

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**New Generation stays fresh with characters, plot**

*Star Trek: First Contact*  
**Starring:** Patrick Stewart and Jonathan Frakes  
**Directed by:** Jonathan Frakes  
**Rated:** PG-13  
 Playing at Hollywood 16

Once again we are taken on a voyage where no one has gone before, into the far boundaries of space and beyond.

It is the 24th century and mankind's worst enemy has resurfaced to claim a new stronghold on earth.

As a collective, the adversaries are known as The Borg and the only man who has the will and knowledge to destroy them is none other than Captain Jean-Luc Picard.

In this second installment of the new generation of star

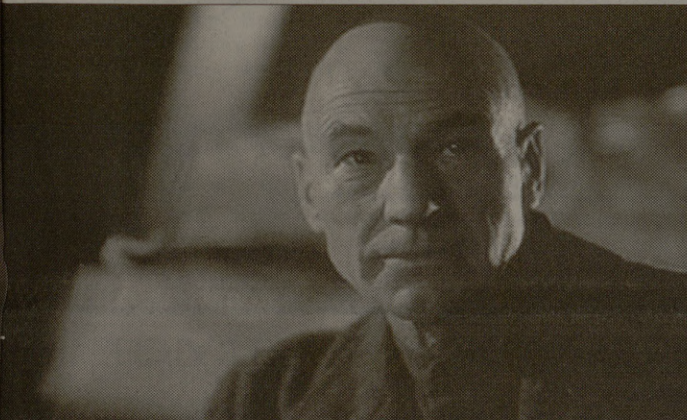
— The Borg has a queen. This new plot twist in the existence of The Borg is just enough to draw audiences into a storyline complete with action, intrigue and character insight.

What's also refreshing is the depth of characterization the audience is allowed to see; no longer is the ship crew just a bunch of ensigns, lieutenants and commanders.

As director, Jonathan Frakes (Commander Ryker) takes each character and allows the actors to invest real personalities in them.

The audience will see Counselor Troy in a drunken state, Commander Data in a surge of sexual tension and Lieutenant Warf in an animalistic rage, as always.

But the true definition of character is seen in Captain Picard's performance.



Patrick Stewart appears on the Enterprise-E as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in *Star Trek: First Contact*. The latest *Star Trek* installment is showing at the Hollywood 16 Theater.

charters, the crew of The Enterprise-E have once more come into contact with The Borg, but this time the group of assimilators are targeting earth.

Their grand plan is to go back in time and assimilate all humans to form an earth inhabited by their collective family.

Although this may sound like a rehashing of one of the *Star Trek*: Next Generation episodes, there is one major addition to the film version

Patrick Stewart is more personable than before, almost in tears in a pivotal moment of the film in which Alfre Woodard convinces him to perform what he feels is an act of cowardice.

While the film may seem a trite bit short, fans of the series and its cast of characters will be thoroughly satisfied.

*Star Trek: First Contact* is a fast-paced, interstellar battle grounds of fine acting, moving plot and witty direction. A

James Francis

**Connick's Choice**

*Harry Connick Jr.'s switch from big band jazz to funk may not be popular with critics, but the bayou minstrel says musicians should not cater to other's wishes.*

Columnist



**Alex Walters**  
 Senior journalism and theater arts major

Rumor has it that Harry Connick Jr. could keep perfect musical time with a spoon on his high chair when he was two years old.

When he was six, young Harry played at his father's swearing-in as district attorney of New Orleans.

Yet, his fans are not necessarily impressed.

Considering the critical flak surrounding the release of Connick's 1994 album, *She*, it seems as

though music reviewers would be more satisfied if Connick and his big band were chained to the studio floor, ceaselessly churning out hit after traditional hit.

Connick answers his critics in a Dallas Morning News article.

"I can't cater what I do to people's expectations," he said. "Art wouldn't exist if that happened."

Unfortunately for his critics, Harry Connick Jr. has a mind of his own.

Instead, Connick feels comfortable enough to take advantage of his youth and claim the world as his oyster (or "erster" according to Crescent City natives).

Connick has recently dipped his toes into the realms of a big marriage, big-screen film and big-city funk. The only thing missing is big band.

Well, more power to him.

It is common knowledge that the repression of those wanderlust urges lead to an uppity attitude and general stiffness. Everyone who is anyone knows people who do not explore life end up as anxiety-prone accountants, Wall Street wallflowers and (worst of all) melancholy music critics.

Public pleasing is the job of marketing gurus, door-to-door salesmen and MTV — not artists.

One would assume that Connick, like most talented musicians, writes music that pleases him, not what he assumes will please the public.

Sure, Connick has fans to think about, but the rapid sellout of tonight's show at Rudder Auditorium proves his fans are still there.

It is not a matter of constantly turning out quality material because Connick has done that.

Connick's tried-and-true fans picked up *She* thinking it

I fell in love with Connick's music be-

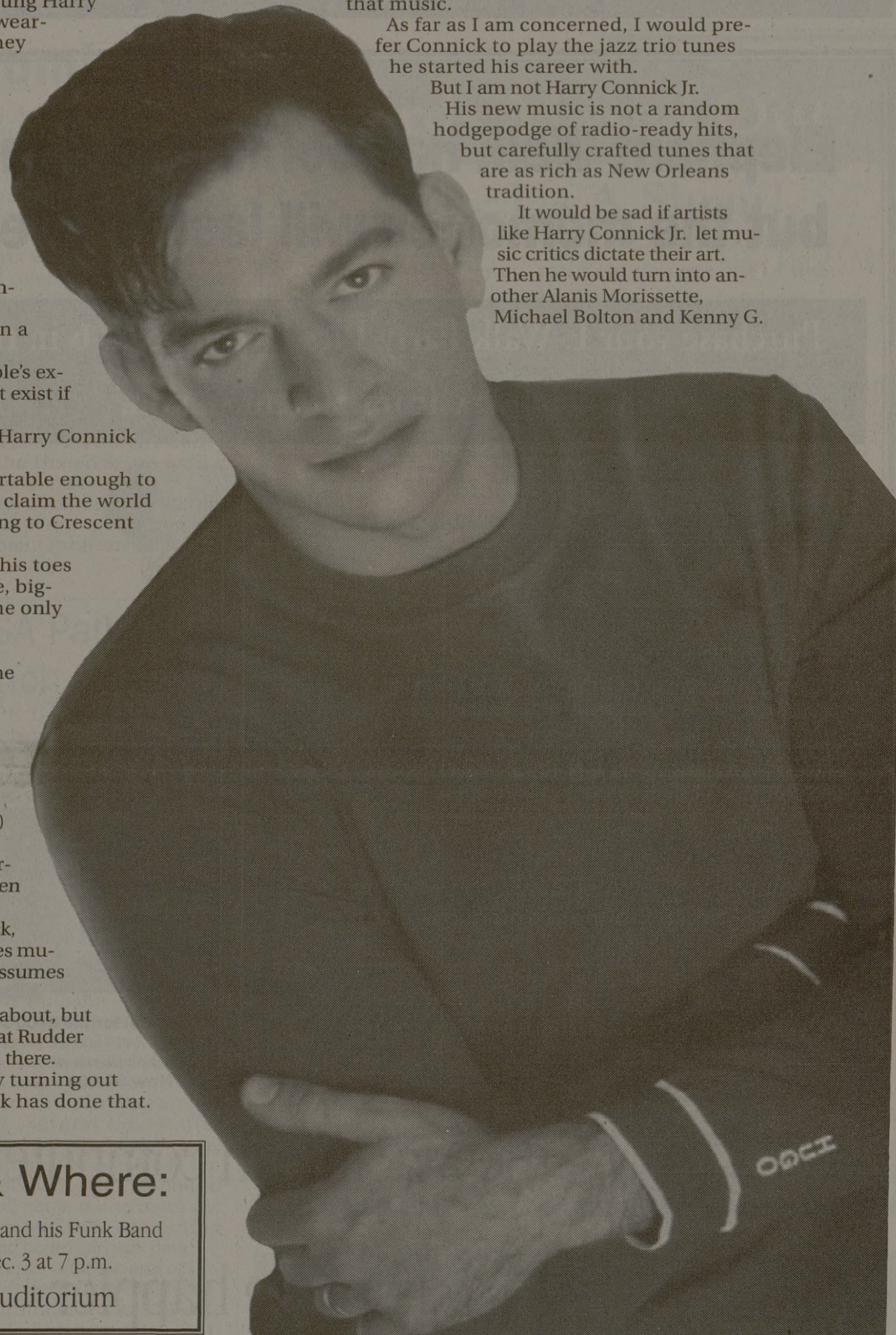
cause he was the best original jazz artist this side of the Marsalis family (most of whom have played with Connick), and I would like to hear more of that music.

As far as I am concerned, I would prefer Connick to play the jazz trio tunes he started his career with.

But I am not Harry Connick Jr.

His new music is not a random hodgepodge of radio-ready hits, but carefully crafted tunes that are as rich as New Orleans tradition.

It would be sad if artists like Harry Connick Jr. let music critics dictate their art. Then he would turn into another Alanis Morissette, Michael Bolton and Kenny G.



**When & Where:**

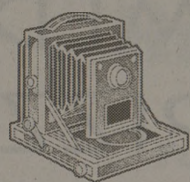
Harry Connick Jr. and his Funk Band  
 Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.  
 Rudder Auditorium

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