

Holiday season brings release of videos, compact discs

Holiday break is coming and what is a student to do with all that free time? Pay bills? Get a job? No! Kick back and check out the latest in video and compact disc releases.

The video releases will give students a chance to catch some hit movies that they may have missed or want to see again, and the latest compact discs can provide a chance to escape the pressures of holiday gatherings and listen to good music.

On Wednesday video stores will be releasing four movies, which range in themes from the mistaken identity of a king to a trip on the river by Huck Finn.

Huck Finn, starring Robbie Coltrane and Jason Robards, is an action-adventure film about the life of Huck Finn. The story is based on the novel by Mark Twain and is sure to include river adventures and cave explorations that will leave the viewer wanting more.

Made in America is a comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg and Ted Danson and provides a humorous view of a not-so-humorous situation. Goldberg begins the movie by going to a sperm bank in hopes of finding the sperm of a tall, good-looking black man. When she learns that Danson is the donor, the story takes a hilarious twist about a couple with almost nothing in common.

Splitting Heirs is a comedy starring Rick Moranis, whose character is switched at birth and in time becomes the king of England. Eric Idle, Barbara Hershey and John Cleese also star in the movie and add a Monty Python style of

humor.

Michael J. Fox also makes his appearance this week on video in the movie *Life with Mikey*. The story portrays Fox as a kid star turned Hollywood agent whose job is to find another rising kid star.

On Dec. 1 the video stores will release the suspense action thriller, *Rising Sun*. The movie stars Wesley Snipes as a Los Angeles police officer who is sent to Japan to investigate the murder of an American prostitute. The movie deals with many Japanese customs, and in order for Snipes to blend in he must work with Sean Connery, who plays a special operative person for Japan.

The hit movie *Sleepless in Seattle* will hit the video stores on Dec. 8. The movie stars Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, who with their on-screen chemistry make this movie a great comic love story. The movie starts out with Hanks moving to Seattle and spending his first Christmas alone as a widower. When his son calls a radio station and tells the story of his dad's loneliness, the love letters pour in, and the story begins between Hanks and Ryan.

Also being released is *Guilty as Sin*, which is an erotic thriller starring Don Johnson and Rebecca De Mornay. De Mornay plays a lawyer who is being persuaded by Johnson that he is innocent of the murder of which he is accused, when actually he is stalking her the whole time.

If you're in the mood for some non-stop action, then check out the movie *Dragon*, which portrays the legend, the mystery and the entire



The Coneheads, coming in January, are just one of a host of new releases set to hit the shelves of your local video store this season.

story of Bruce Lee's life. A true classic for Lee fans.

Super Mario Brothers will also be out in time for the holidays and stars Dennis Hopper, Bob Hoskins and John Leguizamo. The movie is a takeoff of the popular video game, and the real gem of it can be found in the computer animation. A good movie for all ages.

Dec. 15 brings the video release of *The Firm*. The movie is a suspense thriller starring Tom Cruise, who plays a lawyer in a firm that is involved in more than law. When Cruise discovers what is actually going on and attempts to leave the

firm, the suspense escalates.

On Dec. 22 the video stores will receive the hit movie, *Dave*. The movie stars Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver. Kline ends up in the role of the president of the United States and what follows is a must-see for the holidays.

If music is your thing, or if you are searching for a compact disc for a gift, then here is a list of ten top-selling CDs for Christmas.

10) The band Blind Melon has just broken into the music scene big this year and its *Blind Melon* CD is sure to give listeners a taste of some spacey rock'n'roll music

with a hint of influence by Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia.

9) Cypress Hill's *Black Sunday* is a hot-selling rap CD, and if given to the right person, it will bring a definite smile to his or her face.

8) Garth Brooks' *In Pieces* is one of the top-selling CDs and is a must for anyone interested in the new realm of country.

7) For all pop fans, Janet Jackson's latest, *janet*, is a perfect complement for yours or a friend's collection.

6) The Nirvana CD, *In Utero*, is in stores now and is a must for any "grunge scene" rocker.

5) Michael Jackson's greatest hits' CD is coming out soon, and for any Jackson fan this would be an important addition to the collection.

4) Also due out today is the debut CD from Snoop Dog — *Doggy Style*. The rapper is already making a name for himself thanks to fellow rapper Dr. Dre, and for those into rap, this CD will be big.

3) The Guns 'n' Roses CD, which is all cover songs of other artists, is due out for the holidays and would be a nice addition to some collections.

2) For anyone who likes the Seattle scene, the Pearl Jam CD *Vs* would be a great pick.

And the No. 1 compact disc on this Christmas list is any Grateful Dead CD. It is sure to be a hit for any Dead Head or for anyone who wants to hear the magic that has captured millions.

— Bill Geary

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