

Penguin

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better already.

And in the finale to this edition of *PP*, wasn't it nice to see the Prez grasping a teachable moment and inviting Prof. Louis Gates and Sgt. James Crowley to the White House to share a brewski and a couple shots of Jagermeister, and address their little dust-up?

Okay, maybe they passed on the Jager.

Literacy

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the girl's lagging performance, Klein felt all but ready to throw in the towel. "Back then, I wasn't as educated about the learning process as I needed to be," she said. "I just thought, 'This is the way it is.'"

Surrender, of course, was not Klein's only option. After signing up as an SBLC volunteer 12 years ago, she realized how a teacher's approach, as in Lang's case, can make all the difference. Now Klein wants to find other volunteers who feel the same way. The SBLC is looking to recruit more instructors and she's hoping to grow the current staff of 100 by at least 50 percent.

New instructors usually attend one of the SBLC's monthly informational meetings and

Maybe Biden hammered 'em down?

But I give the Prez credit for the fact that when he screws up, he seems to grab the initiative and get out in front of his perceived missteps.

And I woulda said that about President Bush too, if he ever screwed up. Or if I was writing a political column at that time.

then a brief orientation and training program. Individual volunteers also have to commit at least 2.5 hours of tutoring per week. Other than free time and a good command of English, volunteers should also feel "a sense of compassion" as well as a willingness to deal "with the problems students may bring to them," said Klein.

"It takes a very patient kind of person," to work with those who have endured so many learning disappointments in their lives, she said. "The people here are so amazingly giving."

How many others, she wonders, have the ability to join the SBLC and offer a brand of education that soars "above and beyond?"

Police Reports

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One male adult was arrested at 1719 hours from El Segundo Boulevard and Nash Street for driving on a suspended license.

Forgery report was taken at 2127 hours in the 300 block of North Continental Boulevard. Suspect wrote fraudulent checks.

FRIDAY, JULY 31

Three male adults were arrested at 0403 hours in the 600 block of West Acacia Avenue for suspicion of burglary, suspicion of receiving stolen property and possession of burglary tools.

One female adult was arrested at 0950 hours from the 300 block of Main Street for burglary and credit card theft.

Vandalism report was taken at 1022 hours from the 300 block of E. Walnut Avenue. A marker was used to draw on his vehicle.

Found property report was taken at 1001 hours from the 600 block of W. Acacia Avenue. Found was a Honda key possibly related to an earlier arrest.

Burglary report was taken at 1021 hours from the 600 block of Main Street. Taken were books from a locked locker.

Burglary (auto) report was taken at 1048 hours from the 1000 block of E. Pine Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) gained access to the victim's vehicle, unknown what was taken.

One male adult was arrested at 1059 hours from the 400 block of E. Walnut Avenue for obstructing a peace officer.

Lost property report was taken at 1723 hours from the 300 block of Virginia Street. A driver's license was lost.

Petty theft report was taken at 2113 hours in the 300 block of Maryland Street. Taken were CD's, sports equipment, and a check.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

One male adult was arrested at 0707 hours from Grand Avenue and Sierra Street for driving under the influence of a controlled substance and one outstanding Inglewood PD misdemeanor warrant.

One male adult was arrested at 0707 hours from Grand Avenue and Sierra Street for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Stolen license plate report was taken at 0757 hours from the 700 block of W. Imperial Avenue. The victim's rear license plate was taken.

One male adult was arrested at 2120 hours in the 300 block of Vista Del Mar Boulevard for plain drunk in public.

One male adult was arrested at 2325 hours

from Rosecrans Avenue and Village Drive for one outstanding LASD misdemeanor warrant.

One female adult was arrested at 2333 hours at Hyperion and Vista Del Mar Boulevard for driving under the influence of alcohol.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

One female adult was arrested at 0004 hours from Vista Del Mar and the Hyperion for misdemeanor DUI with a BAC of .08% or above.

One female adult was arrested at 0130 hours from Whiting Street and Binder Place for misdemeanor DUI.

One female adult was arrested at 0102 hours from El Segundo Boulevard and Isis Avenue for possession of a controlled substance and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

One female adult was arrested at 0107 hours from El Segundo Boulevard and Isis Avenue for possession of a controlled substance and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

One male adult was arrested at 0148 hours from El Segundo Boulevard and Isis Avenue for possession of graffiti tools and possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

Dead body report occurred at 1313 hours in the 700 block of Maryland Street. The deceased is a female adult.

Defrauding an innkeeper occurred on 07/28/09 at 2200 hours in the 1400 block of East Imperial Avenue. Suspect stays at the hotel for five days and leaves without paying his bill.

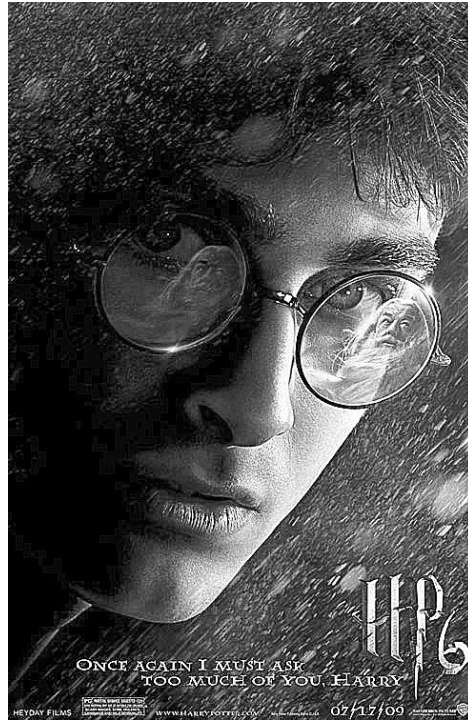
One male adult was arrested at 1820 hours in the 600 block of West Palm Avenue for suspicion of criminal threats, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, and one LASD misdemeanor warrant.

One male adult was arrested at 2028 hours from Main Street and Imperial Avenue for misdemeanor DUI.

Found property report was taken at 0030 hours in the 300 block of Standard Street. Found was a men's black briefcase.



Entertainment



HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE

A teenage wizard must contend with his romantic longings and that of others while trying to find out what evil is afoot at his school in this sixth installment of the Harry Potter series. Drama/Adventure, PG.

Having survived a perilous encounter with a powerful and evil dark lord, teen wizard Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) returns to Hogwarts with headmaster Professor Dumbledore (Michael Gambon), but not before a side trip where the latter convinces former professor Horace Slughorn (Jim Broadbent) to return to the school. Dumbledore is convinced Horace knows more than he's letting on about former student Tom Riddle's (Hero Fiennes-Tiffin & Frank Dillane) eventual transformation into Lord Voldemort, and assigns Harry the task of learning that truth.

With Death Eaters such as Bellatrix Lestrange (Helena Bonham Carter) and Fenrir Greyback (Dave Legeno) attempting to fulfill Voldemort's grand plan by wreaking havoc on the outside world and trying to infiltrate Hogwarts, Harry knows he doesn't have much time. And he's clearly suspicious of rival student Draco Malfoy (Tom Felton) whose mother and Lestrange have convinced Professor Severus Snape (Alan Rickman) to pledge his undying protection over the teen.

At the same time, and as other Hogwarts regulars such as Professor Minerva McGonagall (Maggie Smith) and groundskeeper Rubeus Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane) go about their business, Harry must contend with his growing romantic feelings for Ginny (Bonnie Wright), the sister of one of his best friends, Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint). He's smitten with Lavender Brown (Jessie Cave), a development that doesn't sit well with their third friend, Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), who has her sights set on Ron but must contend with fellow student Cormac McLaggen (Freddie Stroma) having his on her.

As those romantic issues play out, Harry continues his undercover work for Dumbledore in trying to figure out what Horace, the new Potions master, knows about Tom Riddle and whether there's any connection to the seemingly shady behavior that Draco is displaying.

Our take: 6 out of 10
 Summer lovin' had me a blast
 Summer lovin' happened so fast
 I met a girl crazy for me
 Met a boy cute as can be
 Summer days driftin' away, to uh-oh those summer nights

The opening lyrics to a memorable ditty from a more than 30-year-old movie musical might seem like an odd way to begin a review about the sixth installment of the venerable Harry Potter movie series. Yet, it's quite appropriate considering that the young kids we were first introduced to in the original 2001

film have now grown up into teens and are experiencing the ever-intensified joys and angst of adolescent puppy love.

Heck, rather than be titled "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" this easily could have been named "Harry Potter and the Hormonal Rage." But diehard fans shouldn't get their Quidditch brooms all in a knot thinking that director David Yates (who helmed "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix") and screenwriter Steve Kloves (who penned all of the Potter films save for that fifth work) have taken author J.K. Rowling's novel and turned it into teen tiger beat pulp or, worse yet, something akin to "Twilight."

And that's because while romance is clearly in the air, something dark and sinister is still afoot in the halls and grounds of Hogwarts and elsewhere. Following Harry's climatic confrontation with Voldemort last time around, he shows up weary and a bit bloodied, while the Death Eaters are wreaking havoc out in the real world, including making London's Millennium Bridge akin to the famous Tacoma Narrows Bridge on steroids.

Evil poster boy Draco Malfoy is still up to no good, and Professor Dumbledore rehires former professor Horace Slughorn and then wants our title hero to do some undercover intel on him to find out what he remembers (or not) about a certain troubled student before he grew up into the despised lead villain. Throw in all of the "he likes her, but she likes him" teen romantic angst, and the stage would seem set for an uneven and even melodramatic outing (Disclaimer -- I haven't read the source novel or any of the rest of the series).

Thankfully, all of those involved in front of and behind the camera nicely balance the seemingly disparate elements, resulting in a good (but not brilliant) and fairly entertaining offering that thankfully doesn't just feel like filler as was the case -- at least for yours truly -- with "Order of the Phoenix."

While some of the material has apparently been trimmed down (resulting in the unexpected return to a PG rating after the last few have been PG-13, although this one easily could and probably should have received the same), the action scenes and moments of peril are decently handled. And yes, the various small details and supporting characters all make yet another return, although some of both sets have lost some of their figurative magic by now, due to overuse and repetition.

It's the main cast, however, that really makes the film work. By now, they're all obviously quite comfortable in their roles, and the likes of Michael Gambon and especially Alan Rickman still delight in their parts, while Jim Broadbent is quite good as the latest addition that's a mixture of comedy and pathos.

Although Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson are starting to look a little old for their roles, they take them to entertaining new heights, what with those pesky teen hormones messing with their feelings, behavior and better judgment. It doesn't feel fake and overwrought as occurred in "Twilight" and instead comes off as fairly natural and thus - benefiting the overall film -- engaging for all viewers.

As usual, the production design is stellar and the special effects first-rate, while composer Nicholas Hooper expands upon John Williams' signature chordal themes. The entire endeavor might have cost a lot of money (reportedly in the \$250 million range), but at least it shows up on the screen.

While it's a bit long (at 150+ minutes) and occasionally drags a bit here and there, the film should appease diehard fans while being accessible enough to entertain casual viewers who aren't completely versed in all things HP. "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince" more than adequately greases the stage for the upcoming two-part finale and thus rates as a 6 out of 10. Courtesy of Screenit.com •