

Students learn to plan the perfect wedding



Rose Sparks/Index
Left, seniors Stephanie Simpson and Amy Lehnhoff make table toppers at Bridal Bliss, a Residence Life event teaching students wedding-planning skills, Tuesday in Ryle Hall. Above, graduate student Brittany Bowman decorates cupcakes at one of the stations at the event.

Greatest Cinema: Part 2

Index reviewer highlights some of the best films from the second half of the 20th century

BY KEN DUSOLD
Assistant Editor

As the ominous sound of an organ builds, a man dressed in white runs through a dark concourse toward the camera. His name is THX 1138 and he's escaping a futuristic community in which people are differentiated only by their identification numbers. Entitled "Electronic Labyrinth: THX-1138 4EB," this 1967 short film directed by George Lucas — then a student enrolled at the University of Southern California — brilliantly reflects the generation of filmmakers that shaped cinema as audiences understand it today. The following five films represent the best of each period or decade between 1960 and 2010.

For a larger list of outstanding films from the previous 50 years of American cinema, see www.index.com.

1960s

"Bonnie and Clyde" (1967): Arthur Penn's take on the infamous Barrow Gang helped define the decade during which it was made. That decade was highlighted by the civil rights movement, military escalation in Vietnam and the rebellious attitude of millions of young Americans. 1960s youth embraced the story of the murderous couple who crisscrossed the Midwest and Texas, committing crimes and shunning authority.

The picture was a groundbreaking piece of American cinema, suggesting sex and showing violence unlike any film before. By marrying humor and brutality, Penn captures a rawness seldom seen in cinema.

1970s

"The Godfather" (1972): One of cinema's most adored film, Francis Ford Coppola's intimate and brutally honest portrait of the fictional Corleone crime family and their interactions with competing Mafioso activities during the late 1940s and early 1950s is an unparalleled achievement in filmmaking. No other gangster or crime-drama film compares to this film. The romantic score and darkened composition are as powerful and gorgeous today as they were during March 1972 when the film was released. The cast easily is one of the greatest concentrations of acting talent in one production. From the opening shot — which remains the greatest such shot in any film — and speech to the moment blackness absorbs the screen, the pursuit of the

American dream is treated as an epically tragic reflection of American capitalism in all its glory and despair.

1980s

"Raging Bull" (1980): This black-and-white sports drama stands as one of the most beautifully photographed and meticulously edited films produced. Based on the biography of boxer Jake LaMotta, the film captures the tragic story of LaMotta's career and personal life. Director Martin Scorsese made sure every fight sequence carefully choreographed to capture the emotional atmosphere that settled over all of LaMotta's fights. In addition to boasting the most effective use of the Inter-mezzo from the opera, "Cavalleria rusticana," "Raging Bull" includes Robert De Niro's best performance (as LaMotta) and one of the most intense turns by an actor in any film.

1990s

"Schindler's List" (1993): The term "historically significant" suits no film better than it does Steven Spielberg's masterpiece. Tell-

ing the story of German industrialist Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson) and his attempts to prevent the slaughter of Polish Jews during World War II, the film offers a raw look into mankind's darkest hour. By contrasting the horrors of Nazi brutalization in scenes like the now infamous liquidation of the Krakow ghetto with the delicacy of humanity highlighted with depictions as simple as the relationship between Schindler and his accountant Itzhak Stern (Ben Kingsley), Spielberg makes sure his message reverberates long after the audience has finished watching.

2000s

"The Departed" (2006): When Scorsese finally won his first Academy Award for directing "The Departed," many critics and fans thought it came for a project that didn't reflect his greatest work. While this film is not his defining masterpiece — see "Raging Bull" — it is a revealing and unabashedly honest thriller. The film follows a cop (Leonardo DiCaprio) planted within an Irish crime organization and a member (Matt Damon) of the same organization planted within the police department as they attempt to outwit one another for their respective bosses (Jack Nicholson and Martin Sheen). Much more than a gangster film, Scorsese delves into the role one's identity plays in a person's actions and loyalties, as well as all of society.

For an extended list of outstanding films from 1960 to 2000 American cinema, see www.truman.index.com

Living like a stereotype



Are you a college stereotype? Find out with this simple quiz

BY JOHN O'BRIEN
Assistant Features Editor

College students are often portrayed as slobs who live on Ramen noodles in small, run-down apartments and get about two hours of sleep a night. It is absurd and insulting ... and sometimes true.

If you take the time to think about it, many of the stereotypes associated with college can be true. It wasn't until my mom visited this weekend and saw my shabby house, complete with plenty of Ramen and cereal, that I realized how much of a stereotype I am. So, in an effort to save time for you, I present to you this helpful quiz entitled "How Much of a College Stereotype Are You?"

1. On average, how much sleep do you get each night?

A. 0-5 hours: Congratulations, you are a college stereotype in its truest and purest form! Sleep is a luxury only the fortunate experience. Plus, as science disproves, there is no better time to write a paper or do homework than 3 a.m. Also, there are just too many funny cat pictures on the Internet for sleep.

B. 6-9 hours: You are in an exclusive group that gets a decent amount of sleep. Not much of a stereotype. Let me introduce you to a

friend of mine that can change that. Reader, this is Internet. Internet, reader.

C. 10-14 hours: If you are in this category, you are on the other side of the college stereotype. Sleeping all day, staying up all night. No homework is too important and no class is too skippable for those who sleep in excess.

2. What does your diet generally consist of?

A. Steak and potatoes: You might be well-fed, but you are not a stereotype. That being said, share your wealth and secrets to success with the rest of us.

B. Ramen noodles and cereal: You, like me, have once again fallen into the ultimate college stereotype. Who needs protein or nutrition when there is bargain brand cereal and Ramen to enjoy?

C. Stove-top boxed food and microwave meals: You might not be as bad as the Ramen connoisseurs, but you are close behind. You edge on stereotype but break free slightly by your dedication to tasks such as cooking.

*Note: If you burn these microwave meals as often as you make them, please elevate yourself to the Ramen connoisseurs level.

3. Look at your living area and rank it from one (a hot mess) to 10 (Ritz-Carlton).

A. 1-2: If you live in a humble abode replete with chipping paint, a buckling foundation and no insulation, your college home is straight out of Animal House.

B. 3-5: How did you score a place like that? Good find. Not much of a stereotype.

C. 6-10: Are you serious? Are you sure you are in college?

4. Are you a member of Greek Life? If so, what is your pastime of choice?

A. No: By avoiding Greek Life, you have avoided another potential stereotype. But don't worry, when one stereotypical door closes, another opens.

B. Yes. Hobby of choice: Shotgunning a beer. There is nothing wrong with this, but you might be one of the most renowned college stereotypes. Be responsible, John Belushi.

C. Yes. Hobby of choice: Non-drinking related hobby. You are the epitome of a broken college stereotype.

5. When was the last time you showered?

A. Earlier today: On behalf of the person sitting next to you, thank you for breaking this stereotype.

B. A few days ago: Maybe you should follow the daily showerers in part A. But who needs hygiene when you have the Internet?

C. A week or more ago: You've crossed a line. Please shower. Not only are you smelly, you are not even a stereotype.

6. What are you wearing?

A. Flannel shirt, tight jeans, flip flops with a messenger bag and pseudo-coffee in hand: Not only are you a hipster, you are a modern stereotype. Pull out your Mac, sip on your orange mocha frappuccino and take pride in your stereotypical self.

B. Jeans and a T-shirt: You sound pretty average.

C. Nothing: You have fallen into a different and more awkward college stereotype. Nudity is big in the movies on college campuses. If you are looking to be a stereotype, please see response A.

7. What's your sex life like?

A. Virgin: Your sexual inactivity is actively breaking stereotypes. Stick to your roots.

B. You only sleep with significant others occasionally: You are also breaking stereotypes by not sleeping around every other day.

C. Stranger during the day is a lover at night: Sorry, but a stranger each weekend might be excessive. College is a time to explore and you are doing just that, sex fiend. You might be a stereotype, but if you are safe, do as you please, I suppose.

There you have it. Perhaps this quiz has given you a glimpse at your degree of fulfilling college stereotypes. For those of you breaking the stereotypes, stay strong and prosper. To others, not all stereotypes are bad, so button up your plaid shirt, lock the door to your crappy apartment and strut down the road with your head held high. You only live once.

Breaking ice with sidewalk avoiders



BY JENNIFER MARKS
Staff Reporter

We've all witnessed the symptoms of sidewalk avoiders: an incredibly engrossing text, which in all likelihood doesn't exist, the feigned conversation about nothing between friends and the sudden onset of tunnel vision.

Most of us have done at least one of these. I know I've been guilty of my fair share of convenient texts, riveting conversations and I'm-just-going-to-pretend-I-don't-see-you-it-is.

To solve this problem, I've come up with a proven list of ways to combat these sidewalk avoiders.

Step One: Make sure the sidewalk avoider actually has met you at some point. Take it from me — creepily staring at someone who turns out to be someone else is embarrassing.

Step Two: If they are approaching from a distance, try what I call the double-tap. Look once to casually say, "I see you there fellow Truman student whom I have met at a previous date and know well enough to say hellos." If they return eye contact, do not look away. Embrace the gaze and smile or wave. If they persist with their tunnel vision, look away for a moment, then stare the poser down.

Step Three: Proceed with caution, for this step is only for the truly hopeless sidewalk avoider cases. When staring them down, shouting their name and waving like a fool has failed, it's time to play dirty.

Here you have two options.

You can either walk uncomfortably close behind them with your arms raised above your head like the ghosts from Mario Kart — a process called ghosting, which is just as entertaining for the ghost as the observers. Or, you can herd them sheepdog style to The Quad, where they will no doubt trip on the raised bricks. Either option leaves them embarrassed and you with some form of acknowledgement, even if it is a dirty look.

All kidding aside, we need to answer the question of why Truman students think they need to ignore each other. One could say the phenomenon is because of the rift between various groups on campus. There are the women who only acknowledge my suitemate, even though I've had conversations with them too. There are the men who do everything to avoid eye contact even after you've spent time together before. There are classmates who, after creating a bond discussing crazy professors, still think they need to put on blinders while walking around campus.

I'm not saying you should proclaim the name of everyone you meet in your four years at Truman from the rooftops of Violette Hall, but a smile, wave or the bro-nod isn't going to kill you. Sure, they might be involved with different clubs or be awkwardly bouncing to class, backpack sprinting 100 mph, but greeting fellow Truman students is common courtesy. So put on your adult pants and start getting past your fear of acknowledging fellow students — or you will be ghosted.