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RECENTLY REVIEWED

DVD REVIEWS

Gold: Before Woodstock. Beyond Reality
Directed by Bob Levis and Bill Desloge
By Will Sloan

There is a long scene in *Gold: Before Woodstock. Beyond Reality*, a counterculture oddity from 1972 recently unearthed on DVD, when the film's villain (a lawman crusading against public nudity) is aghast when his deputy decides to strip naked, run into town and "kiss and hug" the first pretty girl he sees (questions of rape are conspicuously sidestepped). Laws against public nudity are stupid, reasons the deputy, and he'll break any law he doesn't respect. The two men have a rambling argument (completely improvised, I was not surprised to learn) as the deputy removes every article of clothing until he is completely nude. Believing the lawman is without bullets, the deputy runs off laughing. Alas, the lawman has another gun and the deputy's death is intercut with split-second images of JFK, RFK and Martin Luther King. Are directors Bob Levis and Bill Desloge equating his run-around-naked agenda with the fallen martyrs picture? The mind reels. The icing on the cake: the camera cuts back to the lawman, who is masturbating to the grisly scene (not simulated, I'm afraid). The satirical intent here is much easier to decipher, and as anti-authoritarian statements go, it is considerably less forceful than just about anything in an average Cheech and Chong picture. There are many, many more scenes of hippies and squares having dim-witted, improvised conversations in this nearly plot-less underground film, all of which sound uncannily like non-professional actors trying and failing to improvise funny dialogue. Partly conceived as a sexploitation picture, *Gold* also has many long, long scenes of lumpy, hairy bodies frolicking through forests. In one of these scenes, the film is put through green, red and blue filters. Why? Maybe the directors thought it seemed radical, but it comes across like a child trying to be Godard. Also worth noting: the box claims the film "systematically shatters every movie rule." This is a nice way of saying the image goes in and out of focus. (Wild Eye Releasing)

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FILM REVIEWS AUG 2010

Inception Dir. by Christopher Nolan
Hearing about someone else's dreams might be the most boring form of storytelling, but living in someone else's dreams — at least in the hands of star writer/director Christopher Nolan (*The Dark Night*, *Memento*, *The Prestige*) — makes for the movie event of the summer.... [Full Review](#)



VIDEOGAMES AUG 2010

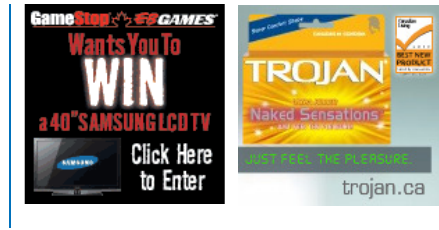
Crackdown 2 G20
Crackdown 2 was pretty fun when I first played the demo. But before I got my thumbs on the final code, the G20 summit tore apart downtown Toronto — including an incursion of 300 riot cops into my neighbourhood to raid the protestors' Parkdale headquarters — and shook my faith in Canada's police services.... [Read More](#)



DESTINATION OUT AUG 2010

Books - The Way Out
After a quick succession of albums on Tomlab in the first half of the '00s, Nick Zammuto and Paul de Jong took a five-year break from recording to do family stuff and recharge. *The Way Out* shows no superficial changes in methodology: odd found speech samples and folksy acoustic instrumentatio... [Full Review](#)





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