The View From The Top  
by Doug Warren, President

Well, the Camaro show season has just begun, and unfortunately, we have some sad and tragic news to report. Over the Memorial Day weekend, while attending the F-Body Gathering in Atlanta, Georgia, two of our Camaro family were killed in a street racing accident. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends. Of course, street racing was not part of the event. Sometimes, people just don’t think, and end up making some bad decisions. Please read the thoughts of Scott Settlemire, elsewhere in this newsletter. I think it pretty much sums up how we need to think about this incident.

WMCC Meeting Notice:
I need to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the date for our next WMCC Club meeting has been moved to June 22. This will also count as our July Club meeting. We took this action because a large contingent of WMCC members will be on the Hot Rod Magazine Power Tour on our normal (first Sunday of the month) meeting day, and our Camaro Superfest show will be going on over the first Sunday in July. The meeting will be at Berger Chevrolet and will start at 1pm. This will be our last meeting before Superfest, so it’s important that you attend.

Camaro Superfest Update:
Planning for Camaro Superfest 2003 is coming along nicely. The T-shirt designs have been sent to Daytona Trophy. The goodie bag stuff has started to arrive. And we’re getting more pre-registrations in the mail regularly. Stay tuned to www.camarosuperfest.com, for all of the latest information.

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ZL-1 EVENT RECAP

By Dennis Barker

May 18th, 2003 should go down as a day in musclecar history. On that day there were 18, 2002 ZL-1 Camaro Supercars delivered at Berger Chevrolet. The owners represented 13 different states. Special guests from La Harpe, IL included Helen Gibb, wife of the late Fred Gibb, along with Bob, Nancy and Mayor Ken Brown and his wife made the trip in to enjoy this wonderful day. Steve Albert and his wife Sarah and family came in from Monmouth, IL. (Steve puts together the Famous cruise night in Monmouth which will be August 1st this year. It is held the night before the Fred Gibb Memorial Show. It is a show which attracts over 800 cars and trucks.)

Scott Settlemire (former assistant brand manager for Camaro) was there and made a special presentation. Berger’s former high performance parts manager Jim Luikens, former sales manager.

(Continued on page 2)
and drag racer Mike Wawee were also on hand for the festivities.

The weekend started on Saturday with people arriving throughout the day in anticipation of the trucks arriving to unload these fantastic Supercars. There was a lot of BS’ing going on throughout the night because the trucks did not arrive until 12:45 AM. There were still 75-100 people still on hand to see these ZL-1 Camaro’s roll off the truck. It was a GREAT SIGHT to see the different color cars and engine packages coming off the truck. Matt Murphy and his crew stuck around until the last car was put on display and the stage was set for the big Berger ZL-1 Special presentation on Sunday.

We had beautiful weather and a great crowd turned out for the event. There were between 250 to 300 people on hand for the event. Of the 18 ZL-1’s on display there were 11 different colors. I actually never made it outside the building but I believe there were atleast 50-60 cars on display out front of the dealership.

Of the 69 ZL-1’s that were built by GM, Berger Chevrolet sold 28. Eighteen of the original 28 we’re on hand May 18 -- unbelievable! It was an amazing sight and wished you all could have been there to see it.

The Berger family and I would like to thank WMCC for all there help in organizing the event and helping pull it off. We would also like to thank everybody who attended the event and hopeful everyone had as GREAT a time as we did.

Thank you all.

Dennis

ZL-1 Event Photo Gallery
Just a Little Cruise.....

Over the Memorial Day weekend many of our club members accepted the gracious invitation from our friends across the pond to come have some fun and enjoy the countryside in Wisconsin. On the Friday before the holiday at "Oh My God It's Early " o’clock (2am) we met and headed for the Wisconsin Dells. We made it through the holiday traffic without incident and arrived at the Dell Creek Motel in late morning. Thanks to the research of Tammy Louden our quaint little motel was perfect for us. Very clean and well kept with a great court yard for us to hang out in. We had the majority of the roomsbooked so we had few people to harass. The front parking lot looked like Camaro Superfest and we drew throngs of onlookers all weekend long. In fact the motel owner asked if we could park in front of her other motel for a while so it would become booked up as well. Friday night we were taken to "The Country Club" for an excellent meal and a smoke in the parking lot. One bystander hanging his head low was heard to remark "my ford can't do that".

Saturday came and we all headed into town for the sights and sounds. The Wisconsin Dells is a major tourist attraction with roller coasters, water parks and go carts right in town. The downtown area is filled with shops catering to everything imaginable. Most of us chose to do one or more of the boat rides that were available to see "the Dells". After lots of fun and sun, Saturday evening arrived and we were escorted out to Gary Levanders place for a little BBQ. Did I say little? As we pulled down the driveway we could see the "Welcome WMCC" banner at the entrance! Then you figure out it's not just a stereo you hear but a live DJ to spin tunes all night long. Gary has a beautiful place in the country with multiple barns and multiple cool cars. The barn with the finished billiards room inside was the envy of every male in attendance. The food was awesome, the drink even better and the company around the fire was the best.

A few hours sleep and Sunday morning came. Jim Parks had a little cruise planned for us. Did I say little? We arrive at Jim's shop expecting Jim, Gary and maybe 1 or 2 buddies. WRONG! We arrive to find 20-30 very cool hot rods of all kinds! Yenko's, ZL1's, Baldwin Motion's, Bergers, Hot Rods, old coupes. I could go on and on. People kept driving in saying they hadn't heard about the show today! We were given maps and 30+ cars headed out for the "little cruise". To say we got looks and stares from people as we passed by is an understatement.

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Our line was close to half a mile long. We had the guys at one bar run out and hold up traffic so we could all pass together. Thanks guys! The Wisconsin countryside is absolutely beautiful and Jim could not have picked a better route. Winding roads and cool cars was the order of the day.

The midway point of our journey was a little general store and bar. Built in the late 1800’s and kept to give it that nostalgic feel. We arrived to find close to 100 bikers relaxing after enjoying the countryside as we were. One of which was Jim’s cousin and a friend of Dennis Barker’s who upon seeing him proceeded to pick Dennis (and Julie) up completely off the ground and hold him there while they said hello. Did I say we all had a great time?

We finally got back in our cars and headed out for second half of our little cruise in the beautiful Wisconsin countryside. Did I say little? Try 254 miles from the time we left the hotel in the morning till we returned late that afternoon. A good dinner that night and more great BS ..., err... I mean chitchat in the motel courtyard that night. Then a few more hours sleep and we had to head home. All in all we added in the neighborhood of 1200 miles to the odometers of our camaro’s. Not to bad for ..... just a little cruise.

Just want to thank Jim and Gary and everyone else that had a hand in making this such a fantastic weekend. We are truly blessed to have friends and members such as them. There was some talk about making this an annual event. It gets my vote. Awesome cars and even better friends, what more could you ask for?

-- Ray Cochran

2003 All Camaro / Chevrolet Events:

Jun 1   East Coast Camaro Gathering VII, Cumberland County College, Vineland, NJ
Jun 6-8  Super Chevy Show – Martin US131 Motorsports Park, Martin, MI
Jun 13-15  Camaro’s at Carlisle/ All GM Nationals, Carlisle, PA
Jun 13-15  15th Annual Ontario Camaro Nationals, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
Jun 22   WMCC Special Meeting  This will be a combined, June and July Club meeting
Jun 28   Mid-Atlantic Camaro Club ALL CHEVY SHOW, Jim McKay Chevy, Fairfax, VA
July 4-6  Camaro Superfest 2003 @ Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI
July 10-13 Super Chevy Show, Indianapolis Raceway Park, Indianapolis, IN
July 12  Camaros at Auburn – Auburn, Indiana
July 24-27 Super Chevy Show, Norwalk Raceway Park, Norwalk, OH
Aug 2  Fred Gibb Memorial Car Show, La Harpe, IL
Aug 3   WMCC Camaro Club Meeting  T.B.A.
Aug 8-10 Super Chevy Show, Route 66 Raceway, Joliet, IL
Aug 17  Camaro Show, Camaro Parts Network, Berea, OH
Aug 29-30 4th Annual Berger Chevrolet ALL CHEVY SHOW, Grand Rapids, MI
Sep 7   WMCC Camaro Club Meeting  T.B.A.  Possible date for special Annual Club Meeting
Sep 12-14 Super Chevy Show, National Trail Raceway, Columbus, OH
Sep 13-14 10th Ann. NEOCC Fall Classic Camaro Show, Tallmadge, OH @ Summit Racing
Sep 13  Midwest Camaro Fest, Independence, MO
Sep 19-21 3rd Ann. F-Body Gathering @ Nat. Corvette Museum, Bowling Green, KY
Oct 5   WMCC Camaro Club Meeting  T.B.A.
Nov 2   WMCC Camaro Club Meeting  T.B.A.
Nov 22-23 Fall Chicago Chevy/Vettefest – McCormick Place – North, Chicago, IL
Dec 7   WMCC Annual Christmas Party  Tentative date, and location T.B.A.
Other Automotive events of Interest:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 29-Jun 1</td>
<td>NHRA Nationals – Route 66 Raceway, Joliet, IL</td>
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<td>May 30-Jun 6</td>
<td>Hot Rod Magazine Power Tour</td>
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<td>May 31</td>
<td>Million $ Cruise, starts 9am, Park &amp; Ride Lot @ US131 &amp; Center Ave, Kalamazoo, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>17th Ann. Pre-war swap meet, Gilmore Classic Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 7</td>
<td>Rollin' Oldies Car Show &amp; Blood Drive, Mi. Comm, Blood Ctr., 1036 Fuller NE, GR, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 7</td>
<td>Reunion 2003 Car Show &amp; Swap, Mullally Park, North Muskegon, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 8</td>
<td>TriChevy Assn. Swap Meet, Will Co. Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL</td>
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<td>Jun 13-15</td>
<td>Good Guys Hot Rod Nationals, Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<td>Jun 14</td>
<td>Three Rivers Water Festival 2003 Classic Car, Truck &amp; Motorcycle Show - downtown</td>
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<td>Jun 14</td>
<td>23rd Ann. Vicksburg Old Car Festival, Main Street, Vicksburg, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 14</td>
<td>Oldsmobile Homecoming, Show &amp; Swap, Lansing, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 15</td>
<td>22nd Ann. Father's Day Car Show &amp; Swap, Charlton Park, Hastings, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 20-21</td>
<td>7th Ann. Antiques on the Bay, car &amp; truck show, St. Ignace, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 21</td>
<td>Detroit Reg. SCCA –SoloII @ Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 21</td>
<td>9th Ann. Car Show, St John's High School, St. John's, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 21</td>
<td>2003 Holland Car Show, Holland Outlet Mall East Parking Lot, Holland, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 26-28</td>
<td>28th Ann. St. Ignace Car Show, St. Ignace, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 26-29</td>
<td>NHRA Nationals – Gateway International Raceway</td>
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<td>Jun 27-29</td>
<td>31st Ann. Summer Auto Fair, Sloan Museum, Flint, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 28</td>
<td>Cars for Caring Car Show, Benefit Show, Old Courthouse Square, Charlotte, MI</td>
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<td>Jun 28-29</td>
<td>South Bend Reg. SCCA Solo II @ Grissom Aeroplex, Peru, IN</td>
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<td>Jul 6</td>
<td>Mad Dogs &amp; Englishmen XIII, Gilmore Classic Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI</td>
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<td>Jul 19</td>
<td>Homecoming Car Show, Wilson Park, Athens, MI</td>
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<td>Jul 19</td>
<td>2nd Ann. Car Show, Dempsey's Frozen Custard, 309 E. Center Ave., Portage, MI</td>
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<td>Jul 20</td>
<td>South Bend Reg. SCCA – Solo II @ Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, MI</td>
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<td>Jul 25-27</td>
<td>Summer Carlisle, Carlisle, PA</td>
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<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>Remember the Alamo Cruise, 4 tp 10 pm, Coldwater, MI</td>
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<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>15th Ann. Wayland Auto Show, City Park, Wayland, MI</td>
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<td>Aug 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Red Barn Spectacular XXIII, Gilmore Classic Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI</td>
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<td>Aug 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>30th Ann. Antique Auto Show &amp; Flea Market, Boyne City, MI</td>
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<td>Aug 10</td>
<td>3rd Ann. Deano’s Car Show, 1604 N. M-40, Allegan MI</td>
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<td>Aug 15, 16</td>
<td>18th Ann. Elvis Memorial Car Show, Gilmore Classic Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI</td>
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<td>Aug 16</td>
<td>Woodward Dream Cruise 2003</td>
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<td>Aug 23</td>
<td>Augusta Village Car Show, Augusta, MI</td>
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<td>Aug 27-Sept 1</td>
<td>NHRA US Nationals, Indianapolis Raceway Park, Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<td>Sep 7</td>
<td>Elkhart Auto Fest, Main Street, downtown Elkhart, IN</td>
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<td>Sep 25-28</td>
<td>Ducktail Run, Rod &amp; Cust. Show, Eugene Linn Mem. Park, Gas City, IN (1972 &amp; older)</td>
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<td>Sep 25-28</td>
<td>My Classic Car AutoFest, Evansville, IN</td>
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<td>Sep 25-28</td>
<td>NHRA Nationals, Route 66 Raceway, Joliet, IL</td>
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<td>Oct 1-5</td>
<td>Fall Carlisle, Carlisle, PA</td>
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Two people were killed in a middle-of-the-night street race at the recent F-Body Gathering 7 in Atlanta.

The tragedy has received a great deal of national news coverage -- this on the heals of earlier street racing accident in San Diego California.

Scott Settlemire, friend of WMCC and GM’s former assistant brand manager for Corvette and Camaro, sent friends and enthusiasts an appropriate e-mail statement following the Atlanta incident. Doug Warren asked that we pass this on to all WMCC members. You can read the news story on the web at http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/cobb/0503/26streetrace.html

From Scott Settlemire

Dear Firebird and Camaro Friends.......I’m going to post this on chirpthird and SLP.......please......feel free to post it on whatever board you feel is appropriate............send it on to friends......and put it in your newsletters if you feel it is appropriate to do so............

A whole bunch of people looked forward to this Memorial Day weekend ?many of them spending it in Atlanta with fellow Fcar enthusiasts.

A few young men I’m sure were looking forward to driving in from the Carolinas.

It was a great show?.hundreds of Firebirds and Camaros lovingly maintained/restored/modified.

A great tour of GMMG. Some great vendor displays.

A Beach Party. A weekend built around a way to remember our veterans and those who gave their lives for our country.

But a tragedy happened early Sunday morning.

We (as well as most manufacturers) build performance cars. We build them with many, many safety features. We try to anticipate human error. But some things can’t be anticipated. And it’s especially hard to engineer for bad judgement on the part of the driver.

We put safety belts in all of our cars and trucks. No? we don’t deserve a gold medal for this?it’s the law?..a GOOD law. It’s also the law in most states that you are supposed to put them on when you get in the vehicle. I guess we don’t know whether or not the fellows in the back seat of the Camaro SS on Windy Hill road would have survived had they had put the belts on.

Windy Hill Road in suburban Atlanta has curves and elevations. It has as I recall, a 35 mph speed limit. It was not designed for cars to travel at twice or three times that speed.

In some ways, I guess I was fortunate. I was in my hotel room. It was late?it was a long day???I had a great time meeting a lot of great people and spending time with some old friends. So I retired around 1 am and went to sleep. I didn’t have to witness the heartbreaking catastrophe first hand.

I wasn’t prepared to hear the news the next morning. I -- as I’m sure many others are -- am still in shock. And I pray for the families and friends of all involved.

I guess at this point in time, I can only hope that amidst this terrible, terrible tragedy that perhaps those who attended the Gathering??.those of you reading this??and those who read the newspapers/websites and watched TV will think twice before getting into a car or truck and not putting the safety belt on ---PROPERLY --- each and every time.

Second: If you want to race, take it to the track guys and gals. Or to the dyno. (the dyno doesn’t involve driver error??.)

(Continued on page 7)
Simply put: We know these cars are powerful. I lie
burn-outs as much as the next guy or gal???but
there is a time and place for that?..and it isn’t in a
parking lot or on the street. It’s at the track under
controlled conditions. I don’t ever want to see a
street race. I don’t ever want to see another
burnout in a parking lot.

And I don’t EVER want to hear about one or more
of my fellow enthusiasts??who I care a great deal
for??.. being killed in one of our cars or trucks.
Is it avoidable? I sure wish it were.

So how 'bout we make sure we 'stack the deck' in
our favor?

How 'bout we make a commitment to each other
RIGHT NOW??..that we pledgenever to street race
? ever???? (And I don't care HOW many other
motoristsare egging you on??.)

How 'bout we make a commitment to each other
RIGHT NOW that we will ALWAYS wear a safety
belt? and that goes for everyone in the car or
truck with
us???????.

How 'bout we make a commitment to each other
RIGHT NOW that we will tell our loved ones how
much they mean to us?? and that we DEMAND
that they wear a safety belt???. Every time???
no excuses.

(You think a safety belt is uncomfortable? Well
how about this statistic: A 180 pound human
being traveling in a car at 35 miles per hour that
strikes a solid object will create THIRTY SIX HUN-
DRED POUNDS OF FORCE. Do you want that
3,600 pounds of force to be dissipated by a safe-
ty belt or do you want it dissipated by a steering
wheel and windshield ? or the pavement

----- now do you still think the seatbelt is
uncomfortable???)

???? some of you may say "Scott? stop with the
rant? it's inappropriate at this time." To you I
say?" I care about you and my fellow enthusiasts
and friends and loved ones. And I don't want to
attend your funeral or see you in a hospital due
to an avoidable accident. So if I'm being in
appropriate, it's because I care."

To the family and friends of those who lost their
lives this weekend inAtlanta: You have my
prayers. I don't know that I or anyone else have
the words to console you other than to say how
very deeply saddened and sorry I am for your
loss. And many of us will be thinking of you for
a lot longer than you might imagine.

To the organizers (my very dear friends) of the
Atlanta Fbody Gathering: You have worked so
long and so hard to put such a great event
together. This was not your fault. People come
from many states to enjoy the passion that these
cars generate. We are indebted to you for your
hard work?and we hope we’ll be invited back
again next year. Thank you for your hospitality?
thank you for your friendship ? and thank you
for all the good things you do for the F-car
community.

To the Associates at the Marriott Atlanta
Northwest: Thank you for your kind understand-
ing and for all you did to help everyone through
this weekend. You are truly a class act.

In closing, Everyone: Wear your safety belts.
No more street racing. Put the cell phone down
when behind the wheel. Practice safe driving
habits. If you're going to drink, don't drive. No
one should lose his or her life needlessly. And
remember?.every time you get behind the
wheel?..YOU are incharge. Don't turn your
vehicle into a lethal weapon. -- Scott
The Western Michigan Camaro Club is dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation and promotion of the Chevrolet Camaro as the premier four passenger sports car ever. The club was formed in 1975.

Meetings
The WMCC holds monthly membership meetings on the first Sunday of each month. Times and location vary, so see the newsletter or check the club’s web site at www.wmcamaro.org for specific times and locations, or call one of the officers.

WMCC Officers
President: Doug Warren 616.531.7482
Vice President: Gary Crippin 269.273.5051
Secretary: Anne Kohler 616.527.2432
Treasurer: Anita Warren 616.531.7482
Membership: Mark Deremo 616.957.9005

Club Sponsor
Berger Chevrolet

Website
www.wmcamaro.org

(From The Top, from page 1)

Other Stuff:
Take a look at the calendar of events. There’s plenty of events to keep even the most ambitious Camaro enthusiast busy ………… WMCC has already had two significant events in this young summer season. One was a special day at Berger Chevrolet where several new 2002 ZL-1 Camaro Supercars were delivered to their new owners, and the other was our Memorial Day weekend trip to the Wisconsin Dells. Both activities were huge successes. Please read the related articles elsewhere in this newsletter.

-- DOUG WARREN
View from the Top is a 2003 American romantic comedy film directed by Bruno Barreto and starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Christina Applegate, Candice Bergen, Joshua Malina, Mark Ruffalo, Rob Lowe, Mike Myers, and Kelly Preston. The film follows a young woman (Paltrow) from a small town who sets out to fulfill her dream of becoming a flight attendant. Donna Jensen is from a small town in Nevada. She wants to escape her miserable, unhappy life of living in a trailer with her alcoholic mother, a former Las... "View from the Top" has been in what filmmakers call "production hell" for quite some time. It finally was released only to bomb at the box office. I don't blame the public for ignoring it. It's sad to think that the funniest thing about "View from the Top" is that Mike Myers' co-star role as a weirdo airline employee is the highlight of the movie. Myers' cameo may be self-indulgent, but not nearly as much so as Adam Sandler's in "The Hot Chick." In fact, without Mike Myers, I would have given this movie an even lesser rating. The movie is about airline stewardesses and their way to the top. This sounds like a dull subject because it is. This can hardly be stretched out into a long movie without becoming repetitive.