

Campus buzz

Saturday

"A Queer Writing Experience" (writing workshop), noon, EMU Alsea Room, free, lunch provided, 346-1134.

Sunday

"Annual Concerto Competition" (University Symphony, directed by Wayne Bennett), 3 p.m., Beall Hall, \$5 general, \$3 students and senior citizens, 346-5678.

Monday

Art exhibition (metals), 10 a.m.-5 p.m., LaVerne Krause Gallery, Lawrence Hall, free, 346-2057 or 346-3610.

University Percussion Ensemble (concert, directed by GTF Tracy Freeze), 8 p.m., Beall Hall, \$5 general, \$3 students and senior citizens, 346-5678.

Oregon Ballroom Dance Club meeting, 6 p.m.-7 p.m., EMU Century Room A.

Short animations offend, entertain at film festival

Film preview

Ryan Nyburg
Freelance Reporter

There might come a day when "Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation" is regarded as an intelligent forum for social satire and experimental animation. That dream is probably far from fruition, so until then, we can all just sit back and enjoy the wholesale slaughter of cute and furry animals.

This year's collection of short films, which will play nightly at the Bijou through March 6, is one of the most diverse in the festival's history. The entries range from classic cell animation to CGI (computer generated images), cut-outs and even puppets. The subject matter is not for the weak of heart or stomach, and to protect the naive sensibilities of youth, no one under 18 will be admitted.

For those who do make it in, be prepared for a joyful level of moral bankruptcy. Topics such as spousal abuse, oral sex, drug use, inbreeding and violence are all targeted to offend just about anyone with any sense of decency or good taste. So, of course, I laughed like hell. The truth is many of the shorts are well-written, beautifully animated and funny, as well as being brutally violent and degrading.

Highlights include the "Ren and Stimpy"-style of animation of "The Inbreds," a delirious hillbilly romp complete with guns, moonshine and "Dueling Banjos." And the festival's CGI short, "Cubism," is easily the best-looking, most beautifully rendered fart joke in the history of animation.

The stick figure animation and dead-on timing of Don Hertzfeldt's festival staple "Ah L'Amour" is also

a crowd favorite, along with the Australian short "Shh." And for those who think there is only a limited number of jokes that can be made about someone with no neck, there is Craig McCracken's classic series "No Neck Joe."

The best short by far was the Bermuda Shorts production "1300cc." The gorgeous artwork and driving music score highlight the story of a biker and an old lady whose paths cross in a bizarre way. Told with pitch-perfect timing and creativity, it manages to be funny, intelligent and even touching. At nine and a half minutes, it's also the festival's longest film.

Not all the shorts were as endearing, though. "The Happy Tree Family" series is funny the first four times, but once the theme of decimating fuzzy critters is established, there is only so far you can go with it. Compared with many of the other shorts, "Coco the Junkie Pimp" feels sloppy and underwritten, like something a group of especially juvenile high school boys would come up with over a weekend.

And, of course, it wouldn't be a "Spike & Mike" festival without at least one short that offends almost the entire audience. This year, it's "Father and Son Chat," a stop-motion piece which looks as trashy as its subject matter.

But criticizing a festival of twisted animation for being disgusting is like criticizing "Celebrity Boxing" for being intellectually bankrupt. You get what you expect. And for those who want cartoons that stick to your brain like tar and have more substance than standard commercial Disney fare, "Spike & Mike" give you what you've got coming.

Ryan Nyburg is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2003 • 3-5 PM • REC CENTER OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY

The University Assembly meets today, with full legislative authority, **FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING A RESOLUTION AGAINST THE INVASION OF IRAQ**

Text of the resolution is on the web at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~assembly/UA0203-1.html>

Members of the University Assembly include: faculty who are officers of instruction, librarians, officers of administration, or emeritus faculty; the 18 members of the Student Senate, 25 members of the ASUO Executive, and 5 members of the ASUO Constitution Court.

Only members of the assembly are eligible to vote in the assembly meeting.

THE MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

015847

YOUR WORLD. YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE IT BETTER.

"I taught a boy named Sean to explore the world on the Internet ... to think big. People say you can't change the world. But I made a difference. Just ask Sean."
- Jason McLaurin, AmeriCorps Member

WWW.AMERICORPS.ORG
1.800.942.2677 (1.800.833.3722 TDD)
AMERICORPS. GIVE BACK FOR A YEAR.
SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY. CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

STOREWIDE SALE!

20-70% OFF

Ski Equipment
Downhill • Cross Country
Snowboards • Clothing

On Now!

Berg's Ski Shop

13th & Lawrence • 683-1300 • www.bergsskishop.com

THE PARLOUR TATTOO
345-6965



Libra:

What are you doing this weekend? Check your **PULSE**

going overseas? **catch the oregon daily emerald**
on the world wide web: www.dailyemerald.com