

Brain Candy induces thought

Kids in the Hall help to revive the dying art of sketch comedy

By CHRIS CONTI
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REVIEWER

Some people claim that good sketch comedy is dead. It has been too long since *Saturday Night Live* was funny and *The State* was incredibly popular. Well, it seems that wild and eclectic humor has returned and has made the difficult transition to the big screen.

With their first feature film, the Canadian comedy troupe The Kids in the Hall proved that they still have what it takes.

Their movie, *Brain Candy*, is a wildly hilarious and mocking look at modern society. It stars all the members of the original cast from the long-running television show: Dave Foley, Scott Thompson, Mark McKinney, Kevin McDonald and Bruce McCulloch.

The basic plot of the film is fairly simple. A greedy but unsuccessful pharmaceutical company needs to find a product that will put them back on top of the industry.

Enter Gleemone-X, a new and untested anti-depressant.

Despite all the possible risks of an early

release, the drug is approved by the FDA and immediately becomes a hit.

It freezes people's minds on the single happiest moments of their lives, but unfortunately it also eventually causes them to fall into a coma. The poor scientists that have developed the drug are now in a race against time to try to save the world from its own joy.

One of the more impressive parts of the movie is the role that The Kids in the Hall play.

Between the five members of the group, they play well over 30 different people, including all the main characters in the film. The actors play both male and female roles with equal comfort and skill, and manage to give each of their parts a new personality.

The Kids in the Hall have been able to avoid the redundancy of character that plagues many sketch groups.

They also manage to blend in a fair amount of the most popular characters from their long-running television show. You do not need to be familiar with their television show, however, to appreciate their humor.

The film is not just an attempt to make an audience laugh, but it also tries to teach them something as well. The drug Gleemone-X is a thinly veiled representation of Prozac, a drug known for its ability to make the user

feel euphoric, as well as its negative side effects. Despite all the laughs in the movie, *Brain Candy* also makes an important and articulate statement about modern society's obsession with perfection.

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Their message is that to truly appreciate happiness, you also need to experience some bad times as well to be able to make a distinction. *Brain Candy* is a well developed, multi-faceted film that I would strongly recommend to everyone, whether you're a Kid's fan or not.

Outdoors

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Popular activities in the park include trout fishing, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and picnicking. All of the streams in the park are good for fishing for either rainbow, brown or brook trout.

Surprisingly, most of the water in the park is native water, meaning that the trout population is self-sustaining. It does not require continual stocking as does much of the trout water in North Carolina and the rest of the southeast.

Some of the water, however, is stocked, allowing the beginning angler a better shot at catching the less-wary fish. The streams of the park are well-known for good fishing; you'll almost inevitably find someone with a fishing rod walking along the trails. The only requirements needed, other than the appropriate equipment, are a North Carolina fishing license and knowledge of the pertinent regulations. My friends and I have been lucky enough on occasion to supplement an otherwise rather unenticing supper with some fresh trout.

The park is a great place for backpacking, especially if you're just beginning. South Mountains was the first place that my dad ever took me (probably when I was around the age of 12). I distinctly remember being woefully over-prepared for our weekend trip.

We could have survived in luxury for weeks out there with the amount of equipment we had brought.

The campsite was truly a welcome sight after struggling along seemingly endless trails carrying a burden more appropriate for camels. My lifelong affection for all things wild was conceived lying in a tent next to Jacob's Fork, wondering what we would do tomorrow and why we would have to leave just the day after.

It seems to be a general rule that as you advance in a certain hobby or profession you begin to disdain your starting point. You wonder how you could have been so inexperienced or idiotic to have ever been any less advanced than you presently are. As my hobby of backpacking has led me to ever larger and more secluded parks, requiring more skill and more confidence, South Mountains has been somewhat pushed aside in my mind.

Being a student here, within two hours of the park, has revived my interest in it. There is always a certain arrogance leaving a place thinking that you've seen all that you can see.

Such has been my return to this park, a re-appreciation. I would be willing to bet that there is something there for you too at South Mountains State Park. Whether you enjoy fishing, hiking, backpacking or picnicking, the opportunity is within just a couple of hours. What better way is there to shed the worries of college than in a park where the only challenge is to enjoy and to cherish one of the most beautiful places around? South Mountains State Park is just the place.

CALENDAR

To have your event listed, send mail to P.O. Box 7569, e-mail arts@ogb.wfu.edu or fax us at 759-4561.

ON CAMPUS

Exhibits

Treasures from the Museum of Anthropology. The exhibit features works of art from Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Americas.
When: Through March 1
Where: Museum of Anthropology
Cost and info: Free. Ext. 5282.

Movies

Hunchback of Notre Dame. 1996. Disney's movie based on the novel by Victor Hugo about a young man and his friends trying to defend his gypsy friends against the evil doings of his guardian father.
When: 7 p.m., 10 p.m. Fri.: 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m. Sat: 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. Sun.
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Cost: \$2, under age 5 free

sex, lies, and videotape. A drama about the lives of a married couple who each have an affair with the other's close friend.
When: 8 p.m. Fri.
Where: Tribble A3.
Cost: Free.

Rashomon. A Japanese crime drama about a rape and murder seen from four different perspectives. English subtitles.
When: 8 p.m. Sat.
Where: Tribble A3.
Cost: Free.

Theatre

Steel Magnolias. Written by Robert Harling, the play depicts the lives of four women growing together until a tragic accident changes their lives.
When: 8 p.m. Nov. 21-23

Where: Ring Theatre
Cost and info: \$5 for students. Ext. 5788.

Fall Dance Concert.
When: 8 p.m. Nov. 21-23
Where: Mainstage theatre
Cost and info: \$5 student, \$10 adults. Ext. 5788.

ELSEWHERE

Clubs

Cat's Cradle. Today: WXYC Early Eighties Dance Party. \$4. Fri.: The Wedding Present with Yatsura. \$8. Sat.: Magic Dirt and Tractor Hips. \$5. Sun.: Skavovvie and the Epitones with Venice Shoreline Chris. \$5.
Mon.: Combustible Edison. \$7. Wed.: Brother Monk.
Where: 300 E. Main St., Carrboro.
Info: (919) 967-9053.

Lizard and Snake Cafe. Sat. Sarong Song.: Wed. Delta 72 and Cash Money.
Where: 110 N. Columbia St., Chapel Hill.
Info: (919) 929-2828.

Ziggy's. Today: Back Doors. Fri.: Punkfest, five bands including Contagious Agents and Harness. \$5. Sat.: Connells with Hobex. Tues.: Gran Torino. Wed.: Daddy Catfish.
Where: 433 Baitly Street.
Info: 748-1064.

Music

Alan Jackson. Country superstar graces the stage to prove why he was awarded Country Music Association's 1995 Entertainer of the Year.
When: 7:30 p.m. Friday.
Where: Joel Coliseum
Info: 321-0999

Theatre

Dracula. The goulsh play, based on Bram Stoker's novel, plays in Winston-Salem this weekend.
When: 8 p.m. Thurs., Fri. and Sat., 2 p.m. Sun.
Where: The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem, 610 Coliseum Drive.
Cost and info: \$9 for students. 725-4001.

The Sound of Music. The Tony Award-winning musical about a free-spirited nun sent to care for the VonTrapp children in Austria plays for only one night.
When: 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Monday
Where: North Carolina School of the Arts Stevens Center, 405 West Fourth St.
Cost: \$23 matinee, \$27 evening.

Exhibits

A Thousand Years of Czech Culture. The collection of over 200 historic artifacts and works of art capture the politics, religion, and folk customs of the Czech Republic.
When: Through March 16, 1997.
Where: The Gallery at Old Salem.
Info: 721-7300.

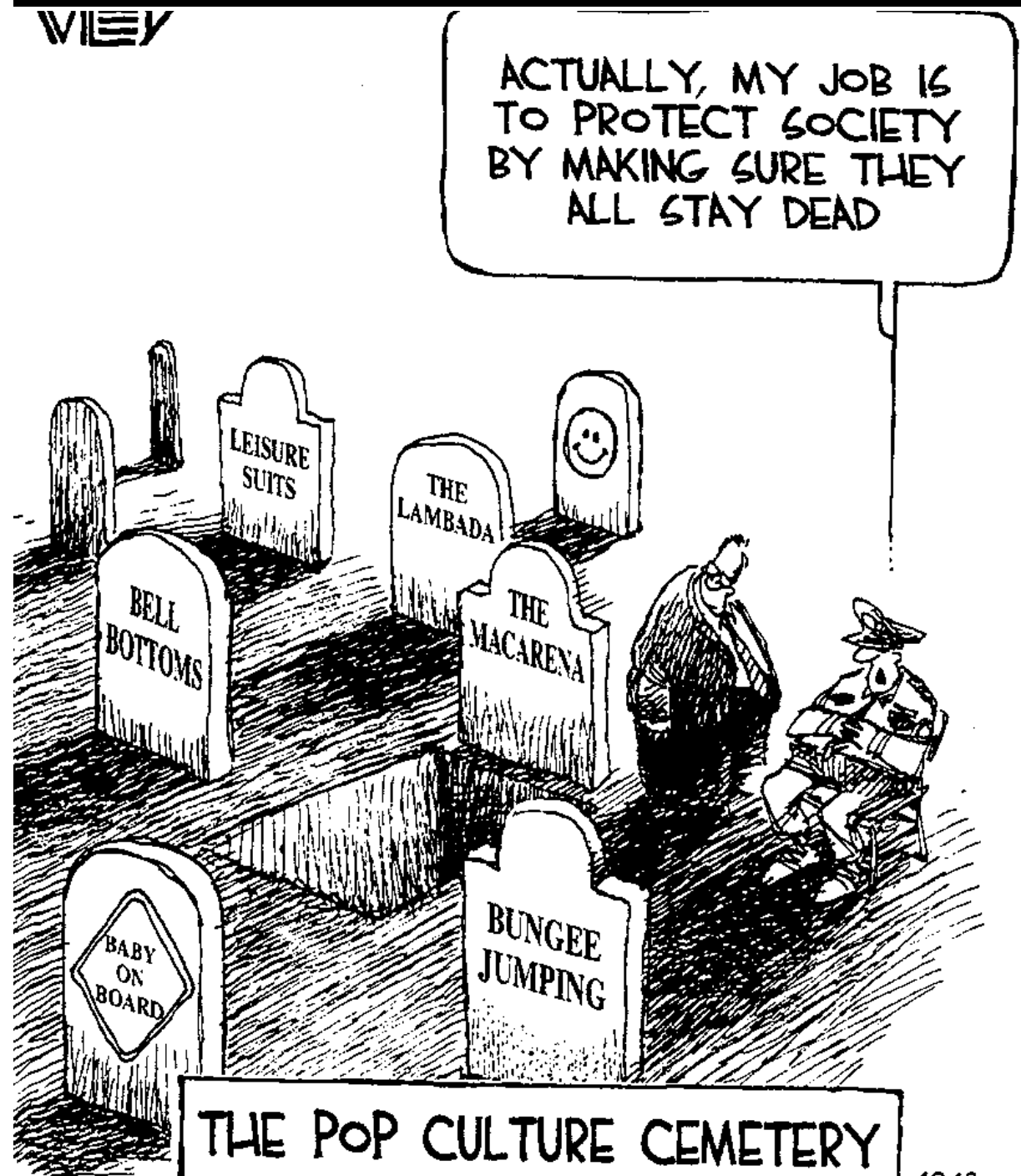
Pictured in My Mind. Works from the Gitter/Yelen collection will be on display along with Winston-Salem artist Sue Moore's work.
When: Through Jan. 5
Where: Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 750 Marguerite Drive
Info: 725-1904

Readings

The Tao of Muhammed Ali. A book discussion and signing by Winston-Salem author Davis Miller. An insightful look into the fighter's life and long-time friendship with the author.
When: Today 7:30 p.m.
Where: Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 625 Hampton Inn Court.
Info: 774-0800.



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