

Grizzly: Movie blends raw footage with interviews and commentary

Continued from page 10
the fevered fight.

A couple hundred yards away Treadwell gives a post fight wrap-up as if he just watched "Monday Night Football."

Treadwell's footage is sometimes shaky, with bugs crawling across the camera lens. It reminds the audience just how real the movie is.

Herzog masterfully balances Treadwell's raw footage while showing his

history. However, there isn't a sense of order and flow to the movie as Herzog seems to cut to another scene whenever he feels like it.

Herzog manages to provide an objective view of Treadwell. While we expect a sympathetic viewpoint of him, Herzog gives perspective by providing interviews with people who disagree with Treadwell's practices, saying he got too close and violated

the boundaries.

Herzog also shows that Treadwell chose to violate federal laws that state all humans must stay 100 yards away from bears and campers must move after camping in one spot for a certain number of days.

When a bear mauled Treadwell and Huguenard, the camera was rolling with the lens cap on. The filmmaker chose to spare moviegoers

the sound bites of Treadwell's death, and instead a coroner that handled the bodies speaks of the details. An ex-girlfriend of Treadwell's plays the tape for Herzog.

Herzog shows us both the good and bad sides of Treadwell's life — the caring environmentalist side and the side that showed nothing but contempt for humans.

This story swamped in irony makes

for a compelling tale about a man who cared too much for his beloved bears. Herzog provides an objective film with insightful commentary that lets the viewer decide if Treadwell went too far.

"Grizzly Man" is rated R for language and is now playing at the Bijou. For showtimes, those interested can visit www.bijou-cinemas.com.

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Gerhard: TV-on-DVD may be too much of a good thing

Continued from page 5

in 2000 to \$2.8 billion in 2004, making TV-on-DVD the fastest growing sector of U.S. video sales.

According to the research group, TV shows on VHS had produced meager profits in the United States before the advent of the DVD. The Adams-Screen Digest group predicted, however, that TV DVDs would soon be outselling the rest of the market, estimating profits of \$4.4 billion by 2009.

I am forced to wonder: What makes this product such a hot-selling item?

Indeed, it is amazing, for it has the ability to bring shows back from the dead, as was the case with "Family Guy." According to the show's creator, Seth MacFarlane, the first volume of the series on DVD (which contained seasons one and two of the previously canceled series) was the number one seller of the year for TV shows on DVD in 2003. It was the number four seller overall, coming in just behind volumes one and two of the "Simpsons" and

volume one of the "Sopranos." Fox revived the show earlier this year.

Watching television shows on DVD also eliminates those pesky commercials. It used to drive my roommates and me crazy when we would sit down for our weekly 30-minute sessions of (don't laugh) the "Real World" on MTV and be lucky if we got 20 minutes of show. God help me if I ever purchase a reality show on DVD, but at least I'll know I can watch it straight through with no interruptions if I do.

If you're an entertainment dork like me, TV DVDs often provide interesting behind-the-scenes interviews or commentaries. My personal favorite is the mini-commentaries by series creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone that accompany the "South Park" DVDs. The approximately five minute clips at the beginning of each episode are short, funny and extremely informative.

I think the ultimate attraction of TV shows on DVD is that they put time back in the hands of the viewer. To a

certain extent, movies have always had this appeal. Sure, the theaters designate the show times, but you can choose your time or choose your theater. With a popular television show, if you miss it during its regular air time (and you're not one of those individuals blessed with the gift of TiVo), then you have to track down a rerun or tape it on a video cassette. And let's face it, who even buys those bulky vestiges of the 1980s anymore?

But I'm forced to wonder: Can we have too much of a good thing?

Many retailers have complained about the rising influx of TV DVDs into their stores over the past few years. According to Video Business magazine, "a flood" of the product hit suppliers on June 7 of this year, with an 86 percent increase in the number of TV-on-DVD releases from the same week a year earlier.

However, it was when my older sister waved her brand-new copy of "Laguna Beach" season one at me this

summer, pure glee glistening in her eyes, that I truly began to believe things had gone too far.

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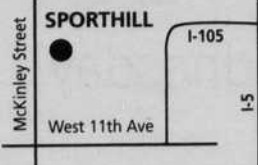


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