

'Way of the Gun' has starpower, firepower

GOALPOSTS

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concerning the goalpost on eBay, one of which turned out to be an incriminating one.

"A guy e-mailed me saying that he had reported me to the USC Police for stealing stolen goods from Williams-Brice Stadium," Smith said.

"Just because I'd found a more profitable way to do something with the piece of goalpost, he was going to report me."

Smith argued he wasn't the only one with a piece of the goalpost, and he shouldn't be punished for what he did.

"There was a news clip about a man that owned a restaurant buying a piece, so why should I get in trouble?"

Smith thinks he'll get a good price for the goalpost, and he is glad he didn't sell it to the woman in Five Points.

"I almost took the \$75 from the lady that day, but I'm glad I held out," Smith said.

Smith hopes to get a higher bid on the goalpost, but he will not know until the high bidder cuts his check.

"I'm not sure how high the bids will get. I guess it will all depend on the fans," Smith said.

History was made when USC celebrated its victory on Saturday against Georgia, ranked in the top ten at the time. At Williams-Brice Stadium Saturday, fans tore down both goalposts, making national news reports.

The description for the goalposts on eBay reads:

"I have a 33 cm piece of the goalpost that was torn down when the USC Gamecocks defeated #10 ranked Georgia Bulldogs. This was the second game they have won after having a 2-year losing streak. This is also the first time USC have defeated a Top Ten ranked team in over ten years. This is a rare find, so grab it while you can if you're a true Gamecock fan. Add \$5 for shipping and handling."

Some students walked large pieces of the goalpost from the stadium to the Horseshoe, while others brought their piece to Five Points. For a die-hard Gamecock fan who withstood the pain of former losses, a piece of the goalpost is more than an object. It's a symbol of Carolina's bicentennial and its pride.

When you go to www.ebay.com, type the word "goalpost" into the search box and scroll down the page. And that's where you'll find the goalpost: an object of USC history, ready for the purchasing.

The spotlight desk can be reached at gamecockspotlight@hotmail.com.

BY ERIN O'NEAL
THE GAMECOCK

☆☆☆ OUT OF ☆☆☆

"The Way of the Gun," what could've been another tired, generic shoot-em-up flick filled with the usual cliches and typecasting of twenty-something rogue gunmen, was actually quite impressive. Even despite the casting of fair-haired Ryan Phillippe. I know - surprising, isn't it?

Probably known best as that cute guy in "I Know What You Did Last Summer" (no, not Freddie Prinze Jr. - the blonde one!), or for his twisted portrayal of Sebastian Valmont from 1999's *Cruel Intentions*, Phillippe's appearance doesn't boast the stereotypical outlaw image.

However, with the help of co-star Benicio Del Toro ("Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas"), he pulls it off rather nicely. On a side note: While Del Toro has the natural air of a lone gunman, Phillippe grew a beard in a comical attempt at roughening his boyish looks.

Christopher McQuarrie's directing produces trigger-happy desperados, breathing new life into '90s thug duos. Phillippe and Del Toro play Parker and Longbaugh, an amoral pair with jail time under their belts, who pass the days looking for the quick and easy payoff.

Enter Robin, played by Juliette Lewis ("Other Sister," "Natural Born Killers"), the surrogate mother for the Chidducks, an affluent, eccentric couple who've earned their millions through shady business ventures - modern day Hoffias, if you will.

What starts off as a lucrative kidnapping scheme for our disreputable main characters soon turns into a nightmare of inventive car chases and shoot-out scenes.

The two find themselves quite unpopular as Mr. Chidduck (Scott Wilson of "Clay Pigeons") sends his Mafia-reject suit-goons, played by Taye Diggs ("The Wood") and Nicky Katt ("Boiler Room") to retrieve Robin or perhaps more pointedly, his unborn child.

Chidduck also brings Joe Sarno (James Caan of "Mickey Blue Eyes"), a close friend, to oversee the ran-



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Ryan Phillippe, left, and Benicio Del Toro star as opportunistic kidnapers in "The Way of the Gun," which opened last week.

som payoff. In one scene, Sarno buys Longbaugh a cup of coffee in a run-down little shop at their hideout in Mexico, graciously narrating his intentions of hunting the younger crooks down if they miraculously succeed.

For the finale, Sarno appears again, only this time with backup. Where he had the time to gather such a mob, I don't know, but he shows up with a senior citizens' brigade. They are old thugs who were probably watching Leno or Letterman in their rockers or sipping Ensure when Sarno invited them to Mexico to exercise their arthritic trigger fingers. Somehow during the final scene, this elderly squad seems to multiply. For every old codger Parker and Longbaugh manage to pick off, another pops up in his place.

The entire cast put on a good show, even Phillippe. But for skeptics out there, Del Toro, Caan, and Lewis should be enough to entice those who have stopped visiting the local cinema due to boredom or frustration.

"The Way of the Gun" has enough plot twists to keep anyone interested. And if a good storyline doesn't impress you, the cynical humor and all-around dry wit behind the script will. If not, there's always the vast supply of gunfights.

Lots of guns. Lots of fights.

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Seminar teaches studying hints

BY KELLY HAMILTON
THE GAMECOCK

How many times have you tried to read and wound up staring at the same incomprehensible lines over and over? Or read a few pages, only to realize 10 minutes later that you have no idea what you've read?

Carolina Productions sponsored on Wednesday "Better Grades in Less Time," a seminar by internationally known author and speaker Gary Cohen. The goal of this program was to help students improve their comprehension, focus and retention capabilities.

Cohen used slides, games and prizes to keep students attentive while they learned how to improve their study skills and maximize their time.

Junior David Payne attended the program with the hopes of learning new study techniques.

"I came because I'm curious about this subject. I've been to a few sessions like this and they can really help. I'd like to be able to read faster," Payne said.

According to Cohen, students of-

ten have problems with concentration.

"A lot of times, we sit down to study, thinking we'll be able to focus and concentrate as soon as we look at the book," Cohen said.

"But the brain doesn't function like that. There are so many different things going on at the same time in our minds. We are constantly thinking about things that happened in the past and about the future."

One way to increase focus is to change your diet.

"Food can be an incredible tool to increase your sharpness," Cohen said. "Students often make the mistake of resorting to sugary foods while studying. Sugar is stimulating at first, but this effect wears off quickly and then you get tired."

Eating too much can also affect concentration.

"Have a large meal, then go to class and see what happens. You'll be falling asleep," Cohen said. "But after a light meal, you'll be more alert. You will retain more, comprehend more and be able to focus," Cohen said.

A snack of peanuts, raisins and fresh

fruit was distributed to illustrate this point.

Cohen then guided the audience through reading exercises designed to help them develop a faster reading process.

He stressed the importance of reading quickly and comprehending what is read. He encouraged people to use their fingers for faster reading.

Cohen said, "Your hand is your trainer. It pushes you to read faster. By moving your fingers under the lines as you read them, you're forced to see more words at a time, and it keeps you from saying each word to yourself in your mind."

This technique is effective in maximizing study time because it prevents re-reading and keeps you physically alert.

Cohen, who has spoken at Harvard, Cornell, MIT and other institutions and corporations, is from Tuerck Training International.

The spotlight desk can be reached at gamecockspotlight@hotmail.com.

Movie Times

CARMIKE WYNSONG 10 5320 FOREST DRIVE, 782-8100

Autumn in New York (PG-13) 2:00, 7:30
Bring It On (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45
The Cell (R) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00
Coyote Ugly (PG-13) 1:30, 7:30
God's Army (PG) 4:30, 9:30
Hollow Man (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
Nurse Betty (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45
Scary Movie (R) 4:00, 9:45
Space Cowboys (PG-13) 1:00, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
The Watcher (R) 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30
The Way of the Gun (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00
What Lies Beneath (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00

Bless the Child (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:20, 9:40
Bring It On (PG-13) 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
The Cell (R) 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
Chicken Run (G) 2:15, 4:10, 6:15, 9:00
Coyote Ugly (PG-13) 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05
Highlander: Endgame (R) 1:15, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:35
Hollow Man (R) 1:25, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50
Nurse Betty (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30
Saving Grace (R) 1:20, 3:50, 6:45, 9:20
Scary Movie (R) 1:50, 3:45, 6:55, 9:30
Space Cowboys (PG-13) 1:20, 3:50, 6:45, 9:20
Thomas and The Magic Railroad (G) 2:00, 3:55, 7:00, 9:00
The Watcher (R) 1:45, 4:00, 7:30, 9:45
Almost Famous (R) 7:15 (Sat only)

COLUMBIA MALL CINEMA 8 7201/802 TWO NOTCH ROAD, 788-7664

The Art of War (R) 1:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55
Backstage (R) 9:45
Bait (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
Bring It On (PG-13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:05
Nurse Betty (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:25, 10:00
Nuttty Professor 2 (PG-13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30
Original Kings of Comedy (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35
Turn It Up (R) 1:10, 3:05, 5:15, 7:20, 9:20
The Watcher (R) 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 10:10

DUTCH SQUARE 14 800 BUSH RIVER ROAD, 750-3576

The Art of War (R) 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45
Bait (R) 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00
Bring It On (PG-13) 2:10, 4:30, 7:30, 9:40, 11:50
The Cell (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:35
Highlander Endgame (R) 1:10, 3:20, 5:10, 7:50, 9:50, 11:50
Nurse Betty (R) 1:50, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00
Nuttty Professor 2 (PG-13) 2:20, 4:50, 7:50, 10:00, 12:10
Original Kings of Comedy (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00
Saving Grace (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:15
Scary Movie (R) 1:40, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00, 12:00
Space Cowboys (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
Turn It Up (R) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:40, 9:35, 11:45
The Watcher (R) 1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 9:50, 12:10
The Way of the Gun (R) 10:00
What Lies Beneath (PG-13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
Almost Famous (R) 7:30 (Sat only)

COLUMBIANA GRANDE STADIUM CINEMAS 1250 BOWER PARKWAY, 407-9898

The Art of War (R) 1:20, 5:00, 7:25, 10:05