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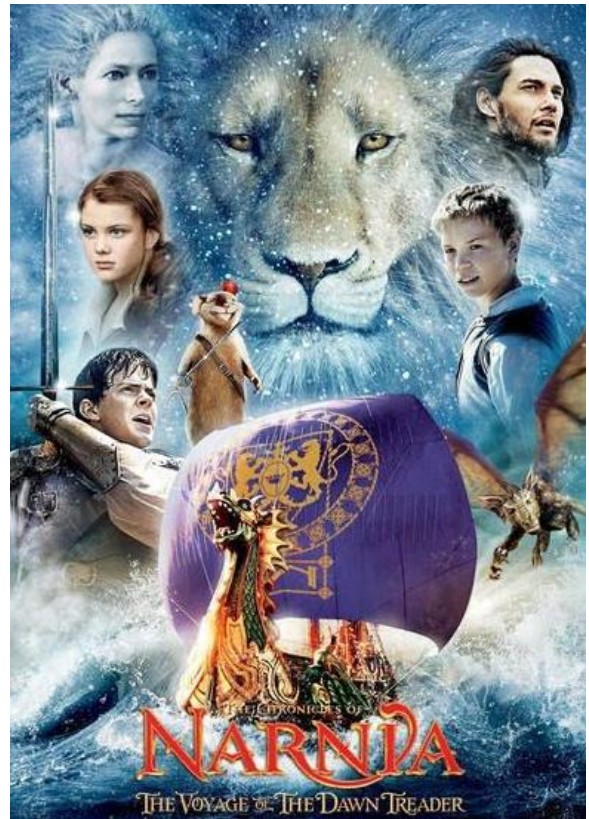
Family-Friendly Flicks of 2010

Emma Pell
Reporter

2010 was definitely the year of family-friendly movies! There were many Thumbs-up and Thumbs-down moments in the land of Hollywood. However, a few movies stood out from the rest, particularly flicks that came out near the end of the year. The much-anticipated third installment of C.S. Lewis's Narnia series hit the big screen; Disney rewrote the classic story of Rapunzel; and DreamWorks dished out the laughs in Megamind. These movies might just make your list of "Things to do in 2011!"

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader: This movie is based, loosely, off the third book of C.S. Lewis's Narnia series. While the movie is very far from the plot of the book, it satisfies viewers, while still keeping the Christian themes that Lewis intended.

Edmund, Lucy, and their annoying cousin Eustace are whisked away back to Narnia where they find themselves upon the Dawn Treader,



the ship of King Caspian. Caspian and his crew welcome the children and then the ship heads for troubled waters. The appearance of a mysterious green mist into which people disappear causes a problem. The only way to stop the fiendish fog is to unite the seven swords of the seven lords. Getting these special swords proves more of a challenge than the crew expected. The movie touches on the temptations of our world in the forms of beauty and riches among other things.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

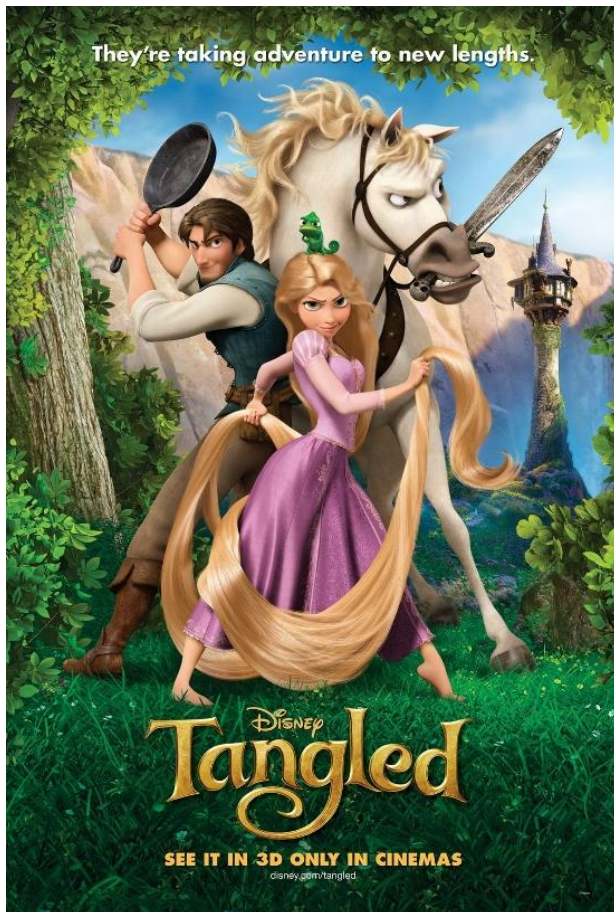
- 2** FAMILY FRIENDLY FLICKS OF 2010 *Emma Pell*
- 3** BRIGHTLY LIT(erature) featuring *Timothy Meigs*

Continued on page 2...

Continued from page 1...

Tangled: Disney presents a different perspective on the classic story of Rapunzel for this adventurous and entertaining movie. The movie is beautifully animated, and two clear themes, of growing up and finding out who to trust, shine through.

The innocent princess Rapunzel has been locked away in a tower for 18 years. Her “mother,” Gothel, wants to keep Rapunzel locked up, only to use Rapunzel’s 70 feet of magical hair, to restore her youth. Rapunzel longs to go out into the world, and dreams about seeing the mysterious lights in the nearby Kingdom. But Gothel firmly insists that she stay in her tower to protect her from the “scary world” outside. Rapunzel’s wish for freedom unexpectedly comes true when a handsome thief, Flynn Rider, chooses her tower as a hiding place. Flynn reluctantly agrees to take the headstrong Rapunzel as far as the Kingdom, and the movie unfolds into a song-filled and tear-jerking story.



Megamind: This movie was very surprising, because it turned out not to be just another shallow DreamWorks movie with little plot and few values. Megamind actually blends a good plot with tons of humor, and adds a twist on the good guy vs. bad guy story-line.

When the villain, Megamind, defeats his superhero foe, Metroman, he thinks that he finally has all that he could ever want. But, having no one to stop his evil plans, he soon becomes bored. So, he creates a new hero, who unfortunately turns out to be an unwanted villain. In the end, Megamind must decide whether or not he can leave behind his life of crime to help save those he learns to love. ▲

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BRIGHTLY LIT(erature)

Spotlighting Student Writers & Literary Critics

The Code Book A Book Review

Timothy Meigs
Columnist

Codes and ciphers have fascinated mankind for thousands of years as we have felt the need, or perhaps simply the want, of sending messages that only the intended recipient could comprehend; and, along with the art of encryption has followed closely that of decryption, decipherment, and the solving of codes as we have striven to illuminate the forbidden meaning behind the seemingly-nonsensical messages.

However, as I have looked in the past into books dedicated to the learning of these ciphers and their methods of decipherment, the majority of the books that I have found merely brush the surface of the arts. Indeed, as I read books that suited my own age category, I grew tired of learning of the same elementary codes over and over again, along with the few stories with historical context that I could find. I began to wonder if it was only persons of young age that enjoyed such puzzles and lingual manipulations.

Earlier this year, however, I picked up The Code Book: How to Make It, Break It, Hack It, Crack It by Simon Singh. This book turned out to contain a wealth of information containing the matter which I have been discussing: ciphers, codes, encryption, and the methods for decoding these also. In addition to this, there is a detailed history of codes and ciphers from the time of the creation of the first codes to the present day computerized coding. Both a fascinating instruction manual and world history book with a unique perspective, this read is a good one for lovers of history, language, and mathematics; along with nearly anyone else who finds matters such as this of interest. ▲

“Unbelievable”

Timothy Meigs
Columnist

The door opened and He walked in out of the Californian heat. His eyes scanned the room, looking at each of the faces in turn. His eyes were gentle, kind; no one



felt it strange or awkward to meet His gaze. He walked up to the counter and, stepping over one of the stools, sat down on it. The man on the stool beside Him turned his head to look at this newcomer. The Man turned to him.

“Hey,” His voice was soft and caring, like His eyes.

“Hi,” the man greeted Him, taking in the torn jeans and blood-red t-shirt.

“Can I get you something?” the girl behind the counter asked the first Man, drawing His gaze to her.

“Aahhh...” He mused, looking over the menu, “Could I just have a cappuccino, please?”

“Sure,” she nodded, “How much sugar you want?”

“Just the usual amount, thank you,” He answered.

He glanced to his side and saw the other man, who was probably somewhere in his thirties, looking at his chest. He looked down and saw His cross necklace.

“You a Christian?” the other man asked suspiciously.

“You might say that, yes,” He replied; then, after a pause, “You don't like Christians, do you?”

“All you people do is judge and condemn,” the man answered, shrugging, but the bitterness was evident in his voice. “Why would I want to be part of something like that?”

“People who do that are wrong,” said the first Man, “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.’ Luke 6:37.”

“Hey, that's pretty good,” the other man looked back at Him. “That was a direct quote, wasn't it?”

He shrugged, “I try to know the Book I claim has all the answers.”

Continued on page 4...

Continued from page 3...

The girl behind the counter placed His cappuccino on the counter. He nodded His thanks to her and took a sip of it.

"You know," said the man, "if every Christian knew their Bible that readily, I might like them and their religion a lot more."

"I know," said He quietly, looking down almost sorrowfully.

"If they all practiced what their own Bible says," the man continued, "they wouldn't all judge me for who I am."

"Well, now, there is still such a thing as Sin and a difference between Right and Wrong," He said, "but everyone is a sinner, and equally guilty of being condemned; and if they remembered how they'd been saved from their own evil pasts then perhaps they would be less eager to condemn and judge others who haven't figured out which road leads to Heaven."

The door flew open and an older man came quickly in. His eyes stopped on the Man. He walked hurriedly up to Him.

"What are you doing here?" he asked incredulously.

"Oh, hey Pastor John," He gave a little nod.

"This is a...a bar," said Pastor John quietly, now being rather close to Him.

"I know," He said nonchalantly, taking another sip of His cappuccino.

"So what are you doing here??" Pastor John seemed taken aback at the situation in general, and was not slightly annoyed at the man one seat over who seemed to be paying them unwarranted attention.

The Man shrugged, "Just hanging out. They make good cappuccinos here."

The pastor shook his head disbelievingly, "You are unbelievable, unbelievable," he said.

The Man motioned to the empty seat on the other side of Him, "Would you like to stay? I'll get you something if you want."

"No, thank you," said the pastor, turning to the door.

"People like that," said the other man once he had gone, "That's why I don't like Christians."

"I honestly can't say I blame you," He replied; then, as though to Himself, "Pharisees never die, apparently..."

* * *

"While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."

- Matthew 9:10-12

Jesus was condemned by the religious leaders of the time for associating with those whose actions were known to be sinful. But He knew that loving them with Godly love was the way to help them accept the Spirit's Truth. ▲

Upcoming Events!!!

Mark your Calendar!

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Hope Faith Ministries Service
Event (February 12th)

8:30am to 11:30am at 705 Virginia
Ave., KCMO

☆☆☆

Roller Skating Party (February
17th)

3:30pm to 5:30pm at Skate World (\$6
per person)

Editor in Chief: Lydia DeWolf
Webmaster: Caleb DeWolf
Online Edition Editor: Caleb De Wolf
Photographer: Emma Pell
Columnists: Timothy Meigs
Reporters: Emma Pell