

First festival frames fresh film talent

Residential College Program sponsors student-produced film festival, awards prizes

Kalen Ponche
Managing Editor

A frozen pizza will cost you about \$1 at Wal-Mart and Hy-Vee but \$2.59 at the C-store. That extra \$1.59 plus the higher prices on laundry could be going to fund the \$281 Student Senate spent on new gavels last year – that is, according to the first-place entry in Truman's first film festival.

The event was sponsored by Residential College Program, Apple Computers and the Student Union. The contest, titled "Frame Your Experience," challenged students to create a three-to-eight-minute film. The top three films chosen by a panel of eight judges before the festival Sept. 29 won prizes.

Senior Brian Rose took home an iPod for his entry, "A Day in the Life," which used footage of the increased prices throughout the University to look at how Senate and Student Activities Board are spending money.

Rose looked specifically at what Senate spent money on last year, from the \$125 spent on pizza to the \$700 spent on foam fingers. The film also said Senate spent at least \$1,140 on off-campus retreats. Rose brought up the recent proposal against off-campus retreats, Senate resolution 056.004. This resolution suggested that because the Student Activities Fee funds Student Government, it would be beneficial to stop having off-campus retreats and use the money for the most essential items. This resolution failed Sept. 25 by a vote of 3-15-2.

This was by far the best film and aptly took home the first prize. Set to Pink Floyd's "Money," the film used the soundtrack and sound of falling change, rather than speech to tell the story. In addition to his excellent topic choice, Rose

had some very cool effects throughout. It's nice to see someone paying attention to what is going on in student government. In the most recent election, a mere 678 people voted for the six new senators, according to the Sept. 22 issue of the Index.

Rose's film stood out in contrast to most of the others shown. If a prospective student saw the eight films, they'd walk away with the impression that Truman is a difficult school full of crazy teachers, tons of homework, bad luck and freshmen just trying to make it through a day.

A few stood out in theme content, however. "Long Distance" told the silent story of the ever-so-common-at-Truman long-distance relationship. The protagonist repeatedly blew off his friends to talk on the phone with his girlfriend at all hours of the day. When times get rough, however, he turns to a cute girl down the hall and eventually hooks up with her after turning a photo of his girlfriend face down on his desk.

"Another Dimension" showed an alternative Truman student's experience to the freaked out freshman. Set in a house off-campus, it followed one student's trippy dreams while laying on the floor of a dirty bathroom throughout the night. Accented with scenes in other languages, the English subtitles were difficult to read although I didn't feel like I missed out on much plot. The film had pseudo-"Garden State" meets "Blair Witch Project" scenes that contributed to the impression that this was a student engaging in some illegal extracurricular activities.

The majority of the other films focused on the plight of the Truman student, overwhelmed with choices and homework assignments, late to class and busy. "Late Work" told the story of one Truman student's day, which began badly when he had nothing to wear to class but still-wet boxers. This film, which took second place, had some excellent twists to which most students could re-



Students watch student-produced films at 11 p.m. Sept. 29 in the SUB Georgian Room.

Chris Waller/Index

late, from trying to fix a broken computer to chasing a professor down the street to hand in a term paper. "Sidewalks," which came in third place, was the best of the films that focused on the anxious freshman's plight and had the most interesting cinematography. The director clearly put some thought into the framing and planning of each shot and pieced it together very well.

It was nice to see the creative work of the individuals who participated in the film festival. Each person who had the guts to write a script, recruit friends to act in it and then show up to watch it be presented is to be commended.

Film Review

"A Day in the Life"
Director and Producer:
Senior Brian Rose
Prize: 1st place at
Residential College
Program Film Festival



Pilot's plot plays up crowd-pleasing scares

Sara DeGonia

Assistant Features Editor

This one isn't about the fast-paced trauma of the medical world.

But the same weak-stomached, sweaty-palmed individuals who avoid hospital dramas probably shouldn't make ABC's new show part of their weekly watch schedule.

"Night Stalker" is a brand-new television series that airs at 8 p.m. Thursdays. It is loosely based on the '70s cult classic "Night Stalker," according to abc.go.com.

Stuart Townsend is Carl Kolchak, the narrator and main character of the show, whose gruff voice lulls the viewers into the sense of the show right off the bat. In the pilot episode, which premiered Sept. 29, Kolchak kicked off the show with a short bio of himself as the curious crime journalist whose interests lie in the supernatural.

The producers, however, didn't waste any time developing Kolchak's personality or history, like many pilot television shows undoubtedly would.

Instead, the first complete scene played like the most intense moment of a horror flick. A darling married couple shares a tender moment as the husband leaves for his nighttime job. He hears a noise on the way to his car but casually shakes it off. The wife returns to the kitchen, where she's washing dishes in her pink bathrobe. She hears a crash in the other room, but like her husband, decides it must be nothing. Of course the ruckus occurs again, and she bravely begins to explore the darkest corners of home, wielding a kitchen knife.

Naturally, all hell breaks loose:



Stuart Townsend, as Carl Kolchak, Gabrielle Union, as Perri Reed, and guest star Tony Curran appear in this scene from "Night Stalker." Townsend and Union play reporters investigating the supernatural.

Wire Photo

She screams and disappears from the audience's view. Cut to commercial.

Despite the formulaic quality of the scene, which lacks any originality, the audience is left with unanswered questions. And if the viewers form emotional attachments to characters as quickly as I, they will stick around through laundry detergent and insurance plans to discover the fates of the folks on the tube.

Besides, after that initial commercial break, the level of quality seemed to increase. But then, there wasn't anywhere for

it to go from there but up.

The plot progressed rapidly. Although the main characters are journalists, little time was spent focusing on the news aspect of the show. In fact, it's a good thing the beautiful reporters have so much experience – a whopping four or five years – in the field because they quickly turned from writers to adventurers.

Now, the premise of the show is that Kolchak is a newspaperman who focuses on the supernatural. How is that going to work? By the

end of the first episode, we already had seen a glimpse of the terrible creature that most likely killed Mrs. Pink Bathrobe. So it seems unlikely that this otherwise realistic setup at a Los Angeles paper will provide many opportunities for the supernatural to occur.

And then the show will be over. But maybe we'll be surprised.

Townsend's co-star Gabrielle Union, who plays Perri Reed, is beyond gorgeous and apparently makes good money as senior crime reporter because her style is très

TV Review

"Night Stalker"
Starring: Stuart
Townsend, Gabrielle
Union
Channel: ABC
Airs: 8 p.m. Thursdays



chic. She is a definite asset for the show.

The tag-along photographer is Jain McManus, played by Eric Jungmann – who is recognizable for his past roles as the cute, dorky type. McManus is an underdeveloped character but shows a glimmer of potential as the unassuming hero in future episodes.

The episode itself proved adequately entertaining. By the 22nd minute of the show, Kolchak already had been accused of murder, and the phrase "tore the fetus from her body" was thrown around.

Beyond that, the creepy factor had moments of glory. Portions of the show were a little too similar to the type of movie I avoid. But for lovers of terror, certain occurrences completely left the realm of cheesy and inflicted genuine fear.

Bottom line: The acting is fresh, the characters are fairly believable, and the desert setting seems pretty original. If "Night Stalker" doesn't make it to the one-year mark, it won't be for a lack of effort but perhaps a shortage of adequate material.

Horoscopes

Oct. 9 to 15
By Madame Hughes

ARIES: (March 20 to April 18)

Get to the real crux of the current dilemma at work. It might involve stepping on some toes, but you can't fret about that. Your focus needs to be on resolving the existing mess and getting everyone back on track.

TAURUS: (April 19 to May 20)
Francs, euros, pesos, pounds – whatever term is used, your interest remains the same – HIGH! An investment opportunity you passed over once before resurfaces; this time you had better

give it your utmost attention.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 20)

Of late, improving marital bliss is your primary goal. Here's a helpful hint: If you don't have your partner's full attention, then don't even consider having a serious discussion. You might feel like talking, but the time might not be right at all for your partner.

CANCER: (June 21 to July 22)

All too often the trip memories that really stick with us come about not

LEO: (July 23 to Aug. 22)

These are trying times as you feel your mettle is being tested. For inspiration, look to the words of Vince Lombardi: "The spirit, the will to win and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur."

VIRGO: (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Get over the idea that you can micro-manage much of anything in life. This is not Eden. Disappointment and imperfec-

tion are woven into the fabric of our days. What you can control, though, is your reaction to people and events. This is where your power lies.

LIBRA: (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

"Jack Sprat could eat no fat, his wife could eat no lean..." – two extremes, neither of which is advisable. You are taking great pride in your new physique lately, but don't lose sight of the importance of a balanced diet.

SCORPIO:

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Technology has a lot to recommend it. Bite the bullet this week, and buy something that will enhance your life. It might get you to connect more often

with family and friends, which would be a good thing.

SAGITTARIUS:

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Having to entertain yourself has never bothered you. In fact, you enjoy the freedom of deciding what pursuit to concentrate on and for how long. Lucky for you, extended stretches of unscheduled time are about to open up.

CAPRICORN:

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Most Capricorns have a fairly reserved demeanor. However, where your spouse and children are concerned, practice being a loud cheerleader. It's a tough world out there, and they need the most dedicated support possible.

AQUARIUS:

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Like TV chef Emeril, you are capable of creating a delicious, tasty treat with flash, fun and flair. Why not pick a day or two this week to delight your family with your rarely used talent?

PISCES: (Feb. 19 to March 19)

Hey, you may not be a Lance Armstrong or Brett Favre-type of athlete, but don't let that discourage you. Participating in sport at any level helps in staying fit and cheerful. That's a pretty good reward in itself.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS OCT. 11: You share your birthday with Eleanor Roosevelt and drummer Art Blakey. You have a vivid imagination and enjoy being part of a team.



Campus

Global Issues

The Center for Teaching and Learning will sponsor its Global Issues Colloquium at 7 p.m. tonight in Violette Hall 1000. The discussion is titled "Health: Consumer Good or Community Status." Contact Linda Davenport at 785-4391 for more information.

Family Day

Truman Family Day begins at 8 a.m. Saturday on the Student Union Mall. Various events will occur all day, including the presidential welcome at 11 a.m. in the Baldwin Auditorium and a tailgate lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Red Barn Park. Multicultural Affairs, Hispanic American Leadership Organization and Sigma Lambda Gamma will sponsor a salsa dance party from 6 to 10:30 p.m. in the Student Union Building Activities Room.

French Film

The French American Cultural Exchange presents the first film in the Tournées French Film Festival at 6 p.m. Saturday. "La Pianiste" will play in Violette Hall 1000. Admission is free.

Movie Night

Prism will present a queer-themed movie at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Violette Hall 1140 as part of Coming Out Week. Bring your pillow and some popcorn.

Local

Walking Tour

Cole Woodcox is giving his Commercial Space architecture tour of Kirksville at 6 p.m. Friday. Visit kvmo.net/~kvarts for more information.

Concerts

Free Concert

The Chariton Valley Association for Handicapped Citizens is sponsoring a free concert featuring the Aaron Russell Band from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight on the north side of the Adair County Courthouse.

Teen Teen Productions

The Melismatics, Ouija Radio and Stop, Thief! will perform starting at 9 p.m. Friday at The Dukum Upp. Admission is \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Cost is \$2 more for those younger than 21 years.

Expressway Band

The Expressway Band will perform at 9 p.m. Friday at The Full Moon Bar. Admission is \$3 at the door and is limited to those 21 years or older.

Dukum Inn Concert

Wreckage of the Modern City will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Dukum Inn. Taciturn will open for the band. Admission is \$5 and \$7 for those younger than 21 years.