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No sex please, we're vampires

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

"The Twilight Saga: New Moon" is breaking records at the box office

Film contains plenty of sexual tension but no sex scenes

Twilight Saga concentrates on matters of the heart and spirit says director Chris Weitz

(CNN) -- "New Moon," the latest film in "The Twilight Saga" is doing record business at the box office.

In its opening weekend the film grossed \$140.7 million -- more than any other film with an autumn release in history.

The tales of teenage vampire love based on the best-selling books by Stephanie Meyer have wooed film-goers without having to resort to acres of flesh being on display.

This distinct lack of on-screen sex runs contrary to the popular trend of portraying teenagers on screen as playing fast and loose with their virginity and affections.

Love and the importance of relationships most definitely rule in "The Twilight Saga" and the formula is proving popular with audiences.

Elizabeth Morowitz, Communications Professor at the University of Missouri and author of "Bitten By Twilight" thinks that this more sensitive approach is the key to the film's success.

"A lot of people ask 'what's so appealing about the Twilight and why is it popular now?' and we think it's because of the relationships and the messages about love in Twilight. In a more conservative environment we've had this push for abstinence education, so we now have a media message that's more congruent with that. So perhaps some teens relate to it in that way," Morowitz told CNN's Katie Walmsley.

The director of "New Moon" Chris Weitz says that sexual abstinence is central to the film's appeal.

"It's not that they can't have sex, they choose not to and I think there's so much popular culture that's saying to young people: 'you'll be cool if you have sex' or 'it's important to be sexy' whereas this series really concentrates on matters of the heart and spirit and I think that's lovely," Weitz told CNN.

A dashing male lead, in the shape of Robert Pattinson doesn't hurt either when you're trying to attract a female teenage audience.

But whatever the exact recipe for its undoubted success it looks like teenagers in the "Twilight" world don't like to bite off more than they can chew.



Digging up campus history 19th-century cornerstone to be moved.

By Janese Heavin
Monday, November 23, 2009



Photo by Gerik Parmele

John Kruger of Mid-Continental Restoration Inc. of Fort Scott, Kan., works with a saw to begin cutting away stones to extract the original cornerstone from Academic Hall on the University of Missouri campus. Tom Schultz is leading a project to restore the stone and put it on display in Jesse Hall.

When Tom Schultz was a student at the Missouri School of Journalism, he was asked to find the Academic Hall cornerstone during a campus scavenger hunt. "Somebody pointed it out to me, but frankly, I didn't really care," he said this morning.

For some reason, though, Schultz never forgot about that inscribed limestone hidden in a bottom corner of the university gate.

Future generations won't have to hunt for the Academic Hall cornerstone. For the past few months, Schultz has raised money to relocate it to a display inside Jesse Hall — just in time for the stone's 170th birthday next year.

Older than the Columns, the stone — quarried just south of Columbia — was placed July 4, 1840, the year Academic Hall construction began.

When a fire destroyed the building in 1892, the stone was saved. In 1915, it was placed in the gate structure leading to the Francis Quadrangle.

MU administrators, according to archives, wanted the Academic Hall stone more prominently displayed in the structure, but masons instead stuck it in the southeast corner of the west pillar.

“It should be placed someplace more visible,” Schultz said. “It’s really neat.”

Not only has the stone been easy to miss for nearly a century; it also has been exposed to the elements, as well as vehicles, which have been known to hit the gates, said Karlan Seville, a spokeswoman for MU Campus Facilities.

“We’re happy it is being moved so we don’t have to worry about it being damaged,” she said.

Crews from Mid-Continental Restoration out of Fort Scott, Kan., began work this morning to remove the stone, expected to weigh about 700 pounds. Project manager Jerod Bower said he wasn’t sure how long the process would take but hopes to be finished by Thursday. Surrounding stones will have to be cut out first, then curb and asphalt will have to be removed to allow workers to slide out the cornerstone, about 4 inches of which is underground. The stone is roughly 16 inches wide, 19 inches long and 25 inches deep.

Schultz has raised \$25,000 for the project and continues to solicit donations. He originally estimated the work would cost some \$30,000 but changed his mind this morning when he saw work begin.

“I’m going to have to raise more money; I can see that,” he said, watching crews unearth part of the stone.

Once it’s out, Campus Facilities will clean the stone and store it until it’s ready to be displayed.

Next semester, students in an architectural studies class will compete to design a display case for the stone, Schultz said. He expects the display to be dedicated during Homecoming or some other alumni event next year.

The stone will be exhibited under the picture window in the rotunda of Jesse Hall, placing it just under the view of the Columns. The display will include a plaque with the names of donors contributing to the relocation project.

Schultz might not have cared about the Academic Hall cornerstone as a youth, but today, he’s happy to know it will no longer be reduced to a challenge in a scavenger hunt.

“This,” he said, “is a historic treasure.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Historic cornerstone moving from Elm Street archway to Jesse Hall

By Bethany Jones

November 24, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — A cornerstone at MU has experienced a full life. The 700-pound rock has endured a building fire, lived in a dark basement and is now lodged at the bottom of an outside pillar — but not for long.

It is about to celebrate its 108th birthday with a change of scenery: Moving from its spot on Elm Street into Jesse Hall, it will eventually receive a display case.

The stone became part of Academic Hall on July 4, 1840. It is much older than the famous columns that once supported a section of the same building.

On Jan. 9, 1892, Academic Hall was destroyed by fire. The stone survived. It was moved to the basement of Jesse Hall, where it stayed for 17 years.

Currently, the Academic Hall cornerstone is part of the University gates located north of Francis Quadrangle on Elm Street. It is on the bottom of the gate structure and has been exposed to road construction and weather for the last 25 years. At one point, a vehicle took out a chunk of a nearby stone.

Tom Schultz, external relations who is leading the cornerstone project, believes the university is lucky the stone survived at the location for that long.

Schultz proposed the idea of moving the cornerstone to a more prominent location. It will be moved to the north side of Jesse Hall.

“It is important to have a sense of history for future and past students,” said Chris Koukola, an assistant to the chancellor. “The location now is in a somewhat precarious position because of the traffic through that area.”

Schultz, his wife and their six children all attended the MU. He graduated from the School of Journalism in 1956.

The project is funded by benefactors and is estimated to cost at least \$30,000. Schultz has found 25 donors who have promised to give \$1,000; their names will be engraved on a plaque sitting next to the stone.

Schultz did not want companies to fund the project and has only accepted contributions from individuals.

Students in the College of Environmental Science's architectural studies program will have the opportunity to participate in a contest starting next semester and ending late February. They can design the *display case* where the stone will be placed. The winner will receive \$500.

"I know it is worth saving and now it will be in the most prominent spot in the university," Schultz said.

November 24, 2009

Artifact getting new home at MU-Columbia

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri's flagship campus is relocating a chunk of history.

A 169-year-old cornerstone from the old Academic Hall is a remnant from the school's first building. The 700-pound stone survived an 1892 fire that destroyed most of the building and was moved to the north gate of Francis Quadrangle in 1915.

The 19th century artifact will be moved to the Jesse Hall rotunda as part of a historical display. University officials hope private donations will cover the relocation's \$30,000 cost.

A restoration crew from Fort Scott, Kan., began removing the stone Monday.



Scholarships

Public money for private colleges?

By Henry J. Waters III

Monday, November 23, 2009

Access Missouri provides public scholarship funds to help needy students attend Missouri colleges and universities. The program stirs controversy because funds are available for private as well as public school tuition and limits actually are higher for private schools.

The Missouri General Assembly in recent years has kept the money flowing for private schools, reflecting its conservative bent. Public school managers, led by University of Missouri President Gary Forsee, have lobbied hard for tilting the scale toward their side of the ledger by at least equalizing the limits of help.

To think about this issue, think first about why private school students and families should get public funding at all. The politics of it are obvious. Missouri is dotted with private colleges that educate thousands of students and live in neighborhoods represented by many, perhaps most, lawmakers. But an argument also can be made based on the duty of the state to help its people become educated in both private and public schools.

Here's how that equation works. Not long ago I recall an interesting statistic. More degrees were issued in our state that year to students graduating from private schools than public schools. Had the private sector not done so much to provide higher education in Missouri, the General Assembly might have faced a more serious underwriting chore for its public institutions.

Missouri residents who want their youngsters to attend private colleges are taxpayers, too, helping underwrite the public institutions.

All of this argues for at least an equal amount of scholarship help for private college students, but should more money be available for schools with higher tuitions, as the current law allows? This argument stems from the original plan, which was intended to provide a proportionate amount of money — less for the publics based on their lower tuitions, which were subsidized by general appropriations from the legislature.

These days, if you are Gary Forsee & Co. you notice the state limits tuition increases and general revenue appropriations as well, fueling your argument for at least as much help with scholarships as private schools get.

If you are Dianne Lynch, Gerald Brouder & Co., the contingent of private college presidents, you believe the proportionate model is fair enough. After all, you are competing with MU and other subsidized public colleges with substantially lower tuition rates at a time when the economy puts the squeeze on families who prefer what the privates offer.

The state should provide significant help for private colleges but should not slight the publics. Now, you tell me exactly what that means regarding the relative amount of state scholarship money parents and students should receive based on where they want to enroll.

I am a trustee of Stephens College. I graduated from MU. Am I biased? You bet. I want both to do well. Scholarship money is a good tool, allowing consumers to make the choice of institutions. I would be happy for the legislature to increase the limits for scholarships to public schools but not at the expense of the privates.



MU football alum arrested after fight

A **former Missouri wide receiver** was arrested early Saturday after a downtown altercation.

Tommy Saunders, 23, of Kearney was arrested on suspicion of second-degree assault after a one-punch fight that sent a man to University Hospital with a concussion, a chipped tooth and broken bones to the face, said Officer Jessie Haden, a Columbia police spokeswoman.

The incident occurred at 1:30 a.m. when Saunders allegedly parked outside Tonic, 122 S. Ninth St., and waited for the victim to leave the club, police said.

He then allegedly approached the victim, punched him in the face and attempted to drive off.

Witnesses said they stood in front of Saunders' vehicle so he could not leave but moved to avoid being run over, Haden said. After interviewing the victim, police learned he had talked to Saunders' girlfriend earlier in the night and had been asked to stop, Haden said.

Saunders surrendered to police at 6:30 p.m. Saturday; he was issued a \$4,500 bond and bailed out of the Boone County Jail.

Saunders was a member of the Missouri football team from 2004 to 2008. He has been working with the team this year as a volunteer practice coach.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU student donations seven times those of KU counterparts

By Nikki Tekeei

November 24, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CST

The final: MU \$2,169; KU \$287.

MU students prevailed in a 48-hour contest between the Missouri Tigers and Kansas Jayhawks to collect money in support of United Way.

At MU, the competition, which began Wednesday, included a pancake breakfast at midnight, change collection at Speakers Circle and Lowry Mall, and a flash mob. MU's chapter of Student United Way organized the events.

According to its *mission statement*, the local Heart of Missouri United Way works to "improve lives and foster human dignity by mobilizing and coordinating the caring power of community resources in Mid-Missouri."

Timothy Rich, interim executive director of the local United Way, said this year's campaign began the first week of September and has a goal of raising about \$3.21 million, of which 90 percent has been reached.