

Samurai Duck

Friday, Oct. 11th

• Dexter Grove

Saturday, Oct. 12th

• Silk 9

• Nail Mary

• Dislogik

• NorthWest Royale

Monday, Oct. 14th

• Lizard King (Techno Deejays)

Tuesday, Oct. 15th

• Northwest Royale

• Good Time Woman

Wednesday, Oct. 16th

• Dub Reggae

Thursday, Oct. 17th

• Stinking Lizaveta

Friday, Oct. 18th

• Joy Toy

• Roy G. Biv

Saturday, Oct. 19th

• I-Chele

• Metason

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Tracking globe-trotting books is engaging

BookCrossing.com allows readers to share good reads with book fans worldwide

Book review

Peter Hallinan
Fine Arts Columnist

A book sits by itself in the lounge of the SS Marco Polo, a steamship docked in the port city of Tallinn, Estonia. The book, "Natural Causes" by Michael Palmer, is part of a global experiment in which more than 100,000 books in dozens of countries have been deliberately left behind by their owners. From Novosibirsk, Russia, to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, participants have left books

in public locations to be found, read and "released" again.

While many people leave books in far-flung locales, others leave them here in Eugene. In September, people left books at Autzen Stadium, Espresso Roma and the Hult Center.

The Web site BookCrossing.com acts as the central cortex for this global experiment. The nonprofit site is the brainchild of Ron Hornbaker, a partner in the software-developing firm Humankind Systems.

Since its inception in April 2001, the Web site's popularity has increased exponentially, starting with only a handful of participants and now boasting almost 50,000 members. The Web site likes to call itself a "reading group that knows no geographical boundaries," and its goal is to turn the world into a gigantic library.

Here is how BookCrossing works: After reading a good book, a reader can register that book on BookCrossing.com's site. The book is given an identification number and a note to be pasted inside the cover explaining that the book is "traveling around the world making new friends." Then the book is left at a public location such as a coffee shop, school or bus station to be found by someone else.

When someone else finds the book, that individual can log onto BookCrossing's Web site and find out where that book has traveled.

After the book is released again, the Web notifies by e-mail its previous readers about the current whereabouts of their book so the can follow the book's travels across town or around the world.

BookCrossing.com is a unique cross-pollination of Internet technology and good ol' fashioned book-reading. Clearly, many people have fallen in love with experiencing "the karma of literature," judging by posted testimonials that range from silly poems to essays gushing with praise.

The Web site boasts many fun and engaging features that allow you to find out where books in your town have been released, where people in foreign countries are releasing books, or what book has traveled the farthest. But the best part is to actually participate, dust off some well-loved books, and share them with a stranger.

Contact Pulse columnist Peter Hallinan at peterhallinan@dailyemerald.com.

Malkovich can't help dull 'Knockaround Guys'

Ryan Lewis
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (U-WIRE) — Apparently, the unfortunate sons of mafia bosses have little to look forward to outside of following in their fathers' footsteps. No respectable business will take you on as an employee, no matter how straight-edged you might appear. No future seems bright, and even the gangster life has faded significantly since its heyday

because of snitches and the FBI.

Without the experience of their predecessors, all they can hope for is the life of a "knockaround guy" — a gopher. That life, just like this movie, is drab, monotonous and completely stripped of the glory that it could have been.

Matty Demaret (Barry Pepper) has it rough. As the son of infamous crime family leader Benny "Chains" Demaret (Dennis Hopper), he can

neither get the sports managing job he desires nor become a legitimate part of the family. His friends, as it seems, all have similar predicaments. Taylor Reese (Vin Diesel) can never be a part of the mafia due to his Jewish religion, Johnny Marbles (Seth Green) is a screw-up who nobody trusts and Chris Scarpa (Andrew Davoli) lives the legitimate life after his father was freed from prison. Nothing fits for any of them.

After some pleading, "Chains" gives his son a job. It is so simple that it would take effort to err. Of course, Matty makes Johnny the main player in the action, foreshadowing the certainty of mistakes, and the action takes off from there.

"Knockaround Guys" has a very interesting premise that has inherent meaning for the next generation of adults moving up into the business world. This idea of disenchantment could have worked almost as a powerful antithesis to popular gangster films.

However, the writer/director/producer team of Brian Koppelman and David Levien drag the intriguing nature of the story deep into blandness. It seems as though after the majesty of their first co-written screenplay

"Rounders," this pair ran out of interesting material for their second attempt. Directing and producing didn't help — a flat script, insipid characters and absence of style contribute to their problem.

The characters are extremely one-dimensional and stereotypical, as if Koppelman and Levien had mixed and matched from past gangster movies. Performances of equipped and capable actors suffer from lack of motivation and direction. Although Diesel has some bright moments and Malkovich is always a pleasure to watch, their acting is hampered by the stiffness of their characters and by poor direction.

Most problematic is the film's lack of a defined tone. While it begins as a serious story, it develops into a cross-genre mess with attempts at humor, and it climaxes back to a serious, action-driven cliché.

Maybe with practice, Koppelman and Levien will evolve into an interesting team. This sour failure of a first attempt, however, is one film that should be forgotten rather than used for development. "Knockaround Guys" proves to be a movie that could have been.

Politics

continued from page 1

tries in the region, and he remains openly hostile to the United States and the rest of the world," he said. "The United States must unite the international community against Hussein and not pursue strategies that allow him to unite people against us."

DeFazio, who voted against the resolution last week when it was overwhelmingly approved in the U.S. House of Representatives, joined Bradbury to make a statement against the legislation.

DeFazio said there is no evidence to prove Hussein is an immediate threat, citing a partially declassified CIA letter. The letter

allegedly states that Hussein does not have nuclear weapons and has no relationship with terrorists who pose a threat to America.

He added that working with allies and reinstating weapons inspectors in Iraq is his preferred alternative to war.

Bradbury said a war with Iraq would only lead to greater world instability.

"A preemptive, unilateral invasion of Iraq, without United Nations support, would set an exceptionally dangerous precedent for the conduct of international affairs in the 21st century," he said.

"Any nation could justify attacking its neighbors."

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