

[flash]

September 30, 2004

- Things to do...**
- Get up.
 - Finish Algebra homework.
 - Divert friends from seeing me watching 'Godzilla.'

Guilty
Pleasures

second annual the 'boro's best 2004 ballot

Please nominate as few national chains as possible

Start your engines, Pedro. Once again, it's time to highlight your favorite bars, clubs, bands, video stores, restaurants and whatever else passes for culture in this decaying college burg we affectionately call Murfreesboro.

Below is democracy-in-action. Our beautiful Quark-made ballot now includes: Best Place to Shop for

Under \$5, Best Local DeeJay, Best Tattoo Parlor and Best Bookstore.

Ballots should be turned in to the *Sidelines* office, in the James Union Building, Room 310, by Nov. 11. You can also mail us at Post Office Box 8, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. And if you're a Webhead, fill out your ballot online at www.mtsusidelines.com. Whew.★

Music

Best Murfreesboro Band

Best Murfreesboro Musician

Best Place to Hear Live Music

Best Place to Play Live Music

Best Local DeeJay

Food & Drink

Bar With the Best Bartenders

Best Cup of Coffee

Best Mixed Drinks

Best Happy Hour

Best Beer

Best Atmosphere (Restaurant)

Best Atmosphere (Bar)

Best Breakfast

Best Mexican Food

Best Oriental Food

Best Soul Food

Best Sit-Down Meal in Town

food and drink continued

Best Service (Restaurant)

Best Service (Bar)

Best Drunk/Stoned Food Place

Best Grab-and-Go Lunch Place

Arts & Entertainment

Best Place to Spend a Friday/Saturday Night

Best Place to Spend a Weeknight

Best Place to Pick Up a Date

Best Place to Take Your Date

Best Place to Cheat on Your Date

Best Place to Shop for Under \$5

Best Place to Dance

Best Place to Rent Videos

Best Local Tattoo Parlor

Best Bookstore

Best Place to Experience Local Culture

Best Place to See Local Art

Best Place to Sit, Chill Out and Read

'Sims 2' is uber-cool, social life killer

By Chase Block

If there is any single video game that defines "guilty pleasure," it is *The Sims*. Countless people have forsaken their own lives in order to live out the lives of their sims. They'll miss work, class, dates and sleep in order to play *The Sims*, and go to work, class, dates and sleep – only virtually. So many people are doing this, in fact, *The Sims* is the most popular game series of all time. Yet it is difficult to find anyone who readily admits they play the game.

In case you've been elsewhere for the past six years, *The Sims* is a people-simulator. You create a character, known as Sim, and control their lives. Where they work, where they live, who they love and

'The Sims 2'

★★★★

(out of four stars)

EA Games
PC

where they poop is all controlled by you. It's like a dollhouse on your computer.

The Sims 2, the long anticipated sequel, is the one we've all been waiting for. It's the result of several years of evolution; from the original *The Sims* and its plethora of expansion packs, to the console versions and *The Sims Online*, it's got all the goods that made those great, and none of the annoyances

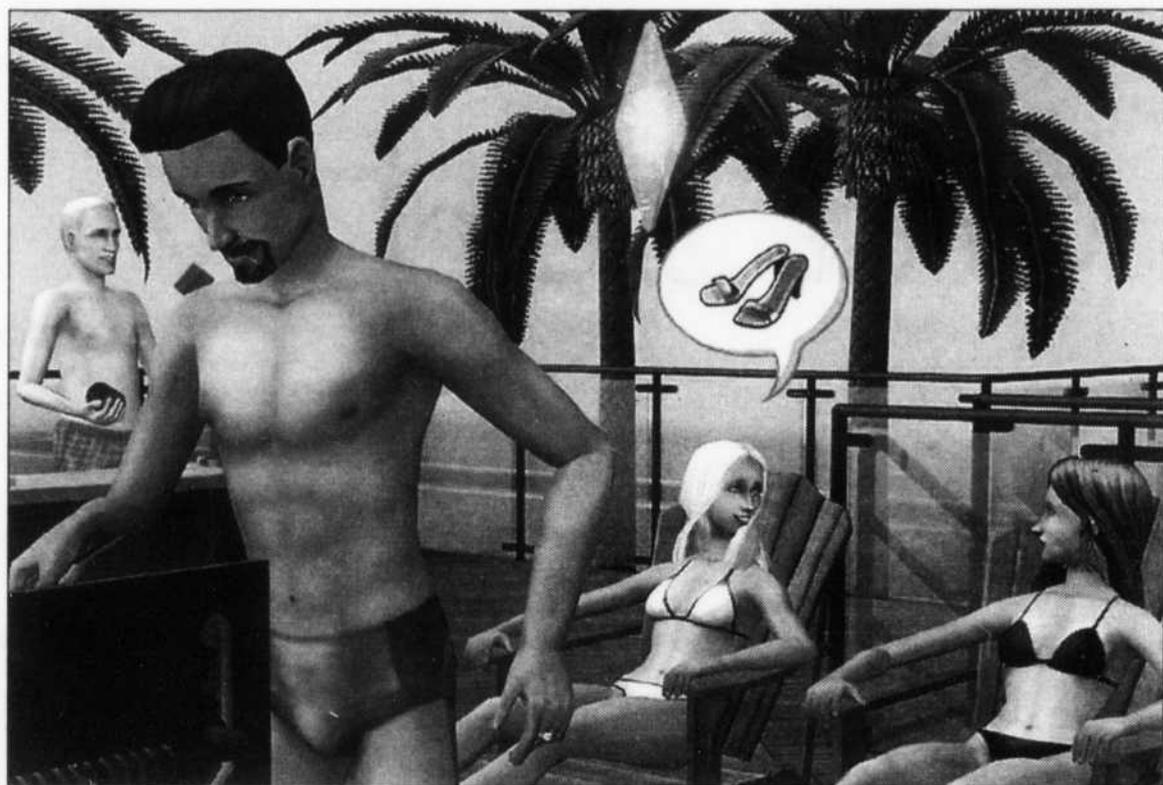


Photo provided by gamespot.com

'The Sims 2' is the anticipated sequel to the million-selling guilty pleasure, 'The Sims.'

that weren't so great.

Starting over from scratch, the sim creation options are totally snazzy. I spent 30 minutes making my sim, Flash Sidelines. A girl who played with me took over an hour. She couldn't stop fixing her hair, picking her clothes and making sure her butt didn't

look fat in her jeans. Since *The Sims 2* is now in 3D, these sorts of things matter.

New options for house building offer various foundations, roofs and multi-story homes. Each item for sale is finally available in a series of colors, giving you the capability to play "interior decorator" to your heart's

content.

The biggest change in gameplay is the aspirations meter. Now, along with your mood, you have certain wants to satisfy, and fears to avoid. Fulfilling these wants makes you happy, and earns points to purchase exclusive items. It's a nice change of pace that delivers some real goals.

The relationship dynamics are totally overhauled as well. Flash Sidelines was able to steal love away from Cassandra Goth (who is grown up now). Along came Jennifer, who, while in love with three other men, stole Flash away and became engaged. At her wedding party, she invited her former lovers and Cassandra. This party erupted in a fight, and resulted in a broken engagement. Flash and Jennifer were able to patch things up, but not without a lot of work. This sort of thing didn't happen in the originals.

I could go on, but rest assured, *The Sims 2* is

See **Sims**, 7

CAREER FAIR FOR ALL STUDENTS

TODAY

Murphy Center Track, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

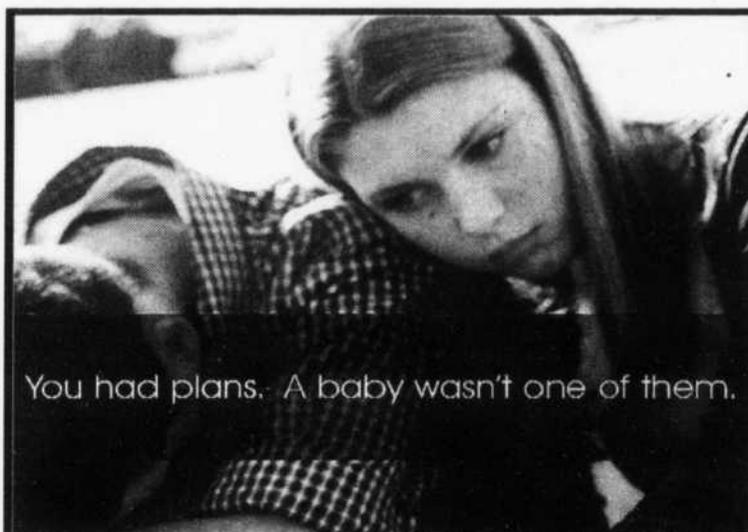
**Many employers and
graduate/professional schools**

Representatives of business, governmental agencies, non-profits, and graduate schools will be on campus to provide information about careers, part-time and full-time employment. Come and get information on your career choices and learn about new career possibilities.

View the roster of employers and graduate schools on the web site at www.mtsu.edu/~career.

Network and present your resumes to these representatives.

Sponsored by the MTSU Career and
Employment Center



You had plans. A baby wasn't one of them.

**Pregnancy
Support
Center**

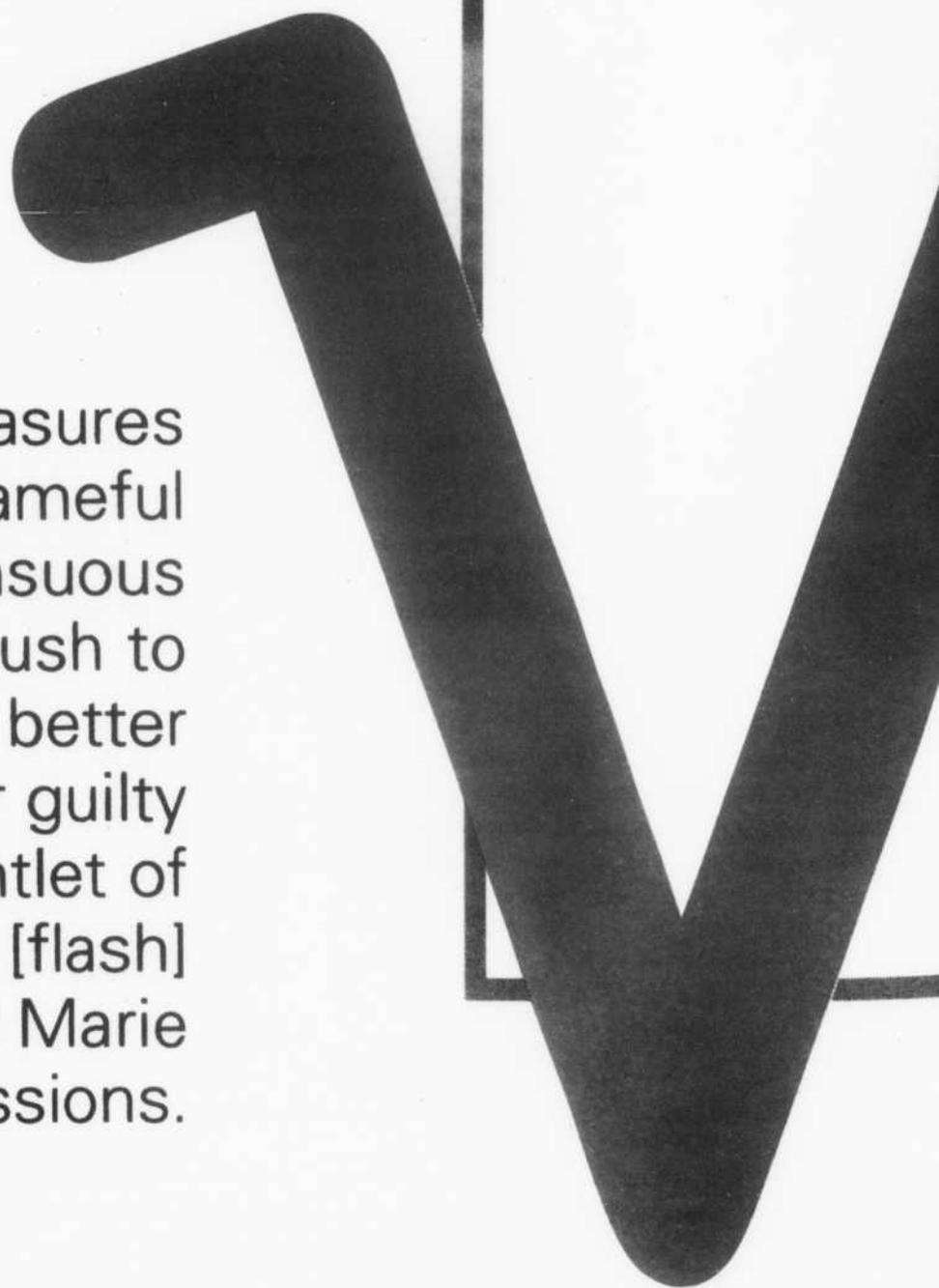
Call 1-800-395-HELP

615-893-0228

www.boropregnancy.org

Guilty Pleasures

The first [flash] guilty pleasures issue confirms our shameful addictions. From the sensuous vocal stylings of Kate Bush to the unnerving time-waster better known as VH-1, our guilty pleasures run the gauntlet of popular culture. Here are [flash] editors Joey Hood and Marie Patrick's reluctant confessions.



VH-1

With its slate of Generation-X nostalgia and Wisconsin cheese reality shows, VH-1 is an official purveyor of mindless television for the frazzled college student. Whether you enjoy Flavor-Flav cavorting under covers with Brigitte Nielsen ("Surreal Life 3"), or banal countdowns featuring D-list celebrities, VH-1 has got you covered. Of course VH-1 is at its snarkiest when whip-smart comics rhapsodize about the pop culture week-in-review on "Best Week Ever." It's like "Entertainment Tonight" on acid. – Joey Hood

The 700 Club

I watch Pat Robertson's daily interpretation of worldly events with a fundamentalist slant for its ironic value. Outside his typical (insert minority group of choice) blame game, Robertson channels "special healing powers" at the show's end, magically curing an aging sexagenarian from his bout with testicular cancer. Then there's female cohort Terry Meeuwsen's role as meek housewife/broadcaster. She never forms her own opinion about the world at large, and always seeks out Robertson to think for her. Yes, dear reader, *The 700 Club* is too *Leave It To Beaver*-ish for its own good, and that's the way I like it. – JH

AmIAnnoying.com

Since its inception in 2000, AmIAnnoying.com lets average joes decide whether celebrities are deemed "annoying." "The number one on-going celebrity poll" contains more than 12,000 extensive celebrity profiles. (Did you know that Walt Disney was rabidly anti-Semitic?) Of course, the on-going poll of the most annoying celebs includes a who's who of grating media harlots. Ann Coulter, Osama bin Laden, Britney Spears and Rosie O' Donnell typically top the Am I Annoying's list of regular offenders. – JH

Kate Bush

Despite having influenced many prominent contemporary artists, including Tori Amos, Kate Bush – and her brand of theatrical pop – has sadly gone out of style. A singer/songwriter most visible in the late '70s and '80s, Bush uses her amorphous voice to assume different personas and her lyrics to explore the perspectives of original characters as well as those taken from books and films. Though her music occasionally lapses into sentimentality, wading throughout the muck is worth it for gems such as "Heads We're Dancing," a catchy song about having a dance with Hitler in 1939, "before the music started." – Marie Patrick

Labyrinth

Written by Terry Jones (of Monty Python) and directed by Jim Henson, *Labyrinth* is a lesser-known cult classic that rivals *Rocky Horror Picture Show* in bizarre musical numbers. Following a fairy-tale motif, the plot centers around Sarah (played by Jennifer Connelly), a histrionic teenager who must make her way through the treacherous Labyrinth and overcome the evil/sexy Goblin King (David Bowie wearing tights and eye shadow) in her movement into adulthood. The dialogue, and the music, is often downright silly, but seeing as how it is the only film that boasts both David Bowie *and* muppets, *Labyrinth* is matchless in its entertainment value. – MP

Jim Thompson

As one of the few talented writers of the roman noir genre, Jim Thompson has just recently begun to get the respect he deserves. In line with other noir works, Thompson's characters are hopelessly deranged and the world they live in is bleak and devoid of meaning (much like in an Albert Camus novel, only with more violence and sex). However, Thompson's novels – truly some of the most literary trash ever written – stand out from their pulp fiction peers for their innovation and poetic yet lean prose. – MP ★

'80s music preens with shameless swagger

By Brittany Gearheart

Every generation has music that is infamous for its time. The ice cream parlor music of the '50s was halted by the psychedelic wave of the '60s, which was intensified by disco in the '70s. My guilty pleasure, secretly shared by many in our generation, originated with big hair bands, outlandish rock and roll chicks and others who were along for the roller coaster ride of '80s music. I will admit that the bad boy image of Axl Rose inspired me at three-years-old when I knew all of the words to "Sweet Child of Mine."

Girl power arose thoughts of superiority of the female sex with rocker chicks in bands such as The Bangles, Blondie, Heart and singers such as Cyndi Lauper. Trendsetters like Madonna and Michael Jackson did not only give us songs such as "Billie Jean" and "Like a Virgin," they inspired teenagers around the globe to don gloves, leather, lace and a world of lewd behavior – is this an argument?

It did not take long for the aerosol cans and plastic jewelry to be set aside. Soon neon jogging suits, graffiti hats and gold chains embraced the world of hip-hop with Run DMC and MC Hammer. The Fresh Prince of Bel Air, Will Smith, not only serenaded us with clean-cut rap but led us into the sitcom subculture with "this is a story all about how my life got twisted upside down." You know that you can finish these lyrics.

Music will change, but the fans keep it alive. If this were not true, we would not see the bands continue to reach out and strive to deliver what we have unconditionally supported. The good stuff is still flowing with touring artists like The Cure, Prince and Journey, who have all recently performed in Nashville. The Pixies will perform at the Voodoo Festival in New Orleans along with the Beastie Boys on Oct. 16-17. If we refuse to let the music fade, it will continue to inspire generations to come. Do not be afraid to love what you know. ★

'Sky Captain' sails through smooth waters

By Forrest Sanders

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow is like an episode of a *Flash Gordon* serial on a *Star Wars* budget. The art-deco-rich world where the film takes place has been a decade in the making, all dating back to a Mac computer in director Kerry Conran's basement. Today, Conran's debut feature is a milestone in computer generated wizardry. His flesh-and-blood characters are interacting in a world that has been constructed entirely by computer animation, and Conran deserves praise for creating a film of such ambitious scope.

Sky Captain's plot follows the Lois Lane-esque reporter Polly Perkins (Gwyneth Paltrow in soft focus) who's been tracking a story in which the world's most renowned scientists have been mysteriously vanishing without a trace. After reuniting with her old flame, aviator Joseph Sullivan (Jude Law in the role of Sky Captain), the two embark on a mission to thwart the plans of evil-doer Dr. Totenkopf, who's been plotting to destroy the world.

I suppose one could call *Sky Captain's* story one that lacks depth, but to overcomplicate a story like *Sky Captain's* would be to sacrifice the wide-eyed, "gee whiz" innocence of the film. As it stands, it's a perfect homage to the science fiction of the pre-WWII era as well as playing out a bit like a greatest hits collection for Hollywood's golden era. While affectionate nods to *King Kong* and *Metropolis* are present, the most blatant reference occurs

'Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow'

Starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law, Giovanni Ribisi, Angelina Jolie

Rated PG

Paramount Pictures

Director Kerry Conran

Rating ★★☆☆1/2
(out of four stars)

when our heroes are faced with the enraged illusion of a giant suspended head. However, it's not the great and powerful Oz that's spelling doom for Sky Captain and Polly Perkins, but rather the late Laurence Olivier. In the film's most innovative scene, Conran and company use Olivier's likeness to play the mysterious Dr. Totenkopf.

Besides the revolutionary elements of the film, the top notch cast is also due credit for realistically playing make believe in the midst of their blue screen surroundings. Paltrow and Law make for a terrific on-screen match, while their snappy, light-hearted banter provides the film with a steady stream of laughs. Meanwhile, in an all-too-brief appearance, Angelina Jolie is the very definition of "cool" as the British commanding officer of an air base suspended in the sky. With her role as the

See **Tomorrow**, 8

Harangue:

Like to read words like this one?
Try reviewing books for [flash]

sflash@mtsu.edu

WELCOME MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE!



Free chips & drink
with purchase
of burrito, basket
of tacos or salad
2-4pm
Monday-Friday

OR

10% off any menu
item when
MTSU Student ID
is presented
11am-9pm
Monday-Friday

Come see what everyone is raving about!

1122 Memorial Blvd. ~ Phone: 494-3781 ~ Fax: 494-3783

Limit one per person. Not redeemable for cash or credit

Continued from **Tomorrow**, page 6

tough-as-nails Frankie Cooke, Jolie now rivals Daryl Hannah as the actress who best sports an eye patch as a fashion accessory.

Indeed, everything in *Sky Captain* may be a blast from the past, but when buddy-cop action movies and redundant war epics are all that make up our "pop-corn" entertainment, it's a refreshingly unique addition to the year's movie line-up.

It's so rare to find a film that combines adventure, suspense, romance and humor as perfectly as *Raiders of the Lost Ark* did over twenty years ago, but *Sky Captain* is up to the challenge.

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow may not be the best film of 2004, but I'll venture to say it might just turn out to be the most fun.★

Fire-breathing monster makes for first-rate guilty pleasure

By Forrest Sanders

From my earliest childhood years, there has been only one reptilian, fire-breathing, havoc-wreaking Japanese film icon fit to be called my hero. Since witnessing my first *Godzilla* movie, *Godzilla vs. Megalon*, I've had a soft spot for the radioactive reptile and his Tokyo-smashing shenanigans.

His nearly 30 films are the very definition of the "so bad, it's good" diversion. With a mix of choppy editing, mis-matched dubbing, third-rate special effects and acting that wouldn't suffice on a community theater stage, I can't help but cease my channel surfing whenever I catch any of the Big G's movies on the Sci Fi Channel in all their MS3TK-ready glory.

Just for the record, *Godzilla* wasn't always about championship wrestling in rubber suits. The surprisingly grim 1954 original portrays *Godzilla* as a creature mutated by nuclear testing (an allegory for the nuclear phobia of post-WWII Japan). After spending a while playing a walking natural disaster, *Godzilla* seems to have had a change of heart.

Ghidrah the Three Headed Monster (1964) marks a milestone in cinematic history as the film that establishes *Godzilla* as a sort of protector of the universe. Soon, adversaries line up on his turf - from a Beetle-ish monster with drill arms to a robotic *Godzilla* clone built in "space titanium." All are waiting to have their swing



Photo provided by chud.com

at the Not-So-Jolly Green Giant. Of course, *Godzilla* just pummels these guys in the climactic battle royale, but, admittedly, he continues wrecking Japan long after his foes have been vanquished. I guess it's just *Godzilla's* way of having his cake and eating it too.

For most monster movie enthusiasts, *Godzilla vs. Mothra* (1964) marks the pinnacle of the law enforcing lizard's mano-a-mano grudge matches. *Godzilla* makes his grand entrance while taking a routine stroll through Japan, when the military crashes the scene and attempts to take down the titan with a ridiculous amount of ammo.

Godzilla stands back, momentarily amused by the light show, before tiring of that nonsense and plowing through them to level Tokyo. However, soon an egg the size of an IHOP washes up on the shores of Japan. Just as the Big G starts licking his chops for an omelette, the world's largest threat to woolen garments, *Mothra* swoops into Tokyo so the two monsters can beat each other

silly. *Mothra* has, theoretically, arrived to rescue her egg, but I think it's just as likely that she was drawn to the flame that was Tokyo after *Godzilla* destroyed it.

Godzilla vs. Mothra established a formula which these no-holds-barred battles for the champion of Earth rarely deviated from. However, no matter how low-tech the special effects or vapid the plot, there's a certain charm to the old school *Godzilla* films that still make them infinitely more entertaining than the mega-budgeted American remake from 1998.

Perhaps it's the way that Japanese film makers have kept their special effects appropriately old school. After all, why bother with a soulless CGI creation when you know there's a man underneath that scaly rubber *Godzilla* suit that must be having the time of his life stomping around on a miniature of Tokyo? Wouldn't we all like to be that guy? To quote a line from *Godzilla 2000*, "Maybe there's a little *Godzilla* in all of us."★

Open now through
NOVEMBER 7th



Comer Farms

HOURS OF THE FARM
Friday 2-10 pm
Saturday 9am-10 pm
Sunday 12-9 pm

Pumpkin Patch & Corn Mazes
Discover the Fun on the Farm!
School Groups - Church Groups - Families
Scout Outings - Corporate Picnics

Two New Mazes -

The Indian Chief



Pick a Pumpkin
Straw Crawl
Hay Rides
Petting Farm
Corn Mazes
Public Picnic & Recreation Area

The Fox



Group Discounts Available

CONVENIENT, EASY TO FIND LOCATION:
418 Stumpy Lane, Lebanon 444-7141
From I-40, Exit 238 - South 1 mile. Right into Comer Farms Pumpkin Patch & Corn Mazes, left into Retail Sales.

\$1 off per person for
Corn Mazes

ADMISSION

LIMIT FOUR PER COUPON

EXPIRES 11.08.04