

The Matrix still tops box office charts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The cyberspace adventure *The Matrix* was No. 1 at the box office during a weekend coming just before the release of highly anticipated movies. The futuristic Keanu Reeves thriller grossed 2.9 million this weekend, after crossing the 30 million mark last week. It replaced the prison comedy *Life*, which opened to second place with \$11.6 million after losing 43 percent of its audience, industry estimates showed Sunday. Two comedies that opened in wide release led to grab a sizable audience and may have rushed to market to avoid upcoming blockbusters such as the *Star Wars* prequel, *Pushing Tin*, the John Cusack-Billy Bob Thornton comedy about a rivalry between two air traffic controllers, opened with \$3.6 million for fourth place. *Lost & Found*, featuring David Spade as a dognapper who falls in love with a beautiful neighbor, opened in sixth place with \$1.1 million.

"This weekend is considered a dumping ground for films by the industry, their last chance to make something before summer releases start coming out," Robert Bucksbaum, a movie analyst with Reel Source Inc. said "Once the summer opens all the other films just fall like a ton of bricks."

Bucksbaum said studios have started opening "summer-style" big-budget films in the spring — including *Entrapment* on Friday and *Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace* in May — to take advantage of a time when smaller movies are in the market.

It worked for *The Matrix*, he said. The film about a hacker who battles cyber-overlords in a twisting world of virtual reality has taken in \$117.3 million in four weeks.

The high school satire *Election*, starring Reese Witherspoon as a compulsive do-gooder and Matthew Broderick as a civics teacher, opened in only six theaters nationwide but averaged \$20,000 per screen.

1. *The Matrix*, \$12.9 million.
2. *Life*, \$11.6 million.
3. *Never Been Kissed*, \$6.2 million.
4. *Pushing Tin*, \$3.6 million.
5. *Analyze This*, \$3.2 million.
6. *Lost & Found*, \$3.1 million.
7. *10 Things I Hate About You*, \$2.8 million.
8. *The Out-Of-Towners*, \$2.02 million.
9. *Go*, \$2 million.
10. *Forces of Nature*, \$1.7 million.

CONVERSATION

Continued from Page 4
 tedious of conversations, improper body language, in fact, hinder the message is trying to convey. The eyes say just as much as mouth, and with twice the clarity. So remember, pirates and people with one glass eye, never tell the truth! What one does with and to their hands while speaking is so indicative of their true message. If a speaker constantly fidgets gestures repeatedly, it is a safe bet they are an outsider and must be dealt with in swift fashion. Some may argue that by using humor appropriately, one can emphasize his or her argument. However, that is what pie charts and demographics are. Instead of mindlessly waving and fidgeting while speaking, let your hands do something constructive like washing a humor columnist's car or writing a mail letter containing words of admiration and \$20. On second thought, skip the miration and cut right to the money.

How one stands while speaking can reveal whether or not the speaker is either full of tension or relaxed.

If the speaker spends much of his or her time shifting from foot to foot, they are probably uncomfortable with their surroundings or audience.

If a speaker is slumped to one side through most of the conversation, one can expect that they are either bored with the subject or are failing their DUI test.

And if the speaker is running away screaming, it is a safe bet the listener forgot to put on pants.

So, when the opportunity arises for an intelligent conversation, do four simple things:

- Make sure pants are being worn.
- Pretend the subject being discussed is not beyond one's knowledge. If the question is offered as to whether anyone enjoys Plato, respond "I most certainly do. Its nontoxic, delicious, and makes great dinosaurs."
- Send a humor columnist \$20.
- Repeat step three.

Jacob Huval is a freshman English major.

Study reveals kids listen to parents about drug usage

NEW YORK (AP) — Surprise, Mom and Dad: when it comes to frank talk on drug use, your kids are listening.

A study released Sunday by the Partnership for a Drug Free America found that teens who received strong anti-drug messages at home were 42 percent less likely to use drugs than teens whose parents ignored the issue.

"With parents, we can cut drug use dramatically. Without them, we cannot," James E. Burke, chairperson of the partnership said.

One word of caution for parents: a single conversation probably will not get the job done. Although 98 percent of parents said they had spoken with their children about drugs, only 27 percent of teens said they learned a lot about drug risks at home, the survey found.

"What's truly complicated about this is that parents really believe they're doing their job in this area, but the data suggest otherwise," Burke said.

According to the study, there were significant differences in experimentation between teens who spoke regularly with their parents about drug use and those who did not.

Among teens who learned a lot at home, marijuana use was 26 percent. Among those who said they learned nothing at home, 45 percent said they had used marijuana.

For inhalants, the first group reported 14 percent, while among the latter group 28 percent had used them. For LSD, the figures were 7 percent and 20 percent; for cocaine, 7 percent and 16 percent.

One reason parents are not speaking with children about drugs: they underestimate the availability. Only 37 percent of parents surveyed believed their teens had ever been offered marijuana. But 53 percent of the teens said they had been offered pot.

One other finding of the survey: it is best for parents to reach their children at an early age. Among fourth-graders, 74 percent said they wanted more details from their parents about drugs. Among eighth-graders, the figure fell to 19 percent.

The Partnership is a private, nonprofit coalition of communications industry professionals, known for its anti-drug advertising campaign. This is its 11th annual poll.

1998-99 University Undergraduate Research Fellows Symposium Presentations

The University Undergraduate Research Fellows Program is the capstone of the Honors curriculum at Texas A&M. This program is the most prestigious research opportunity available for undergraduates at the University featuring a close, master-apprentice relationship between student researcher and faculty advisor.

Shortly after Fellows submit their completed Senior Honors Theses, they are invited to make formal oral presentations of their completed research at the annual University Undergraduate Research Fellows Symposium. This year the Fellows have been divided into eight groups of students pursuing research in related areas. Each group will conduct a separate Symposium session on the fifth floor of Rudder Tower according to the following schedule:

Tuesday, April 27th, 7:00 p.m.

Psychology, Rudder 501
 Elaine Hayes
 Alison Healy
 Matthew McCurdy
 Rahul Patel
 Jala Shawver
 Leah Stewart

Engineering I, Rudder 502
 Justin Cropper
 Christopher Jones
 Richard Todd
 Natalie Zerangue

Molecular Biology, Rudder 510
 Carrie Arnold
 Natalie Halbert
 Ron Grier
 Ian Lobo
 Monica McArthur
 Lindsay Windham

Psychology/Sociology, Rudder 504
 Inette Beckner
 Linda McDonald
 Christopher McFaul
 Anisha Parekh
 Sara Reyna

Thursday, April 29th, 7:00 p.m.

Chemistry, Rudder 502
 John Bechert
 Tom Casserly
 Michelle Leach
 Thomas Miller

Engineering II, Rudder 510
 Joseph Dowd
 Juan Pablo Pontaza
 Adam Tate
 Breanna Weir
 Matthew Zeve

Humanities, Rudder 501
 Elizabeth Agnew
 Allyson Breech
 Kerri Potter
 Jesse Rester
 Melissa Thompson
 Stephanie Wallace

Political Science, Rudder 504
 Monica Durham
 Matthew Flume
 Kelly Hartline
 Jennifer Reynolds

A reception honoring the 1998-99 University Undergraduate Research Fellows will be held in the lobby on the second floor of Rudder Tower at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 27th. Faculty, students, and other members of the University community are invited to attend the reception and any of the Symposium sessions to learn more about what some of Texas A&M University's most successful, confident, and motivated undergraduates have been able to achieve. Should you have any questions, please contact Dr. Edward Funkhouser, Associate Director of the University Honors Program at 845-6774 or via email ed-funkhouser@tamu.edu.

FALL MATH COURSES ON THE WEB

For motivated students who have the discipline to learn without lectures, the following web-math courses may be for you.

- Math 131-508...(Math Concepts) instructor: Mike Stecher 845-3269, stecher@math.tamu.edu
- Math 151-(525, 526)...(Engineering Math I) instructor: Don Allen 845-7950, dallen@math.tamu.edu

Let's Talk

English as a Second Language

Conversational English Classes

For student, staff, family

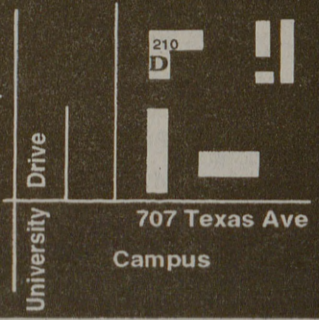
Beginning, intermediate, advanced

Small group lessons

Classes begin May 10

Registration:
 April 24-28
 9-10 am/3-4 pm
 April 31-May 7
 1-5 pm
 707 Texas Ave.
 Suite 210 Bldg. D

696-6583
www2.cy-net.net/~letstalk



ENGL 210 Credit by Exam

The English Department is offering credit for English 210 : Scientific and Technical Writing based on a portfolio of documents you write over the course of the semester and an impromptu writing exam.

- Registration (Blocker 224): May 5 - 6; May 31 - June 2
- Portfolio Development: May 31 - July 27
- Impromptu Writing Exam: August 3 - 4

Students with work experience or who will be taking writing-intensive courses are especially encouraged to apply. Students graduating in August may not apply. See our web site or come by Blocker 224 for more information.

English Department - Writing Programs Office
 845-9936

<http://www.english.tamu.edu/wprograms/credit210.html>

ALLSPACE SELF STORAGE

Students

Need a place to store your summer belongings?
 Give ALLSPACE SELF STORAGE a call!

- \$10 off first month's rent w/this ad
- Call about our early sign in specials that will save you a ton of money and worries before Finals!!

821-2129

1920 S. FM 2818 • Bryan, TX (1/2 mile north of Villa Maria)

- SIZES TO MEET YOUR NEEDS -

Works for me!

- ACCOUNTING
- CREATIVE SERVICES
- ENGINEERING
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE
- TECHNICAL

You're working on your education, let Pro Staff work on your experience. We offer positions with top companies that will give you a competitive advantage in today's workforce. Call Pro Staff to earn top pay and gain top experience this summer!

PRO STAFF

AUSTIN, DALLAS, HOUSTON
 800-244-7960

Ordering your 2000 Aggieland yearbook is as easy as 1-2-3!!

AGGIELAND

2000

Don't forget to order your 2000 Aggieland yearbook when you register for classes. Use **fee option 016** during phone registration.

For any questions regarding the 2000 Aggieland, call 845-2682.