**WEEKLY PICKS**

**BOOK**

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
By J.K. Rowling

“It’s a really good book to read when you don’t feel like doing your homework.”
— Meghan Reilly ’05

**MOVIE**

O
Starring Josh Hartnett

“It’s good, but it’s very disturbing.”
— Devon Westerlund ’04

**MUSIC**

Blow Soundtrack
Various Artists

“It gets us amped to go out on the weekends.”
— Christina Mucci ’05

**WEBSITE**

Sparknotes
http://www.Sparknotes.com

“It is helpful for when you don’t want to do your reading!”
— Maggie Cerow ’05

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**FEATURES**

**“Ice Age” one cool story**

BY TIMOTHY O’COIN
FEATURES EDITOR EMERITUS

Over the past year, CG animation has become a potent force in the family film genre. The one-two punch of the touching-yet-de-liciously-subversive “Shrek” and the charming, saccharine humor of “Monsters, Inc.” have delighted both critics and audiences alike and have studios clamoring for their own piece of this wildly popular, not to mention lucrative, trend. Twentieth Century Fox’s “Ice Age” marks the latest attempt for a major studio to muscle in on the success of CG animation kingpins DreamWorks and Disney/Pixar.

“Ice Age” goes the route of many CG features before it, attempting to blend equal parts of adult humor and kid-friendly fare. For the most part it succeeds, yet it lacks the kind of seamless unity between adult and child subject matter seen in Pixar and DreamWorks’s projects. It doesn’t have the wry, intelligent humor seen in “Shrek,” and the story here smacks of the kind of feel-good themes that populate more conservative family films. Most of the jocularity here is of the slapstick variety, with prat falls and poop jokes aplenty. On the whole, it’s more “cartoony” than previous CG movies—the exaggerated character designs and backgrounds hearken back to the glory days of Warner Bros., where silliness reigned over realism.

That’s not to say that “Ice Age’s” visuals don’t dazzle. There are moments with some truly impressive CG work, among them a dizzying slide through ice caves and a perilous trek across a sea of molten lava. They don’t have the gloss and polish of more seasoned animation studios, but the more fantastic motifs suit this film’s ingrained flippancy. Indeed, “Ice Age” is chock full of Looney Tunes-style calamities and perils, best exemplified by the misadventures of Scrat (voice of Chris Wedge, also the film’s director), a small rodent creature best described as a saber-tooth squirrel on speed. Throughout the movie, he is featured in a series of mini-vignettes that essentially act as bampsers to the A-plot. In each, he desperately tries to find a secure place to store an acorn, and usually ends up meeting several Wile E. Coyote-esque foes, including being struck by lightning, stepped on, and nearly crushed between advancing glaciers.

The story: With temperatures dropping and glaciers approaching, most animals begin migrating to warmer climates. Staying behind are Manfred the Wooly Mammoth (voice of Ray Romano) and Sid the Sloth (voice of John Leguzamo). Manfred refuses to go, and Sid has been ditched by his friends. The two meet after Manfred saves the clumsy Sid from a boulder, pretending to be a friend and guide, joins up with Sid and Manfred as the two try to return the infant to the humans.

““Ice Age” goes the route of many CG features before it, attempting to blend equal parts of adult humor and kid-friendly fare.”

Even though the movie is a bit fluffier than last year’s two CG blockbusters. Nonetheless, it’s a great piece of entertainment that won’t leave you out in the cold.

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**Seven Days...**

Friday, Mar. 22
Robin Williams at Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford, CT
Paula Poundstone at Berklee Performance Center in Boston
Dirtbombs at Middle East Club in Cambridge
The Recipe at Tammany Hall in Worcester
Saturday, Mar. 23
Enrique Iglesias at Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford, CT
30 Seconds to Mars at The Palladium
Dave Cook at Gasoline Alley in Windsor, CT
Shatterbox at Sully’s Pub in Hartford
Sunday, Mar. 24
Lawrence Arms at Buzz Nightclub in Boston
The Pattern at Middle East Club in Cambridge
Julio Iglesias at Symphony Hall in Boston
Monday, Mar. 25
Ball In The House at High School in Brookline, MA
Damin Marley at Paradise Rock Club in Boston
Tuesday, Mar. 26
Herbie Hancock at Avalon in Boston
Mercedes Sosa at Berklee Performance Center in Boston
Josh Ritter at Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton
Wednesday, Mar. 27
Highway 9 at Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton
Saul Williams at Paradise Rock Club in Boston
311 at Webster Theatre in Hartford
Thursday, Mar. 28
Tom Russell at Passim in Cambridge
The Velvet Teen at Middle East Club in Cambridge

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Is Your PMS Out of Control?

If you are between the ages of 18 and 40 and experience severe mood swings, depression and irritability in the week before your period, you may be eligible to participate in a research study for the treatment of Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder.

If you are interested, please call Jesse at 508-334-7352 for more information. Woman's Program, Center for Psychopharmacologic Research and Treatment