

# Features

## 'Singled Out' beats campus dating blues

By Amelia Morrison  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 9, students arrived at the Highsmith Center lounge to watch contestants try to win a date on "Singled Out," a dating game scheduled for UNCA's Homecoming '98. The event started 45 minutes late because of scheduling problems. "Whoever scheduled it probably thought the basketball game would be done by 9 p.m.," said Chad Jordan, a junior biology major. At 9 p.m., some of the game show participants were still at the basketball game instead of the dating game. The lapsed time did not seem to dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. "I need a date like a mad dog," said Ryan Southern, freshman. "I am kind of looking for a short term Valentine's Day commitment."

Not all students were really looking for a date. "I'm just here to have a good time," said Willie Watkins, the freshman male who won a date. Sigma Nu Fraternity and Gamma Phi Beta Sorority arranged the game show as well as a date for the winning couples. "We get things donated to us. We got free movie tickets and meals from restaurants," said Al Donaldson, a junior literature major and the representative from Sigma Nu that helped arrange the event. This year the winning couples received free dinners at Lone Star restaurant or Boston Pizza, and free movie tickets. Though the dinner and movie tickets are free, winning students do not have to really go on a date. "Once they leave, we are not going to supervise them and make them go," said Claudia Perez-Hurtado, a junior biology major, and the repre-



UNCA alumna and Gamma Phi Beta member Meredith Brown hosted the "Singled Out" dating game as part of Homecoming '98 festivities on Feb. 9 held in the Highsmith Center Lounge. PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKER

sentative from Gamma Phi Beta that helped to coordinate the game show. "Singled Out" was a part of homecoming again this year because of its

success last year. "It started last year during homecoming, and there was a really big turnout," said Jordan. "It is basically just like the MTV version.

People are selected by process of elimination." That process included performing tasks like eating mini whipped cream

pies in a creative fashion, or shaking one's rear end in a way that brings the applause and approval of the audience, just to name a couple of this year's tasks. Before the game show began, the organizers selected one female and one male participant from the people that signed up for each sex. Approximately 40 females and 40 males signed the list. "We just drew names randomly," said Jordan. The winning couples were likely to be two on-campus students because there were not as many commuter students at the event. "It is because the sign-up sheet was in the cafeteria, and commuter students do not eat there," said Katie Duffy, freshman education major. Donaldson said that it is inconvenient for commuter students to come back to campus in the evening, unlike on campus students who are a short walk away from Highsmith.

## Jerry Springer: Not hot enough

### Review

By Erin King  
Managing Editor

Jerry Springer, the talk show host who has built his career on giving daytime TV a bad name, has graced those who cannot satiate their appetite for the absurd with "Jerry Springer Show Too Hot for TV!"

The video, which lasts approximately 43 minutes, has enough gratuitous violence, profanity, and nudity to live up to its title.

It shows Springer preying on the dysfunctional while enjoying a striptease every now and then. His guests are not encouraged to resolve their problems or compromise, but rather to beat the crap out of each other while the audience cheers them on.

Unlike some of his other talk show competitors, who bring in doctors and psychiatrists as mediators for feuding guests, Springer's bouncers, lovingly referred to as "Jerry's Kids," provide the only sort of professional help any of his guests will ever need.

In many instances, it appears that Springer instigates these fights; other times, they appear to be planned.

On one clip from "I Won't Let You Get Married," a 17-year-old girl and her 30-year-old boyfriend confront her parents about their relationship. When Springer introduces one of her male relatives, he rushes out, tackles the boyfriend, and beats him until Jerry's Kids break them up.

Most of the clips follow the same formula for violence, with such stimulating topics as "My Sister Slept With My Three Husbands" and "I Have Many Lovers."

All this unnecessary violence, which is the main reason Springer is rated second in popular daytime talk shows, brings back memories of junior high, when two people would fight and everyone would crowd around them, egging them on.

Yet violence is not the only thing Springer has to offer. There is also the

ever-popular show topic of nudity. "These shows prove that Springer is sympathetic to the plight of the clothing challenged, and will grant the wishes of any wanna-be stripper, like in the show "My Dream is to Pose Nude."

Not all of the show topics are without redeeming social value. "I'm Proud to be a Racist," which brings

making an ice cream sundae on their breasts.

At the end of the video, Springer presents the staple of his show, his "Final Thought." Supposedly, this ending monologue will show viewers a new perspective on what they have just witnessed, and Springer can sleep at night knowing he has served the common good.

"If we permit only those views which the majority of us hold, then you and I are free only so long as we agree with the majority," Springer says.

So the truth comes out: all this clawing and hair-pulling and gratuitous nudity is there because Springer challenges those who wish to take our First Amendment freedoms away.

Nice try, but not quite. If Springer encouraged calm, verbal communication between his guests instead of allowing them to behave like they are in daycare again, he may be able to claim he is the guardian of free speech. By allowing adults to behave as children so he can get ratings, however, makes him just another money-hungry talk show host.

Springer explains that while he and anyone related to the show do not condone such behavior, he challenges the audience to think about "how boring life would be if there was no outrageousness."

How boring, indeed, yet how much safer also.



COURTESY OF REAL ENTERTAINMENT

Jerry Springer's video "Too Hot For TV" contains adult language and mature subject matter.

members of the African American community together with KKK members to discuss their differences. Unfortunately, this turns out to be like every other show, with much screaming and fist-throwing.

About halfway through the video, the guests and audience alike become more and more childish.

At first, Springer's continual exploitation of these people is sickening. Here are people who haven't the ability to deal with their problems, and look to talk shows as a way to maybe solve them, only to have Springer capitalize on their misery.

Not all guests can use this excuse, however. Being on the show appears to be a big joke to them, and they play their roles with zest, while laughing the whole time.

It becomes clear, though, that these people are not on this show to solve their problems.

They are only looking for their 15 minutes of fame, even if it means

## A trip to 'Spice World'

### Review

By Kim Lofgren  
Contributing Writer

Determined to squeeze as much money out of their fans as they possibly can, The Spice Girls are back with their own feature film, cleverly titled "Spice World."

"So tell me what you want/ what you really really want." The answer to these lyrics (sampled from the Beastie Boys) from their first release propelled the Spice Girls to stardom over a year and a half ago in the U.K., and soon after in the U.S.

Airtime and requests flooded the radio stations and MTV, with sales topping 10 million albums.

Now Posh, Baby, Scary, Ginger, and Sporty, the five kitschy members of the group, have followed up their amazing success in pop music with a venture into Hollywood.

A marketing phenomenon, their cartoon feminism belittles and trivializes the diligent and hard work of genuine artists such as Sarah McLachlan. The Spice Girls have sparked debate over their brand of feminism, which they call "Girl Power."

The question has been raised many times: "Are the Spice Girls what feminism has come to in the '90s?" All fans of Margaret Thatcher, are

the Spice Girls really boardroom conservatism in platform sneakers? The Spice Girl dolls certainly appear to be the politically correct version of Barbie.

While their appeal ranges from the bubblegum preteens to their middle-age fathers, there seems to be a gap in the spread. But who knows? Somebody is buying their albums.

"Spice World" follows the Spice Girls through a very lame adventure. Ambiguous though the plot is, there is a lot of busy action as the five Brits are getting ready for a concert at Albert Hall, coming to terms with their fame, all the while being pursued by evil paparazzi determined to break up the singing group.

Throughout the film, the girls are traveling in their Spice tour bus, a double-decker bus decorated with a gargantuan Union Jack (can you say "potential I.R.A. target?").

Although obviously not expecting the pinnacle of cinematic achievement, I was at least hoping for a somewhat funny campy film.

However, "Spice World" did not deliver. It is not sure if it wants to be a campy adult comedy, or geared for preteens.

"Spice World" is trying to mimic the documentary-style random comedy of "A Hard Day's Night." The main difference is, of course, "A Hard Day's Night" was about The

Beatles—and the Airheads are no the Mopheads.

Leading the supporting cast, Alan Cumming ("Emma") is endearing with his trademark quizzical expression on his face, as a documentary filmmaker following the group. Stephen Fry (BBC's "Blackadder" famous for his caustic wit, makes a brief appearance as a surreal judge relegating the Spice Girls to has-been status.

Roger Moore is absurdly funny as the girls' shaken-not-stirred Bondesque boss (possibly characterizing Richard Branson?).

George Wendt is mildly comic as a movie executive. Meatloaf is wonderful as the Spice bus driver.

There are also great cameos by Elvin Costello, Bob Geldof, Elton John, and Bob Hoskins. And there are countless appearances by Britcom actors not easily recognized by an American audience.

By the way, can anyone find Hugh Laurie (also of "Blackadder") in the film? Listed in the credits as "the pilot," none of our party of four could remember where he appeared.

This movie is definitely worth a miss, unless you are in the mood to play "Mystery Science Theater," one of those millions who are secretly buying their albums. Anyone for "Blues Brothers 2000"—an American classic in the making.

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