



TOM CRUISE - TOP GUN: MAVERICK (Blu-ray) / Paramount Home Ent.

Tom Cruise stars in the global phenomenon *Top Gun: Maverick*, the #1 film of 2022 with over \$1.3 billion in worldwide box office, and the highest grossing film of the producer/actor's acclaimed career. This Blu-ray includes access to a Digital copy of the film as well as "Cleared For Take Off," "Breaking New Ground — Filming *Top Gun: Maverick*," "A Love Letter To Aviation," "Forging The Darkstar," and two Lady Gaga music videos. After more than 30 years of service as a top naval aviator, Pete "Maverick" Mitchell (Cruise) is where he belongs, pushing the envelope as a courageous test pilot. Yet, *Maverick* must confront the ghosts of his past when he returns to TOP GUN to train a group of elite graduates and comes face-to-face with Lt. Bradshaw (Miles Teller), the son of his former wingman, "Goose." Bitter rivalries ignite as the pilots prepare for a specialized mission, which will require the ultimate sacrifice from those chosen to fly it.

EUPHORIA: SEASONS 1-2 (5-DVD)

Warner Bros. Home Ent.

HBO's mind-blowing drama series is now available DVD, the 5-Disc set features all 16 one-hour episodes from Seasons 1 and 2, plus the 2 special episodes that bridge seasons 1 and 2. With over two hours of bonus content that goes behind the scenes of the series for the ultimate fan, *Euphoria: Seasons 1-2* is also available to own on Digital. Multimedia superstar Zendaya stars in this drama series that follows a group of high-school students as they navigate a mine field of drugs, sex, identity, trauma, social media, love and friendship in today's increasingly unstable world. The first season of *Euphoria* won three Emmy® Awards, and season two earned six Emmy® Awards. By winning Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for both seasons, Zendaya made history as the youngest two-time acting winner in Emmys history. The series stars Emmy®-winner Zendaya, Hunter Schafer, Nika King, Eric Dane, Angus Cloud, Jacob Elordi, Algee Smith, Sydney Sweeney, Alexa Demie, Barbie Ferreira, Maude Apatow, Javon Walton, Dominic Fike, Storm Reid, and Austin Abrams.

RUSSELL SIMMONS' DEF COMEDY JAM COLLECTION (12-DVD) Time Life

When *Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam* premiered on HBO in the winter of 1992, the nation's cool kids took notice. The "for mature audiences only" show aired Fridays at midnight, leading legions of college students and young adults to exit the clubs and find TVs — or not go out at all — so they could catch a half-hour glimpse of the would-be stars who made them laugh, and the hip-hop stars and superstar athletes who were in the studio audience. *Def Comedy Jam* would go on to become one of HBO's earliest mega-hits, and by the late '90s it was the #1

comedy show to ever air on pay TV and cable. In fact, no other modern-day comedy tour or series can boast a run so successful that dozens of its denizens were skyrocketed from regional obscurity to international superstardom, including Martin Lawrence, Chris Tucker, Cedric the Entertainer, Dave Chappelle, Tiffany Haddish, Tracy Morgan, Steve Harvey, Bernie Mac, and Kevin Hart. Time Life brings this smash series to comedy lovers everywhere with *Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam Collection*, a 12-disc DVD set featuring the very best episodes from the biggest, groundbreaking, star-making comedy show of all time! Included in the jam-packed set are 36 episodes across all nine history-making seasons — over 23 hours of non-stop laughs from comedy giants such as Bill Bellamy, Cedric the Entertainer, Dave Chappelle, Earthquake, Mike Epps, Adele Givens, Tiffany Haddish, Kevin Hart, Steve Harvey, D.L. Hughley, Queen Latifah, Martin Lawrence, Bernie Mac, Tracy Morgan, Chris Tucker, Sheryl Underwood, Damon Wayans, Jr., and so many more!

THE NUN AND THE DEVIL (Blu-ray) / Twilight Time

Religious orthodoxy, human desire and institutional corruption all rise to a mesmerizing boil in multi-genre Italian director Domenico Paoletta's *The Nun and the Devil/Le Monache di Sant'Arcangelo* (1973), a fever dream about power plays within — and brought to bear outwardly upon — a 16th-century Neapolitan nunnery. Inspired by authentic period records and a novella by Stendhal, the film casts Anne Heywood as a senior sister scheming to become Mother Abbess, Ornella Muti as a defiant aristocrat sequestered into religious service, and policier star Luc Merenda as a righteous cleric investigating the convent's sexual and heretical improprieties. It stands out as one of the more noteworthy cinematic successors of Ken Russell's notorious *The Devils* (1971).

AQUA TEEN FOREVER: PLANTASM (4k Ultra HD) / Warner Bros. Home Ent.

An all-new mystery-adventure with Master Shake, Frylock, and Meatwad is here, with the original movie titled *Aqua Teen Forever: Plantasm*. This is the second film adaptation inspired from one of Adult Swim's longest running animated series — *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*. *Aqua Teen Forever: Plantasm* features, the Aqua Teens: the brainy Frylock, the mouthy Master Shake, the loveable Meatwad, and everyone's favorite perverted neighbor, Carl, as they split up then get back together to fight everyone's favorite corporate overlord, Amazin, led by tech mogul, Neil (voiced by Peter Serafinowicz) and his trusty scientist sidekick, Elmer (Paul Walter Hauser). "It's funny and entertaining and it has colorful drawings that move about in a rapid fashion, but not so rapid as to cause seizures," said *Aqua Teen Hunger Force* co-creator and executive producer Dave Willis.

The time has come, the walrus said,

**TO TALK OF MANY THINGS
of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings**

by Sal Giarratani

**GREAT EDITORIAL
CARTOON SAYS IT ALL**

Looking at the election stats down in the Empire State, it looks like the Democrats are still very much in charge. Len Zeldin did a great job picking up the votes of many independent voters, but not enough to win. Look at New York City? Zeldin picked up 30.3 percent of the votes in a city rocked by death and violence. I guess voters still haven't hit rock bottom. The cartoon that made me chuckle sadly showed a voter in two frames side by side. In the first frame it states "I'm mad as hell," and in the second frame "and I'm going to vote for the same old thing."

**MASS GOP
NEEDS RE-IMAGING**

The leadership skills of the Massachusetts Republican Party has been found wanting, very wanting. The entire slate of statewide candidates went down the toilet in a big way. During primary season, I supported Chris Doughty because I thought he was the better of the two candidates who had a decent chance of picking up independents or un-enrolled voters like me.

The first nail in the coffin of the state Republican Party took place back in 1978, when incumbent U.S. Senator Edward W. Brooke found himself primaried by conservative radio host Avi Nelson. With transparency, back in 1978, I was a 30-year-old Republican voter who worked in Avi's campaign over in Charlestown. I thought he had a good chance of winning. He actually lost a razor-thin battle to Brooke receiving 48 percent of the vote.

The rupture between the two wings of the GOP never really healed. I ended up going back to the Democrat rolls, voted for Tsongas in November 1978, and became a Reagan Democrat during the Reagan era.

**LOOK TO TEXAS
FOR THE FUTURE**

Today, Massachusetts is a one-party state. Even the Lone Star State as Republican as it is, isn't a one-party state. Democrats are still a viable alternative in many races down there. Say what you want to about Beto O'Rourke, he may not be on a winning streak lately, but he still can give a good fight up against Ted Cruz or Governor Abbott.

If you are a moderate to conservative voter in Massachusetts, election time offers one little hope. It is now wake up time for Bay State Republicans to get back in the game. Stop playing pretend. In 2024, the party can't put up yet another horrible candidate against Warren. She will be a tough candidate to beat, but with a good Republican candidate running center-right, it isn't necessarily hopeless. Building back credibility will be painful, but totally necessary.

It is also time to send Mass GOP Chair Jim Lyons back to his barn and find somebody who is not an ideologue. Dems keep winning because they know Politics 101. While Republicans are playing checkers, Dems are playing 3D chess. Republicans need to stop its tradition of eating its own, too. That gave us Tsongas in '78 and Healey in '22.

**JEFF KUHNER GOING
OFF THE RAILS AGAIN**

I love listening to the *Jeff Kuhner Report* on WRKO on the

way to work in the mornings. Most of the time I am in full agreement with him, but other times he seems to go off the rails and actually steps on plenty of third rails.

Kuhner on Monday told his audience the evidence is clear that the election was STOLEN in Arizona, Nevada, and Pennsylvania. Nothing is clear. The count continues as of this past Monday. The Republicans fumbled the election big time. They lost the Senate and the House control was still undecided. If the GOP wins the House, it will be by the skin of their teeth.

Kuhner needs to focus on winning elections with better candidates; focusing on the issues that really matter to average Americans. Don't talk about the past, talk about the future.

**STUDENT LOAN DEBT
RELIEF BLOCKED**

On November 10th, U.S. District Judge Mark Pittman stated Biden's order forgiving \$10,000 in student loan debt for some borrowers and \$20,000 for those with Pell Grants overstepped the authority granted the executive branch.

In this country, we are not ruled by an all-powerful executive with a pen and a phone. Instead, we are ruled by a Constitution that provides for three distinct and independent branches of government.

Of course, the Democrats are calling him a Trump appointee. Of course, Liz Warren unloaded on his judicial decision repeating the lie that Biden does have the power to cancel student debt and how obviously clear her position is. What else to expect from this woke liberal?

Belle Isle Marsh Harvest Festival

by Sal Giarratani

Belle Isle Marsh is an urban gem tucked into an area surrounded by East Boston, Revere, and Winthrop. One might pass by it everyday without even knowing it is right there by Bennington Street. There's a sign at the entrance, but the marsh itself is deceiving. You have to enter it to see how large and beautiful this natural space is. You need only see it once and you'll be back again and again.

I recently stopped by it on October 21st, which by the way was a great fall day, temperatures high and the sun shining strongly. This particular day, the marsh was home to the Belle Isle Harvest Festival. People were coming and going all afternoon. Trees were being planted to replace those that had died from old age. This marsh is kept alive thanks to the Department of Conservation and Recreation and to the people of the surrounding communities who care so much for this natural resource and who help maintain it.



Sal Giarratani and Heather O'Brien during the Belle Isle Harvest Festival

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

**Restoring an Artwork
Showing It All**

Art restorers in Florence are working to reveal what a 17th century painting of a nude woman looked like before it was censored with curtain drapes over the woman's breasts.

Allegory of Inclination was painted by Italian artist Artemisia Gentileschi in 1616, and is believed to be a self-portrait. But around 70 years later, a descendant of the person who commissioned it found

the nudity embarrassing, and paid another artist to cover the woman in drapery.

The censoring was done too soon after the painting was originally created to remove the veils and curtains, but restorer's are using diagnostic imaging and X-rays to closely study the brush strokes. The work should be completed by September 2023, and will be displayed at Casa Buonarroti, where the painting has hung for the past four centuries.

Texas Sends 300th Bus

Last week, Texas sent the 300th busload of migrants, this time to Chicago blasting the Biden White House for doing "nothing" about the southern border crisis. Over 3,700 migrants have been housed over the past several months.

End Quote

"History, despite its wrenching pain cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again."

— Maya Angelou