

# Entertainment

## "Avatar" glows only in graphics; other aspects disappoint

MARY WOOD

After hearing about how "life changing" and "mind blowing" the movie "Avatar" was, and that the official



budget was \$237 million, I went to the theater expecting to be dazzled, but was very disappointed. Of course, the highly advertised graphics were incredible, but that's where the magic stops; the story itself was less than inspiring.

The film follows Jake Sully, an ex-marine who has been recruited to take his brothers place on a mission to Pandora, a far away moon inhabited by blue people called the Na'vi. To explore the planet, Jake and others use avatars, fully equipped Na'vi bodies made from a mix of their DNA and that of humans. The goal of

the mission is to acquire a substance called unobtainium which is located in great supply under the home site of a tribe of Na'vis. After a particularly traumatic fight with one of Pandora's creatures, Jake becomes lost in the forest and encounters the tribe. He soon becomes torn between his loyalty to his new friends and his duties to help obtain the unobtainium.

While the film is by no means unenjoyable to watch, it is riddled with problems.

First of all, it's basically "Pocahontas" in the future. Jake and the group he's working for are the equivalent to John Smith and crew, and the Na'vi are like Native Americans. Instead of gold, it's unobtainium. I was half ready for them to burst out into "Colors of the Wind."

Though they didn't sing, what they did say was just as bad. The dialogue was terrible, sounding like it came from a cheesy movie about teenagers, or from a stupid battle. Some of the gems included lines like, "What the hell have you guys been smoking?" and "It's not over until I stop breathing!" Another favorite of mine was when the lead scientist on the mission is shot, and her first comment is, "This is going to ruin my whole day!" Because that's obviously what I'd be thinking if I was shot.

My last complaint—and perhaps I'm too picky—is that the film assumes life on another planet would exist exactly like life on earth. The Na'vi are tall, blue humans with tails. Their faces are incredibly similar in structure to humans, with eyes, noses and mouths with lips and teeth. The females

have curves in the same places female humans do, and the males are built similarly to male humans. The Na'vi even kiss as a romantic gesture. Additionally, the animals on Pandora look like slightly mutated versions of animals

from Earth, like horses and birds. Maybe this was done to make the world more relatable, but it takes away from the film.

While I wouldn't tell anyone not to go see "Avatar," I seriously question the hype. Sure, the CGI is incredible and

very expensive, but it seems like it was waste of time and money when used for this movie. I think if the same technology were applied to a quality film, it could actually be the "life changing" experience people are seeking.

## McDonalds food unsurprisingly a let down

MICHAEL MCNINCH

The golden arches are everywhere. They are nearly synonymous with a certain aspect of American consumerism—fast food. Specifically, they are usually associated with the fat, uh, fast food of McDonalds.

With the recent emergence of a 'health craze' and movies like "Supersize Me", you may think that only a crazed or starved individual would eat at McDonalds. Unfortunately, the food is almost always as horrible as we are led to believe.

The quality of the food depends upon its age. Newer is most likely better. I had the good fortune of eating there before the hamburger patties had been frozen for a month. The 'Big and Tasty' that I ordered had almost no meat at all. Sure, it had lettuce and something that resembled tomatoes, but those were piled on so heavily that the tiny amount of actual hamburger was smothered by the taste of vegetables. If I were to describe it in one word, the burger was limp.

I also found some fairly suspicious looking onions

when I partially dissected my burger to remove the pickles. I hate pickles. Going back to the onions, I wouldn't have noticed them if I didn't hate pickles. It seems that these semi-clandestine onions may carry a sinister purpose. More likely, they conceal the meat's semi-acrid quality.

The meat and its quality are not the

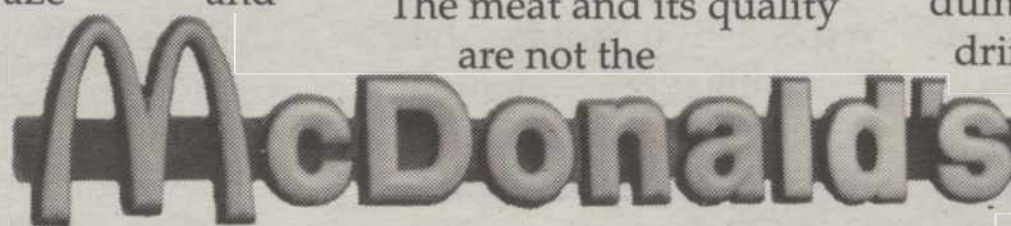


Photo by Michael McNinch

only things that have a possible covert purpose. The fries are one of the products most varied in quality that McDonalds produces. Occasionally, they are decent, with minimal salt and the absence of any strange additives. I received fries much like this. However, on other occasions, the fries I received were stale and oversalted.

The service is also extremely varied in quality. Sometimes, the people who take your order are happy, nice people who know what they're doing. On the other side of the spectrum, you may be received by one of those hopelessly idiotic, soul crushing abominations against the laws of nature type people. I once had my

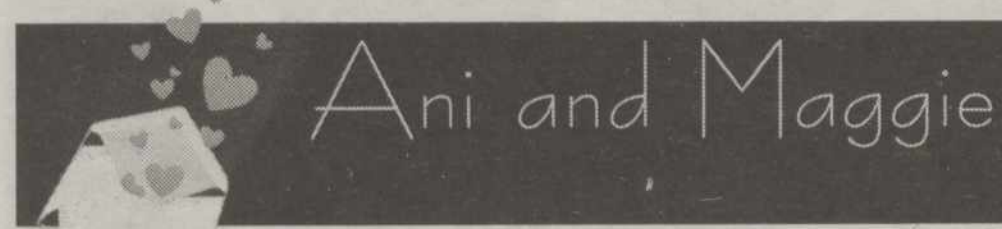
order taken by the latter. Another time, I ordered the non-cone contained ice cream, which they had in their menu as ice cream in a cup. When I received the dairy product in question, they had provided me with a more literal translation of their 'ice cream in a cup'. I was given an ice cream cone, dumped upsidedown in a drink cup. Unfortunate,

yes. Fun, no.

The prices also fall under the general umbrella of 'services'.

These prices, being administered by McDonalds, are much like everything else they provide: a thing of variance. Due to the chain nature of McDonalds, the prices differ from store to store. However, the prices are uniformly cheap, ranging from \$1 for the smaller items to around \$6 for the larger meals. Being fast food, that's what you'd expect.

It seems that eating at McDonalds may be compared to a really bad game of Russian roulette. In all seriousness, only one out of every six people really 'win' at McDonalds. The quality of the food, while it is almost always low, does occasionally rise. So, if you're feeling lucky, attempt to get a good meal at McDonalds.



Ani and Maggie

## DATING ISSUES RESOLVED

Dear Ani and Maggie,

Teenage romances can be so melodramatic! There is a boy that I am currently interested in, and I think he really likes me too. There's only one complication: he currently lives over half way around the world! I know long distance relationships are hard, and knowing that nearly 90% of these relationships fail within the first six months, should I even bother pursuing a relationship with this boy?

Long Distance Lover

Dear Lover,

Take time to think about how this relationship will work. Will either of you be able to travel to see each other? How often? If not,

are you willing to keep up a relationship that will mostly consist of telephone and online conversations? These are all important things to consider before you pursue the relationship. However, while many long distance relationships *do* fail, many do not. The upside of a long distance relationship is that it will allow you two to know each other on a personal level when many typical relationships can often be focused on the physical. If you really like him and think you can make the relationship meet both of your emotional needs, then there's no reason not to give it a shot.

Ani and Maggie

Dear Ani and Maggie,

Earlier this year I had a boyfriend that I really cared about. But after he asked me out, he told me he was not ready for a girlfriend. I was really hurt and tried to get over him, but I still haven't. How can I get over him once and for all?

Can't Get Over Him

Dear Over Him,

Think about the situation. Do you really want to be romantically involved with a guy so immature and indecisive that one minute he says he wants to date you and the next he says he's not ready? That's not fair to you, or anyone else he might pull the same trick on. It can obviously be difficult to move on from a situation like this, but

keeping in mind that you deserve better can help. In the meantime, try talking with new people and seeing if you can find someone who will treat you the right way and appreciate what you have to offer.

Ani and Maggie

Dear Ani and Maggie,

My boyfriend very recently stopped calling me. I don't have many other friends besides him, and it made me very worried. I went over to his brother's house (where he lived) and found his cell phone, next to his wallet and keys. This isn't unusual, as he often leaves them at the house when he goes out. What really worried me was the fact that his DnD dice set

and his magic deck were there too, which he never leaves behind. I have a sneaking suspicion that he has been kidnapped. But by whom? Nobody has a vendetta against him. There's nobody that hates me enough to go after him. Where is he?

Lost Without Him

Dear Lost,

First, ask the brother if he knows where your boyfriend is. If not, call the police immediately and report him missing. Be sure to give a detailed description of him and provide a photo if possible. The sooner you let the authorities know, the sooner they can find the kidnapper! Ani and Maggie