

Tickets to see the Trans Siberian Orchestra.

"A waffle iron."

"A pirated copy of their favorite movie. If you break the law it shows you really care.*"

Finding the perfect gift

Index staffers' suggestions for what to give that special someone

"A really horrible movie we can make fun of."

"A live animal — gift wrapped."

"A game for his PS3 or Xbox. You will hate yourself for it later."

"A kimono — those are sweet."

"Something you will want to use yourself."

"A copy of the Index."

"A flattering picture of yourself in an inexpensive frame."

"Name a star after them. Or at least say you did."

"A coupon to braid my hair. Once."

*The Index does not condone illegal activities.

The guide to the perfect present



BY ANDREA HEWITT
Editor-in-Chief
index.editor@gmail.com

I've been dating someone for close to four months now, and not only is Christmas right around the corner, but J's birthday is in a week too — so naturally I, as I assume many of you are, am stressing about what present to give my

significant other.

I've received an array of presents for the holidays during the past: an engraved iPod, a digital camera, hand-made curtains, a scrapbook, T-shirts and once in high school, my then boyfriend tried to give me a diamond ring (that was way too serious for me, though).

There are many factors to consider when brainstorming presents: how long you've been together, how serious the relationship is, your budget and most importantly, what they will enjoy.

I've found that the best presents aren't the expensive ones, but a gift that is slightly humorous, maybe an inside joke, that also shows you've put time into it.

For J's birthday, I got an autographed

copy of "How to Talk to Girls," a book written by 7-year-old Alec Greven talking about the tactics he used at his school to pick up chicks. I slightly edited the book to more closely mirror our relationship. I spent \$3 on the book, a couple of hours editing it and BOOM — I was done.

We've only been dating for four months, so I knew something lavish would freak her out. Instead I gave her something small to show her I care. It also was humorous, and who doesn't enjoy humor?

We're in college, so giving your significant other something fancy is probably out of your budget, and, unless you've been dating someone for a long time, it will probably freak them out. If they are anything like me — you'll find

them emotionally recoiling from the relationship.

Make sure you give them something, though, no matter if you're just dating, have been in a relationship for a short period or you're on the track to marriage. Humans need to know they are cared about and receiving a gift, no matter the size, will show that. Plus, it would be awkward if they give you a gift and you're empty handed. If you aren't doing everything you can to avoid awkward relationship moments — you're doing something wrong.

Don't drop the ball. Buy them a present. Just make sure it isn't too serious if your relationship isn't and put some thought into it. Then grit your teeth, smile and hope they like it when you hand it to them.

Missing out on campus bonds



BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
Features Editor
index.featureseditor@gmail.com

If you have never watched a crowd of people, you're missing out.

On Friday, I attended the Student Activities Board's showing of the most recent Harry Potter film. At first, I was engrossed in the movie, but my attention quickly turned from the movie to the audience.

When I realized a room full of random people from across campus had come together and we were sharing the same experience, watching this movie — it became a whole new experience.

Students laughed at parts I never considered funny, especially scenes involving Voldemort. Watching the audience root for the characters we have grown up with made me feel as if I was part of a larger group of friends, rather than in the middle of a room full of strangers. This strange bond formed by simply sharing in a similar experience was as intense as it was fleeting, because when the show ended, we all got up and left.

Why aren't there more instances that create this form of community? Complete strangers were laughing, cheering and clapping with each triumph. It was hilarious and it wasn't just their reactions, but the intensity with which people clapped, cheered and cried.

At a school as small as Truman, I sometimes wonder why we don't always have that sense of closeness with everyone. When I walk to class, I see the same people every day, but almost everyone keeps their head down and avoids eye contact. I often wonder who I am passing, and what I am missing by not taking a moment to say hello.

Maybe our lack of unity is because we don't have a sports team we really identify with and rally around. Let's face it: Truman has an outstanding academic reputation, but it's not fun to get together at Pickler Memorial Library and chant "We will, we will, rock you G-R-E!" Or perhaps it's because our attention is drawn in so many different directions, we simply don't have the time or will to find a reason to connect with the people who surround us.

But then how is it that during two and a half hours, I witnessed an audience of strangers react as one unit. Maybe the magic of Harry Potter engulfed us all, or maybe it's because we all were sharing the same experience, even if just for that brief moment, before we went our separate ways.

Whether we know it or not, Truman is a part of a larger family. We form groups of people to find the support, love and attention we need that we used to get at home. We live together in the residence halls, we eat in the same dining halls, we sleep on the same couches in Pickler, some students even stay on campus for important holidays. Yet, we haven't managed to find that bond that connects us to everyone else.

Whatever the cause, I suggest everyone watch a movie with a large group of strangers, and make sure not to miss the real show.

"Hannah" serves up classic holiday side dish



BY KEN DUSOLD
Assistant Editor

Thanksgiving is the holiday filmmakers seem to have forgotten.

There are few movies that boast a story either highlighting the spirit of or at least anchored in the occurrence of Turkey Day. Fortunately though, film enthusiasts need not lament too long due to lack of a good movie to enjoy when there isn't a football game to watch. One such movie does exist: "Hannah and Her Sisters."

From lovably neurotic filmmaker Woody Allen, 1986's "Hannah" tells the tale of a family boasting some of the most complicated, and at times awkward, problems in movie history.

The well-structured film juxtaposes the uneven nature of the characters' lives. Each title allows the viewer a peek at what's about to happen. If only the characters were so lucky. A series of unpredictable events transpire — each threatening to derail the interconnected lives of the characters.

Hannah (Mia Farrow) is the eldest and most level-headed of the three sisters who serve as the dots that connect all other characters to the story. She is a successful actress, loving wife to Elliot (Michael Caine), caring mother

to her sons from a previous marriage to Mickey Sachs (Allen) and doting daughter to her aging parents (Maureen O'Sullivan and Lloyd Nolan). She is happy — a feeling no other character in this film seems able to easily realize in their lives.

Holly (Dianne Wiest) is a struggling actress, a decent caterer and — unbeknownst to her at first — a talented writer. Overcoming drug addiction, Holly still is hoping for the big break her older sister was fortunate enough to have.

Lee (Barbara Hershey) is the youngest, sexiest and most bohemian of the sisters. Living with anti-social, elitist painter Frederick (Max von Sydow), Lee secretly yearns for what she sees as mature reality in Hannah's life as a wife and mother.

The men in Hannah's life are no prizes either. Elliot, a "glorified accountant" to New York's rich and famous, is trapped between love for his wife and what he thinks is love — but is really only lust — for her sister, Lee. Mickey is an unsuccessful producer of a TV sketch comedy show and Manhattan's premiere hypochondriac. Spending most of the film wondering whether life is meaningless, Mickey eventually discovers something worthwhile in a world that produced the Marx Brothers and Hannah's sister, Holly.

The story's timeline begins, ends and is punctuated in the middle with family Thanksgiving celebrations. These joyous occasions bookend the humorous and often depressing situations in which the characters find themselves. The question of what they

have to be most thankful for is difficult to answer in this family.

The performances are all equally terrific — though Caine and Wiest won Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actor and Actress respectively. There never is a moment in which one does not think these people actually are family.

Despite the relatively dark material being addressed, the film is littered with well-devised and well-placed humor. A sequence that shows the Jewish-turned-atheist Mickey attempt to convert to Catholicism because he needs a "major change" and Buddhism is "too drastic" is hilarious and oddly appropriate when sandwiched between scenes that revolve around infidelity.

Like many of Allen's pictures during the 1970s and 1980s, "Hannah" is also a note of love to his beloved hometown. While not showcased as brilliantly as in "Manhattan," New York City still is a supporting character, best seen in quaint, but vast mom-and-pop bookstores or delicatessens. Indeed, the one time Allen tries to make the city the primary character in a sequence that has Holly partaking in a driving tour of Manhattan's architecture, it detracts from the story and leaves the viewer wondering why it was necessary.

Simultaneously tragic and bittersweet, "Hannah" is a wonderful reflection of 1980s urban life, without being too self-reflective or dated. After all, when watching a family like this, one can find comfort in knowing the people surrounding them on Thanksgiving aren't as dysfunctional.

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