

# The Chart

Hastings' Top 15 Rentals for the past 30 days

1. "RV" Sony Pictures
2. "Poseidon" Warner Bros. Pictures
3. "Inside Man" Universal Pictures
4. "Sentinel" Regency Enterprises
5. "Larry the Cable Guy" Lions Gate Films
6. "Silent Hill" Sony Pictures
7. "Scary Movie 4" Miramax Films
8. "Just My Luck" Regency Enterprises
9. "Take the Lead" New Line Cinema
10. "Benchwarmers" Sony Pictures
11. "Shaggy Dog" Walt Disney Pictures
12. "United 93" Universal Pictures
13. "Lucky Number Slevin" Weinstein Company
14. "An Unfinished Life" Miramax Films
15. "Hoot" New Line Cinema

# Teenage horror flick combines sex and fun

Karen Boehms for the Index

For once, Hollywood has made a movie with male skin that counts — I like it.

"The Covenant" has more male bodies on display than female, and because the actors are obviously in their twenties, I feel no shame taking it all in.

Short, tight swim trunks accentuated bodies with larger than life pecs, bubble butts and abs you could grate cheese on. More than once, I caught my mouth open in awe, but don't tell my boyfriend.

Then the models/actors take off their trunks.

But there's a story behind these beautiful tushies. This teen drama is "Dawson's Creek" meets "Underworld."

For 300 years a covenant existed between the founding witch families of a small New England colony to help them blend into society.

But these guys aren't your average Joes. They can jump-start cars, fix broken windshields and make obnoxious drunk guys puke — all with a flash of their eyes. Their magical "powers" are passed on through the eldest son of each generation, who must be wary of the

powers' seductive and corruptive capacities.

When an outsider threatens the covenant, the sons of Ipswich must defend their heritage, and they do it beautifully. I went to this movie without a clue as to what it was about and, thanks in no small part to the special effects, left pleasantly surprised.

Unlike most teen-driven movies, this film has appeal beyond the MTV generation. Honestly, who doesn't like a good car chase through the woods, especially one with a flying black Hummer H3? The main witch, Caleb, drove a silver Mustang convertible almost as hunky as he is. It is miraculously saved from a head-on collision with a semi-truck when he breaks the car up into a million pieces and then reassembles it. The climactic fight between the witches ends with some mind-bending special effects and a plasma ball fight.

The most surprising aspect of the movie was that the acting wasn't at all horrible. Breaking the tradition of melodramatic teen flicks, the actors in this film actually give me hope for the next generation. They take a mediocre story and bland writing and turn it into a compelling, if not convincing, portrayal of supernatural life.



Photo used with permission of Sony Pictures Pogue, played by Taylor Kitsch, sits in a scene from "The Covenant."

Catchy one-liners propel the story. "I'm going to make you my wi-atch" starts a fight scene.

All in all, this movie won't be winning any Academy Awards, but it was

well worth my money when Kirksville has nothing else to offer but "Wicker Man" and "Crank."

Great action, convincing special effects and sinfully sweet eye candy made

# Fine physiques don't save film

John Priest

Assistant Features Editor

The minute I saw Sarah Michelle Gellar in the previews, I knew "The Covenant" was going to be a bad movie. Really bad.

I was right.

The actors are creatures plucked from the pages of an Abercrombie and Fitch catalog, and their pecs are undoubtedly larger than their vocabularies. A boy band of witches, known as the sons of Ipswich, are descendants of colonial settlers who formed a covenant to protect themselves and society from their powers.

Nothing in this PG-13 porn is believable. In coed dormitories, girls walk around dripping wet wearing nothing but towels, and boys walk around with bulging muscles popping out at every turn.

Adults don't really exist in this boarding school fantasy. Class is only in session twice a week.

This and other glaring plot holes left me crouching in my seat, laughing uncontrollably at the most inopportune moments. For a movie that's supposed to be a horror thriller, the movie pushes

the boundaries of inappropriate comedy. I could feel the teenyboppers in the theater glaring at me, but I couldn't stop chuckling at the predictably melodramatic dialogue. To save face, I stuffed myself with popcorn. This worked for a while, but I sent kernels flying before long.

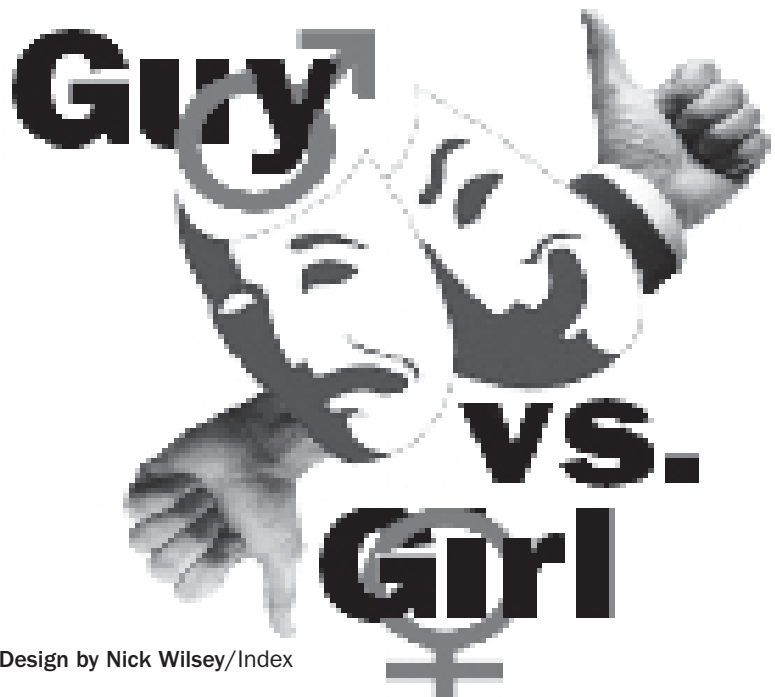
Anyone who has a brain and respect for human beings as more than objects won't enjoy this film. It's not enough that the main characters are gorgeous, rich and attending a top private school — their super powers mean they're that much better than you.

This movie didn't only insult my intelligence — it insulted the best contemporary supernatural character.

"Harry Potter can kiss my ass," said Reed, the blonde member of the witch boy band.

But Harry Potter has many things this film does not. A cohesive story and developed characters are only two examples of how Harry Potter can kick this movie's ass.

Even though "The Covenant" tries to hide behind hard bodies, fast cars and cool special effects, I couldn't excuse that I had wasted \$7. Stay as far away from "The Covenant" as possible.



Design by Nick Wilsey/Index

Movie Review  
"The Covenant"

Director: Renny Harlin

Distributed by:  
Sony Pictures

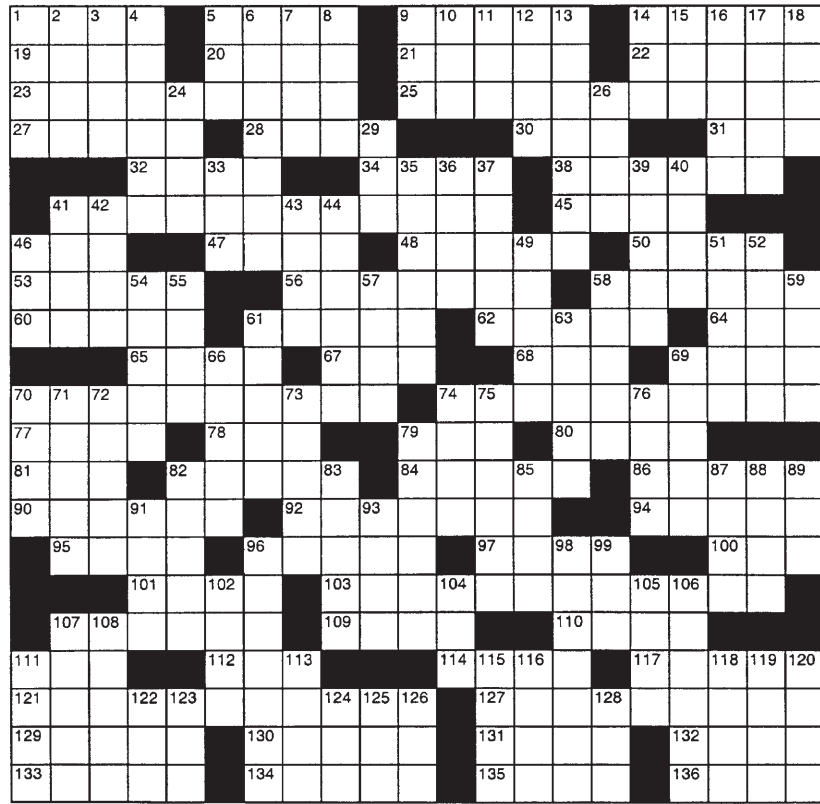
Release: Sept. 8

Girl

Guy

# Super Crossword FIRST BORN

- |               |                     |                   |          |                        |               |                     |                              |            |                         |                             |                 |                     |            |                  |                      |          |                     |                          |               |                |                    |                     |                  |          |                        |                         |                   |                    |             |         |                 |                |              |            |                          |                        |                    |              |                  |                |                |                  |                |                 |                     |             |                    |                 |                |                    |                          |                         |                           |                    |                |            |               |                    |           |                         |                     |                       |                          |               |          |                        |                        |            |              |             |         |                        |            |                 |        |        |                |                   |              |                 |                     |                  |             |           |                            |                     |                  |                              |               |          |            |                            |                   |                    |                      |                        |           |                    |                        |              |                |                 |               |            |                      |                         |                       |               |                                |                   |         |                                |                         |                               |           |        |                           |                     |                    |         |             |            |          |           |                           |         |                  |                |                         |          |                     |                     |                |                    |             |           |                       |                       |               |                      |                 |                 |           |                     |                        |          |               |              |          |                 |
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| <b>ACROSS</b> | 1 Like some cellars | 5 Fosse's friends | 9 — acid | 14 Actress Witherspoon | 19 Gulf ruler | 20 Computer command | 21 Word with coffee or linen | 22 Intense | 23 Writer born 1/1/1879 | 25 Bandleader born 1/1/1900 | 27 Soprano Anna | 28 Facts, for short | 30 Diocese | 31 Flagon filler | 32 Vacation location | 34 Cease | 38 Join the leisure | 41 General born 1/1/1745 | 45 Adored one | 46 Paid player | 47 Athenian arcade | 48 Musical movement | 50 Madison's st. | 53 Wrong | 56 Splitting headache? | 58 Donkey's declaration | 60 Flapjack sauce | 61 Tacitus' tongue | 62 Glue guy | 64 Eggs | 65 Fancy fabric | 67 Nationality | 68 Boathouse | 69 Secular | 70 Patriot born 1/1/1735 | 74 Comic born 1/1/1943 | 77 TV's "— McBeal" | 78 — Tin Tin | 79 Welcome item? | 80 Norse deity | 81 Deteriorate | 82 More delicate | 84 Singer John | 86 Marking post | 90 Henson amphibian | 92 Decisive | 94 Riyadh resident | 95 "I Am . . ." | 97 Amazes city | 100 Smith or Stout | 101 A swan was her swain | 103 G-man born 1/1/1895 | 107 "Petrouchka," for one | 109 Novelist Seton | 110 Memo start | 111 Fumble | 112 Supporter | 114 Nice or Newark | 117 Abate | 121 Actor born 1/1/1909 | 127 Seamstress born | 129 Buttercream, e.g. | 130 Northern hemisphere? | 131 — podrida | 132 Ages | 133 "Lovergirl" singer | 134 Like the Taj Mahal | 135 Viewed | 136 Skillful | <b>DOWN</b> | 1 Judge | 2 Snowballs, sometimes | 3 Irritate | 4 Make a bundle | 5 Palm | 6 Exam | 7 Like Steven? | 8 Medieval menial | 9 Rig a race | 10 — pro nobis? | 11 Ullmann or Tyler | 12 Horus' mother | 13 "Ta-ta!" | 14 — room | 15 It's found in the Seine | 16 Actress Samantha | 17 Panther Bobby | 18 Ziegfeld Follies designer | 24 — Hashanah | 26 Stalk | 29 Actress | 36 — about (approximately) | 37 Carnaby Street | 39 London landmark | 40 Nastase of tennis | 41 Bunch of battalions | 42 Film — | 43 Jedi instructor | 44 Restaurant employee | 46 — de deux | 49 Actor Alain | 51 Shallow area | 52 Find fault | 54 Tarnish | 55 Practice punching | 57 Workbench attachment | 58 "Salome" character | 59 Texas city | 61 "The Stepford Wives" author | 63 Massenet opera | 66 Earn | 69 "The Threepenny Opera" star | 70 Transmission setting | 71 Fugard's "A Lesson from —" | 72 Marine | 73 Foe | 74 Butter milk's mistress | 75 Canada's capital | 76 Bigwigs opener? | 79 Tune | 82 — Castro | 83 Sangria | 85 Scent | 87 Entice | 88 Central European river | 89 Veto | 91 Grain grinder | 93 British gun | 96 Kind of grass-hopper | 98 Carve | 99 Every guy is one | 102 College hothead | 104 Cumberland | 105 French airport | 106 Swerved | 107 Clamp | 108 Football's Herber | 111 Touch up the text | 113 Therefore | 115 Bassoon relative | 116 Depend (on) | 118 Made tracks | 119 Lolly | 120 Classroom sound | 122 Jillian or Sothorn | 123 Khan | 124 New Haven | 125 — is mef | 126 Turf | 128 Crestfallen |
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# Horoscopes

Sept. 21 to Oct. 5

By Salome

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) After much traveling this year, you're due for some settled time with family and friends. Use this period to check out situations that will soon require a lot of serious decision-making.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Keep that keen Bovine mind focused on your financial situation as it begins to undergo some changes. Consider your money moves carefully. Avoid impulsive investments.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 20) You'll need to adjust some of your financial plans now that things are changing more quickly than you expected. All the facts you need haven't yet emerged, so move cautiously.

**CANCER:** (June 21 to July 22) Personal and professional relationships dominate this period. Try to keep things uncomplicated to avoid misunderstandings that can cause problems down the line.

**LEO:** (July 23 to Aug. 22) That elusive goal you'd been hoping to claim is still just out of reach. But something else has come along that could prove just as desirable, if only you would take the time to check it out.

**VIRGO:** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) This is a good time to get away for some much needed rest and relaxation. You'll return refreshed and ready to take on the workplace challenge that awaits you.

**LIBRA:** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Confidence grows as you work your way through some knotty situations. Watch out for distractions from well-meaning supporters that could slow things down.

**SCORPIO:** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Consider spending more time contemplating the possibilities of an offer before opting to accept or reject it. But once you make a decision, act on it.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're in a very strong position this week to tie up loose ends in as many areas as possible. Someone close to you

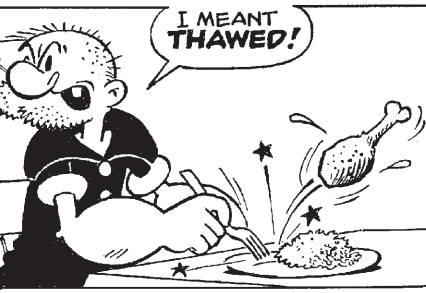
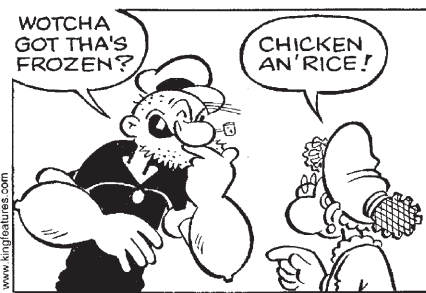
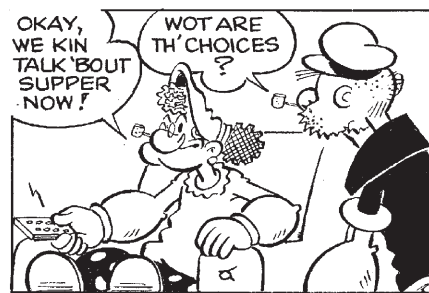
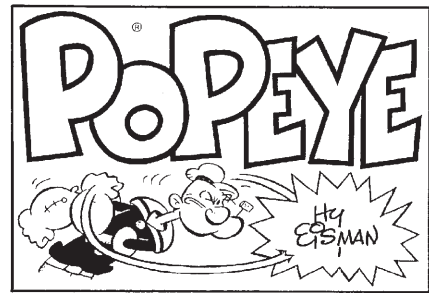
has advice you might want to heed.

**CAPRICORN:** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Congratulations. This is the week you've been waiting for: After a period of sudden stops and fitful starts, your plans can now move ahead with no significant disruptions.

**AQUARIUS:** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You're in an exceptionally strong position this week to make decisions on many still-unresolved matters, especially those involving close personal relationships.

**PISCES:** (Feb. 19 to March 20) The new moon starts this week off with some positive movement in several areas. A special person becomes a partner in at least one of the major plans you'll be working on.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You work hard and get things done. You also inspire others to do their best. You would do well heading up a major corporation. (c) 2006 King Features Synd., Inc.



Answers will run online at [www.trumanindex.com](http://www.trumanindex.com), beginning Sept. 21