

ENTERTAINMENT

AUMILLER PICKS

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Thankfully, it's starting to get cold. Even though there is a thought going around my dorm that the weather is a result of my roommate doing the dishes, cold weather means a lot of dinner and a movie on Friday nights. Therefore, I will do my best to be on my game and pick the best movies I can for you (if you even read these or take them seriously) so you can beat the cold.

Be sure to read the hot spot as well for the first half of that night out.

For this biweekly issue, I had both of these movies picked out well in advance.

Most of the time, people see a preview and if it is a "must see" for them, they keep track. In my case, I write it down.

Dan in Real Life

STEVE CARELL
DAN IN REAL LIFE



Steve Carell, Juliette Binoche: 1 hour, 35 minutes



I picked this movie because I love Steve Carell.

Not only that, but Dane Cook (Umm...duh) has a big part in this movie as well.

Also, I like when movies don't give away much of the plot. Did you know any of the movies' plot?

Dan Burns (Carell) is an advice columnist in his local newspaper. He is a widower with three daughters. He dedicates his life to his work but mostly to his children. Every year, his family has a sort of family reunion to help close up his parents' summer home in Rhode Island.

He gets there and everyone is happy to see each other just like every family reunion. Dan is told that his brother, Mitch (Cook), is bringing a "friend" this year and he has to sleep in the special room, aka the laundry room on a cot. He wakes up the next day and goes to a book and bait store in town.

In the store, he meets Marie (Binoche). They talk for a while in the store before getting a cup of tea and a muffin and talking some more. Then, Marie gets a phone call from her boyfriend and she realizes she is late.

They exchange numbers and Marie leaves. Dan returns back to his parents and says he met someone and his family is more than excited, especially his brother Mitch.

A few moments later, Mitch introduces his "friend" that was coming to stay for the weekend. Unfortunately for Dan, Mitch's friend is Marie.

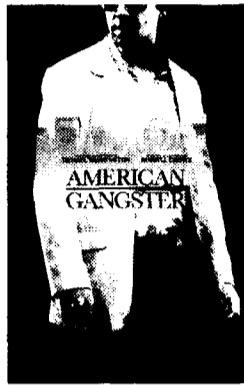
I thought this was going to be the same awkward situation type film just playing out for an hour and a half.

However, this movie had a whole new play on it. The whole cast gelled together perfectly. Carell and Cook work way too well together as brothers. Not only that, but Dane Cook finally did a good movie. However, my problem with this movie is the message that it sends.

Dan is trying to find a way to get Marie from Mitch, his brother of all people, and is almost encouraged to do so.

RATING: Walk me... four balls. Very well done and very funny, but I still have a problem with stealing your brother's girlfriend.

American Gangster



Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe: 2 hours, 37 minutes



This was a must see when I first saw the preview.

Denzel is always good no matter what the movie is.

Also, if any of you follow my movie reviews, you know how I feel about Russell Crowe.

Ever since "Gladiator," he has been one of my favorites.

I was drawn to the idea that Denzel was the "bad guy" in the movie, and I always like a movie where the bad guy is somehow the main character that you want to "win."

The plot follows the adapted true story of Frank Lucas (Washington). Frank was a

quiet driver for one of the leading crime bosses, his uncle whom everyone called "Bumpy," in Manhattan.

After watching him suddenly die of a heart attack, Frank decides to take over Bumpy's empire and get his own piece of the American dream.

Through a near genius plan, he imports more pure drugs and sells them at cheaper prices and nearly monopolizes the drug market in Manhattan.

Frank outplays all of the other crime families and looks like a shining star in civic circles in the process.

Richie Roberts (Crowe) is an outcast police officer for doing the right thing.

He finds a ton of money in a car and turns it in without taking any off the top for himself.

Also, he is close enough to the streets that he thinks there is a shift of power in the drug world.

Roberts believes someone is climbing the rungs above the known Mafia families and starts to suspect that a black power player has come from nowhere to dominate the scene.

Both Lucas and Roberts share an ethical code that sets them apart from their own colleagues, making them lone figures on opposite sides of the law.

This movie was perfect. Denzel makes a great "villain."

Even though he has been in great roles, because he is always great, I think it is his best role since "Training Day."

Some of the brutality he pulled off was great.

Not only that, but he did it with class (if that makes sense).

Crowe does a wonderful job as a police officer,

deadbeat dad and a player on the side.

These two guys drive the film and all of the supporters feed off of them.

The movie was dynamite and it had to be, because I had a god awful seat at the front of the theater for it.

RATING: Perfect. Five out of five. Make more like this...especially with Russell Crowe...

DVD Review: Mr. Brooks



Kevin Costner, Demi Moore: 2 hours



Yeah, I know. Spider-Man 3 came out on Oct. 30.

However, I figured that all of you have already seen it.

If you want the short version, Spidey 3 gets a three out of five.

Therefore, I wanted to see Kevin Costner as a serial killer and Dane Cook as a serious actor. That's right, Dane Cook trying not to be funny.

Earl Brooks (Costner) is a great philanthropist in the city of Portland, Ore. In the opening of the film, he has just been named the Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year.

On the way home, a man referred

to as Marshall (William Hurt, "Dark City") appears in the back seat and says, "You've been a good boy for so long...you deserve this..."

Marshall just happens to be the little voice in Mr. Brooks' head that talks him into his killing ways.

Mr. Brooks waits until his wife goes to sleep and then gets ready to go out and "play."

He takes every single traceable thing into account when he kills (I won't tel I you, it's too cool). He kills his victims, but he is seen and photographed by a man known as Mr. Smith (Cook).

Instead of your typical blackmail for, let's say money, Mr. Smith won't reveal the pictures to the police under the condition that he gets to go along and help kill the next person.

Mr. Brooks sees this as a pretty reasonable trade and agrees to the deal. All this time, he is being tracked by Det.

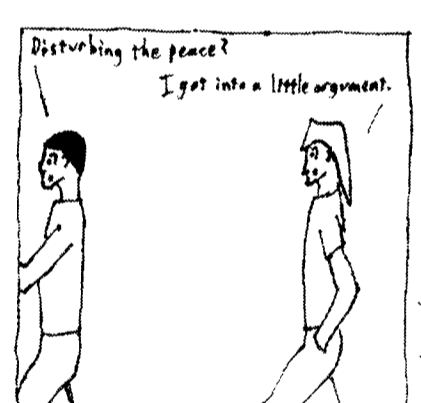
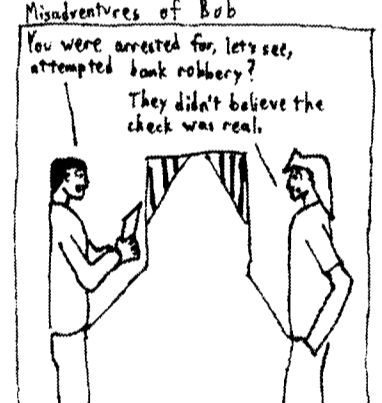
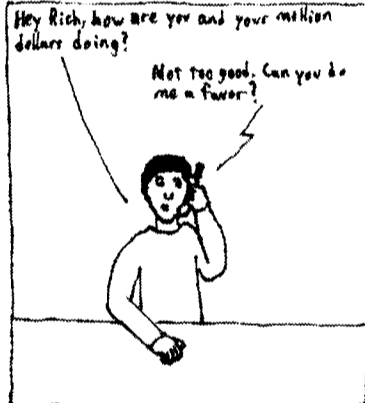
Tracy Atwood (Moore). She traced the early murders of Mr. Brooks and is kind of the specialist on his murders. I won't say anymore about the movie because it is a thriller. As everyone knows, thrillers have their share of twists and turns. A lot of people say that old actors take serial killer roles to revive their careers.

If that is what Costner did with this movie, he did a hell of a job. He and Hurt were a phenomenal schizophrenic.

As for Dane Cook, for those who thought he couldn't be funny, he pulled it off as well. Demi Moore was a bad ass police officer, but she can't catch the overly slick Mr. Brooks.

RATING: Four out of five. Love Costner? Love Dane Cook? Love Psych Thrillers? Watch it.

Misadventures of Bob



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- Turkey
- Pilgrims
- Plymouth Rock
- Voyage
- Stuffing
- Black Friday
- Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
- Sweet Potatoes
- Thursday
- Family
- Football
- Dinner
- Leaves
- Pumpkin Pie
- Cranberry Sauce
- Squanto
- Massachusetts
- Harvest
- November

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