

HOW TO WIN FRIENDS...

Students start "Working with People," a new program aimed at teaching interpersonal skills. Page 7

SOFTBALL WINS AGAIN

The softball won their last nineteen of twenty days, earning them a spot in the NCAA tournament. Page 16

Tech team wins CMF National Grand Finale

1.618 Films takes home first prize with story of Fanya Kaplan

By Lindsay Deal
Entertainment Editor

Every spring, hundreds of Tech students compete in Campus MovieFest (CMF), an annual contest that gives inspiring filmmakers one week to shoot and edit a five-minute short film. For most students the experience only lasts that week and quickly ends after the curtain drops on Tech's CMF Finale. However, for one lucky team, 1.618 Films, this year the clapboard did not drop on their journey until after they were awarded Best Picture at the CMF National Grand Finale in late April.

The team's film, *Fanya Kaplan*, tells the story of the woman who failed at assassinating Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin in 1918. Bradley Herrmann, a fourth-year Mechanical Engineering major, and Michael Gluzman, a third-year Industrial Design major, directed the film. The title character is played by Becky Tucker, a fourth-year Physics major who also happens to be engaged to Herrmann.

Even though all filming and editing happened during CMF's allotted six days, the planning process started before Christmas break when the team began writing the script and gathering supplies. "[Gluzman] and writer Wesley Wingo actually came up with the [idea of using the life of Fanya Kaplan] while looking for stories of famous assassins on

Wikipedia. As there never [have] been any movies or books written on the events, we both had to dig deep to find out the real facts and use knowledge of the time period to fill in what probably would have happened. We wanted to both be as historically accurate as we could, while still giving the audience a story they could enjoy and relate to in five

"We wanted to be both as historically accurate as we could, while still giving the audience a story they could enjoy and relate to in five minutes."

Bradley Herrmann
Fourth-year ME

minutes," Herrmann said.

Gluzman was born in Russia and still speaks Russian with his family, so he had personal ties to a Russian story.

The team researched and found all the information available on Kaplan, Lenin and the Bolsheviks, even translating several sources. A key dramatic speech in the film uses

the exact words that Kaplan uttered shortly before her execution.

The historically-driven, well-crafted story was just one of the things that made *Fanya Kaplan* stand out from the other films.

"The panel of judges focus primarily on the story and overall quality of the film, followed by aesthetics, technical excellence and sound design. While the results were very close between the exceptional short movies from across the country, *Fanya Kaplan* excelled in all of the judging elements," said David Roemer, CMF's co-founder and CEO.

As if putting together a movie on such a tight schedule was not hard enough, the film was done completely in Russian to better convey the story. English subtitles were added in post-production.

Gluzman, who also acted in the movie, was the only cast member who already spoke Russian. He taught his co-stars (Tucker and Matthew Perry, a third-year management major) Russian phonetically and gave them recordings of his reading of the lines so they would know the proper pronunciation.

Although it is clear that the directors heavily contributed to the film, Herrmann credits the success of the final product to the whole team's effort. "There were so many



Photos courtesy of 1.618 Films

Kaplan's cast and crew work to finish their CMF entry. Becky Tucker (above) stars in the film Bradley Herrmann (below) co-directed.

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Annie Leibovitz photos visit High

"Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005" is the newest exhibit at the High Museum of Art. On Thursday, May 24, at 6:30p.m., guests are invited to join Julian Cox, Curator of Photography, for a guided tour through the exhibit. The touring exhibition contains an array of approximately 175 of Leibovitz's photographs, from portraits of Demi Moore and Mick Jagger to photographs documenting many events of her personal life such as the births of her three daughters. Tickets are \$12 for students with a valid ID, and more information is available at www.high.org.

Flicks on Fifth returns June 6

Flicks on 5th returns this summer to 5th Street at Technology Square in Midtown with a lineup of the year's blockbuster titles including: *Music & Lyrics*, *Night at the Museum*, *Pursuit of Happyness*, *Breach*, *Stranger than Fiction*, *Dreamgirls* and *300*. This free summer movie series starts at dusk (around 9p.m.) every Wednesday evening starting June 6 through July 25, 2007, excluding July 4th.

Linkin Park releases new album

Band loses signature sound, sinks to mediocrity

By Kristin Noell
Contributing Writer

Once upon a time, when some of us were angry teenagers, Linkin Park (LP) made up a large part of the soundtrack to our lives. It's been a long four years since their last studio album, but their third effort, *Minutes to Midnight*, was released this week. Sadly, the album will be an overall disappointment to avid LP fans.

Minutes to Midnight opens like any other LP album, with the instrumental piece "Wake." However, it feels like this unremarkable song was just included as a reminder that this is, in

fact, a Linkin Park album—because the rest of the CD departs from the style of *Hybrid Theory* and *Meteora*.

The old LP created albums that were meant to be listened to as a whole, but no longer. *Minutes to Midnight* requires the listener to judge on a song-by-song basis, as the album in its entirety seems weak

and almost exhausting. Six of the album's 12 songs are what one could call ballads, highly unusual for the reigning kings of nu-metal.

With *Minutes to Midnight* clocking in at nearly five minutes longer than the last two albums—combined with the four final songs falling under the "ballad" category—you'll be ready to hit the "off" switch on your iPod halfway through the album.

And the weak points keep adding up. The quieter overall quality makes *Minutes to Midnight* sound more like the work of just another rock band than the unique efforts of the incomparable Linkin Park. In case the album's strong ballads make you think that Linkin Park's members have turned into a bunch of sissies, the once expletive-free band has turned to dropping the f-bomb frequently, most noticeably in "Given Up." *Minutes to Midnight* is the first of the three albums to earn itself a Parental Advisory sticker. And this is no accomplishment—the swearing

adds nothing to the album, instead making LP sound even more like another cookie-cutter band.

As the band has "matured," the vocal balance has disappeared; Mike Shinoda's invaluable rapping has been almost completely erased from the album, to its detriment. The songs that do feature Shinoda, however, are the strongest on the album.

"Bleed It Out," though repetitive and exceedingly catchy, has a great beat. (Say goodbye to the old days of head banging to LP, but you'll definitely be tapping your foot along to this one.)

Shinoda's primary contribution, "Hands Held High," shows promise for LP's future endeavors. Utilizing a military drum for background, the highly politicized song harnesses a kind of quiet anger to create pure genius. With lyrics describing "a leader so nervous in an obvious way,

stuttering and mumbling" and the negative aspects of the second Iraq war, this one is a liberal's dream come true.

For the old school fans, "Given Up" will be a favorite. It's all there: the screaming, the angry lyrics and an incredible beat.

The only other song that nears the old sound is "What I've Done," which is probably how it became the first single.

Still, even "What I've Done" has a new twist on the old style, as it opens in a unique way with what could be a horror movie theme song.

Minutes to Midnight is an interesting mix of old and new. Clearly, Linkin Park is trying to mature their style in many different directions. Hopefully, they will settle down a little more on their next album. Until then, I think this one will be one of those that will grow on me, even if it takes a while.

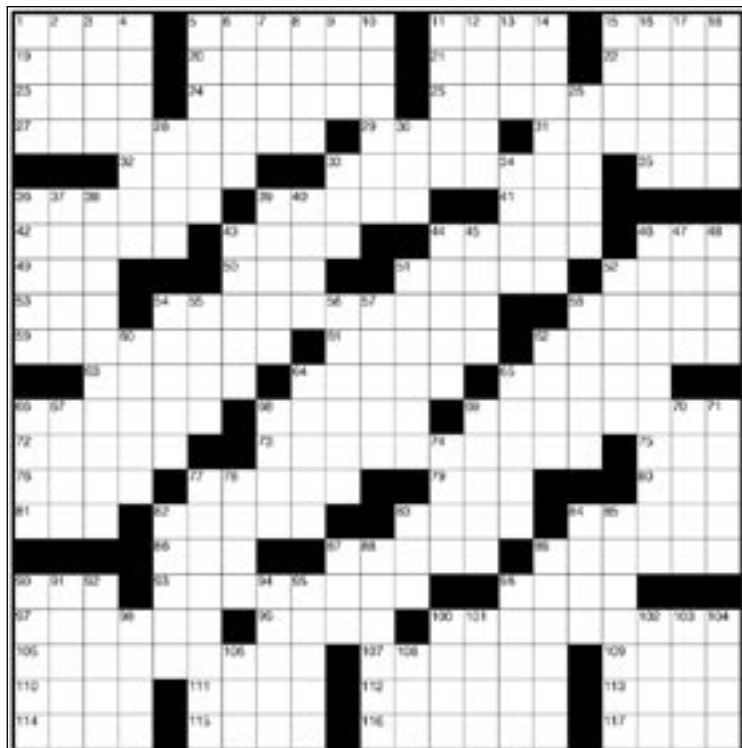


THEME CROSSWORD: WHERE TO?

By Robert Zimmerman
United Features Syndicate

ACROSS

- 1. Coarse file
- 5. Tap
- 11. Hook with a handle
- 15. "Too bad!"
- 19. Suffix for salmon
- 20. Fine wool
- 21. "___ and the Detectives"
- 22. "Candid Camera" host
- 23. Alpha Centauri, e.g.
- 24. Juan Peron's second wife
- 25. City on the Erie Canal
- 27. OK Corral locale
- 29. Question for Brutus
- 31. Dry goods merchant
- 32. They go with aahs
- 33. Condensed, as mist on a window
- 35. DDE's predecessor
- 36. Thing
- 39. Razor sharpener
- 41. Chang's twin
- 42. Puddles
- 43. Dinghy
- 44. Diners may say it
- 46. Tiny one
- 49. EMT skill: abbr.
- 50. ___ bran
- 51. Medieval music pioneer
- 52. At the front
- 53. Equipment for 43 Across
- 54. Site of 1964 naval incident: 2 wds.
- 58. Therefore
- 59. Roman judges
- 61. Scale marking
- 62. Blood lines?
- 63. Connection
- 64. Hidden supply
- 65. San Antonio landmark
- 66. Philly footballers
- 68. Martini floater
- 69. On the short list, perhaps
- 72. Greek exports
- 73. Pacific inlet north of San Francisco: 2 wds.
- 75. Motorists' org.



- 76. Actor Donahue
- 77. Upper class
- 79. Heat meas.
- 80. Station wagon's successor
- 81. Heir
- 82. Tennyson's Arden
- 83. Limo destination
- 84. Fabric finish
- 86. Coach Parseghian
- 87. Bend down
- 89. Hot spots
- 90. Colonial taxtarget
- 93. Not in the main tent
- 96. Cellar contents?
- 97. How some things are built
- 99. Vault
- 100. River in Alabama
- 105. Seaport on Shikoku island
- 107. Captivate
- 109. ___ avis
- 110. Brewer's line
- 111. Pitcher
- 112. Chopper's art?
- 113. Final notice
- 114. Statutes
- 115. Actress Diana
- 116. Makes amends
- 117. Cysts

DOWN

- 1. Remainder
- 2. Voice range
- 3. ___ dunk
- 4. Cook, to a point
- 5. Longfellow's chestnut tree sheltered it
- 6. Tijuana taxi fare
- 7. Turkmenistan neighbor
- 8. Be compatible
- 9. ___ for the money
- 10. Steel "capital" of Middle Ages
- 11. Arrive at
- 12. Love on the Loire
- 13. Ending of French films
- 14. Stomping in Seville
- 15. Over the horizon
- 16. Out to ___
- 17. "Spine" of S.A.
- 18. Square one
- 26. Shim
- 28. Barflies
- 30. Recipe abbr.
- 33. Pianist Tatum
- 34. Drawn by shooters
- 36. Disney acronym
- 37. Unvalued, as stock
- 38. City on the Naugatuck

- 39. Takes a leisurely bath
- 40. Film's "Mr. Hulot"
- 43. Ribs, e.g.
- 44. Deep ravine
- 45. Abundant
- 46. Site of Arizona cliff dwellings: 2 wds.
- 47. Sea World performer
- 48. Golfer's gadgets
- 51. Armed hoodlum
- 52. 1938 Nobel physicist
- 54. Wedding attire, at times
- 55. Heavy responsibility
- 56. Busy one's turndown
- 57. Tropical fruit
- 58. Composer Carmichael
- 60. Climber's tying point
- 62. Inter ___
- 64. Deadly sin
- 65. Song collection
- 66. Newts
- 67. Space preceder
- 68. Of the ear
- 69. Impede, in law
- 70. George W.'s lady
- 71. Overhangs
- 74. Zaragoza's river
- 77. With vitamins added
- 78. Burden
- 82. Relaxes
- 83. Blow, in comic-strip balloon
- 84. Timbuktu locale
- 85. Change with time
- 87. ___ Na Na
- 88. State capital since 1861
- 89. Cavalry weapons
- 90. Wheaties rival
- 91. Part of a bomber name
- 92. Out of line
- 94. Playwright Rice
- 95. Roebuck partner
- 96. Hit with gusto
- 98. Feline friend
- 100. Tropical crop
- 101. Yemen neighbor
- 102. Movie piglet
- 103. Emerald Isle
- 104. Chow
- 106. ___ Jima
- 108. King Cole

CMF

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dedicated and experienced people who worked on this film, it couldn't have been done without them. This is for them," he said.

According to Herrmann, winning so many awards was never their main goal, but instead they wanted to present a solid story that could stand on its own, free of gimmicks. "We simply wanted to make a good movie, that we...would be proud of, and that winning anything would be nice, but certainly that was not our original goal at all," he said.

But the team did win, and at every stage of the competition the group was rewarded for their efforts. "[1.618 Films team members] won CMF engraved video iPods and new Apple computers for their efforts. The film was showcased at the Tech CMF Finale, the Atlanta CMF Grand Finale and the CMF National Grand Finale in partnership with the Atlanta Film Festival. Plus, CMF coordinated a screening of *Fanya Kaplan* at the Georgia Big Picture Conference in April," Roemer said.

1.618 Films will face even more competition next year as CMF is expanding to even more schools, including campuses in the cinematic hotbeds of New York and Los Angeles, but CMF still expects strong entries from Tech. "We can't wait to see what Tech comes up with next year. The competition will be heating up as the students will be competing against even more cities," said Megan Solomon, public relations coordinator for CMF.

Whether or not Herrmann goes on to succeed in next year's competition, he said his CMF experience over the last three years has taught him a great deal about making short films. "Filmmaking in its essence is visual story telling, and to get across your idea to an audience in such a short period of time requires a great deal of forethought and effort. A solid story and real characters are the core of your film. On a separate level a short film is often hinged on it's editing. Cutting directly to important parts of the story and making the pacing flow are crucial in such a short time period," he said.

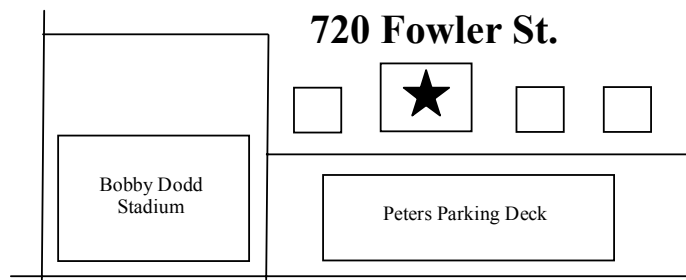
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My roommate plans on wooing a girl with the Llama Song.
"Here's a llama, there
I think I could take on Osama.
Your average run-of-the-mill terrorist, maybe not, but I'm pretty sure I can take on a 62-year-old man on dialysis.
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