

# 'Class of 3000' too preachy to hit mark

Continued from page 1D  
A very predictable story with an even more predictable end and mantra of record companies are the devil is repeated throughout

the half-hour episode. It seems a little disingenuous though, because if it weren't for the millions of records OutKast sold over the last 10 years, no one would even

know who Andre 3000 is. But that seems to be the thing with artists, after they sell their millions of records, the find that the industry is evil. Could it be that they made

bad choices? Who would sign a contract without a lawyer or a trusted agent? Maybe the same kids who will find this show amusing  
I love OutKast and I really

wish Andre and Big Boi would get back in the studio and make some more music. The cartoon thing is just not working."

What: "Class of 3000"  
When: Nov. 3 at 8 p.m. on Cartoon Network

# 'Last Stand' DVD has extras and a decent story

Continued from page 1D and stayed the top grossing film until Captain Jack Sparrow of "Pirates Of The Caribbean" took top honors. The story was a sure hit. The Dark Phoenix resurrects Jean Grey (the wonderful Famke Janssen) and tries to

find her place in the mutant world. Meanwhile, the government comes up with a cure for the mutant problem. The cure is voluntary (yeah, right), but Magneto (the breathtakingly elegant Ian McKellen) suspects otherwise. He creates a band of

rogue mutants to take the government down. There are great fight scenes, especially between Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) and Juggernaut (Vinnie Jones). The special effects have been kicked up a notch as well. But the "The Last

Stand" aggravates in a lot of ways. Cyclops (James Marsden), Mystic (Rebecca Romijn) and even Professor X (Patrick Stewart) get short changed. Director Brett Ratner (the same man who brought us Rush Hour and dated Serena Williams) takes

some liberties with the Dark Phoenix story and a few other things which comic book fans cried foul over. Still, with \$449 million to back it, "The Last Stand" will probably end up being the next to the last. The DVD has lots of x-tras, including three alternative

endings and a DTS 6.1 version. A total of four packages are available, including a Stan Lee edition and a boxed version with all three films. The special effects have been kicked up a notch as well.

# Judge orders Bobby Brown arrested after he skips support hearing



Brown

CANTON, Mass. — A family judge ordered Bobby Brown arrested if he steps foot in Massachusetts after he failed to show up at a hearing Monday over delinquent child support payments.

Brown's attorney said it's a "very difficult time" for Brown, 37, whose tumultuous marriage to singer Whitney Houston is coming to an end after she filed for a legal separation earlier this month.

"Whether or not he's going

through a divorce doesn't negate the fact that he still owes child support relative to his two children that he had prior to his marriage," said Norfolk Probate and Family Court Judge Paula Carey.

Kim Ward, of Stoughton, the mother of two of Brown's children, says Brown owes two months' support, or \$11,000.

Brown has a history of legal troubles with those support payments.

In June 2004, Brown was

sentenced to 90 days in prison for missing three months of payments. That sentence was immediately suspended after Brown made back payments totaling about \$15,000.

Brown's attorney, Phaedra Parks, would not say where Brown, a Boston native, is currently living.

"It's just a very difficult time for him, as you can well imagine," said Parks, an Atlanta-based entertainment lawyer. "The media is very aware of this very public divorce that's

going on right now. It's unfortunate we find ourselves back in Boston on this matter."

Brown gained fame as a member of New Edition, and in 1988 had a hit solo album, "Don't Be Cruel."

# Film series gives props on stage, screen

Continued from page 1D artists that they may not have been exposed to by simply listening to the radio.

Julie Dexter, dubbed the "UK Queen of Soul" with "a tinge of jazz and dipped in reggae," perform Thursday as well. Dexter, who's based in London, said she distributes her own music because she "likes being in charge of my business."

"I want to put out the kind

of music I want to put out," she said.

Charlotte organizers Michael Kitchen and Kelley Eaves said this isn't just going to be a flash in the pan, but an annual event.

"It's needed," said Kitchen. "We need to have a film and music series. We have a lot of transplants in Charlotte that are used to seeing different things."

Eaves added that there

aren't a lot of cultural events to come to Charlotte and she was tired of the club and party scene. She and Kitchen linked up to promote events that they would like to see.

"This is something that Charlotte has not had," she said.

One of the marquee films that will be shown this week is "The Pact." Based on a true story, the movie is about three young black men who

decide to go from high school to college and then on to medical school.

Charlotte author Omar Tyree will be honored at the event as well as sign copies of his latest novel, "What They Want."

For a schedule of events and films, log on to [www.charlotteurbanfilmfestival.org](http://www.charlotteurbanfilmfestival.org).

# Whitaker reigns as 'The Last King of Scotland'

TORONTO — Forest Whitaker tends to stick to the fringes, a soft-spoken man best known for restrained supporting roles and hushed characters who would not stand out in a crowd.

So it's surprising to see him at the center of the throng, whipping people up to a frenzy. And even more surprising that he's doing it as that tyrannical boogymen of the 1970s, Idi Amin, in "The Last King of Scotland."

Whitaker approaches the Ugandan dictator the way the finest actors to play Adolf Hitler have done, putting a frighteningly human face on a leader able to enchant the masses and media even as his brutal regime tortured and killed people.

A teenager when Amin's eight-year reign ended in 1979, Whitaker initially was aware of the man only as the despot depicted in the news.

"I just had a postage-stamp image of him. They created him as this savage, brutal guy. I remember this picture of him holding his fist up in a military-type uniform, and he was known as this crazy dictator," Whitaker, 45, told The

## Jackson

Continued from page 1D Hancock's "Rock It." Jackson uses her usual sex-kitten voice to deliver a funky but seductive track. The song bleeds into "Get It Out Me," which is even funkier.

Still, Jam & Lewis work with Jackson best. "Day-break" and "Enjoy" will remind fans of Jackson when she was actually 20 years old. It's the lighthearted stuff that made her one of America's sweethearts.

At 40, Jackson is still stunning, has the brains and chops to deliver a hit album and retains her sense of humor. Her true fans should be very happy with this CD.

Associated Press at the Toronto International Film Festival. "That's really all I knew until I started working on the character. Then it became much more vast...."

"Hundreds of thousands of people died under his watch, so I'm not negating that. But the amount of charisma, humor, joy and verve he had. I had no idea of that, and it's very clear when you watch him on tape, he was a massive showman."

Adapted from Giles Foden's novel, the film spins a fictional narrative about a young

Scottish doctor (James McAvoy) seeking adventure in Uganda who catches Amin's eye and becomes personal physician — and ultimately trapped confidante — to the charming but ruthless ruler.

Whitaker fell somewhat under the man's spell himself as he researched Amin, who died in exile in Saudi Arabia in 2003. Ugandans have curiously mixed feelings about Amin, abhorring the man for his bloody methods while admiring his progressive efforts to build schools and

hospitals.

"I had to pass through the propaganda maze — ignore it, actually — and just go to the source," said Whitaker, who researched the character through copious reading, studying video footage and talking with Ugandans about Amin.

"If we were in Uganda, we would know him intimately," Whitaker said. "He would have killed someone we know or promoted someone we know. So it's kind of easy. You get in a cab there, you're going to hear story after story."

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COCA-COLA "STUDENT" OF THE MONTH

**"Jenise McCullers"**

Senior,  
East Mecklenburg High School

Typical response when confronted with obstacles that hinder most youth:

**"It's not that serious."  
- Jenise**

You will consistently find our 17-year old "Student of the Month" Jenise McCullers name on the Honor Roll at East Mecklenburg High School. Considering she declares Biology as her favorite subject, it stands to reason she has no problem maintaining a great average. Jenise exhibits her God given talent of singing as a member of East Mecklenburg's choir.

With a plethora of opportunities stemming from her love of biology, at this point Jenise is determined to attend Spelman College and major in police criminology.

Often considered a "non-paid freelance comedian," Jenise constantly keeps friends and family laughing whenever she's in their company. The way Jenise holds on to a dollar, often making loans to her older brothers, her mom thinks she could be a better banker than police criminologist. But on a softer note, her true personality shows through when dealing with her little cousins when she's truly compassionate. In her spare time she enjoys being with friends singing and dancing.

Jenise is the daughter of Jewel Sowell and Leonardo McCullers, and little sister to Rahsaan (N.C. A&T State) and Marquis (Winston-Salem State) McCullers. She and her family worship at New Birth Charlotte.

**Best Wishes "Jenise" from  
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