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Religious Art

Friday, April 26, 2002



Reel Critiqu

National Lampoon's Van Wilder Starring: Ryan Reynolds and Tara Reid **Myriad Pictures**

Van Wilder (Reynolds) is somewhat of a deity among the mortal students who matriculate at Coolidge College, renowned for his uncanny ability to arrange parties in the only way Hollywood knows how — gigantic.

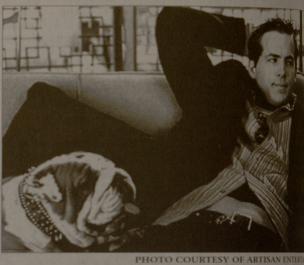
Wilder's demigod status also permits him to steal parking spaces from tenured faculty, have any clueless coed he pleases and devote the majority of his valuable time steering clear of anything remotely academic. The proverbial vinyl comes to a screeching halt when Wilder's dad stops payment on his tuition check, narrowly averting financing his slacking son's seventh year in college. With help from his roommate Hutch (Teck 'Money" Holmes) - who, with his frequent weed smoking, checks another box on the college movie rubric - and his recently hired personal assistant Taj (Kal Penn) — who fulfills the stereotypical quirky foreign exchange student" requirement -Wilder launches several half-baked schemes to raise money.

'Topless Tutors," an idea that is destined to illuminate the light bulb over the heads of collegiate entrepreneurs everywhere. Wilder's eccentric exploits attract the attention of Gwen (Reid), a writer for the college's newspaper, whose initial reluctance to uncover the story behind the school's resident party liaison turns to a passion. In the end, Gwen dumps her pre-med boyfriend, who tries to foil the blossoming relationship between the hero and the heroine and has a penchant for using gross medical metaphors.

To sum it up: larger than life protagonist has a setback, and heroine enters and convinces hero that he keeps from graduating because of a repressed fear of taking life seriously. Does the dad

reconcile with the hero? Does everything end peach wild guess

Sure, Van Wilder is not a film that will stir deen thoughts within its viewer. But, it will not stir shallow thoughts either. But with a fair share of funny punch lin easy-to-follow linear plot, Van Wilder redeems the "in pid" reputation of National Lampoon movies in the and gives the film connoisseur a chug of beer from a bar cializes in serving Oscar-worthy fine wines, vinta-(Grade: B-)



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Love, Nirvana lawsuit continues

SEATTLE (AP) — Courtney Love will not have to undergo a psychiatric evaluation as part of an ongoing dispute with the Nirvana bandmates of her late husband, Kurt Cobain.

Granting the request made by a lawyer representing Krist Novoselic and Dave Grohl would "serve no purpose other than to contribute a circus-like atmosphere" to legal proceedings in a marketing dispute, King County Superior Court Judge Robert Alsdorf said Wednesday.

Novoselic and Grohl's attorney, Kelly Corr, had contended that Love brought questions about her own mental competency to

Last May, the singer-actress and her 9-year-old daughter, Frances Bean Cobain, filed a lawsuit seeking to dissolve Nirvana LLC, a business partnership Love formed in 1997 as the representative of Cobain's estate with Novoselic and Grohl.

In her filing, the 37-year-old claimed she signed the limited partnership agreement at a time when her judgment had been 'significantly impaired," several years after her husband's 1994 shotgun suicide. She also contended that she was misled about the band's assets and that Nirvana LLC has poorly managed Cobain's legacy.

The dispute is over the unreleased song, "You Know You're Right," which the Seattle grunge group recorded shortly before Cobain's death. Love has fought the song's release

The lawsuit is set for trial in September, but both sides have said they hope to reach a settlement. Grohl and Novoselic turned down an offer from Love earlier this year.

Jewel injured when thrown from horse, no life-threatening injuries

NEW YORK (AP) — Pop singer Jewel was injured when she was thrown from a horse at the Texas ranch of her boyfriend, rodeo star Ty Murray, the co-president of her record label said Wednesday.

Jewel, 27, broke her collarbone, her first rib and suffered bumps and bruises, Ron Shapiro, co-president at Atlantic Records, told The Associated Press.

Shapiro said the platinum-selling singer was vacationing at her boyfriend's ranch, about 90 miles southwest of Dallas, when she was thrown from the colt Wednesday. "They've confirmed to me that nothing was life-threatening,"

Shapiro said. "But she is badly hurt." An ambulance was not called, he said. Murray drove the star to his orthopedic surgeon for treatment. She will not be hospital-

ized, but will need to wear a collar and a sling for at ke weeks, said Shapiro.

Because of the accident, Jewel will have to cancel her tional tour for her latest disc, "This Way," A Europeanto was to have started May 10 in Italy is in doubt, but she si able to go on with her U.S. tour, which is due to begin lin Tampa, Fla.

Shapiro said he was not sure what caused the accident said the singer, whose full name is Jewel Kilcher, was an enced horse rider.

"I think it was a freak accident. She does ride horses quently," he said.

This Way" is Jewel's third disc. The singer has also two books, including 1998's "A Night Without Armor She made her acting debut in Ang Lee's "Ride With the

Murray is seven-time winner of rodeo's all-around wor

Dr. Dre being sued for release of DW

DETROIT (AP) — Five current and former city officials have sued rapper Dr. Dre and others involved in the production of a DVD, saying their privacy was invaded.

Defendants in the lawsuit, filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court, include Up In Smoke Tour headliner Dr. Dre; Magic Johnson, whose company helped produce the tour; AOL Time Warner, which distributed and marketed the DVD; Best Buy, which sold it; and Panavision, which provided cameras for the concert staff.

The lawsuit alleges that "a hidden camera and microphone secretly used to intercept, eavesdrop upon and reco between city officials and tour organizers.

Up in Smoke was a major rap tour featuring Eminem at Dog that came to Detroit and Auburn Hills in the summer Officials in both cities threatened to punish tour organ showed a sexually explicit video as part of the show.

Detroit officials succeeded in keeping the video from being but later paid Dr. Dre — whose real name is Andre Young and apologized for infringing on his free speech rights. The exchange between the city leaders and tour organi

back room at Joe Louis Arena became a bonus track on a released after the tour. "What would you do if somebody took your image and

T-shirt or a product and started making millions of dollars of out your consent?" attorney Glenn Oliver told the Detroit Fre

Herschel Fink, whose law firm also is being sued and report Dr. Dre, called the charges "basically comic."



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