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'Toy Story 3' Marches on triumphantly

By John Terbeche
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For many fans of "Toy Story" and Pixar, the very idea of another sequel for the franchise after so many years seemed risky, especially considering the unnecessary tradition of threes in movies. When you consider the satisfying resolution at the end of 'Toy Story 2,' it's hard to imagine how they could follow that premise. Rest assured, despite all of the risky ventures Pixar takes, it results in a wonderful thrilling adventure with a happy ending.

Those going in expecting a fun-filled romp ride should be wary. It still has all of the ingredients for a kid-friendly animated adventure, but like other Pixar movies, provides a deep, involved story about mortality. That's right, the toys are faced with growing old, being forgotten, and fitting in.

You will notice right away that Andy's aging can be seen. He's 17 and headed off to college, while his toys are mistakenly sent to a daycare and abused by toddlers. Initiate elaborate toy escape plan! But while all of this excitement and fun is go-

ing on, it takes a back step to a beautiful story about time passing, memories, and how you treat people in life.

These elements join the premise of the importance of the relationship between toys and their owners. How, in order for toys to truly feel wanted, their owners need to use imagination to play with them. This imagination gives life to the toys.

As with everything Pixar does, the visuals and attention to detail in the film is amazing. The split-imagery of the daycare with Alcatraz is fantastic. The slide in the playground becomes a watchtower at night. The bead mazes become hanging razor wire. The marker smudges become prison marks. Every image is carefully chosen and expertly executed.

Some new toys are introduced to the fray: Lots-O'-Huggin' Bear, Mattel Ken, Mr. Picklepants the porcupine, the triceratops Trixie, Buttercup the unicorn, and a cameo of popular Japanese mascot Totoro. We're also introduced to a little girl named Bonnie who proves that imaginative and inspired playtime isn't dead yet!

With all of the original voice actors re-

prising their roles, including John Morris, now 23, as Andy, wonderful performances are delivered. The entire depth of the movie comes from just how believable these characters are, emphasizing emotions, and perfectly timed comedic performances.

All of these elements of amazing visuals, great acting, hilarious dialogue, and heart-warming story have been skillfully woven to create an enjoyable adventure for the entire family. Pixar is often said to be a master of its craft and throughout three movies about toys, they've proven it.



©/O Disney pictures, MCT Campus

'Toy Story 3' returns many of your favorite toys, as well as some new popular ones.

OUR VOICE

An Apple and a Droid walk into a bar...

It is hard to think back to a time—somewhere in technological prehistory—when cell phones were simply incapable of managing one's life. In that age, the man whose flip phone had a camera on it reigned king. The most sophisticated piece of technology, the BlackBerry, was almost exclusively reserved for businessmen who justified shelling out several-hundred dollars—and a

phone nearly instantaneously. The button keypad has almost disappeared completely in favor of a virtual alternative. And, with the iPhone 4, video-chat is likely to become the freshest standard feature of every smart-phone.

The mobi-lution was launched with a simple idea in mind—let us put a phone and an iPod together and see what sort of crazy stuff we can make it do.

The result—the iPhone—blew the minds of consumers worldwide. It quickly became the top-selling handset in the U.S. and has required all other phone designers to resort to becoming the best non-iPhone in order to stay competitive.

Now three years and four major iPhone updates later, the mobile market has made significant strides in catching up with Apple.

HTC has made very competitive handsets that run Android and Windows Mobile 6.5, Palm's Pre and Pixi have taken the "User Interface" in a new and even more simplistic direction, and BlackBerry has remained the premier phone choice of business-oriented users.

Although the iPhone is a great device, there are noticeable holes in its device and Operating System currently which have helped competitors develop comparable alternative. The main complaint, which is par for the Apple course, is the lock-downed nature of the device.

Apple has final say on all apps, which handicaps the phone when it comes to things such as Google Voice.

This issue seems to be the main point of Google's Android, which is completely open-source, and allows all applications to be posted in the market, allowing the user to have the best experience in terms of customization. Things like tethering the phone to the computer to allow internet access anywhere, complete integration of Google services such as Voice and Gmail, and porn are all available openly in the android market among many

other options blocked by Apple.

Also, the phone is available only on AT&T, a company known for expensive and lackluster service, especially when it comes to 3G coverage (the standard cellular data network). This was an issue that many were hoping would be rectified by an Apple release of iPhone 4 on another company such as Verizon to provide a choice in company to its users.

Then, for the first time since they announced the iPad, Apple disappointed with iPhone 4. The iPhone is now capable of multitasking, two years after Android did it properly.

The iPhone screen is crisper than the human eye can perceive which is really useful to humans with eyes.

And of course, the iPhone can record video in HD for all the iPhone users who were concerned that there was not enough whisker-definition in their standard-def videos of their dogs barking, riding in a car, or sleeping.

With a release that was far from changing anything, Apple has left the door wide open to its competitors.

Windows Mobile 7 is due out in October, and if HTC launches anything on par with or better than the HTC HD2 and EVO 4G, the war will be over.

Android has said that the user experience is the foremost consideration on the next major update, and has enlisted former Palm User Interface designer Matias Duarte to direct the development.

And of course, BlackBerry will be BlackBerry and continue making solid products which are extremely functional and never draw a negative review.

Apple may be in the lead for the time being, but think forward another three years—to a time when thinking will probably be rendered irrelevant by smart-phone memorization capabilities—and it could be said that the near-infiniteness of technological development has only just begun.



ridiculous amount more on a monthly data plan—in order to have mobile e-mail capabilities.

Since this time—or 2007—cell phones have advanced to a Star-Trekian level.

Data can now be sent to and received from a smart-

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POLL

Which smartphone operating system do you prefer?



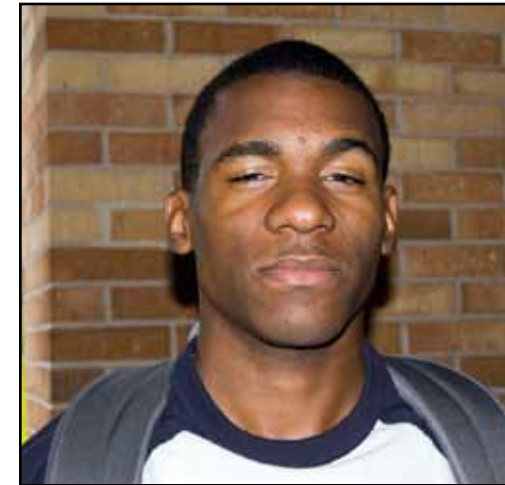
"The internet on the iPhone works well for me."

- Autumn Magee



"The Droid has all the best apps."

- Antoinette Keaton



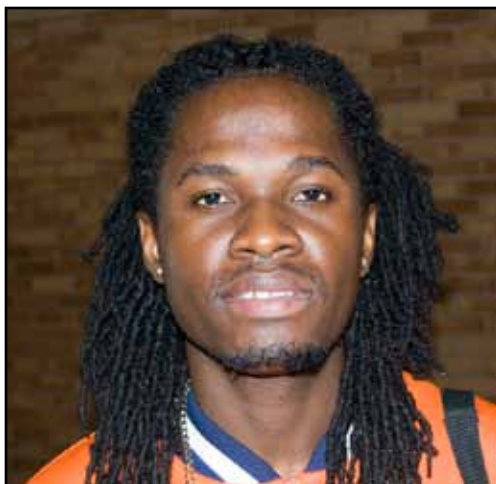
"The iPhone apps tend to be more useful in my work life."

- Allen Toussaint



"I haven't found anything I don't like about the iPhone."

- Caleb Lightfoot



"I honestly think all the smartphones are too overpriced."

- Jean Lubirn



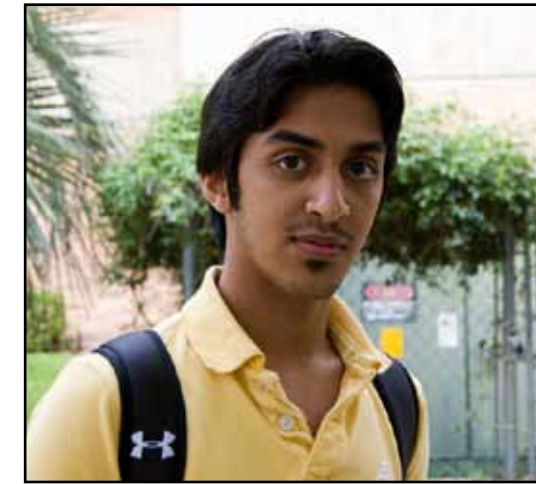
"I prefer the Droid because Apple is trying to monopolize the market."

- Dale Bauer



"I think the iPhone just has a lot of fun apps."

- Jennifer Cruz



"I would say the iPhone because I think it is easier to manage your files."

- Saleh Almutair

MUSIC

'Abel' takes a step back in second album

By Jenn Stripling
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Saving Abel has emerged in recent years as one of the most successful rock bands in the United States. The Mississippi-based act released their self-titled debut album on March 11, 2008, which just one year and five days later, was certified gold by the RIAA. Singles, which included "Addicted," "18 Days," and "Drowning (Face Down)," cumulatively sold millions

of digital downloads. The lead single from "Miss America," titled "Stupid Girl (Only in Hollywood)," falls short as the lead single.

Saving Abel said that the album would showcase a more mature band, but while there is a more layered, stylish sound (helped by co-producer Marti Frederiksen), the record's essence feels simplistic and unsophisticated. The pretty love song, "Angel Without Wings," is a pleasant-enough listen, as long as you don't focus on

the lyrics, where lead singer Jared Weeks pulls out time worn romantic clichés, comparing his true love to an angel.

On "Miss America," they seem a little too comfortable playing the role of forgettable pros.

Saving Abel may not have been breathtakingly original, but it suggested that these guys were hungry, young musicians with something to prove. I expected to be more convinced.

Jewel can't save her free-falling career

By Jolene Krause
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Jewel has carried listeners all over the spectrum and she's now tapping on the glass to have country music let her in.

Jewel seems to have taken a few steps back from her lyrical flow and is now focused on the catchy beats and ability for listeners to quickly allow the song to be embedded into their brains. Lyrics like, "Once upon a time used to feel so

fine, I really mean to shine," sounds something similar to a poem my seven-year-old niece wrote for her language class. Jewel's song lyrics that are entirely lacking in meaning are easily masquerading behind the freshly added sounds of: drums, banjos and fiddles

Although "Sweet and Wild" is focused on easily recalled feel good pop songs it also includes a few good sentiments. The last song on the album, "Satisfied," is Jewel's favorite "message"

throughout the entire album. Which isn't hard to determine considering most of the songs are stereotypical rhyming with no reason and upbeat music placed adjacently.

Jewel is trying to meddle with too much music and it seemingly is backfiring. From folk pop Jewel, to clichéd almost Jennifer Lopez protégé Jewel, to now country music Jewel she seems to have lost her soul. So tell me, 'who will sa-e-ave' her career?



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Crane kicks still rock 25 years later

By Ben Fritz
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood got a much needed kick to the 2010 summer box office from 1984.

"The Karate Kid," which stars Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan in a remake of the 26-year-old family favorite, waxed off the competition to land at No. 1 this weekend with a startling \$56 million.

It more than doubled the take of the big-screen version of 1980s TV series "The A-Team" starring Liam Neeson, Jessica Biel and Bradley Cooper, which opened to a soft \$26 million.

"Karate Kid" was the first surprise success of what has been a dismal first six weeks of the summer box office season, with many more poor performers, such as "Robin Hood," "Prince of Persia" and "Sex and the City 2," than hits.

"The market has been lackluster for many weeks now, so it's a bit scary to open a film, and you just hope it's

going to resonate," said Rory Bruer, president of distribution for Sony Pictures. "In this case, it certainly did in a big way."

The two new films were running neck-and-neck in pre-release surveys, and conventional wisdom in Hollywood said that the best chance for "The Karate Kid" to pull ahead of "The A-Team" would come on Saturday afternoon, since it was likely to appeal more to family audiences that attended matinees.

But nostalgia for crane kicks and flies caught in chopsticks turned out to be stronger than many thought. A surprising 55 percent of ticket buyers to "Karate Kid" were adults without families, according to exit polls. As a result, "Karate Kid" blew away "A-Team" in Friday ticket sales — \$18.8 million to \$9.7 million — and only extended its lead on Saturday once families started going to matinees.

Audiences loved the film, giving it an average grade of A, according to market-

research firm CinemaScore. Sony is optimistic the movie will play well for the next few weeks, meaning it could gross more than \$150 million domestically, a huge total given that its production budget was only about \$40 million. There is an obstacle, however, in the form of "Toy Story 3," which opens next weekend and will no doubt be a big draw for families.

20th Century Fox is hoping next weekend will be more open for "The A-Team," which drew a primarily adult male crowd but got its best reactions from young males, who gave it an average grade of A (the overall audience gave a B plus to the dismally reviewed film).

"We are very optimistic that as word of mouth spreads, particularly among young people who are unfamiliar with the source material, they're going to discover what a terrific summer action movie this is," said Fox's executive vice president of domestic distribution, Chris Aronson.



Jasin Boland, MCT Campus

Jackie Chan reprises the role of Mr. Miyagi, and Jayden Smith takes on the oft-transferred 'Karate Kid' lead role.

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It's all about the hype

Stephen Strasburg is making fans happy in D.C. as fast as he is striking batters out in the box

By Alex Barrett
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LeBron James had it. Reggie Bush had it. Now, Stephen Strasburg is being regarded as the most hyped player to ever don a professional sports uniform.

It cannot be said that Strasburg hasn't lived up to his elevated expectations, the number one pick from just a year ago has fanned 32 batters in his first three starts; an MLB record. He was one strikeout away from setting the single game rookie record in his first game with 14 K's, but was pulled to limit his innings played this year. He was named National League player of the week in the first week in a Nationals jersey.

Suddenly, the player whom everyone despised when he refused to sign for less money last season is starting to prove his worth in the big leagues.

The Nationals organization is taking proper steps to condition

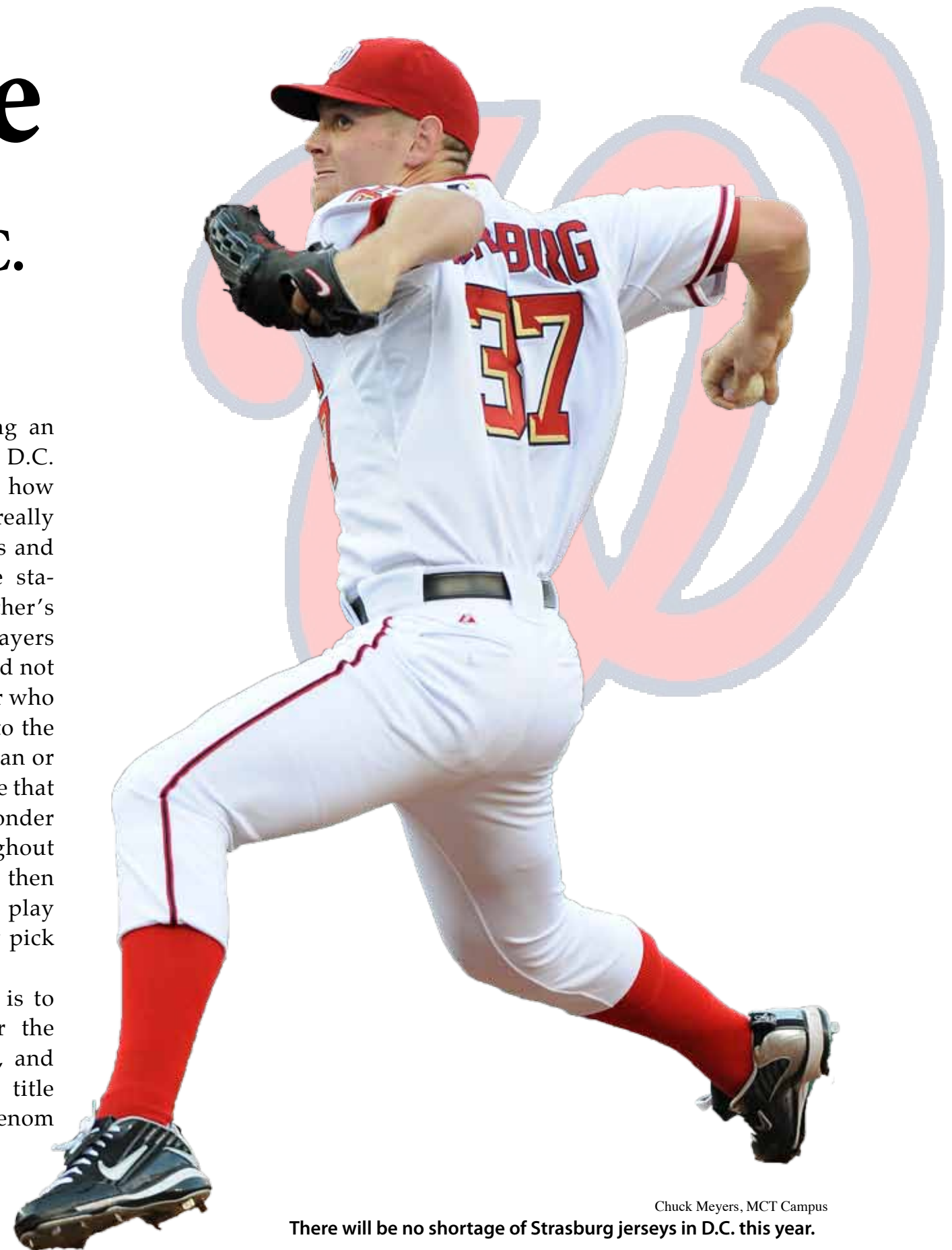
their new ace, it has already been said that Strasburg will have starts taken away in the second half of the year to preserve the fire-baller, and his in-game pitch count is held to around 90 pitches. He was dealing in that first game against the Pirates, and at 93 pitches was pulled. He could have finished. He could have struck out more. The Nats wouldn't allow their golden ticket to stay in too long though.

For every time you have a superstar in the wings to play up, or exceed their expectations, you have some that have fallen far short. JaMarcus Russell was recently released from his contract with the Raiders. Robert Gallery and Ryan Leaf will always be considered huge busts in the NFL. Big things are expected of Tim Tebow this fall when he takes the field in Denver; will he live up to what is expected of him?

Strasburg has silenced his critics pretty quickly, taking no time

out of the gates and making an impact quickly for the lowly D.C. ball club, and you could see how anxious Washington fans really were after number 37 jerseys and shirts were plentiful in the stadium even before the pitcher's first start. Fantasy league players have rejoiced the fact they did not waste a draft pick on a player who may not have even made it to the bigs this season. Whether a fan or not, you have to love the hype that was given to the kid, and wonder if he can keep it up throughout the years of his career. (And then wonder how long he will play until the Yankees eventually pick him up as well.)

All that can be done now is to watch, enjoy, and wait for the next big thing to hit sports, and challenge Strasburg for the title of most heralded rookie phenom ever.



Chuck Meyers, MCT Campus

There will be no shortage of Strasburg jerseys in D.C. this year.