

LET'S GO TO

New Moon delves deep

By Rachel Robinson
Staff Writer

Vampires, werewolves, and one girl, Bella Swan, caught up in a battle of creatures. Bella Swan again faces a struggle for love, when, in the second installment of the Twilight Saga, Edward Cullen leaves her abruptly after a mishap at her own birthday party.

Edward and his vampire family pick up and leave Forks, Washington to protect Bella and their identity, leaving Bella lost, lonely, and without the one she loves, and leaving the audience to gain a more emotional attachment to Bella

In the first months of Edward's absence, Bella rarely leaves her home and secludes herself from her friends. One night when she finally goes out, she discovers that acting recklessly will bring back an image of Edward as if he is physically with her once again. This gives Bella the thought that doing ridiculously dangerous things will bring him back.

When one reckless thing makes Alice, the future-seeing Cullen, think Bella is dead, Edward goes to Italy to get the Volturi, the vampire rule-makers and enforcers, to kill him. Bella is forced to go to Italy and attempt a rescue and to show Edward that she is still alive.

Since *New Moon* was a long-awaited movie, there was

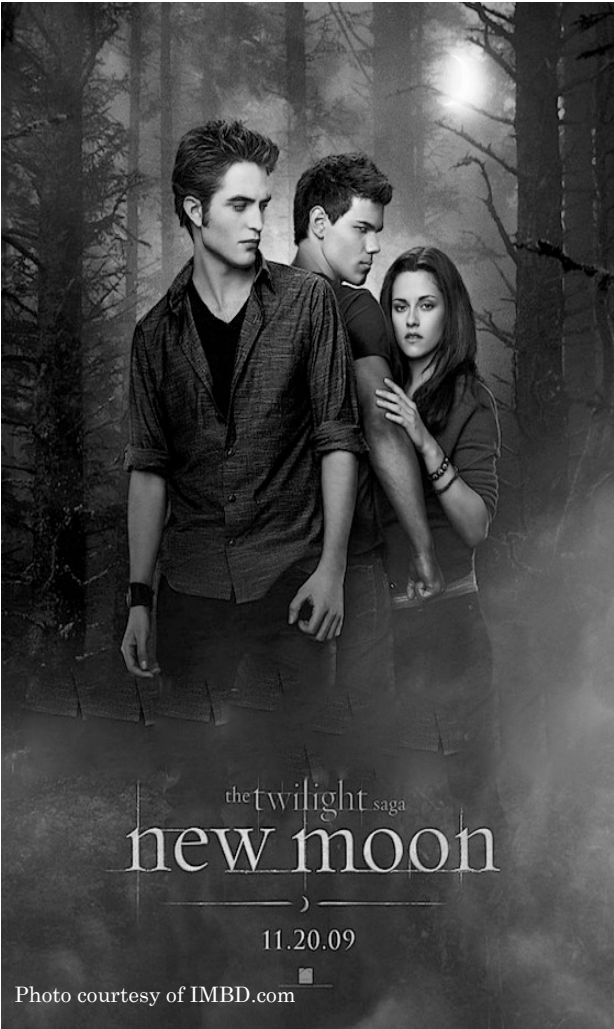
much speculation and excitement or as in senior Ryan Schmidlkofer's case, not so much.

"When things go so far as putting characters' faces on the front of underwear, it's too far," said Schmidlkofer. Not all opinions of the Twilight Saga are so negative.

New Moon was "...better than I expected. Seeing Taylor Lautner with his shirt off was definitely a positive as well," said junior Chelsa Ayers.

New Moon is the second of the Twilight Saga and a vast improvement from the first movie. With a bigger budget, the quality and animation of the werewolves was greatly put together. Unlike the first movie, *New Moon* got to deeper emotions: frustration, sadness, and even laughter. Most of the audience could relate to Bella through her pain after Edward left, and

the hole that was created after his absence. Though my experience was hindered by strange reactions from the audience watching as I did, it matched the book well and brings more excitement for the third book, *Eclipse*, to be made into a movie.



A Christmas Carol: Heartless Heart-warmer

By Terin Saylor
Staff Writer

A Christmas Carol—about the miserly, miserable Ebenezer Scrooge and his Christmas Eve redemption at the hands of a trio of ghosts—gets a manic makeover under the direction of Robert Zemeckis, who applied the same motion-capture animation he used in *The Polar Express* to create a fable that is scary, sweet and, in the end, slightly soulless. In other words, it's a heart-warmer that doesn't have much of a heart itself.

Mostly that's the fault of the animation, which renders everything and everyone in lavish detail and misses the quality that makes a cartoon character human. This is despite the efforts of the voice cast, which includes Jim Carrey as Scrooge and the ghosts that visit him; and Gary Oldman as Scrooge's dead partner Jacob Marley, Scrooge's clerk Bob Cratchit and Cratchit's son, Tiny Tim.

The film takes advantage of the latest 3-D technology, which isn't entirely a bad thing. The tale lends itself

Beloved children's book hits the big screen

By Rachel Robinson
Staff Writer

"Where the Wild Things Are", the movie, has been a long awaited feature film. Though originally a children's book, director Spike Jonze transformed it into a blockbuster hit. "Where the Wild Things Are" wasn't just about a boy, but about being a kid. It was a movie to remind you of your childhood.

The plot of the movie is very similar to that of the book: Max, the little boy, becomes angry at his mother and decides to run away. He runs through the forest until he finds a little boat and sails away on it for days.

Then, a small island comes into view, which he sails to and leaves his boat to go explore. On the island he finds the

"wild things" who are convinced that Max is a king, and thus cannot be eaten by them. Throughout, Max continues to try to show Carol, one of the "wild things" that he is a good king. Following certain events, Carol realizes Max is good. As he is preparing to leave, they

all (including Max) howl their goodbyes.



After a short boat trip, Max returns to his mother's open arms.

This movie is unlike any other children's movie. The animation and lighting is spectacular. You begin to think the "wild things" are real because they're so lifelike. Also, the lighting was so well done because it reminded you of the illustrations from the original book. Instead of embellishing and changing the original story, Jonze played up the theme with exquisite animation and playful characters.

This is a must-see for movie-goers in need of a reminder of the child inside. You'll leave the theatre smiling, wanting to sail away to island where you'll find your own "wild things."

Arts and Entertainment

THE MOVIES

UPCOMING DRAMA CLASS PLAYS

By Mica Paulicheck
Staff Writer

This year, Danette Garcia's Drama class will be performing two plays for the holidays: *The Christmas Miser*, and *The Uninvited Guests*.

The longer of the two, *The Christmas Miser* is a modern-day Scrooge story involving a theatre troupe run by the none-too-kind Arthur Felton who, due to three unexpected visitors, learns to be a better person. The leading male role, Arthur Felton, will be played by senior Sam Lewis. The leading female role, Arthur's unrecognized love Molly, will be played by freshman Samantha Utter.

The Uninvited Guests is a comedy about the Morton family's

Christmas, in which a particularly annoying guest, Molly Gardner (junior Mica Paulicheck) is frightened away by two friends of the Morton's son Buster (freshman Rylee Wood). The friends were offended at being turned away at the door when they showed up, not having received the letter telling them not to come. The friends are played by senior Niko Hulse and sophomore Ben Zakheim.



The Uninvited Guests will be performed Thursday, December 17 during school in the Junior High commons. The date is not yet set for *The Christmas Miser* but it will run in January.



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

nicely to the eye-popping special effects, in which Scrooge zooms all over England visiting not only his happy past and wretched future, but corners of the present day about which he is oblivious.

In fact, the film is at its best when Scrooge, guided by a jolly, red-bearded Ghost of Christmas Present, makes the floor of Scrooge's house disappear. The two of them then fly, peering down into the dining room of the Cratchit family, where Tiny Tim feels the trickle-down effects of

bore adults and parents to tears. Just because something can be done with computers doesn't mean it should be.

Parents, keep in mind, just because this is Disney doesn't mean it's for the entire family. This movie is not meant for younger kids. There's a reason it's rated PG. Make no mistake. Dickens' story has good bones. And its lesson is that it's never too late to make a difference in someone else's life.



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Classic movies make for a warm holiday

Mary Zakheim
Staff Writer

Christmas is fast approaching and while one might spend their time worrying about finals or presents, complaining about the cold or portables, the holidays aren't supposed to bring a mood as bitter as the weather, they're meant to be a time of relaxing peace, a time that can be spent wrapped in a warm blanket with a steaming cup of cocoa watching some favorite holiday classics.

On a dark and dreary day spent indoors, try out some of Christmastime's greatest works, films that have made it through the decades and embrace the cheery ideals that the holidays are meant to bring.



Photo Courtesy of Google

One such movie is *Miracle on 34th Street*, a delightful story of a non-sense

girl and how her beliefs about Christmas start to morph as she interacts with an authentic-acting Santa. Susan was raised to not believe in anything that cannot be proved, such as fairy tales, fantasy, and Santa Claus. She acknowledged Mr.

Claus as a nice man in 300 AD, until her mother hires Kris Kringle as her department store Santa, both of their views concerning fantasy and the unreal start to transform. This man, who originally seemed like a pleasant fellow who wasn't all there, begins to convince Susan that he just may be the real Santa Claus. The competing store notices business down as all consumers flock to Cole's to experience their genuine Santa and they decide to take him out of the game by provoking an attack, which lands Mr. Kringle in an insane asylum when he claims he lives in the North Pole and stubbornly defends his name and information. It is suddenly up to Susan to decide once and for all if this man is Santa and if she should use her newfound Christmas spirit to rescue him.



Photo courtesy of Google

Part of my Christmas tradition, *It's a Wonderful Life*, is a timeless tale about a man named George Bailey and his struggles when everything seems to be going wrong. He decides to kill himself, where he's in-

terrupted by his guardian angel, Clarence, who proceeds to show him how the lives of his town would be ruined if not for him. A classic which made famous the phrase "every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings," the movie is a must-see for viewers needing a reminder of how valuable life is.

Last, but not least, is the epitome of Christmas values,

the spirit of holiday cheer, and the most famous festival film. *White Christmas*, by Irving Berlin and starring Spokane-native Bing Crosby, lights up a dark and dreary cold winter night with its story of two famous showmen who were once in the Army. They meet two ladies and follow them to a snow-less Vermont where they

are staying at an inn owned by their former general. To brighten up his holidays, which are spent longing for his Army days, the two fellows bring their famous show up and honor the retired general with a fantastic musical and a snowy Christmas day. Snuggle up with a blanket, make yourself a cup of hot chocolate, and put off your current stress, if only for two hours, and travel through the holidays with wonderful winter tales, and get yourself some old fashioned holiday cheer.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images.

Arts and Entertainment

1st Night, fun for all

By Rachel Robinson
Staff Writer

The winter months have reached us and along with that comes the holiday season. One of those holidays is New Year's Eve, and if you're looking for something new to do this year, then Spokane has just the thing for you.

Spokane has a unique festival that occurs once every year. That festival is First Night and it happens on New Year's Eve. It's a great place to take the family, a group of friends, or your significant other.

There are many things to do at First Night. From music entertainment, to theatre, to art displays—there are plenty of choices to be made. All over downtown Spokane are booths that appeal to interests for all. From classical, rock, and jazz music performances, comedy and dance, and paintings and

sculptures; First Night has everything!

One of the best things about First Night is that even though it's a huge New Year's Eve party, there are no signs of alcohol anywhere on this night. It's all about enjoying the arts at only a small cost of \$12. You can't find a much better deal than that on New Year's.

The main attractions of First Night are the spectacular fireworks display, ice carving,

Irish dancing, African drumming, rock and roll concerts, and a chance to hear the wonderful Spokane Symphony. Once you've seen some of these booths and you become cold, you can buy some hot chocolate and warm up by

the big bonfire for awhile.

First Night is a festival enjoyable for all ages. It isn't a "typical" New Year's Eve night, but it may be even better because you get to experience an amazing festival of the arts right here in Spokane.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images.

Christmas gifts that won't leave you hurting

McKenzie Setter
Staff Writer

With Christmas around the corner and budgets tight, we all need some help getting inexpensive gifts for the holidays. For the people that are close to us, giving them something they will love is our goal.

For someone that you spend most your time with, you can get pictures from the past few years and make a collage. You can personalize it with memories that you two share, or quotes that have personal meaning. Finish it off with a nice black frame that you can find at Walmart for \$3 to \$7.

Another inexpensive gift idea for a friend is to get two sheets of fleece at Joanne Fabrics to make a blanket. You cut and tie them together for a blanket. They always have fabric on sale and you can personalize it by choosing prints or patterns for your recipient like a favorite sports team or animal print. To make this idea even less expensive, you can make a pillow instead, with stuffing inside.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images.

For someone who loves to cook, grab an old jar and add in all the dry ingredients to make cookies, brownies, or any sweet holiday treat. Label the jar with the directions how to make it and put on a cute bow.

For a parent, buy a plate at Big Lot's for only \$1.99 and have every child in the family put their hand print on it and then seal it with dishwasher safe seal sold at local craft stores.

With times being tight, we all want to save money and give a great gift. For more gift ideas that are easy on the pocket, visit www.betterbudgeting.com.

Sushi and the city

By Mary Zakheim
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Accompanied by my trusted friends, we were all craving one thing and thing only: sushi.

We'd all heard good things about Raw, downtown, so we decided to try it out. On a busy Saturday night, the three of us waltzed into the sushi bar sans reservations, and yet, we were seated within 15 minutes at a comfortable table for three.

Decorated with a modern, metallic vibe and dark lighting, Raw sets the mood, and

the standard, for a filling, reasonably priced, and healthy night on the town. Served quickly by an efficient waitress, in the traditional "Miso Hot" Raw T-shirt, we each ordered a sushi roll, which contains 8 hefty and delectable pieces, enough to feel full without the uncomfortable "too full" feeling. I ordered a California roll, containing crab meat, avocado, and seaweed, which arrived timely and tasted delicious. The bill came out to be \$6, including the Sprite I ordered, leaving me surprised that I just consumed a tasty, healthy, and substantial meal all for the price of six meager dollars. One complaint: for a modern, sophisticated restaurant, such as the air that Raw puts off, I expected some genuine chopsticks instead of the Panda Express wooden variety we encountered.

Despite wooden chopsticks, my experience at Raw was one which leaves me raving about the restaurant to whoever will listen. I recommend it highly, and will definitely be back for more delicious sushi and Sprite in the future.

Fiesta Grande es muy delicioso!

Carlie Dickson
Staff writer

When you want to go to a Mexican restaurant were do you usually go? Fiesta Grande is a great place to try.

This little restaurant has a great environment starting with the music and ending with the paintings hung around the room.

Once you walk in you are greeted by the waiters waiting your arrival. When you are seated you have time to enjoy their fresh salsa, a cabbage salsa (consisting of cabbage, onions and jalapenos), and warm chips to eat while you are picking out what you would like to order.

When you look at the menu there is a variety of things you can order from pollo en mole (chicken in a brown cinnamon and spiced sauce) to Grande burritos (a giant burrito filled beans, rice and your choice of meat). My personal favorite is the pollo en mole enchiladas, which is just like the pollo en mole but in an enchilada form. However, I haven't found anything on their menu that I have not liked.

Fiesta Grande is located at 13411 East 32nd Avenue, Spokane Valley, W.A. If you don't have time to go and have a sit-down dinner at the restaurant then you can call and order at (509) 924-8253.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images.