

Dead Man on Campus bites the dust

By Brent McConkey
Contributing Reviewer

mend fictional Daleman College, home of the new comedy *Dead Man on Campus*?

The film centers around the plight of two roommates, Josh, the uptight, academic-minded student played by Tom Everett Scott (*That Thing You Do!*), and Cooper, the easy-going, party animal played by *Saved by the Bell*'s Mark-Paul Gosselaar.

Never mind them, however: They are little more than one-dimensional stereotypes of funnier characters in better movies.

Nope, this is a plot-driven film, as both students get caught up in the more "extracurricular" side of college life and find themselves failing every class.

To solve this little problem, which could result in Josh losing his scholarship and Cooper being forced to work in his father's toilet-cleaning business (yep, high-concept humor there), the roommates decide to take advantage of a popular urban legend and a loophole in the school's

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charter which states that if a student should commit suicide, that deceased individual's roommates will be rewarded with straight A's.

Therefore, the remainder of the film is spent examining their quest to find a third roommate who will kill himself before finals, thus securing their 4.0.

Be warned: Nearly every entertaining sequence of the film, most of which involve Cliff (Lochlyn Munro), the frat boy/prospective roommate who teeters precariously on that delicate line between extraordinarily daring and hopelessly psychotic, have already been shown in the movie's trailer and television commercials.

Interestingly, the film's biggest laughs come not from the script (although it is quite funny to see Zack Morris spouting vulgarities), but from the stylized portrait of college living presented by the film's production company, MTV.

Maybe I'm just jealous because I don't have the abs of that guy from *The Grind*, but MTV seems to have a fairly nasty habit of glorifying our generation to the point where our generation would rather be living in the television.

This movie is no exception. Cooper spills water on Josh's homework from the four-foot purple bong sitting majestically in the middle of their room.

Cooper works his carefree mojo on countless supermodel-esque ceds before eventually scoring with one 10 feet from his astonished roommate.

The guys throw a wild, alcohol-drenched party in their dorm room (although it would probably be better described as a condo) that would

make the Dukes envious. The beat goes on and on.

So what is it exactly about regular college life that it cannot be accurately portrayed on film without being overly glamorized?

I mean, most university students seem to maintain a normal balance of schoolwork and downtime. We work hard. We play hard.

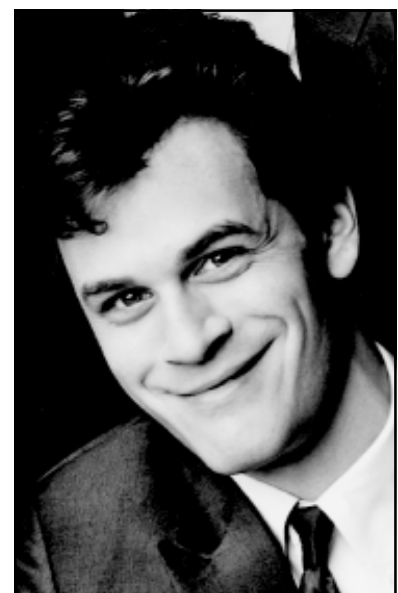
Why can't the filmmakers show that, rather than a quickly-paced, frenetically edited piece of feather-weight comedy fare that completely skews all university life as we know it?

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After all, we don't want to go to the movies to see ourselves on screen. We go to be entertained and experience life in a fictitious environment through another person's eyes.

If this really is the case though,

can't they at least make a better movie than *Dead Man on Campus*?



Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox
Tom Everett Scott, of *That Thing You Do!*, stars in *Dead Man on Campus*, MTV's exaggerated version of college life.

College. The proverbial best years of your life, right? Where the sex is easy and inconsequential, dorm rooms come in the form of spacious three-bedroom apartments, alcohol flows like orange Kool-Aid and unrestrained as athlete's foot fungus on a pair of shower shoes.

Before getting the freshman all fired up for the weekend, I guess I should point out that things are a bit different here at our prestigious university. That's why tuition is so high. However, if that type of free-spirited environment appeals to any readers out there, may I recom-



Laura O'Connor/Old Gold and Black

Out with the old, in with the new

Renovations in Scales Fine Arts Center have turned a storage area into a lounge for music students. The new lounge is furnished with couches, tables and an area specially lighted for individual performance. The ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the renovation of M103 will take place 11 a.m. Sept. 1. Senior Caitlin Meier and Dave Joyner have a chance to enjoy the lounge before the opening ceremony.

Lilith Fair

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After earning sufficient reaction from the crowd, Elliott quickly stripped the suit, probably to avoid heat stroke, but was still wearing another vinyl suit beneath. She appeared to enjoy herself as she cheerfully hopped around the stage, rapping with her dancers.

Elliott performed four songs, pausing in the middle of her set to chat with the Virginia Beach Amphitheater audience about her own Virginia upbringing. Her spunk and humor drew almost everyone into the main stage area. By the end of her set, the crowd was excited and eager for the remaining acts.

Virginia Beach was also the last stop on the tour for the Indigo Girls, who took the main stage after Elliott. Both women were evidently fatigued from touring. The temperature had also taken its toll, but they managed a solid set.

They cranked out "Galileo" and an excellent "Least Complicated," at which point they were interrupted by two mischievous tour-mates. Sarah McLachlan and Natalie Merchant dashed from backstage with Super-Soakers, completely drenching the first five rows.

After the impromptu shower, the Girls picked up where they left off, playing several other hits, including "Get Out the Map," before being joined onstage once more. This time, Merchant, McLachlan, Suzanne Vega and some of the opening artists came onstage to jam with the Girls.

In keeping with the tradition begun at last year's Lilith Fair, the Girls closed with "Closer to Fine," and were joined by nearly every other artist on the tour, which brought the crowd to its feet for a climactic finish.

Natalie Merchant emerged, no longer in the disguise she wore while watching

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Morcheeba, but in vibrant red. She was shortly whirling around the stage with a ribbon on a wand, dancing, curtsying, catching the bouquets that were being tossed onstage and playing with the flowers.

The highest points of Merchant's performance were "Carnival," "Kind and Generous" and a wooden swing, which drenched onstage during her last song. While swinging, she asked one of the news cameramen, "Could you please, umm, get a better angle? I'm wearing a skirt, here!"

McLachlan hit the stage punctually at 10:10 p.m. and promptly dazzled the audi-



Kelly Murdoch-Kitt/Old Gold and Black
Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliot joined the tour and added to the diverse assortment of music genres presented at this year's Lilith Fair.

CALENDAR

To have your event listed, send e-mail to arts@ogb.wfu.edu, fax to (336) 758-4561 or write to P.O. Box 7569.

ON CAMPUS

Theater

New Faces Workshop. Theater games, scenes with senior theater majors and additional wisdom from student actors and directors.
When: 9:30 a.m. - noon Aug. 29
Where: Ring Theatre
Info: Ext. 4377

The Matchmaker. Based on Broadway's *Hello, Dolly!* this comedy is under the direction of Don Wolfe, a professor and chairman of theater.
When: 8 p.m. Sept. 25-26 and Sept. 30-Oct. 4
Where: Mainstage Theater, Scales Fine Arts Center
Info: Ext. 5295, \$10 adults, \$5 students

Beyond Therapy. This contemporary comedy focuses on the relationship between two people who meet through personal ads.
When: Sept. 17-19
Where: Ring Theater, Scales Fine Arts Center
Info: Ext. 5295

Exhibits

American Abstract Art of the 1930s and 1940s. This collection, owned by J. Donald Nichols, consists of works by Willem de Kooning, Arshile Gorky, John Ferren, George Morris and Albert Gallatin.
When: Aug. 28 - Oct. 11

Where: Fine Arts Gallery
Info: Free

Movies

Good Will Hunting. Matt Damon stars as a genius janitor who must overcome his neighborhood and tough exterior to confide in his shrink Robin Williams and to capture the heart of the woman he loves.
When: 7 and 10 p.m. August 28-30
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Info: \$2

The Big Lebowski. This latest movie my the Cohen brothers highlights the dangers of bowling and carpet-theft.
When: 7 and 10 p.m. Sept. 4-6
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Info: \$2

Music

Cindy Morgan Concert. The Student Union brings contemporary Christian music to campus.
When: 7:30 p.m. Sept. 20
Where: Brendle Recital Hall
Info: Tickets on sale Aug. 31 in Benson 335, \$3

ELSEWHERE

Concerts

Ziggy's. Aug. 27: Outhouse Poets. Aug. 28: The Pietasters and The Bins. Aug. 29: Sam Moss Benefit. Sept. 2: Misfits and Earth Crisis.

Where: 433 Baity St.
Info: 758-1064

Cat's Cradle. Aug. 28: Vast with Twelve Rounds and Erstwhile. Aug. 29: Bio Ritmo. Aug. 30: Mudhoney with Subsonics. Sept. 1: Flicker. Sept. 3: Shiner, Farewell Bend, Jackdrag
Where: 300 E. Main St., Carrboro
Info: (919) 967-9053

Music

Foothills Music Festival. The concert explores the musical inspiration between France and the United States.
When: 8 p.m. Aug. 29
Where: Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Reynolda Rd.
Info: \$15, 725-5325

Exhibits

Pipes, Pedals, Keys and Bellsows. Each day unassembled pieces of the largest surviving organ by David Tannenberg will be added to recreate the original by organ builders George Taylor and John Boody.
When: July 13, 1998 - March 14, 1999
Where: The Gallery at Old Salem
Info: \$3

Hunters of the Sky: An Exhibit About the Birds of Prey. The exhibit focuses on predatory birds, the ecosystems they inhabit and the roles of raptors in Native American cultures.
When: May 21 - Sept. 13
Where: Museum of Life and Science, 433 Murray Ave., Durham
Info: (919) 220-5429

Schumann's Ward

By Ken Perkins and Matt Nimcheck

