

Shins break ... into spotlight



'Burning Crusade' pwns PC gaming, sales records

On Jan. 16, 2007, millions of people across the globe spent \$39.99 to save the world ... of *Warcraft*.

The first expansion pack for *World of Warcraft*, *The Burning Crusade*, was released this month, and I have reached a new level of nerdiness. That's right, I bought it.

It really didn't surprise me that the expansion sold 2.4 million copies, destroyed day-one sales records, and officially made *World of Warcraft* the most popular PC game of all time.

So now, I'm proposing a question: Why does *World of Warcraft* play host to over 8 million players worldwide and continue to increase in popularity? Well, here's my answer: Blizzard, the game's developer. Here's how I came to this conclusion:

I witnessed the expansion's launch first-hand, at the Clackamas Game Stop's midnight release. A hundred or so people showed up that night, and even more arrived in the morning to pick up *The Burning Crusade*.

I was really impressed by how Game Stop, and other stores, handled the *Burning Crusade* release.

Unlike the Wii and PS3 launches, nobody had to stand around for hours, there was plenty of supply and no one was shot or killed.

Essentially, we were in and out of the store within a matter of minutes because Blizzard actually shipped enough copies, and didn't have any "shipping errors."

For those that don't know, here's a little background on Blizzard:

Blizzard has been developing games since 1991 and gained a lot of fans for their real-time strategy games *Warcraft* and *Starcraft*. They also garnered an immense following for its hack-and-slash *Diablo* series.

In 2004, Blizzard took the PC gaming world by storm (heh ... get it?) with the release of *World of Warcraft*, and became one of the foremost PC game developers.

When it comes to customer support and actually taking gamers' advice, Blizzard is second-to-none. *World of Warcraft* is constantly being updated with new content and bug fixes to meet players' needs.

Examples include a complete overhaul of the player versus player system, various changes to class abilities to level the playing field and, the most recent, a change to the newest Paladin armor that was booted by players.

World of Warcraft has had its share of criticism in the gaming world. In fact, Sorensen and I will be arguing about the game in a future issue. He claims to despise *World of Warcraft*, but I know he secretly plays it.

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Liz Travers

The Clackamas Print

The Shins' new album, *Wincing the Night Away*, can be summed up in two words: soooooooooo good.

This being their third full album, one would think that it wouldn't be as good as its predecessors: *Oh Inverted World* and *Chutes Too Narrow*. This theory is quite the contrary.

On their newest release, The Shins stay true to their winning indie-rock formula.

The songs are reminiscent of "New Slang" and "Caring is Creepy" from the *Garden State* soundtrack.

Their most recent radio tune, "Phantom Limb," is just a tasty sample of the album.

Using a mix of upbeat morbidity, the whole album is pure genius. The first track, "Sleeping Lessons," starts with a 60s-esque tune, with a banjo breaking in halfway through. The song then graduates to a full rock sound.

My favorite song on the whole album is number five,

"Sea Legs." The lilting flute in the background perfectly compliments the sweet lyrics. Towards the end of the song, violins make a brief appearance and the music becomes a little funkier.

Number nine, "Split Needles," has a beginning that is almost grunge, and melds into an orchestra, and then continues to a more indie end.

The flexibility



Internet Photo



Internet Photo

Portland indie-rock quartet, The Shins, bring themselves to rock stardom with their third album, *Wincing the Night Away*.

of this album may be its finest feature. Each song represents a multitude of different genres.

"Girl Sailor," number 10, comes out sounding like a country song and evolves into something indefinable as anything other than awesome.

The Shins began in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but now live in Portland.

They are coming to concert at the Crystal Ballroom on Feb. 21. For more information on the band, visit www.theshins.com.

If anyone gets the urge to go out and buy a CD, money could not be better spent. There isn't a guarantee, but there may as well be — *Wincing the Night Away* cannot disappoint.

'Blood and Chocolate' melts in failure, bad taste

Ben Caldwell

The Clackamas Print

If you had to choose between family and the one you love, who would you choose?

Now, add the fact that you are a werewolf and you've got the general plot of *Blood and Chocolate*.

It is a chick flick from the word go. Not to say that is bad, but it takes away from the whole werewolf aspect of the film. It is the same story told in every girly movie: boy meets girl, boy falls for girl, then girl's family tries to eat boy.

If my ticket had not been free, I would have demanded my money

back.

Blood and Chocolate is a movie that you would take your girlfriend to see if you were going to break up with her, and if you did not intend for that to happen, it would shortly thereafter. Do not waste your money on seeing this movie in theaters; just wait for it to be aired on television, because it would be a better investment to start using heroin.

Okay, I know heroin is a bit much, but you get my point. If you enjoy this movie, you are probably a masochist and enjoy self-mutilation — which, at the time, sounded far better to me than sitting all the way through the film.

The movie runs slow, but with



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Agnes Bruckner and Hugh Dancy star in the latest teenage-horror-drama, *Blood and Chocolate*, released last Friday.

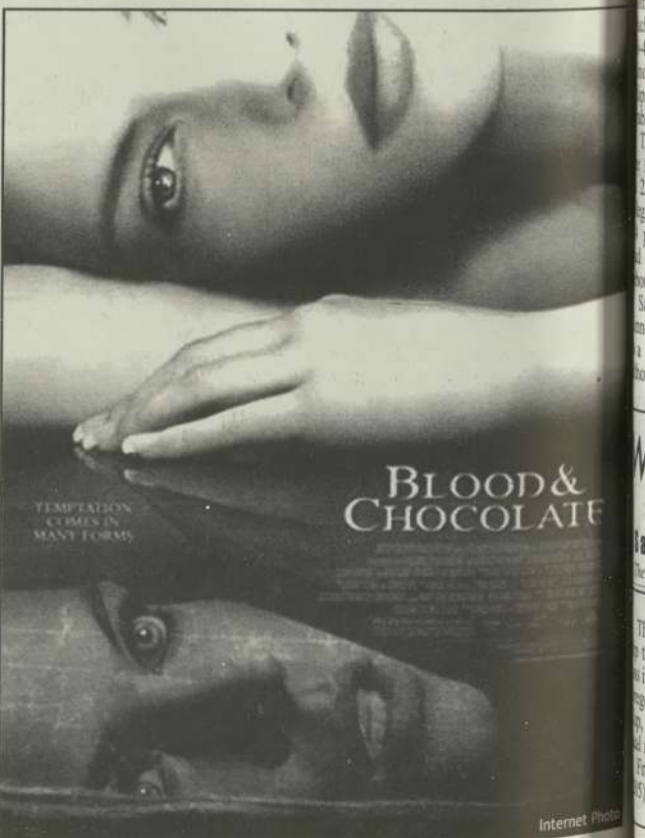
a relatively short run time. It could be made better with less of the girly element, and more blood. It has every opportunity to do something exciting, and it just fizzles out into its PG-13 rating.

In all, I see this movie becoming a cult classic among emo kids who don't know any better. Somehow, crap always finds a following.

Please do not perpetuate stupidity and watch this movie.

Concert Calendar

Roseland Theater	2/1	Scarub
		Bicasso
2/2	Quandry	Deep Fried Funk
	Cold Rush	Brothers
	7 p.m. all ages	Z-Man
2/6	Jack's Mannequin	Akruse and Gwizski
	Head Automatica	Mic Crenshaw
	The Audition	9:30 p.m. all ages
	Get Back Loretta	2/2
	6:30 p.m. all ages	Producer SNAFU
Crystal Ballroom		Amphetamine Virus
2/2	Everclear	Littl W Terror
	Jonny Lives	The H8rs
	God or Julie	Penpointred
	Neon Culpa	9:30 p.m. all ages
	8 p.m. all ages	2/3
2/5	The Roots	Nicky Click
	7 p.m. all ages	Katastrophe
		Show Me the Pink
Berbaty's Pan		DJ Beyonda
1/31	Santotzin	9:30 p.m. all ages
	Trash Head	2/5
	Ozone	Little Brazil
	J Kronik	Lillydale
	9:30 p.m. all ages	9:30 p.m. all ages
		Rosegarden
		2/3
		Blue Man Group
		8 p.m. all ages



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