

NEWS & NOTES

NEWSBRIEFS FROM CAMPUSES ACROSS THE NATION



► An end to boogers on *Ren & Stimpy*?

The television flickers to life and the videotape is shoved into the VCR. For months the *Ren & Stimpy Show* marathon has been a tradition in Oklahoma State U.'s Bennett Residential Hall. This young tradition, however, may soon come to an end.

With the recent firing of show Director and Producer John Kricfalusi, many fans are wondering if they'll have to go elsewhere to find this quirky type of entertainment. Some fans think the future of the show is bleak.

"I think you'll have a bunch of corporate suit types that are going to try to make it wacky," says Rantz Hoseley, a senior at Washington State U.

Nickelodeon introduced Ren and Stimpy, an ornery asthma-afflicted Chihuahua and his trusting, bloated feline sidekick in July 1991. Since then, legions of college students have tuned in with cult-like furor for the latest misadventure.

"Happy, Happy, Joy, Joy," senior Joe Dorman and the other Oklahoma State watchers chant with the show. "I say that all the time. I even put it on all of my notes."

For the past year, college students have tuned in to watch animation that tests the limits of taste. Some students say the show creates the ultimate childhood fantasy — boogers and farts being program staples.

"People compare me with Ren," says Oklahoma State's Dorman. "I share a bond with Ren."

That comparison might not seem like a compliment to most. Ren is a slobbering, paranoid, vermin-infested canine who gained a following because of his unique Mexican-German voice, courtesy of Kricfalusi.

But then Kricfalusi's no longer with the show. Nickelodeon fired the animator because he didn't make deadlines for new episodes, says Linda Alexander, vice president of West Coast Publicity for MTV networks.

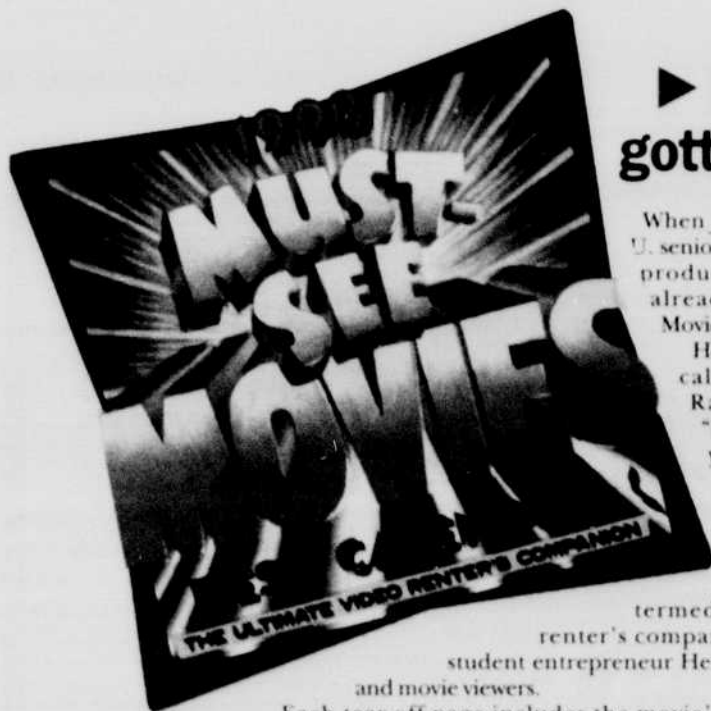
And now one of Kricfalusi's former partners, Bob Camp, is in charge of ensuring the show's continued success. Camp is working on nine new episodes for this season. "We're going to continue to fulfill our commitment for 13 new episodes," Alexander says. This season *Ren & Stimpy* is on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings on Nickelodeon.

Nickelodeon released several new kinder, gentler adventures of the mismatched duo in August. To many Ren & Stimpy fans, including U. of Kansas graduate student Mark White, the new releases were pale imitations of the real thing.

"I was really disappointed," White says. "The show used to be a great mix of sight gags, sound effects and tasteless humor. The first show of the new season just had childish humor. The charm of *Ren & Stimpy* is the unique art style with the right sound effects and music." ■ Kyle A. Miller, *The Daily O'Collegian*, Oklahoma State U.



► Movies you just gotta see



When Joel Heller, a New York U. senior, takes his screenplays to producers, he hopes they'll already have his Must-See Movie calendar on their desks.

Heller expects the calendar, published by Random House, to be a "hot" holiday gift item this year. At least one film producer has ordered 300 of the nationally selling calendars.

His 1993 Must-See Movies daily calendar — termed the "ultimate video renter's companion" — was created by student entrepreneur Heller and 11 other writers and movie viewers.

Each tear-off page includes the movie's rating, running time, suggestions for similar movies and a synopsis of why it topped the list. With such diverse films as *The Graduate*, *Pump Up the Volume* and *Viva Las Vegas*, the main criteria for selection was entertainment value, he says.

"We want people to trust the calendar like a friend who knows everything about movies," Heller says.

And Chuck Dresner, Heller's editor at Random House, says it's a gift that lasts well beyond a year. "Not only does this use both sides of the paper, but there is incentive to save it and use it," he says. ■ Donna Ragsdale, *The Breeze*, James Madison U.

► Spreading holiday joy

Many college students — famous for partying and all-night cramming — put aside their books and beers during the holidays to spend countless volunteer hours in the communities surrounding their campuses.

"The campus here is a very giving community and almost everyone participates in different fundraising activities like food and clothing drives," says Lee Saugstad, a senior fraternity member of Beta Theta Pi at the U. of Kansas.

The Chabad House at the U. of Massachusetts offers students a place to mingle and learn during the holidays, says Yocheved Adelman, co-director of the house.

And fraternity brothers from a variety of religious backgrounds volunteer their time at the U. of Washington.

"We've participated in an annual food drive for about five years to get food out to those in need," says Travis Messer, assistant social service chairman for Alpha Tau Omega.

"The brothers learn a lot about themselves, others and different cultures when they spend time helping other people." ■ Stacy Malone, *Daily Collegian*, U. of Massachusetts



Bouncing for bucks at Vermont