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## Pixar vanquishes animated glut with 'Incredibles'

By Jake Welsman  
Free Press Correspondent

It's beginning to get really hard for me. I love cartoons; I have always watched them, and for the most part, I enjoyed them throughout my childhood. The thing that made each animated feature so great was the wait to see it. When I was younger, I remember only caring about the Disney cartoon that came out once a year. That would come, we'd love or hate it, and then we'd wait for next year. With the current influx of computer-animated films — the race to see who can make the

most stylistic, most life-like, most amazing animated film — cartoons get stale for me. Which is a complete shame because "The Incredibles," is a fantastic film. I really don't want to short-change it. It's brilliant, but the fact that I've seen about eight animated flicks over the past three years gets in the way of the brilliance.



### FLICK SHTICK

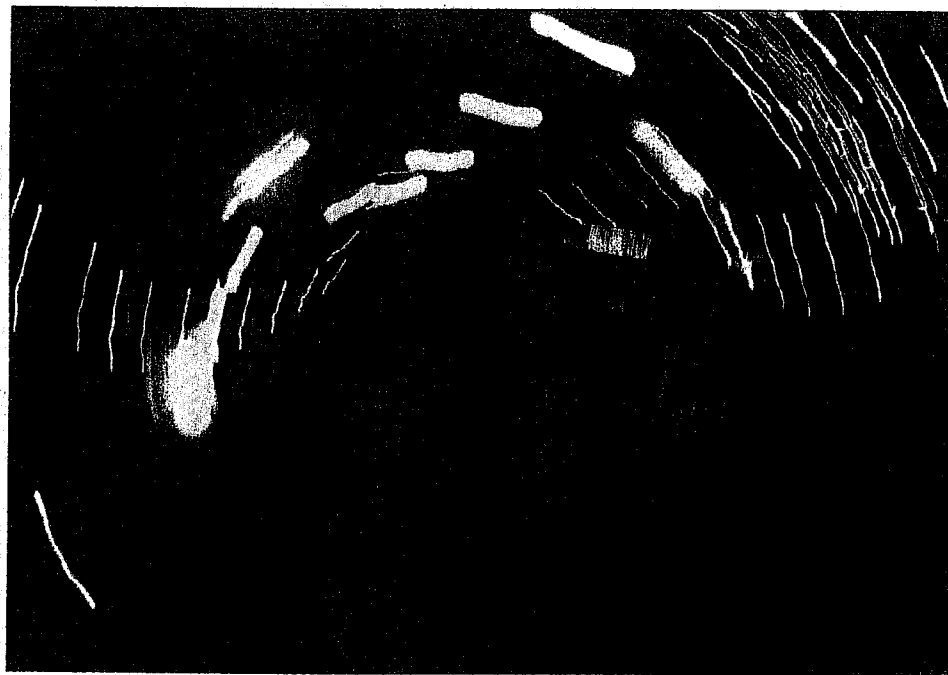
Burlington High School senior Jake Welsman enjoys going to the movies. He even sees one he likes once in a while.

■ Review: "THE INCREDIBLES" is showing at Bijou 4, Cinema 9, Essex, Majestic 10, Paramount, Stowe, Welden.

uel L. Jackson). In the midst of ridding the town of a villain named Bomb Voyage (a smarmy Frenchman armed with explosives), he saves a man attempting suicide by jumping off of a building, saves an annoying brat who thinks he can be the next Mr. Incredible, and manages to save a train full of people. Sounds like a great guy, right? Well, in this crazy world, things don't really turn out for Mr. Incredible. The man he saved from suicide sues the hero because he didn't wish to be saved and in the process, hurt his neck from being knocked down. In the same fashion, everybody in the train sues as well. Mr. Incredible is put on trial, is found guilty, must be moved by the government with his wife, and must never put on his super suit again. It's kind of like X-Men but these guys can't help anybody, they just keep getting shut down.

Flash-forward 15 years: Mr. Incredible is now overweight, hopelessly trapped family man and insurance agent Bob Parr. Elastigirl is the mild-

See SHTICK, 2C



Jim Lockridge is co-founder of Big Heavy World, a nonprofit group that promotes Vermont-made music.

PETER HUOPPI, Free Press

## Weighty mission

### Big Heavy World has big goal to catalog Vermont music history

By Brent Hallenbeck  
Free Press Staff Writer

The third-floor College Street office of Big Heavy World doubles as a library, but not one of those austere "Shush, be quiet!" libraries.

This one is dimly lit, with strings of colored Christmas lights dangling from the ceiling. The soundtrack, rather than the soft rustling of turning pages, is the grinding of guitars and the screaming of rock singers. Instead of contemplative readers, this library is filled with young people playing CDs and planning to make new discs that will wind up on Big Heavy World's library shelves.

The librarian, as it were, is a 36-year-old husband, father and University of Vermont graduate named Jim Lockridge, who devotes most of his days to an ambitious effort to cataloging as much of Vermont's musical heritage as possible, and allowing the public to come in to the 215 College St. office and listen to some of that heritage.

"We're preserving cultural history in a way that few people are doing," Lockridge said, glancing toward a collection of 1,200 cataloged recording titles from

#### If you go

- **WHAT:** Vermont Music Library benefit concert, featuring Patrick Fitzsimmons, Jenn Karson and Aaron Flinn, with photographs by Matthew Thorsen
- **WHEN:** Photo exhibition opens 5:30 p.m., music starts 6 p.m. Friday
- **WHERE:** Contols Auditorium, Burlington City Hall
- **ADMISSION:** Photo exhibit, free; suggested donation for concert, \$7
- **INFORMATION:** Call 865-1140 or visit [www.bigheavyworld.com](http://www.bigheavyworld.com)

Vermont musicians. "Point to another shelf where that stuff's in one place."

Big Heavy World, a sort of Vermont Folklife Center for the underground, is hosting a benefit Friday to help raise money for the library effort. The event at Burlington City Hall starts with an exhibition of photographs of Vermont musicians by Matthew Thorsen, followed by music from local singers Patrick Fitzsimmons, Jenn Karson and Aaron Flinn.

Big Heavy World is part library, part music store, part record label, part job-skills program for area youths. Lockridge is in a constant struggle to fund

See WORLD, 2C



PETER HUOPPI, Free Press

Philippe Charles, 22, of Williston works as a volunteer at Big Heavy World in Burlington on Wednesday.

# WORLD: Donations help shoulder Big Heavy's burden

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Big Heavy World, which he co-founded in 1996. He said area businesses have been generous in donating computers and audio and video equipment. Those donations help the nonprofit corporation sell CDs through its online Vermont Music Shop, record compilations of Vermont musicians, and film those musicians at work.

Lockridge has brought in some grant and foundation funding but has a hard time raising enough money to pay almost \$10,000 a year in rent and utilities. "We've been perpetually penniless," said Lockridge, who works as freelance graphic designer. "I don't get a paycheck, and I work almost full time here.

"We have integrity if we don't have money."

Big Heavy World also has energy, provided by Lockridge and a regular roster of 20 or so high-school and college students who volunteer to help the corporation with its mission of promoting Vermont-grown music. A dozen or so volunteers were at the office Tuesday night. Some were filling orders for the Vermont Music Shop, and others were helping to plan for the First Night band festival that Big Heavy World organizes every New Year's Eve at Memorial Auditorium.



PETER HUOPPA, Free Press

Nina Van Zandt, 17, of Shelburne (left) and Pat Floyd, 19, of South Burlington work on contacting artists for a pair of compilation albums titled "Better Angels" and "Box of Nails" on Tuesday at the Burlington office of Big Heavy World.

Pat Floyd of South Burlington, a 19-year-old UVM freshman, and Nina Van Zandt of Shelburne, a 16-year-old senior at Champlain Valley Union High School, were at a computer working on "Better Angels," a compilation of college- and indie-rock bands from Vermont that Big Heavy

World plans to release. The two had been preparing six-page contracts to send to bands whose songs will be on the CD until, in Big Heavy World shoestring fashion, the computer crashed.

"We need Jim's expert Mac intelligence," Floyd said as the two sat at the idled computer.

He and Van Zandt have, however, done a lot of work for "Better Angels." They listened to a box full of submissions from Vermont bands and are well on their way to winnowing that down to 16-18 final choices for the disc, which will include songs by The Static Age, The Lestons

and 13th Chair. Floyd and Van Zandt are also arranging for CD cover art and sending forms to the bands to fill out with information for the disc's liner notes.

"I want to go into the record-label business. It's great portfolio-wise," said Van Zandt, who has volunteered for Big Heavy World for two years.

Floyd would also like to get into the recording industry and said he's learned a lot in his year with Big Heavy World. "We've seen all the aspects," Floyd said. "We've seen Jim work his magic. We've talked to bands and the art designers."

Big Heavy World skews toward youth with its staff of volunteers and rock-music focus. The work Big Heavy World does, though, is meant for all generations. Friday's show with a focus on singer-songwriters is aimed at a slightly older crowd. One project Big Heavy World is working on — a CD compilation with the Vermont Folklife Center — reaches back generations.

The Vermont Folklife Center has a mission of documenting the culture and traditions of the state, much of which is done in interviews with residents. The Middlebury-based center wanted to open 75 years of traditional Yankee

and Franco-American music recordings to a broader audience, and found that Big Heavy World and its history of preserving more modern music was a good match.

"We're sort of doing the analog years and Big Heavy is doing the digital years," said Andy Kolovos, archivist for the Vermont Folklife Center.

He's impressed with the catalog Big Heavy World is building. "The music library is terrific," Kolovos said. "It's an amazing resource. They're doing an amazing job with the resources they've got, and they're really putting together a great collection that will be useful for years to come."

Lockridge has dreams that Big Heavy World will grow even bigger. He'd like to start an arts-based community center that would welcome people of all ages and interests while involving youth as volunteers.

That will take more money, though, and Lockridge acknowledges that he has a "perpetual heart attack" just trying to pay the monthly bills. That's where an event like Friday's benefit comes in, to boost Big Heavy World's tiny income just a little bit.

"There's no sugar daddy here," Lockridge said.

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