



NICK PARKER
SUTTON'S HOT DOG SPECIAL

Life too surreal for B-list failures

Celebrities are not real people. This, I understand, is no shocking surprise. We all know that Jack Nicholson is probably the devil, Dennis Rodman is an alien or cyborg, Bruce Willis can stop bullets with his teeth and Keith Richards is immortal.

A brief aside: I heard Richards goes to Sweden every three years for a complete blood transfusion. Out with the old, in with the new, like an oil change. This is one of my life goals.

But for some reason I honestly believed that once they step out of the spotlight, celebrities' lives return to some semblance of normalcy. Sure, Dustin Diamond might still get called Screech on the streets (I bet he loves it when that happens) but his day-to-day routine isn't that much different from that of us normal people.

Wake up, shower, eat Fruity Pebbles, mourn the death of your dreams and the loss of past glory, go to the grocery store, buy gas, lie in the bathtub for an hour flirting with the frayed cords of a hair dryer while looking for the end of the downward spiral your life has become, watch "TRL," get ready for bed.

We all go through it. Or so I thought. But this weekend, in the dredges of a debilitating hangover and a "Surreal Life" marathon, I realized I've had it all wrong. Celebrities, no matter how washed-up, short-lived or forgotten, can never again be normal.

Maybe it's the way we smother them with attention and then take it all away. Maybe it's the thrill of being popular just for being pretty or weird, and the shock of that not always being the case. Maybe it's rampant self-absorption and masturbatory indulgence. Maybe it's the money, drugs and alcohol. I'm almost positive it's the money, drugs and alcohol.

But whatever the reason, these people that we once praised as the top tier of the social food chain have become bottom-feeders, searching for the scraps of self-promotion on E!, Spike TV and VH1. They are forever warped. And it's bad enough that they — and apparently we — can't let go. But the worst part is that they don't seem to be able to deal with the world in the same way as everyone else. They really are living in a sort of surreality.

Seeing Chyna, the former World Wrestling Federation poster girl, chase a bottle of vodka with a bottle of horse tranquilizers (she's a big girl) is more depressing than funny. Seeing Adrienne Curry, a 22-year-old bombshell, shamelessly chase an aging and clearly uninterested Christopher Knight is a tragedy. Seeing Verne Troyer, known as nothing else than Mini Me from the "Austin Powers" series, butt naked, peeing off his scooter and into a corner is just wrong ... and hilarious. Come on, the man was hammered.

I can't even begin to analyze how twisted the romance between Flava Flav and Brigitte Nielsen is on "Strange Love." All it really proves is how ill-equipped these people are for a natural existence. Can Da Brat actually shop for potato chips without kicking someone in the teeth? Can Corey Feldman go to a nightclub without breaking into a choreographed '80s dance number? Can Flava Flav leave the house without his Viking hat and oversized clock necklace?

I doubt it. And I doubt there's a single day that passes without these people looking back and wondering what could have been. I know these shows are heavily edited, and we never see the whole story, but I fear that pretty soon Los Angeles will be a circus side show of surgically enhanced has-beens. It has to stop soon.

We've already got Anna Nicole Smith.

Contact Nick Parker, a senior journalism and English major, at panic@email.unc.edu.

'Sahara' sinks film battleship

Unrealistic plot meets sexy stars

BY MIKE SULLIVAN
STAFF WRITER

Fiery cannon flares pierce the night sky, relentlessly bombarding a floating tank gliding with the tide in hopes of reaching safety. Within their ironclad fortress, a hesitant crew eagerly waits while the roof of their carrier thunders from the explosions above.

Fading into a mist that floats just above the murky river, the ship silently distances itself from the cannons' range, never to be seen again.

Could this disappearance mark the beginning of a sci-fi thriller? Will this mysterious steel fortress fade in and out of existence only to pirate innocent villages in its never-ending quest around the ocean?

Or could this entire opening scene be an impractical flashback, setting a state-of-the-art Civil War death ship as an object of discovery for an Indiana Jones impersonator to pursue in the 21st century? You betcha.

It's springtime, and Hollywood's first wave of summer blockbusters is here. Within two hours, unrealistic dreams are forced to come true. If they don't, we'll still have an entertaining disappointment. That's exactly what the action adventure "Sahara" becomes: an amusing waste of seven dollars.

Leading the way is Matthew McConaughey as Dirk Pitt, a wannabe Indiana Jones who will discover



An Indiana Jones-esque Matthew McConaughey, with trusty sidekick Al (Steve Zahn), stars as the treasure-hunting Dirk Pitt in "Sahara." The two search for a Civil War-era ship in the deserts of present-day Africa.

er the gold, save the girl (Penélope Cruz) and save the world from an environmental catastrophe.

The audience follows Dirk's twisting journey through Africa on his pursuit of the elusive battleship. How or why did the ship cross the sea to settle in Africa? We'll never know, but somehow it got there and we'll just have to accept that. Dirk and his wise-cracking side-kick Al (Steve Zahn) encounter a beautiful eco-scientist concerned with

a plague spreading rapidly across West Africa (Cruz). Together, the tremendous trio sets off to encounter the source of the disease in hopes of also locating the treasure.

McConaughey and Zahn's chemistry as longtime friends excels through many action sequences where the two constantly laugh at danger and never take themselves too seriously. Although it's obvious that McConaughey and Cruz will ultimately hook up, their entire

relationship consists of never-ending guy-rescues-girl moments without any eye-bating signs of love.

Like many springtime Hollywood blockbusters, "Sahara" lacks believability, cohesion and originality. But through its occasional humor and satisfying action, it entertains through the disappointment.

MOVIEREVIEW "SAHARA"

★★

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Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

ART

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innate to what they're doing," said Kate Flory, executive administrator of the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission. "It's just a matter of finding that appropriate venue."

Slavick points to artists who utilize art not as a form of escape, but as a form of entrapment, exposing the genocide, homelessness, prejudices and survival that are inherent in our world.

"All of these artists give us hope for a better and more humane world through their diverse and incredible skills and vision as artists," she wrote.

So where can Chapel Hill residents satisfy their craving for political art of all wings, particularly in the left?

Funny you should ask. Temple Ball, an art gallery and performance space in Carrboro, plays host to such exhibits as "Democracy Means You," which boasts locally produced stickers and postcards encouraging political discourse. The art and

music venue also features work by a Santa Monica, Calif., artist called O — he legally changed his name. O's work, most notably his "Democracy," questions the relationship between government and big business.

"I don't know if art itself can affect political change, but it can create awareness," said Rick Ramirez, owner of Temple Ball. "It makes the viewer think, plants seeds of thought and acts as the catalyst for change."

Photo enthusiasts can turn to local upstart publication Daylight Magazine for more political fare. The quarterly publication takes advantage of the photo as a means to address socially relevant issues.

The staff's latest issue chronicles the conflict in Iraq, taken with cameras they mailed to friends and correspondents in the Gulf.

Taj Forer, a co-editor of the magazine, looks on his work and art in general as a source of stimulation

for both politicians and the general public.

"In our truest moments, we all turn to art for our inspiration. Even the politicians," Forer said.

Whatever the case, political art is here to stay.

"I can see how it might dissuade some people and be tiresome," Ramirez said.

"People have aversions to overtly preachy musicians, for example. But that doesn't mean they should be marginalized."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

The Lumina 620 Market St. Chapel Hill 932-9000

Take 15/501 South towards Pittsboro Exit Main St./Southern Village

SAHARA PG-13 1:30-4:10 7:05-9:45

FEVER PITCH PG-13 1:35-4:00 7:10-9:30

SIN CITY R 1:45-4:15 7:00-9:35

MISS CONGENIALITY 2 PG-13 7:20-9:45

ROBOTS PG 1:00-3:10 5:10

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SIN CITY R Daily 12:50, 3:30, 7:20, 9:55

GUESS WHO PG-13 Daily 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

ROBOTS PG Daily 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20

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APRIL

14 TH	Jump, Little Children w/ Ross Golan** (\$10)
15 FR	SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS, Julie Brown, Chrome Plated Apostles** (\$10)
16 SA	AGNOSTIC FRONT w/ Martyr AD**
17 SU	CARDINAL DIRECTION w/ Trip** (\$8)
18 MO	FUCKER (Local short film) 5:30-8:30pm
19 TU	WARRIORS OF PRAISE feat. PATO BANTON** (\$10)
20 WE	GOGOL BORDELLO w/ Valent Thorr** (\$10/\$12)
21 TH	DIZZE RASCAL w/ DJ Wonder** (\$15)
22 FR	EDWIN MCCAIN BAND w/ David Ryan Harris** (\$16)
23 SA	LITTLE BROTHER w/ Away Team, L.E.G.A.C.Y., Yathari, Joe Scudada, Darien Brockington
27 WE	STRAIGHT TALK, Minus The Bear, The Honorary Title** (\$12)
29 FR	SPENCERACUFF & CHRIS STAMEY w/ Pico Vs. Island Trees
30 SA	WXYC 80's dance

MAY

1 SU	KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD** (\$25)
2 MO	MOUNTAIN GOATS w/ Shearwater** (\$10/\$12)
3 TH	THE EXPLOSION, THROW RAG** (\$8/\$10)
4 WE	URBAN SOPHISTICATES, BOXBOMB, CODE 7** (\$7/\$8)
5 TH	AVETT BROTHERS** (\$8/\$10)
7 SA	NEIL DIAMOND ALL-STARS w/ Mary Prankster** (\$8)
9 MO	THE GOOD LIFE** (\$8)
11 WE	BRITISH SEA POWER**
12 TH	PATY GRIFFIN**
13 FR	THE REVEREND HORTON HEAT / SUPERSUCKERS / MAURPHY'S LAW** (\$15)
14 SA	THE BLACK KEYS** (\$12)
16 MO	HEADPHONES** (\$10)
17 TU	MASODON** (\$12/\$14)
18 WE	JIMBO MATHUS
19 TH	BUILT TO SPILL** (\$17)
20 FR	SLIGHTLY STOOPID w/ Fishbone** (\$14/\$15)
21 SA	THE COMAS, ROSEBUDDS**
26 TH	MELISSA FERRICK** (\$12/\$14)
27 FR	RAVEONNETTES w/ Autolux and Peels
28 SA	Kaze, Spectac, Supastition & more...

JUNE

2 TH	SPOON w/ The Clientele
4 SA	RILO KILEY w/ Porfastic** (\$14)
7 TU	MY MORNING JACKET** (\$15)
12 SU	THE GO-BETWEENS** (\$12)
18 SA	ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO** (\$20)
23 TH	JAY CLIFFORD From JLC** (\$10)
29 WE	ESLEY, Lovedrug, Pilotdirt** (\$8)

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