'Perfect Score' false advertising

INTERNET PHOTO

Poor writing doesn't help the cast of 'A Perfect Score.'

Jadon Triplett
The Clackamas Print

Paramount Pictures' "The Perfect Score" is, unfortunately, just another teen movie, unworthy of an $8 ticket.

Coincidentally, actor Chris Evans, who plays the ringleader of the group of students conspiring to steal the answers to the SAT in this film, actually starred in "Not Another Teen Movie."

In a film where six high school students from various backgrounds decide to get together to steal the SAT's, for various reasons, each actor plays a cookie-cutter stereotype.

Matty is the average white guy with nothing going for him (Brian Greenberg); Anna is the smart girl who's scared of tests (Erika Christensen); Desmond (Portland Trail Blazer Darius Miles) is the frustrated black athlete who is convinced the SAT's are racist; Kyle is the idealistic ringleader (Evans); Francesca is the sexy rich babe whose daddy doesn't understand (Scarlett Johansson); and our comic relief is Roy, the Asian electronic-genius and stoner narrator (Leonardo Nam.)

The problem with this film isn't with the actors in it; there was little they could do to make the film better. They did well with what they were given, but that is all I can really say to credit their work. Scarlett Johansson was able to make the movie a little sexier, but for those who have already seen "Lost in Translation," it's hard to watch this movie and be particularly overwhelmed.

This film is so plastic that it almost borders on self-parody, with lines that are supposed to be deep and introspective but only turn out to be pathetically stupid.

One line that comes to mind is near the beginning of the movie, when Anna recalls the SAT question about the train leaving the station at midnight with a man and a woman with different destinations. Anna says when she thinks of the question, she can't figure out why any woman would even be on a train at midnight, then freezes and can't finish the test. Basically, she can't finish the test because she's worried about what will happen to a fictional character. That's clever, right? No, not really.

At the end of the film, there is a slight but unsurprising plot twist in which the six SAT "thieves" decide to do the right thing and everyone leaves feeling happy and satisfied. This is complete with an anti-drug message, leaving this cookie-cutter, MTV-produced movie with a cookie-cutter ending.

The irony, is that all but the last five minutes of the film is spent glorifying drugs, stealing and other tomfoolery, but the conclusion says this is all a horrible idea.

This is a very MTV ending, because MTV spends their time and money airing public service announcements about the risks of drugs, racial stereotypes, sexual promiscuity and violence, then turns around and airs music videos abundant with lyrics and images of these same topics.

Feeling nostalgic for a good teen movie? Go spend two bucks to rent "The Breakfast Club," instead of wasting eight to see this yawn-inducing flick full of nothing but shiny objects and hot air.

'Painted Bird' a life-changing read

Faye Dodds
The Clackamas Print

To extend not imaginations, but knowledge of true human nature, I urge one and all to read "The Painted Bird" by Jerzy Kosinski.

This autobiography, though just a couple hundred pages long, provoked thoughts in me that I am sure many people will not experience in their entire lives. In less than ten hours—literally—I became a different person with different values, all because of this book.

By page three, I became six-year-old Jerzy, fighting for life in war-torn eastern Europe. Orphaned by his parents, Jerzy's life was that of a young Jewish boy attempting to not only live, but grow and blossom during World War II. In an impossible journey, Jerzy proves his will to live in this constant battle of extreme racism.

His first memories in life consisted of the inconceivable capacity of evil he unknowingly carries in this superstitious culture. Simply, his visible presence in a village sends peasants into a frenzy. People run screaming, crossing themselves; they unleash vicious dogs to tear him apart and on countless occasions, beat him nearly lifeless.

And I was worried about being late to an appointment yesterday.

Jerzy once witnesses a snake wriggling out of its skin in a garden and often in the story, wishes he could undertake the renewal of life (**continued on next page**)

Monday night more fun than dancing on tacks

Jeff Sorensen
The Clackamas Print

Let's face it; Monday is the day we must put an end to our weekly holiday and drag our feet back to the classroom and begin anew.

College students have far too much "Monday Night" on their hands, and have been forced to find new forms of civil, law-abiding entertainment. One such place that allows students to get their sillies out is Cue's Billiards on the backside of a bingo hall on the corner of SE Stark and 162nd St.

Hidden behind that pantheon of elderly delight, Cue's is a place where many young people of all ages can go to relax, hang out and maybe even play some pool at a relatively low cost. Rates for one of their professionally refurbished tournament-tables start as low as $5 an hour, or $8 an hour if you decide to bring a friend. Basically, the bigger the posse, the cheaper it gets. But the fun doesn't stop there.

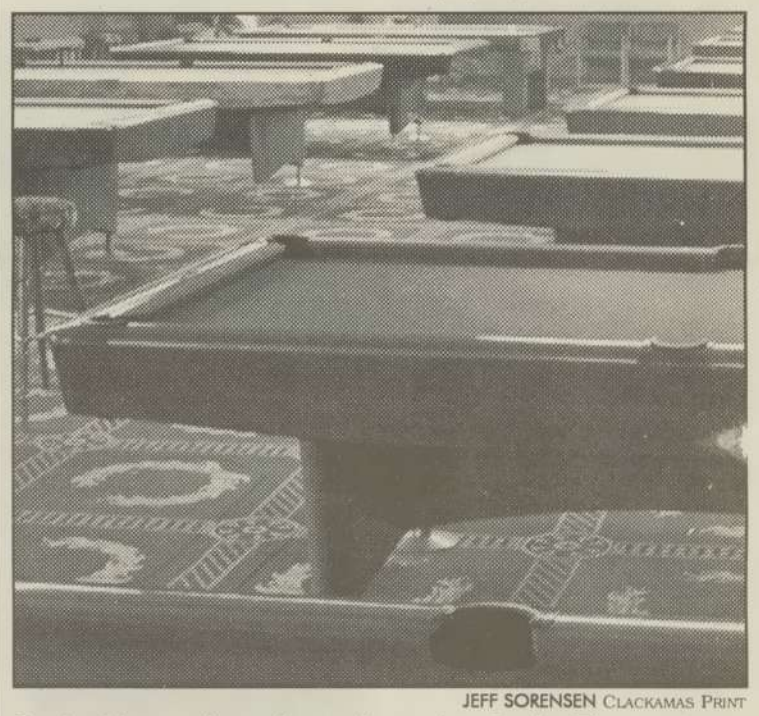
Over in the corner sits a very modern jukebox wired to a very reasonable sound system that resonates throughout the room. The jukebox itself has a wide variety of music, but for those who can't find anything they like the jukebox itself is wired to a fast-speed Internet connection, allowing downloads from thousands of selections and even entire albums (for the right price).

For the more competitive billiard player, Cue's offers a large selection of both eight and nine foot tables, as well as "3-rail" billiards and "Snooker" tables. In addition, if the racks of free rental cues lining the walls feel inadequate, they'll hand over a professional cue for as little as $4.

For those less inclined for an evening of billiards, Cue's offers other options including foosball, pinball and arcade games.

True to traditional pool hall "atmosphere," smoking is allowed in the main room, and customers can enjoy a wide variety of food and beverages on any of the tables and bar stools spread around the room. If the smoke becomes too much to handle, fear not, for Cue's also offers a smoke-free room with a variety of tables and an old fashioned Wurlitzer Jukebox playing all the right tunes to tickle the eardrums. Not only that, Cue's is open 24/7, which means they're always an option for early morning high jinx.

Fun on a Monday can be hard to come by, so it's nice to have some options. Cue's definitely has the options covered with all the various games and activities they offer on a regular basis, and whether you're flying solo or invoking full use of the buddy system, it's nice to know there's at least one place where something's always going on.



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Pool tables such as these abound at Cue's. They even have chalk and those hand powder volcano things.

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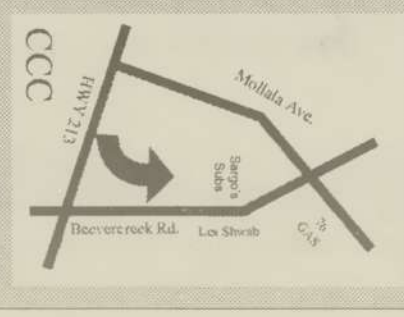

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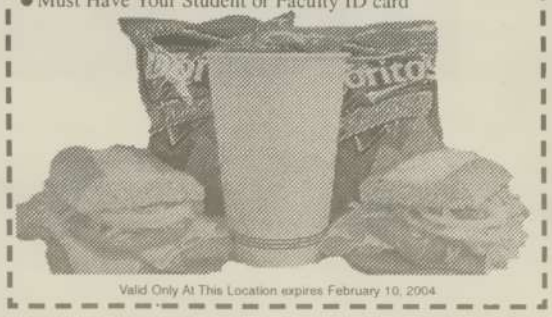

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