

Tuesday, August 8, 2000

Lifeline

'Hollow' victory for Bacon

Special-effects-heavy invisible-man thriller *Hollow Man* transformed into solid numbers at the box office, becoming the best opening for director Paul Verhoeven and star Kevin Bacon and the second-highest August opening (after last year's *The Sixth Sense*). Business for the weekend was strong, but not as robust as last year, making summer overall 3% below last year. With no major blockbusters on the release schedule, the season is unlikely to catch up. The top 10:

Film	Box office (millions)	Wkd.	Avg. Total per site	Pct. Weeks chg.	Weeks out
1 <i>Hollow Man</i>	\$26.4	New	\$8,936		1
2 <i>Nutty Professor 2: The Klumps</i>	\$18.2	\$76.7	\$5,595	-57%	2
3 <i>Space Cowboys</i>	\$18.1	New	\$6,451		1
4 <i>Coyote Ugly</i>	\$17.3	New	\$6,528		1
5 <i>What Lies Beneath</i>	\$13.8	\$95.1	\$4,816	-40%	3
6 <i>X-Men</i>	\$6.8	\$136.2	\$2,438	-47%	4
7 <i>Scary Movie</i>	\$4.2	\$140.1	\$1,636	-49%	5
8 <i>The Perfect Storm</i>	\$4.0	\$165.6	\$1,528	-47%	6
9 <i>Disney's The Kid</i>	\$3.0	\$58.3	\$1,511	-43%	5
10 <i>The Patriot</i>	\$2.3	\$105.7	\$1,280	-48%	6

Source: ACNielsen EDI Inc.

'Survivor' Kelly bites nose to spite hubby

Castaway Kelly Wiglesworth, who is wanted in Greensboro, N.C., for grabbing a bite at an Olive Garden using a stolen credit card, was once arrested for biting her hubby. On July 20, 1997, Wiglesworth was arrested in Las Vegas for "battery domestic violence" after she allegedly bit her husband's nose and left him with scratches, three weeks after they were married. According to police, Jay Geary said he was attacked for losing the house keys. The charges were not pursued, and neither was the marriage; CBS says she is single. *Survivor* was aware of the arrest. "During her time on the island, she never bit anyone, not even a rat," says CBS spokesman Chris Ender.



ImageDirect

Ice Cube: Making movie instead.

Ice melts away from tour

Rapper Ice Cube has left the nationwide rap tour Up in Smoke because of a scheduling conflict. The part-time actor is scheduled to begin shooting *John Carpenter's Ghosts of Mars* today in New Mexico. His recent films include *Three Kings* and *Next Friday*. The Up in Smoke tour wraps up Aug. 28 in Englewood, Colo.

Shania the homecoming queen

Country singer and Switzerland resident Shania Twain, 34, surprised former classmates at her Timmins High and Vocational School reunion Saturday in Timmins, Ontario. The Class of '83 grad, then known as Eileen, told CTV News, "I came for the same reason everyone else came. I wanted to see old friends."

Savage Garden's Olympic record

Australian pop duo Savage Garden is currently playing to packed houses in our country, but the group has an even bigger gig lined up. It will appear at the closing ceremony of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, performing the title track from its second album, *Affirmation*. The song will be released as a single this fall.

Ward, Rock make Emmys presentable

Comedian Chris Rock and *Once and Again* star Sela Ward were the first celebrities announced as presenters for the 52nd annual Primetime Emmy Awards. The show will be broadcast live Sept. 10 on ABC.

America's favorite restaurants

Bon Appetit magazine's sixth annual restaurant issue, on newsstands Aug. 15, weighs in on the nation's eateries based on 10 separate categories. One of the wackier lists, best over-the-counter spots, includes the Flora-Bama Lounge and Package in Pensacola, Fla., and Pink's Famous Chili Dogs in Los Angeles.

Medium stakes \$100,000 on election guess

The Amazing Kreskin, who bills himself as "the world's foremost mentalist," placed a \$100,000 bet on the winner of the Gore-Bush presidential race Monday on the *Howard Stern Show*. The trusty psychic didn't reveal his pick, sealing his prediction in a safe, which will be unlocked the day after the election. If he's wrong, the entire stake will be given to charity. George W. Bush leads Al Gore by 17 points in polls.

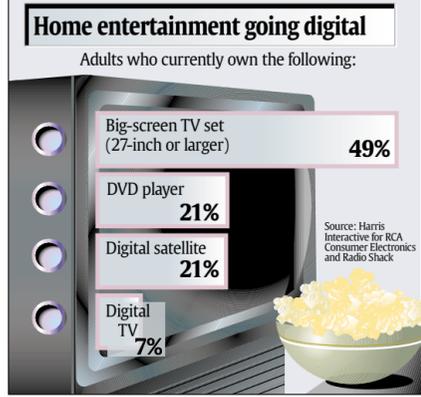
Correction

The soundbite in Monday's Lifeline should have been attributed to James Garner.

By César G. Soriano from staff and wire reports
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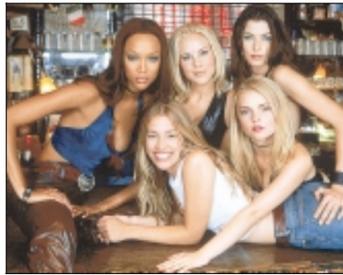
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New brew: *Coyote Ugly* stars, clockwise from front, Piper Perabo, Tyra Banks, Maria Bello, Bridget Moynahan and Izabella Miko.

Entertainment: Comparing *Coyote Ugly* with well-known predecessors with sexy stars and saloons — *Cocktail* and *Flashdance*, 6D.

eWorld: Search engines are getting better, but Web users have to do their part in sorting through the mountain of information. The eLife column, 3D.

A Better Life: Drugmakers are turning from academic centers to private companies for drug trials, a concern to industry observers, 9D.

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By Brent Jones for USA TODAY

Contact sport: Mosh pits such as the one at the Chicago Rockfest are physical places where rock fans push, shove and hold one another aloft. Concertgoers say alcohol and anger increase the likelihood of injuries.

Concertgoers push injuries to high levels

Decades after deadly Who show, violence worsens

By Anthony DeBarros
USA TODAY

At about half past midnight, the hospital called. "Your son has been injured," Catherine Stone was told. "You need to come down right away."

It was September 1996, six months past Scott Stone's 14th birthday, and Catherine had been waiting for him to return from a rock concert by Rage Against the Machine at Seattle's Mercer Arena. "We sent him to a city facility," she says, voice breaking. "You'd think your children could be safe there."

But by the time she and her husband, Randy, arrived at Harborview Medical Center, doctors were diagnosing Scott with a severe brain injury — received, though no one saw how or when, in the roiling festival seating area at the arena.

Four years later, Scott Stone's losses are mounting: Parts of his memory are gone, as are 20 IQ points. And, in the ultimate blow, some of his rights soon may be chipped away. Because Scott's doctors and counselors were convinced that he could not handle his own affairs, a court-appointed guardian recommended he be declared mentally incompetent. "His rights will be limited to that of a minor," says his attorney, Ron J. Webb. No longer could Scott make his own decisions on such things as signing a contract or getting married.

Like dozens of others, Stone's story is a grim reminder that, 20 years after 11 people were crushed to death while trying to get into a concert by The Who in Cincinnati, fans are being hurt or killed at concerts. And though deaths grab the headlines — as in June, when nine died at a rock festival in Denmark — hundreds of injuries each year have become the industry's untold story.

Cover story



Scott Stone: Lost part of memory.



By Brent Smith for USA TODAY

Father and son: Randy R. Adams gives motion therapy to son Randy L. Adams, injured in 1994. At left, the Adamases in a family photo.



Crusader fights for safety; a timeline of tragedy, 2D

Exactly how many injuries is unknown. Aside from one consultant who keeps what he acknowledges is an incomplete database on concert incidents, no one is counting. But what is known is that injuries are happening with regularity, concentrated mostly at hard-rock and rap shows. They range from broken bones and cuts to brain damage, paralysis and sexual assaults. Most occur in mosh pits, the stage-front zones where fans push, shove and sometimes hoist one another aloft in a chaotic contact sport.

Still, the concert industry — which grossed \$1.4 billion in 1999, according to *Amusement Business* — insists it is providing a safe environment and re-

sists calls for stricter guidelines.

"Our position is that an amphitheater is different than a stadium. How do you apply one standard to all of those?" says Jack Zimmer, executive director of the International Association of Assembly Managers, a trade group that represents facilities. "The fact is, there are plenty of safe places at every concert."

Beyond activists' calls for action and sporadic legislative efforts, little has been done in response to injuries. Cincinnati, after The Who tragedy in December 1979, enacted tougher regulations, including a ban on selling tickets without assigning fans reserved seats. But typically nothing happens until disaster strikes.

"It's a painful lesson, and people figure it out when it's too late," says Capt. Vince Demasi, the Cincinnati police official in charge of event planning.

To piece together the state of safety at concerts, USA TODAY spoke with industry experts, fans, representatives of bands and public officials, in addition to studying data compiled by a crowd

Please see COVER STORY next page ▶

'Cowboys' proves old stars aren't going out to pasture

By Claudia Puig
USA TODAY

Codgers can be cool. The movie *Space Cowboys* has proved that audiences will go for stars with a few gray hairs.

The movie, about former astronauts who take on a space mission late in life, stars Clint Eastwood, 70, Tommy Lee Jones, 53, Donald Sutherland, 66, and James Garner, 72. It grossed a solid \$18.1 million at the box office over the weekend.

That's director Eastwood's biggest opening ever, and, according to Warner Bros., ticket sales are building day to day — a sign that the movie will hold up.

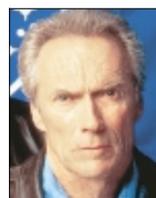
"There's an older audience for movies out there with these older stars," says Tom Borys, president of box office tracker ACNielsen EDI. "But it has to be the

right vehicle. There are a lot of different age groups that you can appeal to if you make the right kind of film."

Warner Bros. execs say the appeal of the actors had a lot to do with making *Cowboys* the right kind of film.

"The audience has equity with these four people as filmgoers," says Brad Ball, Warner Bros. president of marketing. "You have a relationship with them that spans many decades."

Cowboys' performance is good news for the makers of *The Crew*, opening Aug. 25. It stars Burt Reynolds, 64, Richard Dreyfuss, 52, Seymour Cassel, 65, and Dan Hedaya, 60, as a quartet of wise-guy retirees who must pull off a fi-



Warner Bros.

Cowboys: Eastwood's top debut.

nal caper as their Miami retirement home is about to become a yuppie hotel.

Crew producer Barry Josephson says that, for moviegoers, his movie and *Cowboys* "are like going to the All-Star Game."

Making only teen movies, he says, is "selling the audience short."

Hollywood may have a reputation for being obsessed with youth, but older actors will increase in value as the overall population ages, industry watchers say.

"It's good to be an aging actor when the audience is made up of aging moviegoers," says Martin Grove, a movie analyst for CNN and *The Hollywood Re-*

porter. "The graying of America is good for the longtime talents in Hollywood."

Studios may well be looking to showcase seasoned heavy hitters more often. "If a movie about older people makes money, then a studio says, 'Let's make that.' That's how something gets started in Hollywood," says Howard Deutch, who directed *Grumpier Old Men*.

As Grove says, "Hollywood has never been shy about jumping on the bandwagon, so other studios will probably put into orbit projects that feature mature talent."

Major studios, however, already missed a promising ride. Several passed on *These Old Broads*, starring Elizabeth Taylor, 68, Shirley MacLaine, 66, and Debbie Reynolds, 68. The movie — written by Reynolds' daughter, Carrie Fisher — is being made for ABC.