

■ In my opinion



RYAN NYBURG
BUDGET RACK

Chop-chop: A history of horror and gore films

In my never-ending crusade to make myself look smarter than you, I have come up with a couple of projects over the years, each with the goal of distributing my wealth of knowledge to the masses, like a farmer spreading manure over his land so the little green sprouts of knowledge can grow in the sunlight of information, performing the photosynthesis of critical analysis, bearing the fruit of artistic endeavor and spreading the seeds of ... (Dave Barry rip-off goes here). Beyond that the analogy sort of breaks down.

One of these projects of mine is the International Secret History Society (Official Initiation Ritual: Hot Coal Flamenco Dancing. Q: Hoods required? A: Only if by personal preference). My other project, the Society for the Preservation of Horrible Noise in Music, is currently on hiatus while we wait for a response regarding our application to become the terrorist wing of the Experience the Music Project. ISHS, on the other hand, is currently working on a wide range of investigations. Our investigation into Disney's secret plan to invoke the spirit of the Zodiac Killer in order to have him take over as Michael Eisner's successor, for example, is going along splendidly.

Another project we have had some success in is our creation of a detailed history of slasher movies. Given the time of year, I suppose a presentation of our report would be appropriate. For most people, slasher movies begin with "Friday the 13th" (or "Halloween" if you are a slightly more astute filmgoer) and end with whatever the last script Kevin Williamson shat out was. When most people think of horror films, images from these movies come to mind, which is sort of sad considering the variety inherent in the genre.

The seeds of slasher films can be traced back to the silent-film era, all the way to the German expressionist classic from 1920, "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari," widely considered one of the first horror films. The film contains many of the elements of a slasher film, particularly in the use of a slow-moving killer who seems to be in some sort of daze (in this case, a hypnotic trance). The film can be seen separate from many later horror films in the sense that the killer is recognizably a human, albeit one under mind control.

From there, we can trace the films through some of the works of actor Lon Chaney Sr., in particular "The Unholy Three" (originally made in 1925, remade in 1930). The film was directed by Tod Browning, most famous for 1931's "Dracula." He also directed 1932's "Freaks," one of the most controversial films of the time. What "Freaks" and "The Unholy Three" have in common is that the killers are human murderers acting of their own free will. But in both films the killers are circus freaks, and in "Freaks" they are displayed sympathetically. We can understand their actions as the last defense of outsiders against a cruel and exploitative society.

All modern slasher films stem from the

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Sweet is smart for *wine* beginners



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Sweet and fruity wines are appealing to young people, but are often considered less sophisticated. Also known as late-harvest or dessert wine, they are available at Cornucopia on 295 W. 17th St.

Dessert wines offer smooth tastes, reasonable quality and make a sensible choice for new drinkers

BY NATASHA CHILINGERIAN
SENIOR PULSE REPORTER

If you are just becoming acquainted with wine, the taste of heavy, red table wine can bring on the equivalent of a bitter beer face. But don't give up — sweeter choices are out there. Like Smirnoff Ice is to beer, dessert wines are easier-to-swallow alternatives to their dry wine counterparts.

Dessert wines are a popular selection among college-age folk, since many are in the just-turned-21 stage and starting to learn about the world of wine. Wines that are sweet, syrupy or fruity are a good place to start because they can satisfy anyone who is used to candy and not yet accustomed to wine.

"For a person who is just starting to drink wine, he or she would drink fruitier wines first," Cornucopia Deli wine buyer Louis Rodie said. "Drier wines are an acquired taste; fruitier wines are more user-friendly."

The sweet flavor of dessert wine varieties stems from a higher amount of residual sugar, which is often the result of a late-harvest grape-picking time. When grapes are removed from the vine past their traditional harvest times, the fruit holds less water and a higher accumulation of sugar. This is why many dessert wines are called "late-harvest" wines. One popular late-harvest variety is "ice wine," which is made from grapes that have frozen on the vine and hold even more sugar.

Other popular dessert wines include port and sherry; Sauternes, rich French wines that receive their sweetness from a grape-shriveling, sugar-producing mold; and Auslese, German wines that are also subject to sweetening molds.

LaVelle Vineyards tasting room staff member Tiffany Ambiel said she started out liking sweeter wines and later developed a taste for drier wines. She said although many wine experts regard dessert wines as less refined than other varieties, she believes that many dessert wines are of high quality.

"There are a lot of good sweet wines," she said. "Even though ours are sweet, they have a

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Cheap campus flicks fire up Fridays

UO Cultural Forum's program aspires to answer the question, 'What are we going to do tonight?'

BY AMY LICHTY
PULSE REPORTER

There's nothing like the freedom that Fridays bring to college students all over the nation. With a long stretch of weekend ahead, the bliss of Friday night makes Monday morning seem distant, and a great way to spend a Friday night is by heading out to the cinema. Unfortunately, a lot of people share the idea that long lines and sold-out shows make it difficult to see movies. The UO Cultural Forum has a solution to this problem: Friday Nite Flicks.

With popular box-office hits such as "Shrek 2," "Anchorman" and "Spiderman 2," Friday Nite Flicks gives students the opportunity to see movies at a low price in a convenient location:

Prince Lucien Campbell 180. Not only that, but viewers have the power to decide what movies will be shown, with choices such as "The Bourne Supremacy," "The Village," Jet Li's "Hero," and "Troy."

The movies featured are fresh out of the box-office theater and haven't hit the local Blockbuster quite yet. This gives students the chance to see pre-home video movies in a movie-theater-style atmosphere at a discounted price: \$1.50 for students with ID and children, and \$3 for general admission. And Friday Nite Flicks provides two showtimes a night — one at 7:30 p.m. and

again at 10 p.m.

Friday Nite Flicks is new to the University. A special program set up by movie distributing company Swank, for college campuses across the U.S., made Friday Nite Flicks available to the University as a fun, safe and inexpensive way to spend a Friday night without having to leave campus.

"It looked like a fun thing to do. I'll definitely be here for 'Anchorman' next week."

ALEX FREAUFF | Biology major

Freshman biology majors Amy Quinn and Alex Freauff attended Friday's showing of "Shrek 2."

"I hadn't seen it, and it looked like a fun thing to do," Quinn said. "I'll probably come back again."

"I'll definitely be here for 'Anchorman' next week," Freauff said.

Although it's a good way to

spend a night with the family, Friday Nite Flicks is aimed and intended for students. The movie companies prevent the University from advertising off campus, which can create road bumps for publicity.

"We can only advertise on campus, in the dorms and in the Emerald," UO Cultural Forum adviser Darrel Kau said. "We can't even advertise over the airwaves because it reaches an audience too far from the University."

With a limitation set on promotion, Friday Nite Flicks had difficulty getting off the ground in their first scheduled event. For both showings, they had a total of about 50 in attendance, but Kau remains hopeful.

"Our goal is that by the end of this term, we'll have a full house," he said.

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