The Wind That Shakes the Barley tells of war

By Daniel Griffin
Staff Writer

A film wins the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival, the Palme d'Or (or Golden Palm), for the greatest display of what the jurors call “meaning.” Now, what that term actually means is up to much interpretation, owing to the obvious discrepancies in one’s own judgment of aesthetic value.

Yet, as the jury is typically made up of internationally prestigious, still-working filmmakers, I will submit that this award should bear more weight than almost any other. Last year’s winner, The Wind That Shakes the Barley, is definitely one of the more lachkuster victors on the list of previous winners, which consists of films made by the Coen brothers, Steven Soderbergh, David Lynch and Akira Kurosawa, among others.

It’s Wind that the Barley takes place in Ireland in the 1920s, as Ireland is violently trying to gain sovereignty from Great Britain.

The violence that ensues pits the scruffy Irish Republicans against their home and murder one of their friends. Damien, who is due to leave for medical school, joins his brother in the IRA instead, and their small group of friends coalesces to fight a dirty war against the British.

In the short future, owing to the IRA’s constant raids on British troops and stockpiles, the British government agrees to grant the Irish semi-independence,” with local courts and local police under Irish control but the entire region still under the British government.

This event naturally divides the Irish between those who support the new semi-autonomy they’ve gained and those who don’t think the treaty has gone far enough to secure the rights of the Irish.

And in the film’s major conflict, this treaty also splits the two brothers, each choosing, both with good reason, a different side of allegiance. Violence ensues between the two factions with Irish killing Irish other Irish.

The reason that the plot gets so involved is that it ultimately takes over the film completely. The beautiful Irish backdrop ironically serves as a solemn war ground for a very solemn film. It’s often plated with a dim natural light that bends the focus more towards the characters than the full landscape.

The film seems to be shot almost entirely in natural light, and, unlike the seemingly unconsciously brutal British Army. The plot revolves around two brothers, Damien (Gillian Murphy) and Padraic Delaney, as they quickly get roped into the revolution after British soldiers raid their home.

The story is also enticing. Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach and Bowser are all with everyone lives happily ever after. However, that last part does not lend itself well to setting up sequels, so Nintendo has disregarded it for the past 20 years.

Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach and Bowser have all been through a lot during this time, with little change in their relationships.

That is why it is particularly strange to see the opening scene of Nintendo and Intelligent Systems’ Super Paper Mario (SPM) involving Peach getting married.

It is even stranger to see that the groom is Bowser.

Of course, all is not as it seems. The evil and mysterious Count Bleck has set the arrangement in order to give rise to the Chaos Heart, capable of destroying all of the world. Now it is up to Mario and co. to find a way to stop Bleck’s sinister plot.

The graphics are simplistic, but each world has its own unique look. The music is very enjoyable, employing a mix of familiar favorites with newer tunes that fit the surroundings.

The gameplay is unlike the previous games in the series. While the other Paper Mario games were RPGs, this one combines elements from RPGs and classic platforms.

However, instead of a system of power-ups, there is a HP meter and usable items. The one exception is the return of the Star, which turns the character into an invincible eight-bit behemoth for a limited time.

The one thing that this game does keep from previous games in the series is the impeccable script.

There is a fair amount of reading involved in this game, but the way it is done is full-force. Jokes and references show up when least expected, and the story is also enticing. The graphics are simplistic, but each world has its own unique look.

The music is also very enjoyable, employing a mix of familiar favorites with newer tunes that fit the surroundings.

Anyone with a Wii will be doing themselves a favor by playing this game. It is easily the most enjoyable version of the game of this year. The added nostalgia factor increases it even more.

Super Paper Mario is an excellent example of taking fun, familiar gameplay and adding whole new dimensions of enjoyment.

Although previous games in the series were role-playing games, Super Paper Mario for the Wii also uses elements from classic platforms.

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Super Paper Mario is an excellent example of taking fun, familiar gameplay and adding whole new dimensions of enjoyment.
DramaTech performs Ibsen’s An Enemy of the People

By Jonathan Saethang
Staff Writer

Coming right off the heels of the production of the play Assassins, the DramaTech Theatre continues its spring performance schedule with Arthur Miller’s adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s An Enemy of the People. Ibsen’s original play was written in 1882, and Miller adapted it in the 1950s. The play has obviously withstood the test of time. Now, over a century after it was originally written, Ibsen’s play is brought back to life by the deft hands of the DramaTech cast and crew.

An Enemy of the People was Ibsen’s social criticism of the Victorian era and the precedence of social decorum over concepts like freedom and the truth. The play highlights the terrible power of the uneducated masses, a concept that was indeed relevant to the political climate in Miller’s era.

Miller was most prominent in the time of the Red Scare, when the paranoia related to Communism made his views on society unpopular to the government in power. The subject of An Enemy of the People is also related to this dilemma, which seems to have arisen quite often throughout the course of history.

The most remarkable part about the play is not the historical or societal connections that Ibsen and Miller bring to light. Rather, it is the sheer intensity behind the well-written script—the fiery clash of personalities that bring a resilient quality that has allowed the play to withstand the test of time. An Enemy of the People is set in Norway in the small fictional town of Kiersten Springs. The protagonist, Dr. Stockmann (Aditya Madhavan) and his brother, the Mayor (Laura Czyzewski) have just developed the hot springs in the town. The springs have brought the town lots of attention, as they seem to be of medicinal value. Just as the baths grow more prominent and the small town begins to attract tourists, Dr. Stockmann finds that there is a contaminant in the water from the springs that is detrimental to the health of the many tourists who visit the springs.

Although the short-term effects are not immediately evident, Dr. Stockmann concludes that some action must be taken, or the town will be slowly poisoned from the inside out. And that’s where things get interesting. The audience soon realizes that the situation is not as black and white as reporting on the contaminated water and treating it. The situation is complicated by the economic benefit the town reaps from the springs, as well as the added political intrigue of the Mayor.

It is this “pressure cooker” of a situation that builds tension and suspense in the plot, leaving the audience unsure of a resolution. The characters become involved in a circumstance where there is no right answer, as Dr. Stockmann finds himself caught between his personal integrity and the wishes of the majority.

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An Enemy of the People is a tale of betrayal, morality and loaded questions with no clear answers. The DramaTech cast does an excellent job of portraying the complex characters, many of which have multiple motivations and reasons for their actions.

Even the most seemingly insignificant subtleties are tended to in the play. The Mayor’s rigid posture, Petra’s ever so slight smile and Horstad’s whimsical style of speech all add to rounding out what would otherwise be minor characters. It is this attention to detail that shows the play’s ability to present the audience with an authentic experience. The audience soon realizes that this is no play, and this play is no exception. It is also notable that many of the male characters are portrayed by the predominantly female cast.

Upon first glance it seems a little strange, but as soon as the play begins, the actors seem very natural and well-versed in their roles.

The interaction between Dr. Stockmann and the Mayor is definitely one of the high points of the performance. The stark contrast between the honest, passionate Dr. Stockmann and the icy, cunning Mayor makes a splendid scene to watch.

With each twist and turn, the lively cast of characters ropes the audience in bit by bit, eliciting genuine interest and suspense. An Enemy of the People will continue to play this Friday and Saturday, April 20-21 at 8 p.m.

DramaTech is performing An Enemy of the People, this Friday and Saturday night. The play, originally written by Henrik Ibsen, follows a family from Norway and highlights the danger in uneducated masses.
Texas-based Burden Brothers nearly bomb sophomore album

By Mallory Velten Contributing Writer

The album’s first song, “It’s Time,” is really, really creepy—it would be the perfect background music for a part in an R-rated movie....

The Burden Brothers produce a sound vaguely reminiscent of Nickelback, although the band lacks a lead singer with strong vocals. They also sound somewhat like a more mellow My Chemical Romance. The album’s first song, “It’s Time,” consists solely of five different words, played again and again for the entirety of the song’s duration: “It’s time... it’s time... it’s time... to meet you.” It becomes obvious quickly that for the most part, lyrics are not this band’s strong point.

This song is really, really creepy—it would be the perfect background music for a part in an R-rated movie in which a disturbed psychopath isobsessively stalking/watching someone without that person knowing it. Fortunately, the rest of the album, while not stellar, greatly exceeds the quality of “It’s Time”—which really isn’t difficult, seeing as it would be nigh impossible to produce anything worse.

The title track, “Mercy,” is a short, uneventful instrumental. It seems quite out of place amidst the rest of the songs—my theory is that first the band decided they wanted to name the album Mercy, and just before the CD’s release, they decided that maybe they ought to write a song with the same name. That, or maybe they decided that after the first song, the rest of the album showed a lot of mercy to the poor listeners.

Most of the songs are okay, but few are really memorable. A curious characteristic present in many of the songs is this: a song starts off normally, but after about a minute and a half, the music completely changes, as though it’s a whole different song; after a while, it returns back to the original song.

It’s like a song inside a song. There are only two songs on Mercy that sound like they could be played on the radio—“Trick of Logic” and the album’s best track, titled “Good Night from Chicago.” As both the best song and the one with the most interesting name, “Good Night from Chicago” should have been the title track for this album.

It’s obvious that the band is comprised of musicians with talent; what’s more obvious is that the band members aren’t really in sync with one another.

Perhaps the Burden Brothers are still burdened by their baggage from their previous bands. I’d advise passing on this album, while not burdened by their baggage from their previous bands.

She’s Your Sister’s still good the second time

By Andrew Guyton Copy Editor

Every week, the Nique receives a few CDs, some of which are reviewed. Some are admittedly best suited for the trash; however, there are occasionally gems such as She’s Your Sister’s second release, onewordtubefan.

The four-member group was formed in Chicago in 2000, and their first album, In Between, was released in July 2005. since then, they have moved around more extensively in California. In case you were wondering, the band’s name is a reference to a line in the 2001 film The Royal Tenenbaums: when I read the name, I thought EuroTrip.

Either way, the funny name reflects the band’s generally light tone.

The album’s sound is very much within pop/rock, almost what I would call “generic” if it weren’t for that word’s negative connotation; indeed, almost all of the songs on their CD are worth listening to, at least in today’s music business. It helps that each of their songs comes in at about three minutes each.

Another bonus is that the words in the songs are actually audible and intelligible; when you can’t hear what they’re trying to convey, they might as well be writing techno, and bad hard rock does not make good techno.

Thus, screaming into a microphone doesn’t make good rock, and She’s Your Sister’s vocalist seems to know this. Vocals aren’t the only good thing about this album, though; the music is generally catchy, while carefully avoiding the sound associated with today’s overplayed pop groups. Make no mistake: this is definitely a rock group.

The album starts off strongly with “Price Led,” a very catchy song that uses backup vocals and a guitar solo to excellent effect. Unfortunately, the chorus (“Take me home / Won’t you be my somewhere”) gets drilled into your head, something you won’t appreciate after you’ve done listening.

The next few tracks show a smooth transition through their

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Your Friday lectures have nothing on us!

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Visit http://www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu/funding.php for more information and application instructions.
Ladies and Gentlemen, Two Bits Man is back and ready for action. I was away on sabbatical training Jack Bauer to fight terrorism (because anything is more relaxing when compared to Tech). But have no fear; I am here once again to grace the pages of this paper with my glorious presence.

With this wonderful aroma of the season come the sights and sounds of students pulling their hair out as LED lamps shine late into the night while another period of tests rolls around. We all must suffer the wrath of The Shaft™, but at least we all have rolls around.

To be honest, I would much rather spend my time taking a physics test or finding an Euler brick whose space diagonal is also an integer* than answer this deadly question. Why? Because I know that any answer I give to the test or the math problem is infinitely more correct than what other for responding to her with the sad truth that you probably need to shave a few parts of you.**

Then I will probably say to my girlfriend.

Is proud to announce
The winners of the 2006-2007 End Of Year Awards!

Seth M. Grue Resident Appreciation Award
Rosalind Meyers — Assoc. VP-Auxiliary Services

Student Staff Member of the Year Award
Ben Keyserling — Brown-Howell

Hall Council Advisor of the Year Award
Sena LaPean — Fitten, Freeman, Montag

Hall Council President of the Year Award
Emily Weigel — Brown-Howell

Hall Council VP of the Year Award
Ben Johnson — Brown-Howell

Hall Council Secretary of the Year Award
Brian Rutland — Sixth St. Apartments

Hall Council Treasurer of the Year Award
Nathan Bessette — Woodruff

Hall Council Social Chair of the Year Award
Luisana Valero — Fitten, Freeman, Montag

Hall Council of the Year Award
Fitten, Freeman, Montag

The Residence Hall Association would like to thank all of our officers, advisors, and residents for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

Fortunately for me, I’m always in top physical form. When flexing my muscles while working out, a cornucopia of women flocks around me, kind of like a Tag commercial. It’s not as hard as it looks to be the most irresistible man on the planet.***

Anyway, such questioning from the plethora of women...and the multitude of men at the CRC. Keep your eyes peeled for my next article...and the plethora of women at the CRC...

**Be advised, I am not liable for the results of you getting smacked, thrashed, pillaged, or otherwise beaten to a pulp by your significant other for responding to her with the following statements.

***I’ll be amazed if I still have a girlfriend by the time she finishes reading this piece.

Wikipedia is your friend.

Well, that’s all I have for this week. Keep your eyes peeled for my next article...and the multitude of women at the CRC...
Theatment Crossword: By the Numbers

By Robert Zimmerman
United Features Syndicate

ACROSS
1. Thrust
5. May honorees
9. Code originator
14. Model-building wood
19. Lay asphalt
20. Over again
21. Advantageous position
22. Zones
23. "Roast Pig" essayist
24. Shuttle inits.
25. Tennis pro’s income?: 2 wds.
26. Lay asphalt
27. Sherlock’s strong suit?
29. Recipe instruction
30. Presidential nickname
31. First president of Sierra Club
32. Mrs. Cruise
34. Handsome guys
38. Shady retreats
41. Diamond, perhaps
42. Degradable lead-in
43. Calif. neighbor
44. Not anybody
45. Subject of Friday night warning to teens?: 2 wds.
49. Conjunctions
50. 1970 Beatles tune "__ It a Pity?"
51. Venus de __
52. Degradable lead-in
53. Sired, biblical style
54. Day or term preceder
55. City and river in Illinois
57. Take down on paper
58. Wodehouse’s Wooster
59. Licorice-flavored liqueur
61. Sierra __
63. Get one’s bearings
64. Egg containers
65. Actress Foster
66. German pistol
67. Will’s concern
69. Rapid shooters!
70. Rep
73. Ancient city on the Nile
74. Crude shelter
75. DJ’s most-played tunes: 2 wds.
77. Student’s performance: abbr.
78. Start of a toast
79. Golf’s Venti
80. Tres for a homer
81. Early talk-show host
82. Poverty
83. Derriere silhouette?: 2 wds.
87. Vincent of the horror flicks-
89. Datum
90. Sock’s extremity
91. Identical creatures
92. __ Row ("Pongy and Bess")
94. Sen. Thurmond
96. Warp’s complement
97. Conjunctions
98. Famous cookie-maker
99. Use portage techniques?: 2 wds.
104. Obscene profits?: 2 wds.
105. Outback jumper
106. Rower’s burden
107. Turned downs

DOWN
1. Raced
2. Story
3. Gung-ho
4. Texas port
5. Prayerful bug
6. Broadcasting
7. Middle: prefx.
8. Best actress, 1999 and 2004
9. Karloff’s “Frankenstein” role
10. Former
11. Make a new bow
12. Plaintiff
13. Air quality agcy.
14. Trust in
15. "Tempest" role
16. Hall-of-Famer Dawson
17. Droop
18. Pompous person
20. Over again
21. Advantageous position
22. Zones
23. "Roast Pig" essayist
24. Shuttle inits.
25. Tennis pro’s income?: 2 wds.
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104. Obscene profits?: 2 wds.
105. Outback jumper
106. Rower’s burden
107. Turned downs
Have Some Fun

WELCOME TO BLOCKBUSTER ROW ON GTCN!

MON., TUE. & THURS.

12:00 The Baseball Documentary
4:00 RHA Today (Thursday Only)
7:00 The Good Shepherd
10:00 Running With Scissors
12:30 Running With Scissors
2:30 Casino Royale

WEEK OF 4.20 - 4.26

TUE.

12:00 School For Scoundrels
2:00 Casino Royale
5:00 UVA Newsmakers
5:30 Poetry at Tech
7:00 The Good Shepherd
10:00 Flags Of Our Fathers
12:30 Running With Scissors
2:30 Casino Royale

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scott.sergent@housing.gatech.edu or 4-6017

Finals week is coming!

GTCN wishes everyone a great finals week!
Have a safe and happy summer break!
We look forward to seeing everyone in August!

Want to see your favorite movie? Vote today at:
www.gtcn.gatech.edu/CinemaSelect

GEORGIA TECH CABLE NETWORK
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WEEK OF 9.1 - 9.7
www.gtcn.gatech.edu
Dr. Steven E. Koonin
Chief Scientist, BP

Energy Trends and Technologies for the Coming Decades

Tuesday, April 24, 2007
1:30 p.m.
Van Leer (ECE) Building Auditorium

Reception to follow:
Love Building
2nd Floor