Celebrate the 400th B-Day of Rembrandt

If upon hearing the name Rembrandt the first thing that comes to mind is “that guy from History Channel,” then you should definitely take note.

In honor of the Dutch artist’s 400th birthday, the Oglethorpe University Museum of Art will showcase a touring exhibition of Rembrandt’s works Mar. 3 through May 13. Officially entitled Sordid and Sacred: The Beggar’s in Rembrandt’s Etchings, the exhibition includes 55 rare etchings. Tickets are $5, and more information is available at museum.oglethorpe.edu.

Foreign film series at High Museum

During March the High is host-

ing two film series: Hong Kong Pan-
orama on Fridays and From Royalty to Revolution on Saturdays.

Hong Kong Panorama showcases the depth and electricity of Hong Kong’s vital film culture, while From Royalty to Revolution looks at life in the French court and the events preceding the French Revolution.

All films are screened at 8 p.m. in the Richard H. Rich Theatre. Tickets are $5. More information is available at high.org.

By Nathan García

Konami’s first home release of their popular dancing simulation game Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) was released for the Playsta-

tion and contained a mere 30 songs or so. Over the years, the console technology improved and Konami was able to improve on almost every aspect of their PlayStation 2, Gamecube and Xbox varieties of the game.

Now, Konami brings the party to the next generation of game consoles with DDR Universe for the Xbox 360.

The game works in a deceptively simple manner. Arrows scroll up to a timing marker on the screen in time to the music. When an arrow reaches the marker, the player must step on the corresponding arrow with their feet. The simplest patterns only follow the most prominent beats in the song, but the more complex ones match up with almost every note and may require tricky foot and body positioning.

At the heart of every new release of DDRs is the songlist. This one fac-

tor truly has the ability to make or break such a game. The mix on DDR Universe provides an excellent array of tunes, ranging from popular hits like “Run It,” by Chris Brown and “Every Time We Touch” by Cascada to remixes of other Konami games like Castlevania and Guitar Hero.

Interestingly enough, Bill Shil-

lito, a tech student, also has a fea-

tured song under the name of DM Ashura. No matter what the player’s taste in music, they are sure to find something to enjoy in this game.

The steps that go along with the music are very well done. New players will find that every song has a Beginner level so they can enjoy the full experience. Experts will enjoy the cleverly designed step patterns and the challenge of the Oni level.

By Kenneth Baskett

The story of the Battle of Thermopy-

lae is perhaps the coolest in all of ancient history. If you have forgotten your history classes, then I will give you a quick refresher.

King Leonidas and a force of 300 Spartan soldiers manage to hold off the Persian army of Xerxes the Great, which numbers somewhere between 100,000 and 1,000,000, for three days. The Persians aren’t able to defeat the Spartans until a traitor tells Xerxes of a secret pass against the cliffs near the Hot Gates, which would allow them to encircle the Greeks. This little bit of history is the inspiration for the new movie 300, directed by Zack Snyder.

The film is an adaptation of the graphic novel of the same name written and illustrated by Frank Miller, the same Miller who penned the Sin City series that was transformed (with the help of Robert Rodriguez) into a very popular film two years ago.

As a comic book adapted for the big-screen, 300 excels. The film stays very true to its source, with many of the lines and images torn directly from the pages. Snyder could have relied almost exclusively on the novel as a storyboard for the film. Fans of Miller’s work will be very happy with the film.

But if that is all the film had going for it, it would be far from successful. The majority of moviegoers have never heard of Miller, so they will not care how faithful 300 is to the author’s book.

Thankfully, Snyder has translated 300 into an epic that easily stands with the greats of its genre, like The Lord of the Rings trilogy and Gladiator.

Despite the film’s huge scope, it is somehow believable and allows him to steal his numerous one-liners all the more.

Gerard Butler, most famous for his role as the phantom in The Phantom of the Opera, plays Leonidas with a tenacity and confidence normally reserved for more famous faces. His calm, yet aggressive attitude makes him the perfect choice to lead this epic into battle.

Snyder chose to film nearly the entire movie in front of a green screen and then paint in the backgrounds with computer-generated imagery. This creates a world that you truly need to see to believe.

From the open fields of the Greek countryside to the waves crashing against the cliffs near the Hot Gates, every second of film seems as though it was shot at individually to insure that it was as aesthetically pleasing as possible.

Shot on digital cameras, 300’s scenes have a grainy appearance that often compliments the mood.

Sometimes, however, the limits of digital film become apparent. At times the film is purposely manipulated to appear gritty from the digital feed, but instead it just looks heavily grainied and unfocused.

With close-ups and wide pans the digital performances exactly as expected; it is the middle ground, however, about fifteen yards from the camera, where digital cameras are most limiting.

While 300 is worth seeing just for its stunning cinematography, that is not the only reason.

Gerard Butler, most famous for his role as the phantom in The Phantom of the Opera, plays Leonidas with a tenacity and confidence normally reserved for more famous faces. His calm, yet aggressive attitude makes him the perfect choice to lead this epic into battle. He brings the film to life. One can only hope that he will have the same success in future films.

The film is the perfect way to honor Rembrandt’s 400th birthday with an art exhibit that would look more fitting in an art exhibit than on the big screen.
By Jonathan Saethang
Staff Writer

Sporting a T-shirt with “ASIAN SOUL” printed across the front and armed with a barrage of witty jokes and delightfully crazy facial expressions, Eliot Chang supplied over an hour of laughter to Tech students February 27, 2007, as a featured part of Asian Awareness Week.

“How many people have seen a male Asian comic who did not make fun of Asians, was assertive and kinda cute?” Chang said.

Indeed, Chang’s humor was smart, raunchy, risky and fearless, eliciting roaring laughter from attendees.

“You know, my philosophy on life is that I just don’t give a [expletive]! I say and do what I want, what feels right. My advice to you guys—let I say and do what I want, what feels...”

Chang said.

And Chang has clearly lived his life by this motto. Like many other people, he has assimilated into another culture…and have fallen victim to the ‘wannabe syndrome,’ which stems from a lack of cultural self-awareness,” Chang said.

“I dropped by an open mic night and had an epiphany... You don’t choose your calling—it chooses you. I mean, no one becomes a taxidermist by chance.”

Eliot Chang
Comedian

Chang stressed the importance of passion and interest in one’s profession, citing it as the key to satisfaction and his reason for pursuing comedy.

“Dropped by an open mic night and had an epiphany, a moment of clarity. I saw the microphone and crowd and thought, ‘This is it. This is what I’m supposed to do.’ You don’t choose your calling—it chooses you. I mean, no one becomes a taxidermist by chance,” Chang said.

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Eliot Chang visits during Asian Awareness Week

By Jonathan Saethang
Staff Writer

Chang is a boundary breaker. He is a Chinese-American professional comedian based out of New York. Chang is also the official spokes-comedian based out of New York. He graduated from SUNY, Binghamton with a bachelor's degree in biology before subsequently enrolling in a seven-year medical program.

But four years into the program, despite his parents' best wishes, he dropped out and became a Wall Street broker for two years. It was only after this time as a broker that Chang finally took the plunge and decided to pursue comedy full-time.

He expressed the difficulty of breaking the news to his parents, who wanted him to pursue his medical career.

“My parents were extremely pissed...tellexphone them that I was giving up my education, and a job was like telling them I was coming out of the closet or something,” Chang said.

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Assassins opens at DramaTech
Comedy tells of presidents’ murderers

By Arcady Kantor
Senior Editor

Full of gunshots, delusions of grandeur and insanity, Assassins is a comical musical take on some of America’s greatest tragedies: the assassinations of a number of American presidents (and attempts at such). DramaTech originally presented the play in 1993 and decided to revive it for their 60th season based on its past popularity.

It is easy to see why it enjoyed success at the time of its Tech premiere, as the play’s blend of dark humor and insightful perspectives into the minds of some of the most notable American anti-heroes makes for a highly enjoyable evening.

Based on a book by John Weidman, Assassins paints a lyrical picture of the attacks on Presidents Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Roosevelt, Nixon, Ford and Reagan. Each of these presidents’ assassins (successful or otherwise) is represented in the play, as the audience is treated to an exploration of what makes these people tick through a variety of the songs impresses.

The opening and final song, “Everybody’s Got the Right,” is particularly amusing when placed in the context of planning assassinations.

The play’s music and lyrics are written by one of America’s most prominent stage musical composers, Stephen Sondheim, notable for writing the lyrics for classics such as West Side Story, and the quality and variety of the songs impresses.

As mentioned earlier, the music and gameplay is wonderful, but there are a few flaws in the graphics. The characters are rendered well and animate smoothly, and the background visuals are exciting and attention-grabbing, but some players may find them distracting. Too much action on the screen slows down the frame rate by a noteworthy amount. The announcer also starts to grate after a while. Fortunately, these issues can all be addressed in the option menus.

This game can be played with the standard controller, but playing the game with the included pad is the best idea. Still, people may find it a little difficult to pass the harder songs without the pad moving around. They are durable, but here is hoping that Konami or some other company make a reliable, stiffer pad.

The Xbox 360 also only has two USB ports, so plugging in more than two pads is not possible. However, to get the most enjoyment out of the game, two pads are generally the most needed at any point in time. Anyone who loves music will certainly enjoy this game.

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DDR
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Universes does not stop at a single game mode, either. Quest Mode tasks players with going around North America to establish themselves as the dancing master.

All of the unlockable content is accessed through this mode as well. Challenge Mode requires the players to choose songs under specific conditions. Party Mode boasts several modes of play for multiple players, even those who wish to play on three or four pads at once or dance through a five-minute long mix of songs. Those who wish to make their own step routines can use the Edit Mode.

Xbox Live also allows players to challenge others from all over the US and download new songs for a nominal fee.

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(pick up or delivery)
Two Bits Woman, have a love/hate relationship with Tech (except for the physics department, that’s a mutual hate/hate relationship).

I love Tech during the first week of fall semester, before all of my classes get going and everything feels like rainbows, puppies and bright, shiny, new pennies.

The freshmen are all bright-eyed and wandering like lost orphan umbilici, and those of us that are returning feel optimistic and prepared for a new year.

At the moment, though, Tech hates me. And since my midterms of death and/or eternal torment, fire and brimstone, I hate it back.

So it’s the little things that get me through the day.

Here is my tribute to the finer things in life.

Dr. Pepper. It’s a refreshing warm paper. There’s nothing like getting a freshly copied test, caffeine-laden goodness.

Yet, it’s still full of fizzy, calorie-free, things in life.

Sandwiches cut into triangles. Everybody knows this is true, but nobody knows w h y . Sandwiches cut into triangles taste better than sandwiches cut into rectangles.

One theory holds that it is because you eat the sandwich from the middle out so you get to the guts of the sandwich first and get less bread crust taste. I prefer a more geometrical argument, which I have formalized into the Twobitsian theorem: all foods with internal angles that add to 180 degrees or less are inherently tastier than foods with total internal angles greater than 180 degrees.

Discovering the class average. We’ve all been there. You took the exam, everyone thought it was hard. You feel pretty good about it...until you get it back. Those four sheets of paper are dripping bloody red pen and there’s a nice, big, fat 45 percent scrawled across the top.

And you can’t really afford to drop the class, as it’s required and you’re trying to get out of here in less than 14 semesters.

Then there’s that kid. You know him: he usually sits near the front, badgers the professor about marginally relevant subjects and wants to know the exact format of the exam.

He is annoying, spastic and the only day you like him is the day you get the exams back. This dude is brave enough to ask, “What was the class average?” Bingo! The class average was 39 percent, so you have a B.

The moral of today’s story is that Tech rates about 10 on the Moh’s scale****, but even hard things can be beautiful (and if one of you says, “That’s what she said,” I will end you).

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Your underarms wave more than Miss America? That’s okay, because one of the fundamental truths of the universe...is that boys like boobs...