Mike Judge creates office hell

Office Space

DIRECTED BY: Mike Judge

STARRING:

Ron Livingston, Gary Cole,

Jennifer Aniston

RATING:

ter's internal transformation all

Peter's office friends at

INITECH, Samir (Ajay Naidu)

and Michael Bolton (another

running gag, personified by David Herman), also provide

moments of levity, whether it's

their frustration with their own

names or with the copy machine.

Judge's animated shorts by the

same title. The shorts involve a

nebbish, peculiar character

named Milton, who is also a

character in the film (Stephen

Root of "News Radio's"). Milton is key to the movie's plot, and

Root does a good job of making

Milton a mumbling, sympathet-

ic corporate peon but at the

Suhrstedt creates a claustropho-

bic atmosphere at INITECH

through the use of tight close-

ups and the internal framing of

Judge does a great job of cap-turing the anxieties and frustra-

tions that many people in the

workforce can relate to, and it is

characters in small spaces

same time not exactly likable.

Cinematographer

"Office Space" is based on

the more comical.

"Office Space" magnifies every college student's worst fears about life after college. It should have every graduate this spring running from the job market in order to avoid the frustrating monotony of a career in a cubicle

Mike Judge, creator of television's "Beavis and Butthead" and "King of the Hill," ingeniously directs the movie, using his own work experience as ma-

The film starts out following computer programmer Peter Gibbons (Ron Livingston of "Swingers") through his humdrum morning routine. He gets stuck in traffic; shocked by the door handle at INITECH, where he works; hounded for making a simple mistake; and reminded constantly about getting the memo that would have prevented the mistake. He hates his job.

The last straw comes when Peter's evil boss (Gary Cole of "The Brady Bunch Movie") asks him to come in not only on Saturday but on Sunday, too. Peter goes to an occupational hypnotherapist and has a break-

sleeps in and ultimately plays hooky the entire weekend. He is

rested, relaxed and de-stressed. Meanwhile, his boss has brought in efficiency experts to fire anyone not essential to INITECH's success. One of the funniest sequences in the film is when Peter brings his laid-back new lifestyle to the office. His small acts of rebellion are put to the song "Damn it Feels Good to

be a Gangster" by the Geto Boys. The soundtrack is one of the running gags throughout the movie. It is hilarious to see computer programmers taking on the tough persona of a street gang as they destroy the always troublesome copy machine with a baseball bat.

As Peter starts to feel better about his life, he finds the courage to ask out waitress Joan-

this common pool of office stress na (Jennifer Aniston), whose job through as the therapist dies of a heart attack while hypnotizing that Judge draws on to create the film's humor. "Office Space" is a fun romp through the corpois equally confining. Aniston, despite her beauty, does a good Peter in a rejob of playing the ordinary girl next door. And Livrate world for those who can laxation sympathize and a hilarious cariexercise. ingston is convinccature of office The next ing as the convenstress for those morning, tional suffering who can em-Peter office worker. His pathize.

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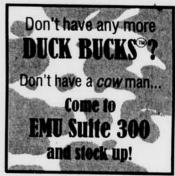
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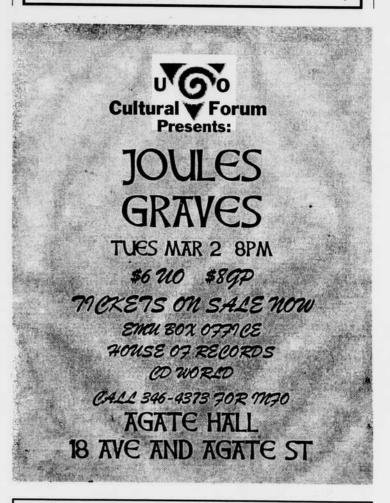
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