

Being the owner of DVDBeaver forces me to respond to Manohla Dargis' statement in the NY Times - Sunday, November 14th article "The 21st Century Cinephile". The comment in reference was "**DVDBeaver (is) run by fetishistic geeks**". I would be remiss if I didn't clarify that misnomer especially in regards to the hundreds of non-remunerated contributors to our websites informative data. I have been encouraged by them to rectify that unusual description. Along with many diligent websites focusing on this fairly recent digital medium, we like to consider our efforts extremely important. Our self-appointed "sentinel" or "watchdog" status helps keep DVD production companies from inaccurately representing films onto the digital versatile disc medium. Many mega-studios, often for monetary reasons, may contradict the artistic expression of a film's creator - namely that of the director's vision. Our detail, and often un-appreciated work, allows people like Manohla Dargis to view films (on DVD) as close to their theatrical intent as possible. Our work encourages DVD production to its highest standards. Although the recall and replacement of two films from MGM's region 1 Ingmar Bergman's DVD Boxset earlier this year was not due to our sole efforts, we were nonetheless proud to have a strong hand in that action.

This "geek" moniker avoids DVDBeaver's strongest attribute of introducing non-Hollywood film (usually comprising an alternative to over-marketed mainstream offerings) for tens of thousands of cinema goers. Aside from that inappropriate name-calling, I found the article an excellent read. I'm sure a more accurate label could have been used considering Miss Dargis' obvious usage of the website's content... which I might add is not supported by advertisements, but rather requires supplement from many generous member's (known affectionately as 'Beavers') bank accounts and Amazon purchases. We are a fan site - it is non-commercial (no annoying pop-ups, animated banners, forced flash etc.) and essentially we have no "axe to grind" to appease sponsors or advertisers. It is, for better or worse, still a grass roots website. In Dargis' words, those who write for DVDBeaver are geeks, I am hoping she doesn't mean "social misfits" as that would be very unfair considering the many articulate and passionate alternative film fans that I have had the privilege of meeting and conversing with on a daily basis. *They* care and *they* make a difference and if that means "fetishistic geek" then I invite Miss Dargis to join us as passionate preservers of artistic integrity in film and wear that label with pride.