior year in high school. It snowed maybe three inches." There's not much Berry sees which needs improvement at UNCA. However, she does complain about people misusing authority here.

"There's a lot of politics involved at UNCA. Some people try to abuse their powers, both faculty/staff and students.

"I don't think this should be in college. If you're going to be my teacher, that's fine, but don't try

to abuse it and boss me around. If you're my friend, tell me you're my friend. But if you don't like me, tell me and don't talk about me behind my back.

"I try to be honest with people. I'm shy at first, but when people get to know me, I'm outgoing," she said.

"When thinking back about what influenced Berry to play sports, her big brother comes to mind.

"Most big brothers try to get rid of their little sister. But [my big brother] would always invite me to play ball with him and his friends.

"He would always pick me to be on his team. Of course, we would always win.

"We could always go out, go shopping or something.

"He graduated from Auburn University where he was a big partier. Now, he's a youth director at his church. He's going to quit his job and go overseas and be a missionary. He's real honest and real caring.

"I most admire my big brother. He's 26 years-old, but we've always been close."

Berry wants to work with juvenile delinquents in Alabama once she receives her degree.

The Vinyl Opinion

The Notting Hillbillies

By Andrew Turman
Staff Writer

The Notting Hillbillies are sort of Mark Knopfler's warm-up before going in to record a new Dire Straits album this fall. Missing...Presumed Having a Good Time is the name of this album, which was recorded by Knopfler and longtime friends Steve Phillips, Guy Fletcher and Brendan Croker.

Musically, the songs on this album are an altogether pleasing collection of laid-back country tunes. The country sound is augmented by the addition of Nashville session man Paul Franklin on the pedal steel guitar. The album contains one Knopfler original, one Fletcher original and one Croker original. The rest of the songs are remakes of traditional or traditional-sounding country tunes. All of the songs are, however, highly polished, despite their origin. They all also contain bits of Knopfler's patented picking style which, in the more simplistic context of the songs of this album, is reminiscent of the first two Dire

Straits albums.

The three songs with the most Dire Straits sound are "Your Own Sweet Way" (the Mark Knopfler composition), "Will You Miss Me" (the Steve Phillips original), and, somewhat surprisingly, "Railroad Worksong." This is surprising because it is a traditional, it uses a banjo, and Knopfler doesn't sing on it. Of course it doesn't sound as much like a Dire Straits song as do the other two, but it does incorporate licks more distinctly Knopfler's than do some of the other covers.

"Your Own Sweet Way," is the song that has been released on the radio. This is my personal favorite, though I wouldn't go so far as to declare it the "best" song on the album. Rather, I'll just admit to preferring Dire Straits to country.

The interweaving of Knopfler's electric guitar echoed by Fletcher's keyboards with Phillips' and Croker's acoustics and Knopfler's soft singing style give the song an almost ethereal feel.

Of the country songs, the most primitive sounding is a cover of the Louvin Brothers' "Weapons of Prayer," an Appalachian-sounding gospel number. Another sound with an "old timey" feel to it is Croker's song "That's Where I Belong."

One of the traditional is "Run Me Down," a song done in a honky-tonk style. Another traditional is "One Way Gal," which is a song done in the "Western" half of country-western. Lyrically, however, it is traditional blues, which just helps to point out the interrelatedness of the two styles. This stylistic relationship is further brought out in the next song, "Blues Stay Away From Me."

In an interview with Rak Tannenbaum for Rolling Stone, Knopfler said that he had asked band members to rack their memories for old songs, the more obscure the better. For the most

part they succeeded, with the possible exceptions of Charlie Pride's "Feel Like Going Home," (the album's closer) and the oft-covered traditional "Please Baby." These are good songs, just not "obscure."

The Notting Hillbillies are currently on tour in England, but no plans have been revealed to come to the US. Therefore, Missing...Presumed Having a Good Time, may be your only chance to ever hear them. And, if you at all like country music, or if you are a Mark Knopfler fan, hearing this album just might not be a bad idea.

The Blue Banner's Top 11 Album Purchase Tips for Concerned Parents

1. Avoid Blues and Blacks in rock group names.
2. Avoid groups named after instruments of torture.
3. Avoid album covers with pictures of women in lingerie.
4. Avoid album covers with pictures of men in lingerie.
5. "Puff the Magic Dragon" is a drug song.
6. Pat Boone albums are O.K.
7. Skulls, skeletons and dismembered body parts are probably a no-no.
8. Avoid artists whose hair adds another five inches to their height.
9. Groups with place names tend to be very tame.
10. Frank Zappa: probably not O.K.
11. And for heaven's sakes, don't buy anything that has ever been reviewed in The Blue Banner; it might be neat.

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10:45-11a. m.

11-11:45a. m.

11:45-12:30p. m.

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