

'World Police' mocks American policy

By Christian Duncan

At a time of political unrest, it is good to know that a film can be made that ignores partisanship and parodies the situation that the world is currently in.

Trey Parker and Matt Stone, renowned for their television show *South Park*, have created a seemingly nihilistic work of art with their recently released film *Team America: World Police*.

Through the use of puppetry, absurd situations and racy/obscene dialogue, Parker and Stone show the ridiculousness of certain stereotypical mind sets of the American populous, while, at the same time, demonstrating to us that even in a time of political turbulence, we can still laugh.

The film opens with a group of Arabic men walking through the streets of Paris. Seconds later, Team America, a group of gung ho Americans that will stop at nothing to dispose of terrorism, arrives and saves the day at the cost of the destruction to some of France's most beloved monuments: the Eiffel Tower,

the Arc de Triomphe and the Louvre.

The scene quickly switches to a Broadway production of *Lease*, a play that parodies *Rent*, where we meet the actor Gary Johnston, who is singing about how everyone has AIDS. Gary becomes the newest recruit of Team America, where he will go undercover as a terrorist, and, on account of his acting skills, he will find out where the weapons of mass destruction, or WMDs, are located. We quickly discover that Kim Jong II, the leader of North Korea, has devised a plan to take over the world, and it is Team America's job to stop him.

The plot is so ridiculous that it would seem silly for anyone to spend money to see this film; however, everything else in it can be considered nothing but pure comical genius. *Team America*, like *South Park: Bigger, Longer, and Uncut*, has musical numbers that will have you on the floor laughing.

There is a wide variety of songs that range from the Team America rock theme song "America, F*** Yeah," to a country song entitled "Freedom Isn't Free." Parker and Stone poke fun at



Photo copyright Paramount Pictures

Team America: World Police was released to theaters on Oct. 15.

jingoistic views and the views of the outspoken liberal actors, who are depicted in this movie as members of the Film Actors Guild.

Throughout the film, various cities and landmarks are destroyed as a result of the reckless acts of Team America. Hollywood is mocked for its terrible action movies, puppets portraying Tim Robbins, Alec Baldwin and Susan Sarandon are put out of their

misery in the most terrible ways, and Michael Moore is depicted as a fat, disgusting slob, who attempts to destroy Team America's base (located in Mt. Rushmore) in a suicide bombing.

If you want to escape the stress of the upcoming election, then you should go see this movie, where you can laugh at the world and maybe even yourself.

'Village' on border of success

By Jodi Cantor

In recent years M. Night Shyamalan has made a name for himself. Although most people cannot pronounce it, it is still a recognizable one, synonymous with twist endings. *The Sixth Sense* set American moviegoers up for arguably one of the most shocking endings of recent cinematic history. People either loved the ending, hated it, or claim that they knew the secret all along.

This past summer, with another film which was kept highly secretive and hush-hush, *The Village* starring Joaquin Phoenix and Adrian Brody, was received well, but still is incomparable to the filmmaker's first main stream horror film.

The Village's premise is frightening in a simple way. Creatures attack a small 19th century community that keeps to itself in its own tight-knit village. The villagers do not go into the woods where chilling creatures are and the creatures do not disturb the villagers.

Strange things start to happen, and, again, Shyamalan plays on the symbolism of the color red and deems it as a harmful color. Yellow is the village residents' color of choice. They believe it keeps them safe and wards off the creatures that are on their borders. From an early age, children are warned about the creatures and why going into the woods could cost them their lives. They are told to wear yellow and to stay away from red, the bad color.

The story centers around Phoenix's character Lucius Hunt and his admirable ideas of wanting to help out sick members of his community by passing

through the woods to the nearest town to retrieve medicine. However, the town council made up of elders, thank Lucius for his heroic plans, but do not grant him permission to travel into the woods, warning him of the creatures.

Commending Lucius for his concern for the health of others is Ivy Walker, played by Ron Howard's daughter Bryce Dallas Howard. Howard plays the blind daughter of the town leader. She soon forms a romance with Lucius. But peace in the village is then compromised, and it becomes necessary for someone who is innocent enough to travel through the woods to get help. The stakes have risen.

The main relationship in the film is the young romance between Lucius and Ivy. Shyamalan shows that he can be romantic and cordial when presenting the interactions between the two. As a screenwriter, he is able to express the characters' emotions very vividly through their dialogue. In addition, Phoenix and Howard are able to perform the dialogue with enough emotion to make it work. It is this believability that allows the audience to effortlessly invest an interest in the relationship between the two, and are therefore brought into the films' events as they become more frightful.

As for the obligatory Shyamalan surprise ending, there is a thin line between original and humdrum. The ending doesn't exactly put an end to Shyamalan's career. It is creative and unexpected, but while it isn't necessarily all down hill from here for the director, it becomes evident that he peaked with *The Sixth Sense*.

CAMPUS CORNER

FRIDAY

Resume Blitz
8:30 - 11 a.m., 1 - 4 p.m.
Career Services Center

SEC Film:
The Village
3:30 p.m., BLC Theater
"Step of the Living Dead" Step Exhibition
7 p.m., BLC Theater

SATURDAY

CCM Mass
4 p.m., Gill Chapel
SEC Film:
The Village
7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

SUNDAY

CCM Mass
11 a.m. and 7 p.m.,
Gill Chapel
SEC Film:
The Village
7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

MONDAY

Resume Blitz
9 - 11 a.m., 1 - 4 p.m.
Career Services Center
PCM "Sunday Worship on Mondays"
5:30 p.m., Gill Chapel

TUESDAY

Election Day
Resume Blitz
9:30 - 11 a.m., 1 - 4 p.m.
Career Services Center

WEDNESDAY

PCM Faith Matters
7 p.m., Gill Chapel
IVCF Worship and Fellowship
8:30 p.m., Wright Lounge
Sexual Charades
10 p.m., Hill Lounge

THURSDAY

Career Day
11 a.m., BLC Cavalla Room
Free HIV Testing
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. by appt.
Student Health Center
SEC Film:
Shrek 2
7:30 p.m., BLC Theater

FRIDAY

SEC Film:
Shrek 2
7:30 p.m., BLC Theater
Bronc Buffet
10 p.m., Daly's Dining Hall