



'Evolution'

Have you ever noticed, in sci-fi movies, whenever an alien life form comes to Earth it either wants to take over or just outright kill us all by altering the atmosphere?

The latter is the case in Ivan Reitman's science fiction comedy 'Evolution' (102 minutes, PG-13, Dreamworks), just out on VHS and DVD. But of course, it takes a good part of the movie to figure that out.

Reitman has directed some of the most well-known comedies of all time (Animal House, Ghostbusters, Kindergarten Cop) along with directing some of the greatest comedic actors around (Kevin Kline, Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Danny DeVito, Arnold Schwarzenegger and the late John Belushi), but while this was an entertaining movie, I wouldn't throw it up on that distinguished list.

And yes, I count it ahead as a great comedic actor. Watch 'Junior', 'Twins', and 'Kindergarten Cop' if you don't think so. The standout performance in the movie comes from Orlando Jones (The Replacements, the 7-Up guy) as Dr. Block.

His facial expressions alone are worth the price of renting this movie. The rest of the cast includes Julianne Moore (Boogie Nights, Hamlet) as a scientist, David Duchovny (X-Files TV show, X-Files movie... did I mention he was part of the X-files?) as a, you guessed it, scientist, and Sean William Scott (American Pie, Road Trip, Dude... Where's My Car?) as a dim-witted fireman trainee.

Scott has played the same dumb guy in so many movies I'm going to dub him the 'Faully Shore for the New Millennium'.

It seems like everyone really took their parts semi-seriously except for Duchovny.

He's not very convincing as the ultrahip professor who always gives A's to his students. He just comes off like a Jack Nicholson wannabe. He's got a long way to go before he's THAT cool.

The effects in this movie are superb. The aliens look alien enough to be believable and the actors did a good job.

See EVOLUTION on 5



Commentary

Happy New Year, legislators with raises

It's nice to know my state legislators will be getting a pay raise this year despite state budget shortfalls. Here in the private sector, we have to deal with no raises, pennies per hour raises or getting our pay rolled back. I say that after reading a newspaper that reported that legislators will receive an additional \$16.26 each day they lead a meeting.

The compensation is provided for each day the legislature is in session, including weekends and holidays. The 2002 session will begin Jan. 8 and adjourn April 15. For 98 days of pay for an ordinary member, the bill comes to about \$16,028.88. Additionally, each member is set to receive \$93.50 for daily expenses. Multiply that times 98 days and that's an extra \$9,163.

That is way more than a lot of us make in one year. With the budget coming up short, I think they should vote to roll that increase back up this year.

Kim's Comments



Assembly will get a 3.4 percent increase in pay. Even state employees, who usually get up to 5 percent

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- Magistrate: Billy Dixon, Magistrate: Daryl Stacy, Magistrate: Avery Thornsburg, Magistrate: Jeff Randolph, Magistrate: Steve Hamilton

Dark tobacco crop cooking around state

By Laura Skillman
The untrained eye, the sight of smoke billowing out from a barn would signal the need to call the fire department. But in western Kentucky, smoking barns can be seen each fall along many rural roads as farmers cure their dark fire-cured tobacco crop.

Dark varieties of tobacco are grown in about 30 counties in the state and generate some \$60 million in cash receipts. Those receipts are divided among two types of dark tobacco - air-cured and fire-cured. To aid farmers in a high effort to attain a high quality, disease resistant crop, researchers at the University of Kentucky continue to search for new varieties and improved cultural practices. That work is being done by the University of Kentucky, University of Tennessee and at Murray State University.

The work is headed by Robert Miller, an internationally noted tobacco breeder. Miller holds a joint appointment with UK and the University of Tennessee, which merged their tobacco breeding programs in 1999. He is collaborating with Murray State on the same research which attempts to develop varieties with the quality of the old varieties and disease resistance of newer varieties, he said.

The cross pollination and disease screening work is conducted at Lexington and Greenville, Tenn. where the seeds are planted into highly infected black shank soils. These selections are evaluated for resistance to other diseases in greenhouses during the winter. Seed that has the desired combination of disease resistance undergo further black shank screening the following year.

These selections are also evaluated at three sites where they are grown out. Those sites are the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton, Murray State Westrom (D-Lexington). The Commission met this week at the University of Louisville, and heard from representatives of student groups, the credit card members will offer their expertise to help design suggested curricula, in cooperation with the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and Association of Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AKCU).

Credit cards, when used wisely, are a valuable tool for the consumer. Too many Kentucky college students, however, do not have the sufficient financial literacy to handle this responsibility. Further, aggressive marketing practices of some 'bad actor' credit card companies have compounded this problem. This difficult issue was the focus of the second hearing of my new Commission on Personal Savings and Investment, co-chaired by State Senator Brett Guthrie (R-Bowling Green) and State Representative Susan

making them seem real even though they probably spent the whole shoot screaming at tennis balls. The movie takes a while to get going and it would switch from an intelligent scientific comedy to outrageous 'Airplane'-like sequences... only without the plane. The DVD is full of great features like deleted scenes, an alternate ending, commentary track with the stars and actor along with the HBO First Look

University and UT's Highland Rim Experiment Station in Springfield. Hundreds of lines will be tested for yield and quality. The work is funded by U.S. Tobacco Co. with the exception of Miller's salary. Law prohibits any federal research dollars from being spent on anything that will be in a tobacco product.

step where the researchers feedback from the farmers on how well the crop grows and cures and compares to the variety they are currently using. 'It's a 10 to 12 year process,' Miller said. 'We have hundreds of lines in various stages of development.' Miller, who has been breeding tobacco for 20 years, said they are two to three years away from having a variety ready for commercial use. He released his last line in 1995, he said, and would like to have a new one to release every five years or so. To date, he has developed and released three dark tobacco and four burley tobacco varieties commercially. Any varieties released commercially will be owned jointly by UK and UT, said Miller, who joined UK's staff in 1996. Other work being done by the researchers include nitrogen fertigation, foliar fertilization and trickle irrigation studies.

The same varieties being tested for fire-curing at the UKREC are also being studied for use as Green

meaningful financial literacy courses should be offered during freshman orientation at every Kentucky college or university. Commission members will offer their expertise to help design suggested curricula, in cooperation with the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and Association of Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AKCU).

Credit card companies should be required to register with colleges and universities in order to solicit on campus, and to abide by a Code of Conduct governing solicitation methods. This Code should promote full disclosure of credit card terms and prohibit the more egregious marketing practices, such as dormitory room solicitations and offering of prizes, gifts or other monetary incentives to encourage applications from college students. Code should be developed

by the state's colleges and universities, with assistance offered by the Commission and organizations such as CPE and AKCU. I look forward to working with the Commission and the state's colleges and universities as this journey towards better student financial literacy progresses. If you have any ideas or suggestions, or you would like to lend a hand to the state's colleges and universities, please contact us at (502) 564-4772 or on the web at www.kytreasury.com.

I write to understand as much as I can to be understood. Literature is an act of conscience. It is up to us to rebuild with morality, our souls, and with moments of grace. -Elie Wiesel

Read the DVD review on page 4!

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The Nicholas County High School Varsity Lady Blue Jackets return to action at home tonight against Lewis County! The boys will face Augusta tomorrow night!