

this week

■ **Southern Championship Wrestling**, tonight at King's in Raleigh. No Stone Cold or The Rock, but no \$45 admission either. Call 919-831-1005 for info.

■ **DJ Polo**, tonight at the Cat's Cradle. 102 Jams DJ spins hip-hop hits, party mixes. Call 967-9053 for info.

■ **Vocal Solos & Duets**, tonight at Hill Hall. Mezzo-soprano, baritone and pianist play Schubert, Schuman and other pretty noises. Call 962-1039 for info.

■ **Dave Matthews Band**, Friday at Alltel Pavilion. Quintessential college pop-rock band empties local Abercrombie & Fitch stores. Hope you have tickets 'cause this one's SOLD OUT.

■ **"Tracers"**, Friday at Swain Hall. Open Door Theatre brings you "a land mine of a play" about Vietnam. No children under 17 without parent or guardian. Call 933-4650 for info.

■ **Rock*A*Teens, Panzer and Clok Lok**, Saturday at Local 506. A local rock sandwich. Rock*A*Teens play surfy, Southern trash rock. Panzer are ex-members of Archers of Loaf and Cobra Kahn. Clok Lok play artsy pop rock. Call 942-5506 for info.

■ **World of Music Extravaganza**, Saturday at the Carrboro Arts Center. Showcase of international music-makers including Badal Roy, Glen Velez, Phong Nguyen and K. Raghavendera. Call 929-2787 for info.

■ **Jets to Brazil, the White Octave and Three Stigmata**, Sunday at the Cat's Cradle. Ex-Jawbreaker front man sings rock songs about ex-girlfriends.

White Octave and Three Stigmata are local emo-type outfits. Call 967-9053 for info.

■ **Grief and Rise**, Sunday at King's in Raleigh. Bow down! These two area bands want to destroy you with heavy metal fury. Call 919-831-1005 for info.

■ **Samiam, Leatherface, River City High and Pezz**, Tuesday at the Cat's Cradle. Four pop-punk bands, three chords, dozens of 16-year-olds. Call 967-9053 for info.

■ **Compay Segundo**, Wednesday at the N.C. Museum of Art in Raleigh. Buena Vista Social club member and 93-year-old musical dynamo wows crowds with traditional Cuban music and his "bigger than life" personality. Que bueno! Call 715-5923 for info.

■ **Trans Am, Neil Hamburger and Laddio Balacko & Cursor**, Wednesday at the Cat's Cradle. DC hipsters Trans Am make rock with lots of keyboards. Bleep bloop bleep! Call 967-9053 for info.

■ **ulu**, Wednesday at Go! Studios. New York jazz-funk quartet plays tunes that are a "unique fusion of new-school funk and collective improvisation." Call 969-1400 for info.

■ **Art of Oaxaca**, starts Wednesday at El Chilango restaurant and cultural center. Exhibition of Mexican paintings, prints and collages.

■ **"The School for Wives"**, starts Wednesday at Paul Green Theatre. PlayMakers Repertory Company tells the story of a rich man and the sequestered woman he wants to marry. Call 962-PLAY for info.

■ **Illuminations** at the Ackland Art Museum. A continuing exhibit of contemporary film and video art.



Wesley Snipes hurts *bad* people and helps *good* people in "The Art of War." Does this make his role as a U.N. operative more believable, or less? Discuss.

Action Film More Eye Candy Than "Art"

BY ALLISON ROST
Staff Writer

People who know me would be surprised that I liked a movie with gratuitous shots of topless women.

And while "The Art of War" was in many ways constructed with a male audience in mind, it has plenty of appeal for the womenfolk.

Wesley Snipes plays Shaw, a secret operative for the United Nations who gets embroiled in a plot to assassinate the Chinese ambassador on the eve of a trade agreement. Pursued by the FBI, he teams up with Julia, a U.N. interpreter (Marie Matiko),

to figure out who did the deed.

The title refers to an ancient book by Sun Tzu, considered one of the most influential writers on military strategy. The book embraces many principles of the Chinese philosophy of Taoism.

Still, the standard action movie formula is followed to the letter, with the requisite shoot-'em-up scenes and missing bodies that reappear during crucial moments. But director Christian Duguay is able to maintain the tension to make some final twists unpredictable.

His tableau is dazzling. From the first scene at a lush Hong Kong hotel on New Year's Eve, to sweeping shots of New York City and fight scenes reflecting "The Matrix," every visual detail is meticulously polished.

While "Art" has some nice eye candy,

the visual tricks tend to gloss over the plot's "Mission Impossible"-type complexity along with big suspensions of disbelief and sudden jumps in logic.

For instance, how can Shaw be so intelligent as to know exactly where the thugs are going to go next, yet not recognize the deception taking place all around him?

Snipes turns in a stoic performance, but his intensity still communicates his inner turmoil. He also gets to trade barbs with Matiko, setting up a subtly simmering romance that culminates nicely in the end.

The support staff, however, fails miserably. Quality actors like Anne Archer and Donald Sutherland deliver stilted dialogue with nary a difference in voice intonation. Archer is especially bad,

smirking every time she's on screen. As someone who becomes particularly vital to the plot, she's lax in providing any explanation behind her character.

The Asian stereotyping also gets pretty bad. Many of the primary Asian characters are fine, but race becomes more of an issue than it should be. To hear white FBI agents call a crime scene "Chinese salsa" is too much, and for me, as someone with Asian friends, it hurt.

Though it can be confusing and struggles in grasping the philosophy behind the book, "The Art of War" is a good way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Even though I'm a girl, that spy stuff is way cool.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.



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Brotherly Advice: How to Act, Think, Dispose of the Body

When I was first leaving for college three long years ago, my brother gave me what I consider to be the best present I have ever received. He gave me a mini-cassette recorder (the type you use for saying things like, "Note to self: put some pants on") and on one of the tapes, he recorded a five minute oral masterpiece which he called, "Notes to My Brother David, on His Leaving for



DAVID POVILL
SO, HOW'S YOUR GIRL...

College." Up until this very day, I couldn't understand how someone could just sit down and spew such utterly profound wisdom off the top of his head. Sure, he was just about to start his senior year at Dartmouth, and there's no denying that he was very intelligent. But he was still the same brother who dragged me out to the backyard to

launch oranges into the air while he tried to slice them with his samurai-style katana.

But now, after 21 years, I realize that life has taught me well, as it must have my brother. So, in the spirit of, "Notes to My Brother David..." I give you, "Notes to You, on Your Living Your Life," incorporating bits of my brother Josh's advice with my own. Josh's first rule was, "Have a good time."

It's good advice, but a bit vague, so I thought I might flesh it out with some of my own suggestions.

Take advantage of every single resource available to you. And think creatively. I don't just mean go out and have a picnic in Coker Arboretum. I don't mean that you should walk through Ackland Art Museum.

I mean that if your resources include a car and a clean arrest record, maybe it's time to go out there and lead the police on a high-speed chase. Sure, it's dangerous and stupid, but that's what these years are all about.

Josh's next point was, "Care about your classes." It's a good point, but what he said after that was the real point: "The most important thing you'll learn in college is to think."

Be an intellectual. Be a scholar. Every person in this college has the potential for great thought. Use it. Look for opportunities to broaden the way you think. (Just try to keep them as legal as possible.)

It's amazing what entertainment the human mind can provide. It makes you feel good to use it, and if properly utilized, it provides entertainment for others.

One of the best feelings in the world, personally, is the delight of going into the bathroom at Linda's downstairs and reading the absolutely brilliant brainfart scrawled into the wall. It reads, "No matter how beautiful she is, somebody, somewhere is sick of her shit." Strive to reach such poetic heights. You'll thank yourself for it.

Josh next advised me, "(Thoughtful pause) Be active (pause) in something. (Giggle.) Yeah." At this point in the tape, I realize Josh was probably "broadening the way he was thinking" as well.

In fact, the next thing he said was some garbled mumbling about "getting some tasty treats," and all you can hear is crunching, munching and more giggling. So I'll take the reins from here, offering my own guidance.

Be active in something. Nothing makes you feel worse than sitting on your ass watching "Full House" reruns. Play a sport, join a club or just go out for a walk down Franklin Street. And

bring some change. The guys out there aren't asking for much.

Shave. Everyday. Girls love a smooth face. And guys love it when they can run their fingers down a girl's leg without serious abrasions.

Call up the friends you haven't seen in years. And call your grandparents, if they're still around.

Be the person that no one thinks you are. Give compliments generously. They're free, and they go a long way.

And most of all, meet as many people as you can. Introduce yourself to the people you run into. Even the people that other people don't talk to or make fun of.

Sometimes those people are the most interesting. To Dancing Phil, keep on rocking.

Remember names. Smile when you walk through campus and acknowledge people when you see them, even if you haven't spoken to them since that class you took together two years ago. You remember them. They remember you.

The people you meet here are the key to your college experience. Because the more people you know, the better your chances are of knowing the identity of the bloody carcass with nipple clamps and leather chaps tied up and gagged with duct tape in your trunk.

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