

# Disney and Pixar return to infinity with monster set

By Brian Kibble  
Staff Writer

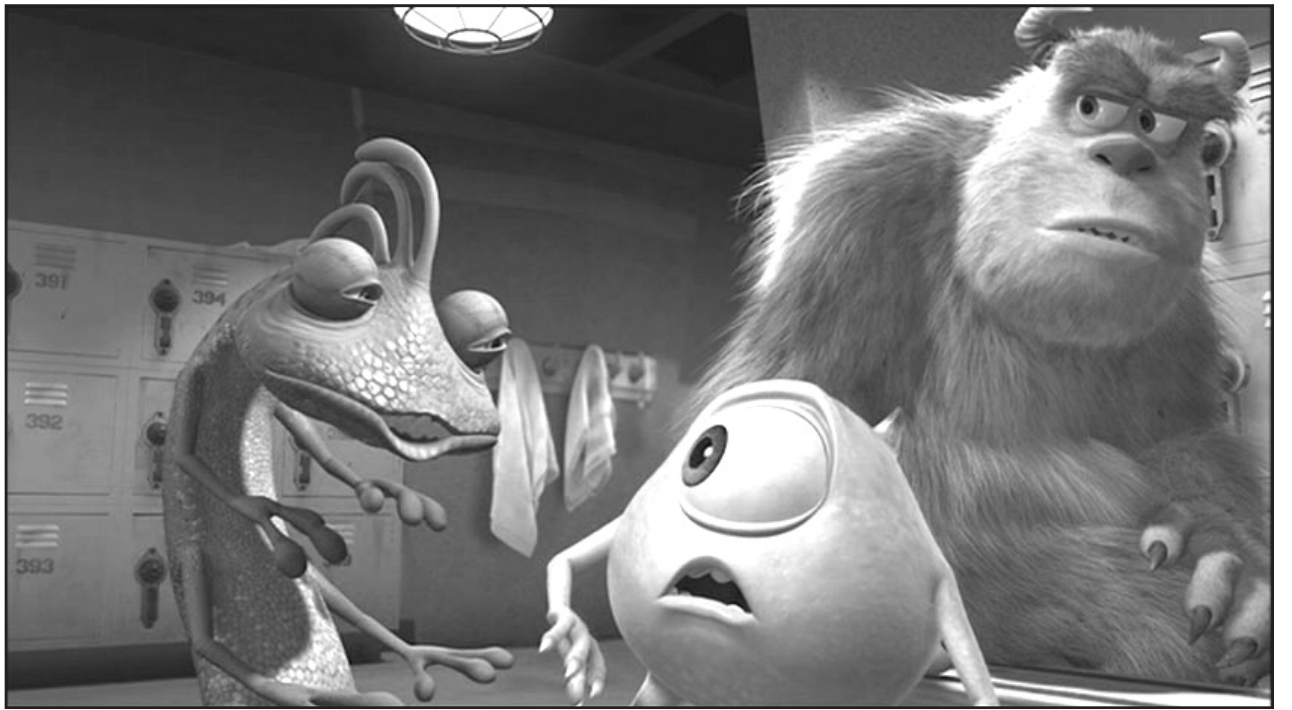
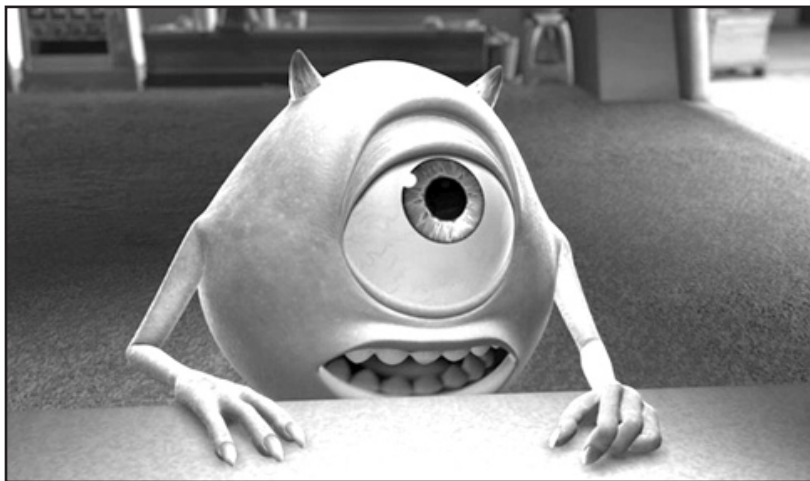
Last November, Disney and Pixar's newest blockbuster *Monsters, Inc.* hit theaters. Now, almost a year later, the film comes home to DVD with a record-breaking opening day sale of \$5 million, beating out Disney's own *The Lion King* (\$4.5 million) for the all-time home video top spot.

*Monsters, Inc.* is a story about the truth behind the monsters that live in children's closets. The movie centers on two best friends, James P. "Sulley" Sullivan (John Goodman) and Mike Wazowski (Billy Crystal), who live in the monster world and work for an agency (Monsters, Inc.) that harnesses the screams of human children to power their cities. However, when a human girl is accidentally released into the monster realm, it is up to Sulley and Mike to help her get back home.

For the two-disc Collector's Edition DVD of *Monsters, Inc.*, viewers are given the choice of watching the movie in its original 1.85:1 widescreen format or a 1.33:1 fullscreen version. Because the film was taken directly from a digital print to DVD, the transfer is picture perfect. Never too dark, never too light, everything the audience was meant to see can be seen. The audio, which supports Dolby Digital Surround Sound 5.1, is pleasing to the ear even without a system capable of playing surround tracks.

The special features on the two discs are separated into two worlds, "Humans Only" and "Monsters Only."

"Humans Only" explores the processes involved in



Randall Boggs, Mike Wazowski and 'Sulley' star in *Monsters, Inc.*, Pixar's latest full-length animated feature to land on the DVD medium. Fortunately for fans of the computer-animated film genre, the two-disc set, loaded with supplements, is sure not to scare anyone off.

making a computer-animated movie. The filmmakers explain everything from story development to character design and scene setting. The animation process and sound design are a definite must-see for viewers who are interested in the technical part of a computer-generated film.

Other supplements in this "world" include the movie promotions; for example the premiere, trailers, posters and toys. Although good, these features on the making of computer-animated movies fall short of the supplements of the same nature in the *Toy Story: Ultimate Toy Box* DVD set. Absolutely everything one would want to know about computer-animated films can be found there.

The "Monsters Only" section is geared towards younger audiences, full of games, a music video, story information, "Scarer of the Month"

pictures and finally, "Orientation," which is set up to train children on their first day of work at Monsters, Inc.

The film's audio commentary features director, Pete Docter, co-director Lee Unkrich and executive producers, John Lasseter and Andrew Stanton. The commentary is more for the older audience, discussing technical difficulties of various scenes, interesting story developments, both used and abandoned, and facts about characters in the movie.

Rounding out the set are outtakes, which were added to the film's credits after the movie's initial release in order to get people to come back and see it again. Also included is "Mike's New Car," the new animated short created specifically for the home-video release, where Goodman and Crystal return, making the cartoon entertaining for children to watch as many times as they watch the movie.

With an entertaining film and informative, as well as fun, extra features, *Monsters, Inc.* is a must-own DVD for humans and monsters alike.

## The pros and the cons of a day in the life of a triple

By Lacey Korevec  
Staff Writer

Imagine living in a 13 by 15 ft. room with two other people for about seven months out of the year. For nearly 100 Rider students, this scenario is a reality.

Freshman Sean Rainey, who lives in a triple in Ziegler Hall, said that he is content with his living conditions.

"You have a bigger room and you have two friendly faces to meet instead of one. So, right off the bat you know another person," he said.

In fact, Rainey and his roommates are so happy living in their triple that when they were asked to de-triple, they declined the offer.

"We all got along really well and were comfortable," he explained. "Plus, no one wanted to move all of their stuff out."

On the other hand, Rainey admitted that there are disadvantages to these crowded living conditions.

"Although the room may be bigger, three people take up a lot of room," he said. "And having three people with three very different schedules makes life a little complicated."

Freshmen Gabrielle Brown, Ann Singh and Saleha Begum share a triple in Wright Hall.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Kuhn

Freshmen Meagan Flannery, Khaleega Rouse and Heather Soria share a triple in Ziegler Hall. Despite the little space provided to them, the three managed to arrange their furniture in a way that allows them their own privacy.

"There are a lot of advantages to living in a triple: there's more food, a little more space and more people to talk and share things with," Singh explained. "We got lucky; we all knew each other and we didn't mind living together in a triple."

Brown agreed with her roommate, but said that the conflicting lifestyles of

each individual can cause conflict.

"We all love each other to death," she said. "We have some problems because we all have different sleep patterns. One of our roommates goes to sleep around 8. However, the other two are normal college students who don't sleep at all."

According to Singh, one of the

disadvantages to living in a triple is the tendency for the roommates to cut themselves out of the community.

"We have trouble meeting other people on our floor," she said. "We don't socialize with others because we already have each other."

"There is also too much furniture and too little privacy," she added. "Sometimes we fight over which song to play or which radio station to put on."

Associate Director of Residence Life Stephanie Pollack said that the reason students are placed in triples is because the University strives to accommodate those who got their housing deposits in after the May 1 deadline.

"We ran out of room," she explained. "We know what our non-extended capacity is and we want to get as many kids in as we can."

"Many triples have been de-tripled. It just depends on how many students leave. I can guarantee that by the spring semester nobody has to be tripled if they don't want to be. 80 percent of [the tripled students] are still living in triples because some have declined to move out."

"Obviously you meet more people in a triple and you also get a little bit of money back," she said. "It can work out great, but it just takes a little effort."