

Sky Captain flies to the top

By Chris Engle
Sports/A&E Editor

Intense action, cutting-edge computer animation, and old-style cinematography rule the screen in *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*.

Set in the 1940's, the movie opens in New York City where Sky Captain (Jude Law) takes to the air in his World War II fighter plane to defeat an invading force of massive robots. Hot on her story involving the mysterious disappearances of many of the world's top scientists, *Chronicle* reporter Polly Perkins (Gwyneth Paltrow) hits the streets and puts herself in the path of the destructive robots to get that perfect photograph to go with her story.

Putting aside their arduous history together, Polly and Sky Captain join forces to uncover the doomsday plans of Dr. Totenkopf, and recruit the help of Franky Cook (Angelina Jolie), an old friend of Sky Captain's. Together, the team fights intense battles against technologically advanced enemies as they make their way to Nepal, ground zero for Dr. Totenkopf's plans of world destruction.

Reaching the end of their trip, Polly tries to conserve her one remaining exposure by passing up spectacular scenes, knowing she can find a better one. Finally, she raises her camera and shoots the perfect photo



Sky Captain And The World Of Tomorrow (photo courtesy Chris Engle).

for her story...

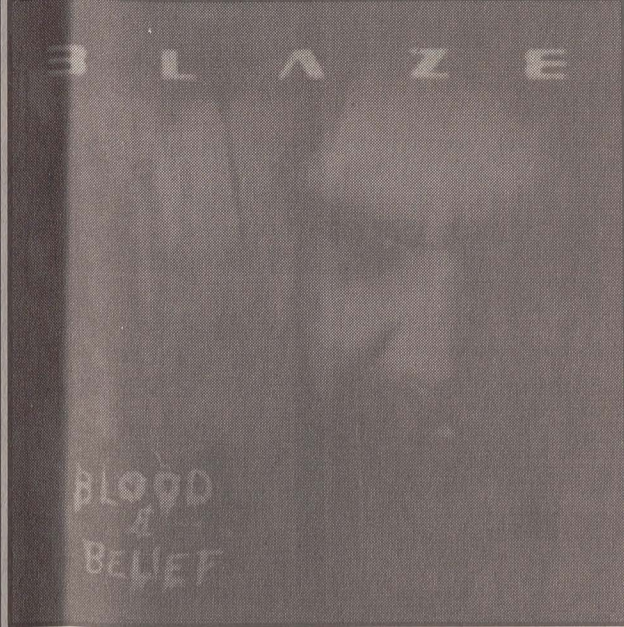
Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow takes computer animation to a whole new level. When paired with the 40's-era cinematography, cool technology and robotic enemies, and a bunch of explosions, it makes for some truly amazing scenes. Kerry Conran describes the cinematic as "a comic book brought to life."

The DVD features and extras include the usual commentaries and deleted scenes, as well as an original six-minute short

version of the film and a gag reel that gives a glimpse into how little actual movie set was needed due to the constant use of green screens. Just make a selection quick on the DVD menu, because the sound loop can get annoying.

Sky Captain makes for a great action movie for the family with its PG rating. While computer animation is often overused in recent movies of the genre, *Sky Captain* is able to pull it off and take a big step in how movies will be made in the future. 3 and a half stars out of 5.

BLAZE is on fire with latest album



BLAZE's Blood & Belief (photo courtesy De Maramed).

By De Maramed
Managing Editor

Former singer of Wolfsbane and metal supergroup Iron Maiden, Blaze Bayley now heads his own band, BLAZE. With their fourth album *Blood & Belief*, the group of relatively unknown musicians continues their trend of dependable, rock solid traditional heavymetal albums that stands out because of Blaze's personal, painfully honest lyrics.

Blood & Belief starts off with a bang with the first track, the distortion-heavy "Alive." This is one of the album's strongest songs, with the very catchy chorus, "I missed the meeting/where you were appointed god."

The frantic and hurried sounding "Ten Seconds" is next, followed by the title track, "Blood & Belief." The title track is, oddly enough, the weakest song. Very uneven, with confusing and tempo changes and jumbled lyrics, it's best to skip this one altogether.

"Life And Death" and

"Tearing Yourself To Pieces"

are next, and puts the album back on track. "Tearing Yourself To Pieces" is a particularly good track, with the slow, chugging guitars complementing Blaze's changing emotional voice.

"Hollow Head" picks up the pace, describing Blaze's personal problems, and his attempts to overcome them with the help of a therapist. Particularly powerful, and the disjointed, almost jangled music is perfect for the subject. "Will To Win" keeps up the faster pace, galloping along while Blaze pumps up the listener, telling you to never up, to keep fighting. Although it does sound suspiciously like *Silicon Messiah's* "The Brave."

"Regret" is the slow, lost love ballad that's actually very good because of Blaze's sincerity and honesty. Anyone listening can easily identify with this track, and exemplifies Blaze's earnest songwriting.

"The Path And The Way" and the finale, "Soundtrack

Of My Life" are both solid songs. The finale is particularly good, where Blaze looks back on his life, "This is the soundtrack of my life/the sound by which I live and die."

Blaze has one of the most unique voices you'll probably ever hear. He can't scream to the heavens like Tim Owens or Rob Halford, nor does he have the range of Geoff Tate or Bruce Dickinson. His is a rumbling, deep bass voice that is hard to fit into a metal group. Iron Maiden didn't know quite what to do with him, but here in his own band his vocal talents are showcased.

The weakest point of any BLAZE album is the redundancy of Blaze's writing. A majority of BLAZE songs are about not fitting in, going against the grain, and being the outcast that overcomes the majority's persecution. The tracks may be solid musically, but sometimes it seems like you're listening to same old lyrics. *Blood & Belief* is no exception, although it's not nearly as bad as their previous studio album *The Tenth Dimension*.

If you're looking for speedmetal, look to earlier Megadeth. If you're in the market for some good thrashmetal, go buy Iced Earth's *Horror Show* album. If you want a big pile of crap, then KISS has what you're looking for. But if you crave heavymetal at its best from an up and coming band that's a talented as they are hungry for success, then feast your ears on *Blood & Belief*. 4 out of 5 stars.

Not sure where to go for spring break?

By Angela Smith
Staff Writer

Who's ready for spring break? As everyone knows, spring break is March 24-28 this year, and the fashionable thing to do is take a vacation. When looking for beaches, fun in the sun and amusement parks, Cancun is one of the places to go.

During spring break 2003, college student Stephanie Fournier traveled to Cancun, Mexico, with six of her good friends. Stephanie has done quite a bit of traveling, but does not consider herself a regular traveler. Two of the friends' parents helped the girls out by searching the internet and talking to a local Alpena travel agent about the trip's expenses and the cost

of plane tickets.

They were able to locate a seven day trip for approximately \$800 dollars. During the week, the girls stayed in a hotel called El Pueblito in Cancun. The hotel featured bingo, two pools with connected restaurants, and a bar. The girls went to Cancun open minded without a set schedule, which Stephanie would recommend everyone else do. They spent a lot of time on the beach soaking up the very warm, sunny weather. The girls went sailing on the ocean, where they then went snorkeling to and island and rented golf carts that they raced around in. Wave runners and four wheelers were also available.

At night, the girls spent most

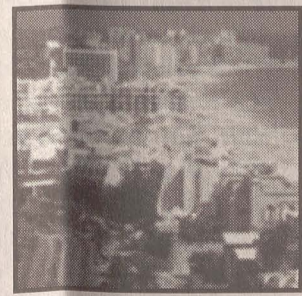
of their time in nightclubs, which had a lot of entertainment, foam parties and live bands. "Foam parties are a lot of fun," Stephanie said. It is an actual room filled with foam that everyone walks around in.

Stephanie believes that while Cancun is a great place to go on vacation, it helps if you talk to someone who has been there to give you advice and refer you to excellent places to stay.

A web site titled AllAboutCancun.com, more fully describes the many activities you can experience. Certified divers are available to teach you how to dive; there is fishing with experienced captains and custom built fishing yachts;

and even sky surfing on an aqua world sky rider.

Cancun also features golfing, horseback riding, and a Wet 'n Wild giant water park. In the warm tropical weather, the sandy beaches and clear water are most popular along the hotel zone, which is the entire length of Cancun Island. There are also several restaurants and even dinner cruises at your disposal.



A glimpse of Cancun (photo courtesy www.cancun.com).

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE COMMUNITY AND IT'S YOUTH



BESSER CREDIT UNION

1381 N. Bagley St., Alpena
7421 U.S. 23 North, Alpena
989-356-1880

let our Sandwich Artists®
create your favorite sub

SUBWAY
eat fresh.™

Subway Crossroads
M-32 & Bagley

Subway Thunder Bay
Thunder Bay Shopping Plaza

Thinking Internet?
Think DeepNet!

- Unlimited Local Access •
- Webmail • Tech Support •
- Virus & SPAM Protection •

Access When You Need It!

Call 358-1900 or email info@deepnet.com

Perch's
IGA

IT'S ALL ABOUT FAMILY

1025 US-23 North • Alpena, MI 49707
354-4012

Will's Gun Shop

Full Service Gunsmiths: Repair & Restoration, Servicing All Makes & Models!
Extensive Ammunition Inventory * Hunting Supplies & Accessories



East Side of Hubbard Lake * Call 727-2500 * EMail info@WillsGunShop.com