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Summer Heat Brings Out Stars

Months filled with good music, movies

By BRIAN MILLIKIN
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

The mercury still climbs to 90, and the humidity is heavy in the air as ever, but summer is over.

It hasn't died in vain.

Unlike a lot of the past few summer breaks, this year's lazy days saw more than their fair share of highlights.

Popcorn flicks suddenly had more kernels for thought, and big-release CDs weren't throw-aways again. This summer belonged to some terrific big dogs, and they're going to take a bow.

■ **Red Hot Chili Peppers, *By the Way***

They've come a long way, baby. Launching from the maturity and grace of *Californication*, the Peppers' new album is startlingly grown-up and accomplished. A subdued Anthony Kiedis and club still turn on their wild side, but what they've lost in spunk they've more than recovered in soul.

■ **Weezer, *Maladroit***

Not as classic as the band's first albums and not as sunny as last year's comeback

blast, *Maladroit's* many charms are revealed gradually. Rivers Cuomo used to joke about being a rock star — but now he's got the job. Songs like "Keep Fishin" and "Slave" restore faith not just in Weezer, but in pop-rock itself.

■ **Eminem, *The Eminem Show***

Whether he's acting or not, it's a shame that the guy's so pigheaded, offensive and hugely self-absorbed. He's all theatrics this time, and it's clear now how talented a rapper he is. He uses words and rhymes no one else does and produces tracks that sound fresh in an increasingly stale market.

■ **David Bowie, *Heathen***

Already the coolest 55-year-old in the world, *Heathen* makes a case for Bowie being the most talented, too. After two decades of dubious success, Bowie finally made a record you can place beside his classics. The album is introspective but with that dash of the absurd that he's been missing. Bowie has stopped pandering and started commanding once again.

■ **Counting Crows, *Hard Candy***

Reminiscent of *August and Everything After*, *Hard Candy* sees a band in full charge of its music. Sharp and up-tempo, Adam Duritz has come miles as both singer and songwriter. The Crows are reaching that level of consistency and potency that demands respect.

■ **"Road to Perdition"**

A painting put to film. Director Sam Mendes follows up *American Beauty* with a sort of American Gothic. Gorgeous, dreamy and mythic like the best gangster films, it has the sort of emotion and desperation that other movies about hit men simply don't.

■ **"Minority Report"**

Sure, the final act is a bit of a let-down, but the future noir chase could hardly be better. In the alphabet of director Spielberg, it's closer to "A.I." than to "E.T." but something like an electrical "Raiders of the Lost Ark" at its most adventurous.

■ **"Austin Powers in Goldmember"**

Who thought that this would be so hilarious? After the disappointing sequel, all signs pointed to turkey for this one. Credit Mike Myers and a few excellent guest stars for recharging the series.

■ **"Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones"**

It's not "great," per se, except for the final hour, but mediocre "Star Wars" is still more exciting than most anything else. Hard to argue with the most joyful scene in any movie this year, when mighty, tiny Yoda finally tests his mettle.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICHOLE DOUB

A team of UNC students works at an excavation site on the island of Crete, part of a five-year project that senior Nichole Doub took part of this summer.

Students Cross Oceans To Broaden Horizons

Trips to Israel, Crete and Kenya allow students to learn, serve

By JORDAN BARTEL
Assistant Features Editor

The traditionally long, lazy days of summer were still long but never lazy for several UNC students this year.

Some UNC students attempted to make this summer a learning experience far from crowded classrooms and away from the normal internship route.

While many students watched the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine escalate on television this summer, senior Toby Osofsky spent most of her summer in the dangerous region.

Osofsky, a biology major from New Jersey, took part in a program sponsored by N.C. Hillel and Hillel International that gave students the chance to explore the region and discuss the Middle East conflict with officials.

"We had the opportunity to discuss Israeli positions with the most intelligent and accurate people who were all very receptive to my opinions," she said.

Osofsky also had the opportunity to take courses at Tel-Aviv University while visiting the city and areas around the Gaza Strip — a hot spot of terrorist activity.

Osofsky said that even though she felt safe touring the Gaza Strip, terrorist incidents would occur in an area she had visited merely days before.

"Naturally, we were a little scared and in shock for a while," Osofsky said. "But we realized that we came to try to make an impact and realized that life should go on."

Upon returning to the United



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOBY OSOFSKY

Senior Toby Osofsky plants a tree in a new forest in Jerusalem.

States, Osofsky said she felt even more compassionate about educating others.

"A trip like this really helps to shape one's college experience," Osofsky said. "It affects the way you see yourself and the way you see other people, and I learned to never underestimate the power of word."

Other students this summer learned to never underestimate the power of

hard work, especially UNC students who took part in an archaeological excavation on the island of Crete.

This was the first season of the new dig and is part of the Azoria Project, a five-year excavation of a site dating to 700 B.C.

Senior Nichole Doub, a classical archaeology major, said the project, though a lot of work, was beneficial in many ways.

"I had the opportunity to meet about half of the people that I had heard about in my textbooks," Doub said.

Doub said the project was a good way to study archaeology up close and redefine her academic experience.

"The trip allowed me to put my career in focus," Doub said. "In a way, I was able to reaffirm my interests and discover that knowledge is not confined to only textbooks and lectures."

For Tanya Rogo, who was born in Nairobi, Kenya, the best way to reaffirm her interests was to travel home.

Rogo traveled alone to Kenya on a UNC Burch Fellows grant to study how the AIDS epidemic has affected the country.

A senior biology major, Rogo said she spent the summer traveling to hospitals and villages in Nairobi and Kisumu and taking part in training offices that help educate AIDS care givers.

"A huge part of the problem is elders pushing traditions that put people's health at risk," Rogo said. "I found that educating people on modern techniques really does make a difference."

Rogo said that in Kenya, the HIV infection rate is twice the world average. She said she saw entire villages in her homeland wiped out by the virus.

"I think it's one thing to hear about the virus, but to see it with one's own eyes is completely devastating to the spirits," Rogo said.

Despite the overwhelming emotional impact, Rogo said she left the country optimistic about recovery.

"I was happy to see what was being done in the labs I visited, and the new techniques being used should definitely help," Rogo said.

Rogo, who plans on applying to medical school after graduation, said she also discovered a great deal about her career.

"On the trip I was challenged by a doctor to return to the region to work, and now I feel very dedicated to the field," Rogo said.

"In many ways it widened my horizons."

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