

Hang On, Pamela!

Pamela Hirneisen, rappels from the top of a downtown hotel, for a good cause.

Photo courtesy the Boy Scouts of America

Pamela Hirneisen, Vice President, Marketing, Convention Center, took fundraising to new heights when she participated Oct. 7 in the second annual Over the Edge. The event raised funds and awareness for scouting in Los Angeles by having participants rappel from the top of the Westin Bonaventure Hotel downtown.

Pamela raised more than \$1,500. Each participant was asked to raise at least \$1,500 in support of scouting programs. Many funds will be directed to inner-city programs, according to event organizers.

Not for the faint of heart, the experience lasts from 8 minutes up to 15 minutes. Participants first strap on a helmet, harness and gloves. Rappelling, the controlled descent down a surface using a rope, takes some mental and physical toughness. After some quick lessons in Rappelling 101, participants head to the roof, undergo safety checks and prepare for their journey down the high rise. According to the scouting event coordinators, everyone says that the first step is a doozy and you have to challenge yourself. Participants are met on their descent with cheering from their friends, colleagues, family and scouts.

Getting down requires some work. The squeezing motion to activate the descender requires quite a bit of force, and using the same hand the entire way down can be a little tiring. You can stop to rest, or switch hands when you need a break.



Pamela Hirneisen, Vice President, Marketing, Convention Center.

Reviews by Fellow Club Members

ENTERTAINMENT

At the Movies • In the cinema



J. Edgar
Rated R
My Score: 1 (out of 5)

On paper, the movie *J. Edgar* has it all: great director (Clint Eastwood), great star (Leonardo DiCaprio), and fascinating subject (J. Edgar Hoover's life story). But this is one biopic whose parts never measure up. Except for the first 20 or so minutes showing the genius and rise of Hoover in the Department of Justice, the film just slogs, bogs down, and is humorless and dull. Flipping from flashback to flashback, the storytelling grows ever more confusing and tedious, and the amazingly bad makeup (from old faces and fat suits) is just plain distracting.

Advice to the moviegoer: Skip this one.

— Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks



The Muppets
Rated PG
My Score: 3 (out of 5)

They made a new Muppet movie. Cause for celebration.

That it isn't great or graceful is a bit sad, but greatness can't last forever. Of course I miss Muppet creator Jim Henson, whose tone can never be matched (although *A Muppet Christmas Carol* comes closest of all the post-Jim Henson projects). I also miss the guiding spirit of original puppeteer and current writer/director Frank Oz, who reportedly didn't approve of this script. And I miss Jerry Juhl, the rarely heralded writer whose genius brought us the original *Muppet Movie*, and all those great half-hours of *The Muppet Show* decades ago.

Still, there are good moments here. Current comedy star and Muppet fanatic Jason Segel,

who really got this movie into production, plays a man/boy (think of a typical Will Ferrell character) who takes his brother, Walter (an actual Muppet), along on an anniversary trip with his girlfriend (Amy Adams). There's something about the Muppet Theatre being torn down, and a need to pull the gang together for a fundraiser.

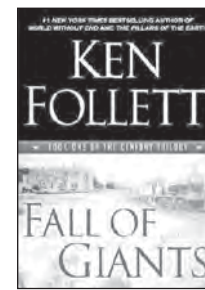
There are funny moments for sure, and a decent song or two. Rowlf's lack of a need for a montage was my biggest laugh from the movie; you'll know it when you see it.

I'm glad I saw this movie, and I'm glad it exists. I hope the next one is better.

— John Burnes, editor, *Alive!*



Book Reviews



Fall of Giants
Ken Follett
Historical fiction,
985 pages
Dutton Adult
My Score: 4 (out of 5)

This is the first installment in Follett's *The Century Trilogy*, as the author intends to tell the social and political history of the 20th century. The interconnected stories concern five families from Britain and Wales, Germany, Russia, and the United States.

Despite a politically progressive viewpoint, Follett's novel entertains while dealing with various historical landmarks, including women's suffrage, the European class system, and even the Russian Revolution. The causes of the First World War are shown within the context of story. The book is nearly 1,000 pages in length, but is both readable and enjoyable.

— Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks

Your Reviews!

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100 Words or Fewer

■ For movies: Make sure the movie is still in theatres. For DVDs and books, make sure they are generally available. For theatre shows: try to submit your review before the show closes.

■ All reviews must be written by you (not taken from another source) and exclusive to *Alive!* (not offered to another outlet). Violations could end your ability to be published in *Alive!*

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■ Keep all reviews to 100 words or fewer, but try to write more than one or two sentences.

■ Your own comments are more important than a long plot summary.

■ Give us your score on a scale of 1 to 5. Use this format: **My Score: X (out of 5).**

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