

ENTERTAINMENT

AUMILLER'S PICKS

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Last issue, I had possibly the laziest performance I've ever had. Therefore, I apologize tremendously. However, I made it up to you. I actually did my job for this issue and went out to see new movies and buy a new DVD. And I did it just for you, my loyal readers. It had nothing to do with the threat two weeks ago of losing my column if I didn't shape up.

JUMPER

Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson: 1 hour, 30 minutes

Before I even get started, I just want to say that I didn't hate the new Star Wars movies. Now that I lost the dihard, I like Hayden Christensen (Umm...I did just say Star Wars). I've heard a lot of muttering that he ruined Star Wars, but he was set up to fail. When you are asked to play one of the coolest bad guys of all time, you don't turn it down.

Unfortunately for him, he had unreasonable expectations from super-freaks, but I digress. Bottom line is that I saw a preview for this movie in the fall and wanted to see it right away. So, I went the second night it was out.

David Rice (Christensen) is a shy teenager who has a crush on Millie (Rachel Bilson) who dreams of traveling the world. When he surprises her with a small gift, a snow globe of the Eiffel Tower, a bully grabs it and throws it out onto the frozen river. David ventures onto the ice and picks it up before falling through the ice and being swept away by the current.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE BOURNE IDENTITY AND MR. & MRS. SMITH

All of the sudden, he is in the Ann Arbor public library. He gets on a bus and heads home, soaking wet, where his father (Michael Rooker) chews him out. David enters his room, putting a chain on the door. But when his dad knocks it down, there is nothing there. David has vanished. He finds himself in the same aisle of the Ann Arbor library and realizes he has teleported there yet again. It dawns on him that he finally has a way to change his life, to escape his situation.

He teleports home and retrieves a small stash of money and a few belongings. But before he leaves town, he stops outside Millie's house. He throws a few rocks at the window to get her to come outside. Millie steps cautiously out into the yard and finds the snow globe sitting on her swing set. From this she knows he is alive. The next day he is on a bus to the city, where he rents a cheap room. He practices teleporting in

the park, learning how to control his power. Then he checks out a bank and robs it by teleporting directly in to the vault in the middle of the night. However, the mysterious Roland (Samuel L. Jackson, "Pulp Fiction"), claiming to be from the NSA, appears at the bank investigation remarkably unsurprised by this locked door robbery. It is evident that he knows about teleport abilities and is part of a powerful group that wants to find this bank robber.

This movie falls into a category that I'm sure everyone is familiar with: "It wasn't that good, but I liked it."

The special effects were good,

especially for something that hasn't really ever been done before. I'm sure they even sat around the table and said, "How do we make guys that can teleport fight?"

Christensen played his role very well and it's always nice to see Sam Jackson play a bad guy.

RATING:



3 out of 5. I liked it, but it just wasn't that good. Still worth seeing though.

BE KIND REWIND

Jack Black, Mos Def: 1 hour, 41 minutes

Jack Black is somewhat of a hit or miss actor for me. The guy is so talented, (not only in acting, but musically as well) but then he takes a good joke one unnecessary step too far. It's like he has an inner-monologue switch that doesn't turn off and after one joke it just isn't that funny anymore.

Coincidentally, this is the same problem that I have with Family Guy. Again, I have a problem with rambling.

Mike (Mos Def, "The Italian Job") is working at a declining VHS rental store called Be Kind Rewind in Passaic, N.J. Mike's best friend Jerry (Jack Black, "Saving Silverman") lives in a trailer and accompanies Mike while he works at the video store. Mike is fascinated by the story that Fats Waller, a legendary jazz musician, was born in the very store. Mr. Fletcher (Danny Glover, "Lethal Weapon") is informed by Passaic town officials that his store is scheduled to be demolished and replaced with a brand new building complex, unless he can raise funds to renovate his building. Mr. Fletcher goes out on trip to get ideas on how

to increase business by spying on a successful chain of DVD rental stores. On the way to his train, he puts Mike in charge of Be Kind Rewind while he is away with one simple instruction: "Keep Jerry Out."

Jerry asks Mike to join him in sabotaging the powerplant he hates, which he believes is trying to melt his brain. Mike reluctantly agrees to help, but eventually leaves a pleading Jerry to sabotage the plant alone. Jerry is electrocuted, causing him to become magnetized. The next day, when Jerry goes to Be Kind Rewind to confront Mike for leaving him, his magnetized body erases all the tapes in the store.

The store's only loyal customer, Miss Falewicz (Mia Farrow), comes to rent "Ghostbusters." Fearing that he will lose Mr. Fletcher's trust, Mike suddenly



comes up with the idea to completely remake the movie with him and Jerry as the stars saying that Miss Falewicz is so old that she won't know the difference. The two friends create the 20 minute remake using an old VHS camcorder and cheap special effects. Soon another customer requests the movie "Rush Hour 2." During the filming of this movie, they enlist the help of a local

woman named Alma (Melonie Diaz). Eventually, Jerry, Mike and Alma create a system where customers request movies to be "sweded;" Jerry claims that the movies are from Sweden, which is the reason for the higher prices (\$20 instead of the usual \$1).

Before I say anything, I'm not busting on the movie. With that out of the way, I felt misled when the movie ended. When I first saw the preview, I thought it was going to be a laugh riot type movie. However, it turns out to be not a funny movie, but a "cute" movie. It has a happy but not so happy ending at the same time. It's really kind of a strange thing to explain without giving the movie away so I'm just not going to talk about it anymore.

RATING:



3 out of 5. Average. Worth seeing though.

DVD REVIEW: GONE BABY GONE

Casey Affleck, Michelle Monaghan: 1 hour, 44 minutes

A lot of the DVD reviews are just movies that I didn't review earlier in the year. (If you didn't figure that out for yourself.) After seeing this, I may not have made the best choice by going to see "We Own the Night" first and waiting for this one on DVD, but hey, you live and learn.

When a young girl, Amanda McCready, goes missing in Boston, the case attracts widespread media attention. Not only that, but every police officer in Massachusetts is looking for her as well. Private investigator Patrick Kenzie (Casey Affleck, "Ocean's Eleven") and his partner and girlfriend Angie Gennaro (Michelle Monaghan, "Kiss



Kiss Bang Bang") are hired by the child's aunt to find her. She believes that their familiarity with the neighborhood will give them greater success than the local police, led by Captain Jack Doyle (Morgan Freeman, "Seven"), who lost his child in similar circumstances.

Kenzie and Angie discover that Amanda's mother, Helene McCready (Amy Ryan, "Dan in Real Life"), and her boyfriend, "Skinny Ray", have stolen \$130,000 from a local drug lord. After Ray is murdered, Helene reveals the location of the money. Believing the drug lord took Amanda, Kenzie and Angie along with the police detectives investigating the case, Nick Poole (John Ashton, "Beverly Hills Cop") and Remy Bressant (Ed Harris, "Apollo 13"), arrange to trade the money with him for Amanda.

When the credits first rolled, I was scared because it said "directed by Ben Affleck." However, even though Ben can't act, he should spend more time behind the camera. He did a fantastic job with this movie.

Not only that, his brother, Casey, killed as the lead. The rest of the supporting cast was dynamite as well to back him up. The best part about the movie was the amazing twist ending that will have you wanting to talk to someone and discuss it. As soon as it was over, I made my roommate watch it just so I could talk about it. With the DVD, there is even an extended ending that adds to that.



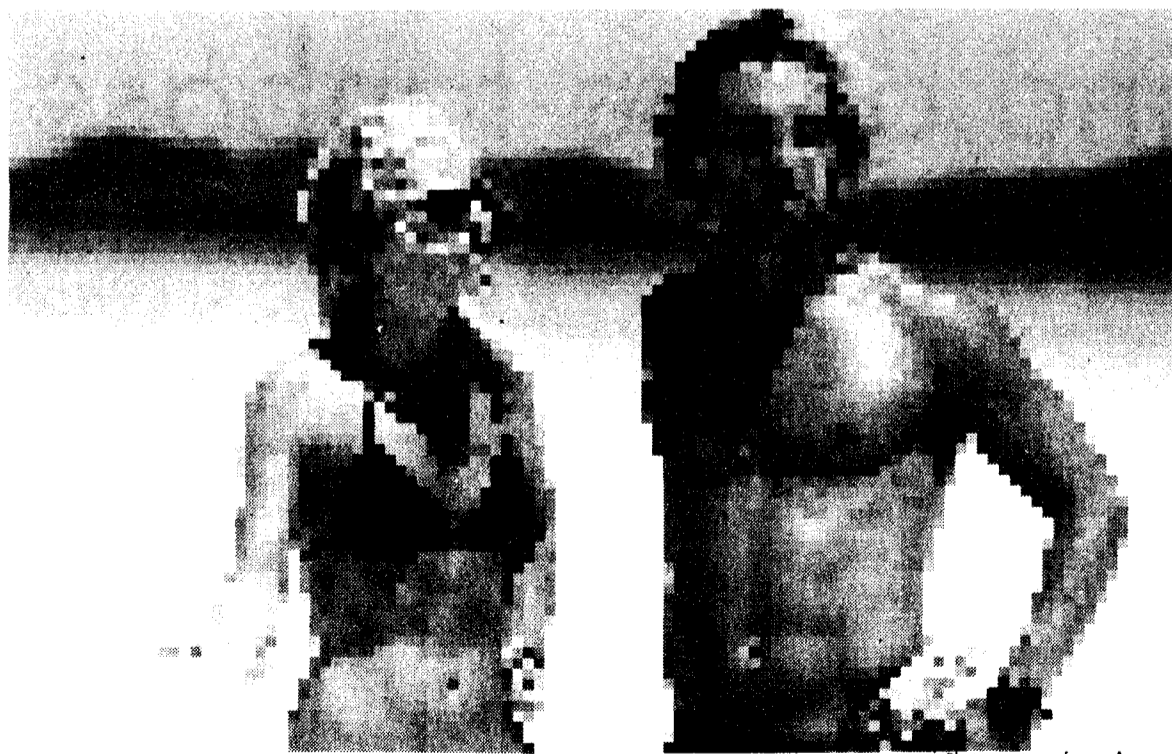
5 out of 5. All around awesome.

Only a fool would see "Gold"

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Remember "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days"? Warner Bros. sure hopes so; "Fool's Gold", starring the adorable Kate Hudson and renowned astrophysicist Matthew McConaughey, shamelessly tries to capitalize on the popularity of the former film (which, by the way, takes on an air of seriousness comparable to "The Pianist" now) by showcasing the chemistry between its two stars. Besides this chemistry, which is essentially a non-factor due to the bizarrely limited screen time shared between the two, the film is a complete disaster, packed with insipid dialogue, ridiculous characters, and a nonsensical plot.

The movie begins by introducing the divergent lives of its two main characters, Ben "Finn" Finnegan (McConaughey), a professional goofball and treasure hunter, and Tess Finnegan, who, as Mrs. Goofball, grew tired of her husband's futile attempts searching for lost oceanic treasure. As a result, the two are separated - a decision which has been hard on Tess, as she frequently brags that the sex was just *top notch* - forcing Tess to make end's meet working on the Precious Gem, a luxury yacht owned by billionaire Nigel Honeycutt (played by a bewildered Donald Sutherland, who looks



Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson in the Warner Bros. film "Fool's Gold". The two formerly starred in "How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days".

as if he's been Punk'd), thus leaving Finn to continue his quest exploring the coastal floor with his foreign pal Alfonz, played by Ewen Bremner, who, if his accent is any indication, seems to think that Ukrainians sound like they speak with gobs of mashed potatoes stuffed in their mouths.

Though Finn and Alfonz accidentally blow up their boat (whoopsee-daisy!), they do discover an antique plate adorned with a mysterious family crest, which leads the duo to believe

that they are hot on the trail of the famous 18th century Queens Dowry (yes, *that* dowry!), a relative smorgasbord of gold and jewels lost in 1715. The two make it to shore on a nearby island, which is owned by the ridiculous Bigg Bunny, an infamous rapper who is impotent in his villainy. Bigg Bunny, after listening to Finn explain the importance of the discovery, orders his goons to execute the poor tanned hick, presumably so he can take the treasure all for himself. Instead of stabbing him, strangling him, or

shooting him, the goons try tying Finn to an anchor to be dropped in the ocean. Well, Finn escapes, dusts himself off, and saunters in to his divorce proceedings a teensy too late, and as a result loses everything to Tess, who ignores Finn's tale of discovery.

Tess returns to the yacht, and soon welcomes the visit of Nigel's ditzzy daughter, Gemma Honeycutt (played by bright-eyed and bushy-tailed Alexis Dziena), whose role in the movie is an absolute head-scratcher. In between waiting on

the Honeycuts, Tess is consoled by the two "hilarious" chefs aboard the ship, who are - wait for it - gay. Why does Hollywood keep gay men relegated to the supporting roles of the sidekick-confidante? Duh, because gay men are just so funny, that's why? Don't you watch "Sex and the City"?

Between poorly timed jokes, an exasperated Tess fears that Finn will somehow make it aboard the yacht in search of money and support for his mission. This is presumably to make it more believable when he does in fact somehow maneuver himself aboard (Finn had no prior knowledge that Tess was working on the Precious Gem), and is cordially invited to dinner. Tess, when serving the meal, is absolutely startled by her ex-husband's presence (despite her accurate prediction of it), and hilarity ensues.

But how did Tess and Finn first meet? How does Finn propose to find the hidden treasure, and what makes it so important? Why does Matthew McConaughey always look like he needs a good hot bath and a shave? All of these questions (save one) are addressed in a painfully long plot-dump sequence, where the writers apparently realized their mistake in leaving the first half of the script up to Ritalin-deprived toddlers.

With pesky details like back-story, character, and plot out of the way, the latter half of the film stumbles on like a decapitated chicken. The

climax cruelly jolts the audience from their hitherto gentle slumber, as it is *very* noisy with lots of yelling and screaming.

(SPOILER ALERT) In the end, Finn and Tess defeat the villains, find the treasure, and rekindle their romance. Finn may still be just as much of a scatterbrain as he's always been, but now he's rich! "Fool's Gold" could have been a nice, fluffy film if the creators took the time to polish it. There are hardly any moments of hilarity throughout its entire duration, and when there are good lines, it is normally at the expense of the "feel" of the movie; the funniest line occurs near the middle of the story, when most of the characters (including Finn and Alfonz) are enjoying an elegant dinner aboard the Precious Gem. Amid the uncomfortable conversation, Alfonz innocently asks if there will be any prostitutes, an appropriate joke for a grittier film, but a gag that ultimately comes off as a rather alarming shift in tone for a movie whose target audience watched the Hanna Montana movie a week before.

Much like the prostitution joke, the movie is indefensibly awkward, a hurried mishmash of underdeveloped scenes and characters; it feels like the creators wanted to cash in on the publicity generated by its two stars. It may have characters, a beginning, middle and end, but "Fool's Gold" is not the real thing.