

## Make a bite, take a bite

### Homemade Salsa

- 1 medium can black beans
- 1 medium tomato
- About 1/6 white onion
- 1 small can green chiles (optional)
- Salt
- Pepper



Drain can of black beans slightly, and pour into container. Dice tomato and mix in. Dice about 1/6 white onion (more or less to taste) and add. Mix in desired amount of green chiles. Add salt and pepper liberally to taste.

Makes about 3 cups of salsa.

Source: Diane Ponche



Actors Scarlett Johansson, John Travolta and Gabriel Macht play a high school dropout, ex-English professor and ex-teaching assistant, respectively. The drama is based in the heart of New Orleans.

## Alcoholics and a dropout mix well with cultural South

Erin Sadzewicz  
Features Editor

Tell me if this sounds familiar: It's Saturday night, and you're broke because you spent all your money on ... soda the night before.

You've had a long, hard day of lounging and procrastinating. You scrape up just enough couch change to buy a pizza, but you're at a loss for evening entertainment. Go to Pickler Memorial Library and problem solved.

I know it might seem like breaking the rules of Saturday procrastination, but there's more to the library than books and depressingly productive people: There is a plethora of fun movies to rent — for free.

This is exactly what my friends and I did last Saturday, and "A Love Song for Bobby Long" turned out to be the greatest movie I've ever rented. The fact that I didn't have to pay a dime was the icing on top.

Set in present-day, pre-Katrina New Orleans, a large part of the movie was based around the unique cultural aspects of the city.

John Travolta plays Bobby Long, a former English professor at an Alabama university who was cast from his family nine years earlier after a tragedy. He lives with Lawson Pines, played by Gabriel Macht, his former teaching assistant, who played a hand in the tragedy.

Long's need for redemption and Pines' need for penance led them to the romantic city of New Orleans to live out a Bohemian lifestyle consisting of reading, playing music down by the Mississippi River and drinking — a lot.

They live in a house owned by Lorraine, a prominent fixture in the New Orleans music scene and a good friend to Long, Pines and the rest of their homemade family of musicians, gardeners and bartenders. She passes away at the start of the movie, cleverly leaving her house to her 18-year-old daughter, Pursy Will, played by Scarlett Johansson.

The men convince Will the house belongs to the three of them so they aren't left homeless, and they form a unique connection with one another.

I love this movie because it mirrors real life, real problems and real emotions. It's not based around a boring love story, it's based around a high school dropout who never knew her mother or a normal childhood.

**DVD Review**  
**'A Love Song for Bobby Long'**  
Director: Shainee Gabel  
Starring:  
John Travolta,  
Scarlett Johansson



Long and Pines have such a deep love for literature and learning and living the way they want, and it influences Will to continue her own education. The three of them become a real family, though it is by no means cookie-cutter. There's a reason Lorraine wanted the three of them to live together, but you'll have to rent it to find out.

The story is infused with the scratchy, jazzy, down-on-the-bayou N'awlins music, and it plays a significant role in each character's life. They appreciate the beauty in words, in storytelling, in singing and in living each day like it's the last. Long, trying to convince Pines to go down to the river and play some music with him, quotes a famous poet, "Happiness makes up in length what it gives us in height."

Travolta gives the best performance I think he's ever done. His character makes the movie. He's borderline raunchy, carefree, lonely, sad, happy, drunk, hilarious, and he puts these qualities into every scene. His character is developed and entertaining.

Johansson also gives a stellar performance as the stubborn, self-righteous, self-supporting teenager who's not afraid to stand up for herself.

It's a tragic, heart-warming, shocking, amusing, rich tale of a city-no-more, of a group of people who grow together and teach each other, placed on the backdrop of the South, a country all its own.

And who would have guessed the library could bring more than the pain of studying and work but the joy and inspiration of this excellent piece of filmmaking?

## Horoscopes

Sept. 25 to Oct. 1  
By Madame Hughes

**ARIES:** (March 20 to April 18) Someone close to you is in need of special attention. A mere hug on your way out the door will not suffice this time. Plan on devoting an entire weekend to this important individual.

**TAURUS:** (April 19 to May 20) As a savvy bargain hunter, your antennae are always up looking for the hottest and best deals. It is tempting to buy something that is deeply discounted, but

just remember that no item is a legitimate bargain unless you really need it.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 20) Just because Peter Pan got away with saying, "I won't grow up," doesn't mean you can. Responsibilities are looming that cannot be ignored. But, never fear, you will handle them all with ease and grace.

**CANCER:** (June 21 to July 22) Your imagination might not con-

jure up another Disneyland, but there still is plenty of room for your ingenuity to shine. Have faith that your contributions merit praise. Patting yourself on the back occasionally is very acceptable.

**LEO:** (July 23 to Aug. 22) Timid behavior doesn't seem to be your style. Why then are you acting so shy when it comes to your love interest? Let the gregarious you show through. You will like the response.

**VIRGO:** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Your life is frantic again, and you are too wrapped up with your own problems. Make a shift away from yourself this week. Take time to drop in on someone

## World is our playground — Go play

Hello. My name is Christie, and I'm a travel addict.

It began at 12 with a trip to France. It worsened in high school with Italy. The addiction now is full-blown after jumping to Ireland, Germany, France, Belgium and Italy twice since the start of college.

Some fret about overdose. I don't think it's possible.

It's a great time to be a college kid in the mood to explore. The world is our playground, friends. We have endless resources at our fingertips, and jumping across the Pond is a heck of a lot more affordable than you might think.

Getting started is probably the hardest part, so here are some ideas on how to get your rear in gear and jump-start your own travel addiction.

Booking a flight is your first major hurdle, and your ticket most likely will be about half your total expense. So let me introduce you to your new best friend, the Internet. Countless sites help poor students see the world at a reasonable price. Tap yourself into the network, learn where to look, and you're golden.

Junior Carolyn Sidles, a fellow travel addict, first visited Europe at 17. In the last eight months, she's been to Belize, Ireland, England and New Zealand and studied abroad in Australia. Carolyn said she found great deals online, including a round-trip ticket to London with hotel included for \$500.

Given, that's a lot of money for starving students to dole out, but with only \$500 for both flight and lodging, you're set to do a week in Europe for less than \$1,000. It'd be hard to go to New York that cheap.

If you're planning a trip for a specific date, do a lot of research, and be ready to pounce on a fantastic deal when you see it. For instance, I just test-drove Travelzoo.com to see what I could find, and lo and behold, there's a round-trip fare from St. Louis to London for \$369 before Oct. 31. Ready? Pounce.

Finding a bed — or floor space, as the case may be — is priority No.

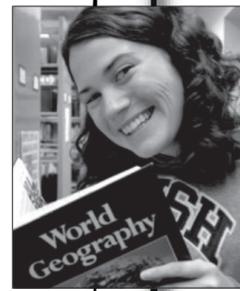
2 when country-jumping. In this realm, creativity counts, and we college kids have a major advantage over older folks: We're used to discomfort.

Use this lower standard of living to find creative solutions to housing. If you have friends in your country of choice, try to crash on their floor for a few days. This saved me at least \$500 one spring break. The backache was well worth it.

Hostels are a classic solution as well. These legendary institutions of youth travel generally involve sharing a barracks-style room with about seven other people. They are widely regarded as safe, it's a great way to meet people from around the world, and they are usually cheaper than hotels, ranging from \$10 to \$35 a night depending on the country and time of year.

Another test-drive yielded a hostel in Dublin tonight for about \$14 — and it's right by the Guinness Storehouse. Or how about a bed in Paris for \$20? Not bad, eh?

For you outdoorsy types, Carolyn said she often camped in Australia



Christine Albrecht

lia on the beach when a hostel was unavailable. There are campgrounds throughout Europe as well. This is not so much recommended for winter. But maybe that's just me.

Carolyn also said hotels can be cheaper than hostels if you're traveling with a group. Naturally, when you put eight people in a room meant for two, the price plummets happily. However, beware that some hotels frown on this behavior and attempt to thwart it, requiring some James Bond-type moves to get in.

Friends once requested I climb to my room through a window. They were serious. I declined.

Telling your parents is a hurdle for some as well. Two friends got around this when they went to California by just not telling the folks. I'm personally a fan of telling versus asking, generally preferring to beg forgiveness than ask permission.

One of the funnier phone calls I made freshman year was right after I bought

a plane ticket to Rome (\$350 — I couldn't pass it up) without consulting the 'rents: "Hey Mom, I made a little purchase today ..."

I concede the crown to Carolyn, however. After a last-minute decision to go to London for Labor Day weekend, she told her parents via postcard sent from London that just said, "Hey, I'm in England."

Liberating thought, isn't it? So go have an adventure. Maybe when you get back, Travelers Anonymous will be up and kicking. Happy travels.

### Travel Resources

#### One-stop planning

- [Travelzoo.com](#) — collects deals on flights, lodging and car rentals from several sources.
- [StudentUniverse.com](#) — collects information on flights and lodging, insurance, rail passes and study abroad options. Includes travel forum.
- [STAttravel.com](#) — has flight, rail pass and lodging info. Includes info on living abroad, including study, work, language and volunteer programs.

#### Hostels

- [Hostels.com](#)
- [Hostelseurope.com](#)
- [Europeanhostels.com](#)

#### Flights

- [Cheaptickets.com](#)
- [Expedia.com](#)
- [Orbitz.com](#)

## AROUND THE VILLE

### Campus

**"Show Me Swing"**  
The Forensic Union is sponsoring the fifth annual "Show Me Swing" forensics tournament 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday throughout campus. Contact Kevin Minch at x5677 for more information.

### Local

#### Silent Auction

The El Kadir Shrine Club and KTVO TV Channel 3 are sponsoring the annual fundraiser for the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the September Business After Hours 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. tonight at the El Kadir Shrine Club. Admission is free.

#### Founder's Day

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences is hosting its annual Founder's Day celebration today to Saturday at the KCOM campus. Events include the Founder's Day address, tour of the museum's archives and Founder's Day run. Visit [www.kcom.edu](#) for a complete schedule of events.

#### Friends of NRA

The Northeast Missouri Committee will sponsor the Friends of NRA annual banquet at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the NEMO Fairgrounds. Contact Raymond Sweet at 341-7721 for more information.

#### Women's Conference

The Taking Charge of Your Life Women's Conference will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday at Patterson's. Nutritionist and author Zonya Foco will speak. Cost is free. Contact Mandy Herleth at 627-5757 ext. 30 for more information.

### Concerts

#### Bluegrass Music

The Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music America is hosting its eighth annual Bluegrass Music Weekend Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Freeborn County Fairgrounds. Performers include The Anderson Family, String Fever, Drive Time and others. Times and admission costs vary. For more information contact Chuck Stearman at 665-7172.

#### Round Barn Blues

Carl Weathersby, The Bel Airs, Blue VooDoo and Acoustics and Mouthharby by Dustin and Bill will perform at the Round Barn Blues festival from 3 p.m. to midnight Saturday at The Round Barn, two miles east on Route P. Admission is \$15 at the gate. Contact 665-2760 for more information.

who is housebound or just plain lonely.

**LIBRA:** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Even if your house is not the biggest or costliest one on the block, it very probably reflects your refined sense of style. Forget about "keeping up with the Joneses" — it is likely your cultivated taste is the envy of your neighbors.

**SCORPIO:** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Usually you prefer to put in considerable time before making a decision. You might want to try relying more on your gut reactions. Going as far back as cave-man days, snap judgments have served a vital role for us humans.

#### SAGITTARIUS:

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try as you might, you are still feeling like a member of the rat race. Bring some passion and exuberance back into your life. For example, take an exploratory walk in a city you don't know or observe nature from the seat of a slow-moving bicycle.

#### CAPRICORN:

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) The words of Thomas Jefferson on the subject of success describe your industrious spirit well: "I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it."

#### AQUARIUS:

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) It is pretty tough to be as popular as

Harry Potter is these days, but you come closer than most. Your list of friends is long and growing. Never take them for granted, but rather nurture these special connections.

#### PISCES:

(Feb. 19 to March 19) Although you know that honesty is the best policy, a recent remark has hurt your feelings. The truth can be painful, but the bigger person recognizes its accuracy and learns from it.

#### IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS

**SEPT. 30:** You share your birthday with Truman Capote and crooner Johnny Mathis. You are a perfectionist whose appearance attracts attention.