

# ENTERTAINMENT

## BEYOND THE GRAVE "GHOST" AND "FLATLINERS" CINEMA REPORT CARD

By David Parrish  
Staff Writer

I first came up with the concept for the Cinema Report Card at another school and the purpose of it is to inform you of my opinions of the movies that are playing nearby. Right off the bat, I'd like to say that I am not trying to force my opinions on you as a law because you can see whatever you want. After all, it is your money.

With that out of the way, let me give you a brief rundown of how I rate the movie. Given the collegiate environment we are all in, the most obvious system to use is the letter grade. For example:

A+: Outstanding-both in level of entertainment and technique.

A-/B+: Excellent-with a few minor flaws.

B: Good-usually entertaining with some major flaws

B-/C+: O.K.-you know, not bad but not great either

C: Average-just sort of there

C-/D+: Below Average-not too bad but teetering on the edge

D/D-: The "Lame Zone"-run and hide

The Coveted F: Real Bad- you want to walk out but you feel guilty because you spent \$6 on it already.

Got it? Good, let's move on to new stuff by asking the question, "What really happens to us after we die?" Two movies out now explore some of the possibilities, "Ghost" and "Flatliners".

"Ghost" is so many good things, that it's hard to know where to start. It's a romantic/comedy/thriller/fantasy/sleeper hit that's also a comeback movie for three main stars, Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore, and Whoopi Goldberg.

The story follows the upwardly-mobile Sam Wheat (Swayze) who accidentally discovers a money scam at work. This turns out to be a bad career move because he ends up dying over it. In turn, this leaves his adoring girlfriend Molly (Moore) in hopeless despair AND in danger. Sam decides to hold off his march through the pearly gates to try and help Molly and hopefully contact her one last time.

But being a ghost ain't easy. So, he enlists the help of Oda Mae Brown

(Goldberg), a phony psychic who ends up being Sam's liaison with Molly. But Oda Mae alone isn't enough so he takes "ghost lessons" from a crazy spirit who rides the subways (the sadly under-used Vincent Schiavelli).

Somehow, "Ghost" manages to pull all of its elements together into one entertaining picture. The performances were touching and strong throughout with a special tip of the hat going out to Whoopi Goldberg in her funniest form yet onscreen and her best work since "The Color Purple".

On the technical side, one can't overlook the outstanding special effects. Three separate effects teams were used well. I was convinced by the movie's visuals from start to finish.

If there is a weakness in this movie, it has to be the overuse of violence. Where is it written that Patrick Swayze has to beat up people in every movie he's in?

But after a lot of chasing around, the ending comes in and it is very touching. Being a hopeless romantic myself, I found myself getting misty eyed and left

the theatre wholly satisfied.

"Ghost" is a movie that will make you believe in love and life, as well as haunt your heart for a long time afterwards. FINAL GRADE: A-

On the other side of the dimension, when five brilliant Chicago med-students explore the afterlife by killing and then reviving each other, they get much more than they bargain for in "Flatliners".

The movie features some of Hollywood's hottest young talents in Keifer Sutherland who plays Nelson, the mad doctor who comes up with the bizarre and macabre idea, and Julia Roberts whose character, Rachel is fascinated by what awaits us in the "great beyond". Rounding out the group is a resurgent Kevin Bacon as the un-believer Dave, Oliver Platt as the willy-nilly Randy Steckle, and Alec's little brother and spitting image, William Baldwin as the womanizing Joe.

In their separate journeys beyond, they discover that their past sins have a funny way of catching up to them and that

repentance is the key to salvation. It's an interesting vision and it's accentuated by the stunning visual style created through the director, Joel Schumacher. Like his previous film, "Lost Boys", the style is slick, otherworldly, and effective.

Unfortunately, this style is present throughout the film, not just in the post-mortem sequences. And that makes for a very "blah" environment to play off due to overkill. I hate to use the term "style over substance" but the toe tag fits here.

Another misplay is the "happy" ending. It would have been much more interesting if the last "flatliner" hadn't come back and the others had to deal with the circumstances. But the powers-that-be in Hollywood obviously think that we, the paying audience can't handle anything intense. What a pity

Overall, this movie is nice to look at and you might learn a lesson from it like, "Don't try this at home kids". But eventually you won't get a pulse and even CPR won't be able to help "Flatliners".

FINAL GRADE: B-

### GREATER TUNA: BACK FOR AN ENCORE PRESENTATION

By Janice Lochansky  
Staff Writer

Picture this, a play that calls for twenty roles and only two actors to play these roles. Sound impossible? If it does then you must see this play for yourself. The play is called Greater Tuna and it is directed by James C. Palmer. It focuses on a small town that goes by the name Tuna, Texas. The name Tuna, is not the only bizarre thing about this town. The people and animals who live in the town, are also rather unique. The play introduces twenty characters, including one dog. It features two days in the life of each character, presented in a humorous fashion. One of the best aspects of this play is that each character has his own kind of special personality and occupation that makes the town what it is.

Another enjoyable aspect of this play is the talent of the two and only actors in the play, who are Joseph R. McFate and Lee A. Barrett. McFate is on the theatre staff at Cortland College and was also seen in "She Stoops to Conquer". Among acting, McFate also designs costumes. Lee Barrett is a junior at Cortland College and has been in many plays. One of his most prominent roles was his role in "Biloxi Blues".

Since this play was performed in July and brought back by popular demand. I highly recommend that this will prove to be an enjoyable play for all students. There will be performances, on September 7 & 8 at eight p.m. in the Main Theatre at the Dowd Fine Arts Center. Tickets are three dollars each and may be purchased at the door. There are no reservations.

### SONYA'S STARCAST

By Sonya Leach  
Staff Writer

1 - Aries So, you think he's good looking? and you think she's fine? I guarantee you in about three months, you'll be wondering if you were blind.

2 - Taurus Lot's of money and plenty of meal points. Don't get too carried away hon. We've got four more months until we blow this joint.

3 - Gemini Go jogging, join aerobics, lift some weights! exercise, exercise, lose some weight. Procrastination will only result in future disgrace as you fail to hide the inches that have accumulated around your waste.

4 - Cancer No mama, no papa, no brothers or sisters? Thank God you said? Come on, call your family, they're concerned and they miss ya!

5 - Leo Pepped, psyched ready for school? If not do something and quick or else you'll end up spending a whole semester singing the blues.

6 - Virgo The work forward is a special word to keep in thought this week. It signifies a new beginning, accomplishments and numerous possibilities.

7 - Libra Do you have lot's to do? Are you having loads of fun? In the midst of all that's going on, take control of your leisure time because the school work will still be due and Monday will surely come.

8 - Scorpio It's a new beginning with an unforeseeable end. Be especially nice to your buddies, you can be sure you'll need to lean on them before this semester has come to it's end.

9 - Sagittarius Laugh a little, sigh a little, shed a tear or two. You need to openly express your feelings because when all hope seems to be lost at least your sanity will be with you.

10 - Capricorn Dwell on this, "God never gives you a dream without giving you the strength to carry it out." Arsenio Hall

11 - Aquarius Open up you bolted heart and actively express some appreciation, to someone who has tried earnestly to get you to pay attention.

12 Pisces One girl, two girls, three girls, four? Contain yourself Mister! Your headed straight to the doctors office for soem information on parnthood, STD, Hospitalization and more.

\* Gemini's

It's time for you to focus on responsibility in every aspect of the word. Compatibility may also entail security. Others may be overwhelmed and perhaps even anxious to hear about the adventures you have encountered in your life time.

### You Know You're Back at Cortland When...

Good Luck!

By Lizz Aviles  
Co-Entertainment Editor

evision are 4 and 7

-you walk into a small cubicle that is supposed to be your room

-you wake upon a bed that feels like lumpy oatmeal

-you move in and your roommate(s) have left you with the top bunk

-your dinner consists of murderburgers, mushy fries, and grilled cheese

-you promise to keep in touch with friends you know you will never write to

-the person you call your roommate wakes up every morning at 6:00 and goes to bed every night at 10:00

-the only stations you get on your tel-

-your phone bill exceeds \$200 because you're constantly calling your boyfriend or girlfriend at home

-your neighbors play music you don't like

-you spend \$200-\$300 on books you'll most likely never read again

-the tan you've worked on all summer suddenly fades due to the cold Cortland weather

-you have to dial twenty numbers just to make a phone call

-the only phrase in your vocabulary for the first week is "Where are you living?"

### BOTH SIDES

Dear Joe & Leanne,

I saw a guy for two months this summer and we got pretty close. We had a lot of great times together and I think if I was always with him, maybe things would have worked out. However, I'm here and he's home. Now that I'm back in Cortland, I need to spend my time concentrating on my school work. But he calls me everyday and gets angry when I don't return his calls. I don't want to hurt him, but I really need my space. Am I being selfish?

-Confused & Concerned

Dear C & C,

Leanne: It sounds like you have a typical problem that a lot of people experience when they go away to school. I think you should be honest with him. Let him know you need your space. You never know, maybe he'll be grateful for your honesty.

Joe: True. Tell him when you're home you want to be with him but when you're at school you need your time with your friends.

Leanne: That may work, but what if he says forget the whole thing?

Joe: Then it wasn't worth the time to begin with.

Leanne: Any relationship is worth the time. I still say honesty is your only choice.

Joe: There's other fish in the sea. You can find someone who is more understanding to your needs.

Leanne: Yeah, I guess that's true. You need to decide for yourself whether this guy is actually worth the effort.

We encourage anyone to write to us (anonymously if you like), with your questions or concerns referring to relationships and their associated problems. Any letters can be dropped off in our envelope on the door of the Press office.