

## Videos 'Less Than Zero' and 'Do The Right Thing', refreshing

by Robert A. Hibberd  
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I rented a couple of videos this weekend. I have to admit, I find renting videos mostly as cheap entertainment. But this weekend was different. I rented *Less Than Zero* and *Do The Right Thing*.

I wanted to rent *Less Than Zero* because it's based on a novel by Bret Easton Ellis. Ellis caused massive controversy in the literary community a couple of years ago when his book *American Psycho* was released. I read *American Psycho* and I liked it so I wanted to see how *Less Than Zero* was and I finally got around to renting it.

The main character Julian (Robert Downey Jr.), has grown up in Beverly Hills with the ideal that wealth produces self-esteem. Julian lands himself in trouble when his record company collapses. Julian feels like a failure, attempts several times to keep the company afloat and ends up strung out on cocaine and \$50,000 in debt to a dealer.

Julian's friends Blair (Jami Gertz) and Clay (Andrew Mc-

Carthy) come to his rescue just as he is about at his lowest point. Julian is turning tricks and devastatingly addicted to crack. Clay finds Julian in a hotel room performing sexual favors to a strange man in order to pay off his debt to the cocaine dealer.

In a valiant attempt to rescue his boyfriend and his then and now girlfriend, Clay heads back to his college community with Blair and Julian. But Julian won't make it, he's way too strung out on coke and dies in the back of Clay's old red convertible Corvette.

This movie was fascinating. Why didn't Julian just run away from all the bullshit of Beverly Hills? It was because his soul was embroidered into the belief that wealth is life, and life is wealth. It was ironic that Julian died just as they left the outskirts of town. *Less Than Zero* is a fascinating look into addiction, self-loathing and money.

*Do The Right Thing* was everything done by Spike Lee. Lee has been in the public eye big-time lately. Lee received

much media attention with his latest release *Malcolm X*. I like the *Malcolm X* stuff, but I prefer Lee's earlier stuff like *She's Gotta Have It*. I rented *Do The Right Thing* because I wanted to be refreshed by Lee's earlier art.

*Do The Right Thing* takes place in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn. Within the parameters of this residential area, Lee explores the interpersonal relationships between Italians, blacks, Hispanics and Koreans.

It's the hottest day of the year in this town, tension starts to emerge as Buggin' Out (Canclio Espisito) attempts to organize a boycott against Sal (Danny Aiello) and his famous pizzeria because he refuses to "put some brothers on the wall."

Sal has owned and managed his small pizzeria in this predominantly black town. Although not really a racist, Sal prefers only honoring his heritage (Italian). Sal tells Buggin' Out "If you want brothers on the wall then get yourself your own pizzeria and put brothers on the wall."

Buggin' Out's boycott seemed

only mild at first. Most residents of the community refused to help Buggin' Out and told him he was crazy. Then he sought the advice of Radio Raheem (Bill Milner).

Radio Raheem was a character filled with the ideal that brotherhood, respect and honor are the name of the game. Radio Raheem finds his self-defining elements in his radio. Radio Raheem's oversized boom box is known throughout the community and is respected as a force to be reckoned with.

Buggin' Out convinces Radio Raheem to come with him to the pizzeria and protest the fact that there are no black people hanging on Sal's wall of fame. He and Raheem burst into Sal's. Raheem has his stereo fully cranked and Buggin' Out is shouting at Sal to "put some brothers on the wall."

Sal reacts by smashing Radio Raheem's portable stereo. A major fight ensues between Radio Raheem and Sal. The fight bursts out onto the street, causing

the police to arrive. While being restrained by white police officers, Radio Raheem gets choked to death with a club. The community is stunned at first, then erupts into a fury when Mookie (Spike Lee) throws a garbage can through his employer's (Sal) window. The action causes the community to trash Sal's establishment.

The ending of the film leaves the viewer with a morbid sense of justice. I was glad Sal's Famous Pizzeria got trashed because I felt that it was equal redemption for the loss of Radio Raheem's radio. However, the destruction of the restaurant does in no way, make up for the loss of Radio Raheem. But Lee teased me with the idea that I might accept a burned building for the loss of a life. Lee portrays society as having a sick and twisted sense of justice.

If you are headed to a video store anytime in the near future, I would like to recommend that you rent *Less Than Zero* and *Do The Right Thing*. I believe that you will enjoy these movies. They are tragedies, to say the least. But they contain humor and unrestricted insight into people which you will find refreshing. These are movies with cinematography and direction that will take the edge off the powerful messages.

## 'Medicine Man' can cure the doldrums

by Brandy Swan  
Contributing Writer

This powerful drama stars Sean Connery and Lorraine Bracco as two scientists trying to recover the cure for cancer. Connery is a isolated scientist who discovered the cure for cancer, and then lost it. Actually, he didn't know how he did it in the first place and can't reproduce one element. He sends away for some more modernized equipment from his sponsor, and gets Bracco.

Both actors do extremely well in this film. Connery gives his usual commanding performance

as Cambell, while Bracco gets a leg up in her career as "Bronx."

Some people have called this film boring. It is true that it is a little slow in the beginning, but it gets extremely interesting toward the end.

If you like "The National Geographic," you're sure to love this film. There are plenty of beautiful background shots of the Brazilian rainforests, not to mention the natives and how they live.

This movie is one of my favorites and I recommend it highly to all viewers.

## 'Buffy' slays them in the aisles

by Brandy Swan  
Contributing Writer

Yes, it's yet another valley tale. Kristy Swanson is Buffy, a cheerleader with no thought except what she's going to wear the next day. That is, until Donald Sutherland shows up in her life to tell her that she is "The Vampire Slayer" that is going to save the world.

Buffy, a typical blonde airhead, listens to Sutherland and when he talks about dreams she had, she believes him. Like a fool, she agrees to go to the graveyard with a strange man.

At the cemetery, Sutherland tells her to sit at the foot of a grave and watch the one in front of her, as it is the grave of a man who should rise from the dead that night. Sure enough, an undead creature rises, but little does Buffy know, the grave she's sit-

ting by holds another. A woman rises from behind her, and things get pretty hairy until Sutherland tosses her a stake.

Thus begins Buffy's training. She works out like crazy and even goes on little forays to hone her skill. It is on one such outing that she saves Luke Perry from Paul Reubens. Pike (Perry) joins forces with Buffy.

All comes to head at the school dance and Buffy must face the head vampire, Rutger Hauer.

The cast gives wonderful performances, even Paul Reubens. Although, if I knew Pee-Wee Herman was going to be stalking me, it would be just too weird.

This movie may sound dumb, or even look dumb from the previews, but it's not. I recommended it as a movie where you don't have to think to understand it. It's a must see.



Photo by Anjanette Booth

CCC student Maria Ramirez lives it up at Ski Ball 2. Students from universities and colleges in Oregon spent the night skiing and dancing to top-40 and hip-hop at Mount Hood Meadows on Friday.