



'Rock Star'

Since the dawn of time for at least the 1950s, all adolescent males have had the dream to become a rock 'n' roll star.

The 'Rock Star' (Rated-R, 106 minutes, Warner Brothers), we get a glimpse of the good and bad side of stardom. And that includes the tight leather clothes, spandex and Aqua Net!

Chris Cole (Mark Wahlberg), lead singer of a tribute band (not a cover band, there's a difference) that honors the fictional heavy metal band Steel Dragon. Cole runs the band with an iron fist, which gets him kicked out of the band.

The lead guitarist for Steel Dragon calls Cole up, gives him an offer to audition for the band, and ultimately, Cole becomes the new lead singer.

We are then treated to every rock and roll excess that they could fit on the screen, because, as we all know, normal rules do not apply to those that are in the limelight.

Every tall tale ever told about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll are attributed to the quintessential 80's hair band Steel Dragon.

The striking thing about the movie is its uncanny resemblance (if you are on your 80s metal band) to the way the group Judas Priest replaced their original lead singer, Rob Halford, with a singer from a Priest tribute band by the name of Tim 'Ripper' Owens.

'Rock Star' reminded me of how close the movie 'Primary Colors' resembled Bill Clinton's first run at the White House. (If you don't believe me, watch a documentary called 'The War Room' and then watch 'Primary Colors.' I think you will be surprised.)

'Rock Star' is an enjoyable and very predictable romp with some great performances by Jennifer Aniston and heavy metal musicians Jeff Pison (bass player for Dokken) and Jason Bohman (drummer for Bohman, and his father John Bohman played for Led Zeppelin).

I especially enjoyed the interesting way Aniston devised to remove underwear. Trust me, it's not obscene.

The DVD features a music video, behind-the-scenes featurette and the obligatory commentary track.

Grade: B-

Viewpoint

OSAMA BIN LADEN
Jany Plotter

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AMERICANS STRONGLY CAUTIONED

CRITICS AGREE:

"...he has no conscience and no soul."
—President George W. Bush

"...a smoking gun!"
—U.S. Senator Bob Graham (D-Fla.)

"...a damnable piece of evidence!"
—U.S. Senator Richard Shelby (R-Ala.)

"Disgusting!"
—Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz

Commentary

Four-lane road not place to be 'kind'

Let's say you're sitting in traffic, on the connector, and you see someone sitting in their vehicle in the middle lane who wishes to turn across two lanes to their destination. They have a pained look on their face as it is clear to you they are not waiting for traffic to clear. They are between stop lights and there is no signal there to indicate when this person can turn. What do you do? You're stopped, and you've left enough space to allow them to turn in front of you. Do you wave for them to cross, out of a guilty sort of

Kim's Comments



Kim Hamilton
News Editor

occurred in the area between the stop light for Wal-Mart and the I-64 overpass specifically, because unthinking people are waving other unthinking people into traffic and WHAM! To those of you who think it's an act of kindness to wave at someone to cross one, but two lanes of traffic, I think again. Just because your lane is clear doesn't mean that the one parallel to you is clear. Unless you have eyes in the back of your head, you have no idea what's going on in the lane beside you, so several collisions have

authority to tell someone to cross? For those of you waiting to cross, please remember that it is safer to wait and allow traffic to clear as opposed to risking pulling across two lanes when you can't see if any cars are coming toward you. I have covered at least three wrecks recently at the same spot on the connector - all for the same reason: someone thought they were being kind, yet almost got someone else killed. Just don't do it!

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- Magistrate: Daryl Stacy
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Senate week in review

by Senator Ed Miller

One of the greatest challenges of the 2002 legislative session moved to the forefront last week as Gov. Paul Patton delivered his budget address to a joint session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

In disclosing the budget plan, the governor provided lawmakers with a starting point for our work on the state's next two-year spending plan. As the budget proposal works its way through the legislative process, lawmakers are sure to make whatever changes necessary to ensure the final budget we approve reflects the priorities and concerns of the people we represent.

This budget is already quite different from those we've worked on in recent years. The national economic downturn has hit state governments hard, and shortfalls have replaced surpluses. As a result, the budget proposed to lawmakers generally maintains, but doesn't increase, spending on state government programs and services. It contains no tax increases and no new construction projects.

In order to balance the budget with limited funds, the governor's proposal would shift money from some one-time sources, such as the Kentucky Access Health

insurance program, to help maintain other services and programs. The governor says his proposal only takes money from sources where the loss won't prevent programs from maintaining their operating levels.

The budget proposal also differs from others by allowing \$120 million in bond sales to fund the "Bucks for Brains" program, which helps lure world-class researchers to Kentucky's universities. For the past four years, the state has supported the program with surplus funds - money that isn't available this year.

Other major points of the budget proposal include generating an estimated \$30 million through a tax amnesty program and increasing the percentage of money sent back to coal communities through the state's coal severance tax.

The proposed budget is currently in the House, and will come to the Senate for consideration once its members finish their work on it.

Though the budget received much attention last week, Senate members continued plugging away on a number of bills approved by committee and sent to the full Senate for consideration.

Among the measures we considered was legislation aimed at expanding research to diversify the state's agricultural industry. Senate Bill 86 would replace the Tobacco Health Institute at

the University of Kentucky with the new Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center. This new center will allow researchers to continue studying tobacco, but they'll also have the opportunity to broaden the scope of their work to other crops important to Kentucky farmers, such as corn and soybeans.

Education was also a hot topic last week. We approved Senate Bill 74, which would improve Kentucky high school students' access to advanced placement courses. The legislation would require the creation of uniform guidelines for Kentucky's advanced placement courses, and would prompt local school-based decision making councils to develop advanced placement curriculum. The bill would also use technology to improve students' access to advanced placement courses by making them available online through the Kentucky Virtual High School.

In other business, we passed Senate Bill 61 to help the state save money and conserve resources by improving energy conservation in government buildings. The bill sets a goal for the state to lower energy use in state buildings by 10 percent.

We took a step toward helping people with epilepsy with the passage of Senate Bill 69. The legislation would ensure public places aren't off limits for an assistance dog trained to sense and warn a person with epilepsy before a seizure starts.

We also passed Senate Bill 59 to help crack down on crime by giving U.S. Customs Service special agents in Kentucky the power to make arrests. The Customs officers who help patrol airports say this added power would help in their efforts to fight terrorism, drug trafficking, child pornography and counterfeit goods.

As always, if you have a comment or question on an issue we're looking at in Frankfort, I hope you'll take the time to share your

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