

Filmmaker finds friends on road trip

Filmmaker Alexandra Pelosi presents the third of her premium cable home movies "Friends of God: A Road Trip with Alexandra Pelosi" (9 p.m., HBO).



Kevin McDonough

Pelosi's previous works include "Journeys with George," a revealing and largely sympathetic look at candidate George W. Bush on the 2000 campaign trail. Her second film, "Diary of a Political Tourist," chronicled the 2004 primaries and included entirely too many snarky asides from the director.

With "Friends," Pelosi seems to have regained her focus. She visits the ministers and congregations of America's arena-sized churches from Houston to Colorado. She offers a view of thousands of enthusiastic and happy believers. The film opens in a giant church on a Saturday night.

She's struck by the number of young people — particularly 20-something men — having a great time.

Pelosi does a good job of letting her subjects speak. She keeps her commentary to a minimum. She visits a church that presents rock concerts for Christ and another that sponsors wrestling matches with a biblical flavor.

We meet evangelical standup comedians, owners of a Christian-themed classic-car club, a Christian theme park and a miniature golf course inspired by the Bible.

"Friends" includes interviews with several evangelical leaders, most notably the recently disgraced Ted Haggard. This film was completed before his well-documented sex scandal.

In light of recent events, it's impossible not to see some of his commentary about the great sex lives of evangelicals as slightly bizarre.

Like any tourist, Pelosi captures only the surface of her expansive subject. We hear a lot about religious certainty. Pelosi shows clips of familiar faces like Jerry Falwell and documents preachers condemning the teaching of evolution and teaching children that dinosaurs co-existed with biblical characters.

We don't meet with any evangelicals who differ from the image that has become well established in the media.

Do all evangelicals worship in these vast arenas? Are they all science-denying lock-step Republican homophobes?

It would have been more interesting if Pelosi had interviewed even one evangelical minister who deviated from the stereotype.

This film was completed before Alexandra's mother, Nancy Pelosi, became speaker of the House of Representatives.

Tonight's other highlights

• A past transgression at a cat show has romantic repercussions on "My Name is Earl" (8 p.m., NBC, TV-14). Amy Sedaris guest stars.

• More tricks than treats on the Halloween episode of "Ugly Betty" (8 p.m., ABC, TV-PG).

• "Best Evidence" (9 p.m., Discovery) sifts through theories about the 1996 crash of TWA flight 800.

• On three episodes of "The Office" (NBC, TV-14), Angela plays Lady Macbeth (8:30 p.m.), Michael takes grief to extremes (10 p.m.), Dwight hazes Ryan (10:30 p.m.).

Cult choice

Archaeology students stumble upon a monster in a cave and allow it to escape in the 2005 shocker "It Waits" (9 p.m., Sci Fi).

Series notes

Video gamers take to the streets on "CSI: Miami" (8 p.m., CBS, TV-14) ... A squabble over energy on "Til Death" (8 p.m., Fox, TV-PG, D, L) ... Martian Manhunter arrives on "Smallville" (8 p.m., CW, TV-PG, D, L, V) ... Belt-tightening time on "The War at Home" (8:30 p.m., Fox, TV-14).

Shapeshifter returns on "Supernatural" (9 p.m., CW, TV-14, V) ... Jack tries his hand at sketch comedy on "30 Rock" (9:30 p.m., NBC, TV-14).

Late night

Howard Stern and Gwen Stefani appear on "Late Show With David Letterman" (11:35 p.m., CBS) ... Jay Leno hosts Wanda Sykes and the Bird and the Bee on "The Tonight Show" (11:35 p.m., NBC) ... Jeremy Piven, Padma Lakshmi and John Mellencamp appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (12:05 a.m., ABC).

Uma Thurman, Kevin Smith and the New York Dolls chat on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" (12:35 a.m., NBC) ... Craig Ferguson hosts Kate Walsh, Clark Gregg and Skyler Stone on "The Late, Late Show" (12:37 a.m., CBS).

Kevin McDonough is a TV columnist for United Features Syndicate.

THURSDAY EVENING

JANUARY 25, 2007

Table with columns for time slots (7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows of TV programs including Friends, CSI: Miami, Supernatural, and various news and entertainment shows.

ACCENT ON PEOPLE

The Associated Press

Web site posts Hilton's private letters, videos

For those who haven't yet, somehow, had their fill of Paris Hilton, there's a new Web site that has posted a seemingly endless offering of the celebrante's belongings.



HILTON

The Web site, ParisExposed.com, launched Tuesday. It boasts that it has an array of Hilton photographs, videos, diaries, love letters, recorded phone conversations and phone numbers of celebrities, all left at a storage facility.

The items were sold to an unidentified buyer after a third party failed to make payments to the facility, said Hilton's spokesman, Elliot Mintz.

"We certainly are going to explore all of our legal options about this matter," Mintz said.

NEW YORK

Melt it like Beckham: Becks, Posh in wax

In terms of soccer skills, this David Beckham can't hold a candle to the real one.

Waxen figures of soccer star Beckham and his wife, Victoria, a former Spice Girl, were unveiled at the Madame Tussauds New York wax museum.



D. BECKHAM

The dummies, imported from London, will be on display for two weeks.

Their appearance was in honor of the real Beckhams' hotly anticipated move to the United States in the spring.

David Beckham, known to fans as Becks, and his pop star wife, known as Posh, announced earlier this month that they'd be moving to Los Angeles.

She has been spotted house-hunting in the area.

He recently signed a five-year contract with the Los Angeles Galaxy soccer team.



V. BECKHAM

LOS ANGELES

Judge stalls paternity test for Smith's baby

A judge in the Anna Nicole Smith baby dispute temporarily blocked an order forcing her daughter to undergo paternity testing, an attorney said.



SMITH

A Tuesday deadline had been set for the test sought by Larry Birkhead, who claims he is the father of Dannielynn Hope Marshall Stern. She was born Sept. 7 in the Bahamas.

Ronald A. Rale, an attorney for the 39-year-old former Playboy playmate, questioned the legality of the test, saying Bahamian authorities needed to grant work permits before an American doctor could conduct the test.

AUSTIN, Texas

Nugent says flag shirt didn't bother governor

Ted Nugent says Gov. Rick Perry had no problem with his

decision to wear a Confederate flag shirt during his appearance at last week's inaugural ball and even complimented his performance.



NUGENT

Nugent, 58, said Perry talked to him backstage after the black-tie event, complimenting him on "the greatest rock 'n' roll" and thanking him for coming, several newspapers reported Tuesday. The governor also called over the weekend, ending the conversation by telling Nugent to "give 'em hell," Nugent was quoted as saying.

Perry spokesman Robert Black said the governor wouldn't wear such a shirt but told Nugent he has the right to wear whatever he wants.

"If you're going to defend freedom of expression, then you're going to have to defend all freedom of expression," Black said.

When asked if Perry would have invited Nugent if he had known what he would wear, Black said, "Yes."

CHICAGO

Former anchor says she wasn't pushed out

Elizabeth Vargas told Oprah Winfrey that she wasn't forced out as co-anchor of ABC's "World News Tonight" but decided to step down when she became pregnant with her second child.



VARGAS

"I was finding it more and more difficult to do that job the way I wanted to do it, which is 100 percent ... and still be a great

mother," Vargas, 44, said on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Vargas, who is now co-hosting the network's newsmagazine, "20/20," said she learned she was pregnant just before her co-anchor, Bob Woodruff, was seriously injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq on Jan. 29.

Vargas said she had hoped to continue anchoring "World News Tonight" but soon realized she had to step down.

"It was becoming difficult to juggle all that, do the job at work that I wanted to do, and to be the mother I wanted to be," she told Winfrey.

Vargas said ABC was unfairly criticized that she was forced out.

ARTCRAFT Theatre Franklin, Indiana. Annie (1982) January 26 • 2pm & 7:30pm January 27 at 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Walt & Janette Koon. Adults \$5 • Seniors \$4 Children 12 and Under \$3 www.historicartcrafttheatre.org

SHOWPLACE 16 Movies with Magic 7/6 1-800-FANDANGO 1598# 1-465 at US HWY 31 South - INDIANAPOLIS \$4 All Shows Before NOON Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays. SHOWTIMES FOR JANUARY 24 - 25 THE HITCHER (R) 2:00 4:15 6:30 8:45 THE QUEEN (PG-13) 2:10 4:40 7:20 9:50 ALPHA DOG (R) 2:15 5:00 7:50 10:45 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) 1:45 4:30 6:50 PRIMEVAL (R) 1:20 3:45 7:30 10:00 STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) 2:30 5:15 8:00 CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 2:40 5:10 8:10 10:40 FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) 1:10 3:50 6:45 9:30 DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) 1:45 4:50 7:45 10:35 THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 6:40 10:10 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 1:40 4:20 7:00 9:45 WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) 1:15 4:00 7:10 10:05 ROCKY BALBOA (PG) 1:00 3:40 7:15 9:40 CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) 12:50 3:15 6:20 ERAGON (PG) 9:00PM DAILY THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNES (PG-13) 1:50 4:45 7:40 10:30 THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) 9:10PM DAILY HAPPY FEET (PG) 1:30 4:10

Canary Creek Cinemas 8 1/8 Mile West of Applebee's on Mallory Parkway Showtimes for Thursday THE HITCHER (R) 12:30 5:00 7:00 THE QUEEN (PG-13) 12:30 5:00 7:15 STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) 12:30 7:00 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) 12:30 5:00 7:15 PRIMEVAL (R) 12:30 5:00 7:15 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 12:30 5:00 7:30 CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) 12:30 5:00 7:15 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNES (PG-13) 12:30 7:00 STARTING FRIDAY EPIC MOVIE (PG-13) DREAM GIRLS (PG-13) THE DEPARTED (R) FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) BABEL (R) www.canarycreekinemas.com Movie Info Line 738-1041

amc Advanced Ticketing at amctheatres.com or (317) 684-1780 A.M. Cinema - All seats \$5 before noon on Sat., Sun., & holidays - denoted by () AMC Select - Special films for select tastes. GREENWOOD PARK 14 Madison Ave and Fry Road THE HITCHER (R) 2:30, 5:30, 8:15 ALPHA DOG (R) 2:15, 5:00, 8:00 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG) 2:30, 5:10 FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13) 2:00, 4:50, 7:50 PRIMEVAL (R) 3:30, 5:50, 8:30 STOMP THE YARD (PG-13) 1:30, 4:10, 7:00 HAPPILY NEVER AFTER (PG) 2:10, 4:20 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 1:40, 4:30, 7:40 WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) 7:20 CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) 1:30, 3:50 THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNES (PG-13) 1:50, 4:40, 7:30 AMC SELECT BABEL (R) 7:10 PAN'S LABYRINTH (R) 2:20, 5:20, 8:15 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLEET (R) 8:10 CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 3:10, 5:40, 8:20 DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45 THE QUEEN (PG-13) 2:40, 5:15, 7:45 SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupons

FRANKLIN COLLEGE Announcement Non-credit course registration is open now for evening, daytime and weekend classes in a variety of subjects. To see the complete listing, go to www.franklincollege.edu and click on the Continuing Education link under Featured Links. All events are free unless cost is listed. Thursday, January 25 7 p.m., Theatre Production - Alice in Wonderland, Johnson Center for Fine Arts, Theatre Margot. Tickets are \$5 for those 5 years of age and older and free for those under 5 years of age. Franklin College students are admitted free with their student ID. Tickets are available at the door, by calling (317) 738-8271, or online at www.franklincollege.edu/tickets. Friday, January 26 7 p.m., Theatre Production - Alice in Wonderland, Johnson Center for Fine Arts, Theatre Margot. See the listing above for ticket information. Saturday, January 27 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Theatre Production - Alice in Wonderland, Johnson Center for Fine Arts, Theatre Margot. See the listing above for ticket information. Wednesday, January 31 7:30 p.m., FC Men's Basketball vs. Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Spurlock Center, FREE ADMISSION. 101 Branigan Blvd., Franklin, Indiana 46131 Phones: (317) 738-8185 or (800) 852-0232 www.franklincollege.edu or E-mail feinfo@franklincollege.edu