

Movie mayhem

Chick flicks, love stories among those recommended for holiday viewing



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Christmas vacation is right around the corner. Many students will travel to the bowl game, and others will go skiing or visit relatives.

But if there are some of you out there that don't have much to do over the holidays, Blockbuster will probably become your second home.

So, to make the endless movie choices somewhat easier for you, I have chosen my top 10 movie picks of all time. I have to admit, some of my picks are chick flicks. But give 'em a chance anyway. You just might like them.

10. "Major League"

I'm not even much of a baseball fan, but this movie packs in the laughter, which I love. Wesley Snipes makes his debut into stardom in the film, and Charlie Sheen, Tom Berenger and Renee Russo round out

the lineup.

The sequels to the film don't compare to this one, probably because the others lack one thing that the original has plenty of - cussing. Foul language isn't usually attractive, but in this flick, it's hilarious.

For instance, it just wouldn't sound right if the third baseman had said to Sheen, "Strike this 'guy' out." The point was made much clearer when instead he said, "Strike this MF out." That line said it all.

9. "Grease"

There aren't many musicals made anymore. Most people my age probably think musicals are cheesy. But "Grease" is a must-see because it is a timeless classic.

It's the story of the good girl and the bad boy who fall for each other. There's lots of singing and dancing and great performances from John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. "Grease" is one musical you can't pass up.

8. "Top Gun"

"Top Gun" displays the common tale of a man who overcomes obstacles within himself to become a hero. It's not only an action movie but a love story to a certain extent. The film features a young Val Kilmer, and who could forget Tom Cruise? I know I can't.

Cruise even sings "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," but not well. This is a movie both men and women

can enjoy.

7. "Dirty Dancing"

There's a lot of dancing (dirty) but no singing. Jennifer Grey (known as Baby in the movie) fills in for Patrick Swayze's dance partner and falls in love with him.

The film takes place in the 1960s, so the soundtrack is spectacular. It's one of those feel-good movies that plays up to fantasy. Best of all, Swayze didn't need a double for his dancing.

6. "Back to the Future"

Most everyone has had the desire to travel through time. Michael J. Fox does just that in this 1985 classic. He travels back to 1955, and while he's there he dates his mom, befriends his dad and changes his life for the better.

This film also leads to two sequels, but the original is still the one most worth seeing. This is one of those movies you can see over and over and still enjoy. I used to have all the lines in the movie memorized.

5. "Good Will Hunting"

Written by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, this movie went on to win an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor (Robin Williams) and best original screenplay (Damon and Affleck).

The movie has Damon playing a genius who comes from the wrong side of the tracks. His best friend is played by Affleck, who's also Damon's best friend in real life.

The heart of the story is revealed with Damon's realization of letting go of his past and falling in love with a Harvard girl (Minnie Driver). Damon's performance is amazingly real, and his good looks are amazing as well.

4. "Ghost"

True love, loss and deceit are the themes of this tearjerker. Of course I adore love stories, but I like humorous stories, too. Whoopi Goldberg brings the humor into the film with her Oscar award-winning performance as a psychic.

This movie also brings a good feeling of faith in the afterlife. If you're looking for something spiritual, this is a great story.

3. "A Christmas Story"

This movie is fitting for the season. Made in the '80s but set in the '40s, this is a tale of a little boy's Christmas wish for a Red Rider BB gun. The boy, Ralphie, meets up with a couple bullies and even talks with Santa.

I like this movie more and more every time I see it. Beginning on Thanksgiving, "A Christmas Story" is shown almost daily on TBS or TNT. If you haven't seen this movie, you're missing out. It is a heartwarming story that reminds us of our childhood Christmas wishes. Watch it with your family.

2. "My Best Friend's Wedding"

We all want what we can't have.

Julia Roberts wants her best friend (Dermot Mulroney), whom she previously dated, back in this movie, but Cameron Diaz won't give him up without a fight. Roberts is sneaky, conniving and ruthless. Diaz is almost sickeningly sweet. But the show is stolen by the humor of Rupert Everett, who plays Roberts' gay friend.

This is one of my favorite movies because it doesn't end perfectly and happily, but instead more realistically.

1. "Pretty Woman"

OK, I guess a rich man falling in love with a hooker doesn't happen everyday, but the point of the movie is that "white knight in shining armor" fantasy could happen. All women have it for awhile, until they realize it's just a fantasy. (Just kidding, guys.)

This is my favorite movie because it is such a wonderful love story. Love conquers all, even people from such different worlds as portrayed by Gere and Roberts.

Well, that does it. My top 10 picks for the best flicks of all time. Well, since I've been alive anyway. I love these movies, though I've received much ridicule from men on my selections. (I guess they don't think that it's OK for guys to cry). But hey, it's my column. Na na na na na. Enjoy your break. Maybe I'll see you at Blockbuster.

Columnist for sale

'Campus celebrity' ready to stand in for big-timers on commercials



A.L. FORKNER is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

I'd like to make an announcement. I, A.L. Forkner, being of sound mind and body, hereby renounce any and all morals, standards and sense of self-worth.

In other words, I'm making myself available for endorsement deals.

Why shouldn't I? You can't turn on a TV anymore without seeing a couple of celebs playing basketball and discussing long-distance.

Every five minutes I have to listen to a comedian discussing viscosity and thermal breakdown. Granted, I've heard a comedian talk about it before, but I'm sure he was talking about his ex-wife.

Sure, I was a little saddened when I first saw my boyhood idols shamed into endorsements. The true American heroes of A.L.'s world pitifully hawking corporate wares.

We know the culprits. Denis (Quaker State) Leary, George (10-10-220) Carlin and Dennis (pick a product) Miller.

(Yes, those were my childhood heroes. Who'd you expect, Albert Schweitzer?)

Either way, it's gotten out of hand, and I want my piece of the pie.

After all, everyone else has belied up to the gravy trough. Why shouldn't I?

I'm willing to throw away years of strict, firm journalistic ethics here.

(No, that's not an oxymoron.) See, I know it takes sacrifice to be a shameless corporate shill.

That's a sacrifice that I am willing to make.

Come on, look around. Now is the

golden age of endorsements. With the NBA lockout continuing, there's a shortage of celebrity spokespeople.

Or haven't you noticed Samuel L. Jackson, Jackie Chan and Spike Lee doing the Nike commercials so coveted by NBA stars?

I'm telling you these deals are ripe for the picking.

Don't you think it's about time a journalist had a shoe named after them? I'm envisioning a nice wingtip called "The Fork."

Would that make me a sellout?

You're damn skippy it would.

But who cares? I'm for sale.

Throw me enough filthy lucre, and I'll pitch any product.

I'll hawk Depends like June Allyson. In fact, for the right amount, I'll piss myself right there on live TV.

Need a spokesman for Rogaine, but Karl Malone has regrown too much hair? I'll shave my head, face, armpits or chest. I'll even shave my ... Well, you get the idea. Let's leave it at that.

And I'll do it with a Gillette Mach 3 razor and Edge Pro Gel.

Want to sell long-distance? Dude, I'll play nude shuffleboard with the fat guy from the Urkel show while tap dancing and singing

"10-10-5769/32+65% + area code."

I know, the big question is why should y'all hire me?

Why not? I'm a regular campus celebrity. I'd make a hell of a pitchman for any interested companies.

(Psychiatrist's note: Mr. Forkner suffers from delusions of grandeur and distortions of reality. This explains his inflated ego and his odd attraction to hair metal. He's about as much of a celebrity as Pete. Who's Pete? Exactly my point.)

Take, for example, my daily rou-

tine. I get out of my Sealy Posturepedic bed feeling refreshed from a good night's sleep.

Then, I hop into my shower where, like NFL star Craig "Ironhead" Heyward, I cleanse myself with Zest Body Wash. (FYI: I don't think the tumor Heyward recently had removed from the base of his skull is in any way connected to his use of Zest.)

After driving my fuel-efficient yet remarkably responsive Dodge to school, I know exactly what they're talking about when they say the rules have changed.

But it's only after I get here that I can enjoy a cool, refreshing Pepsi, served up by the fast and friendly staff at the various U-Express locations

across campus. There's always a U-Express nearby for your thirst.

Or, if hunger is your problem, try a University Bakery muffin. A variety of rich, moist muffins await your hunger at all U-Express locations. Low-fat varieties are available for the health conscious.

See, I can do more than just hack out a column a week. But the way I figure it, while you're reading my column, why not read it to a child?

Like I always say, newspapers help children to be better informed and involved about society.

Hell, even my bad habits are ripe for lucrative endorsement deals.

I mean, how many references have I had to Old Chicago in my columns

this semester? I've actually lost count, but I think I'm due a free drink or two.

Besides, the beer tour is a great way to expand your taste buds and collect fabulous prizes.

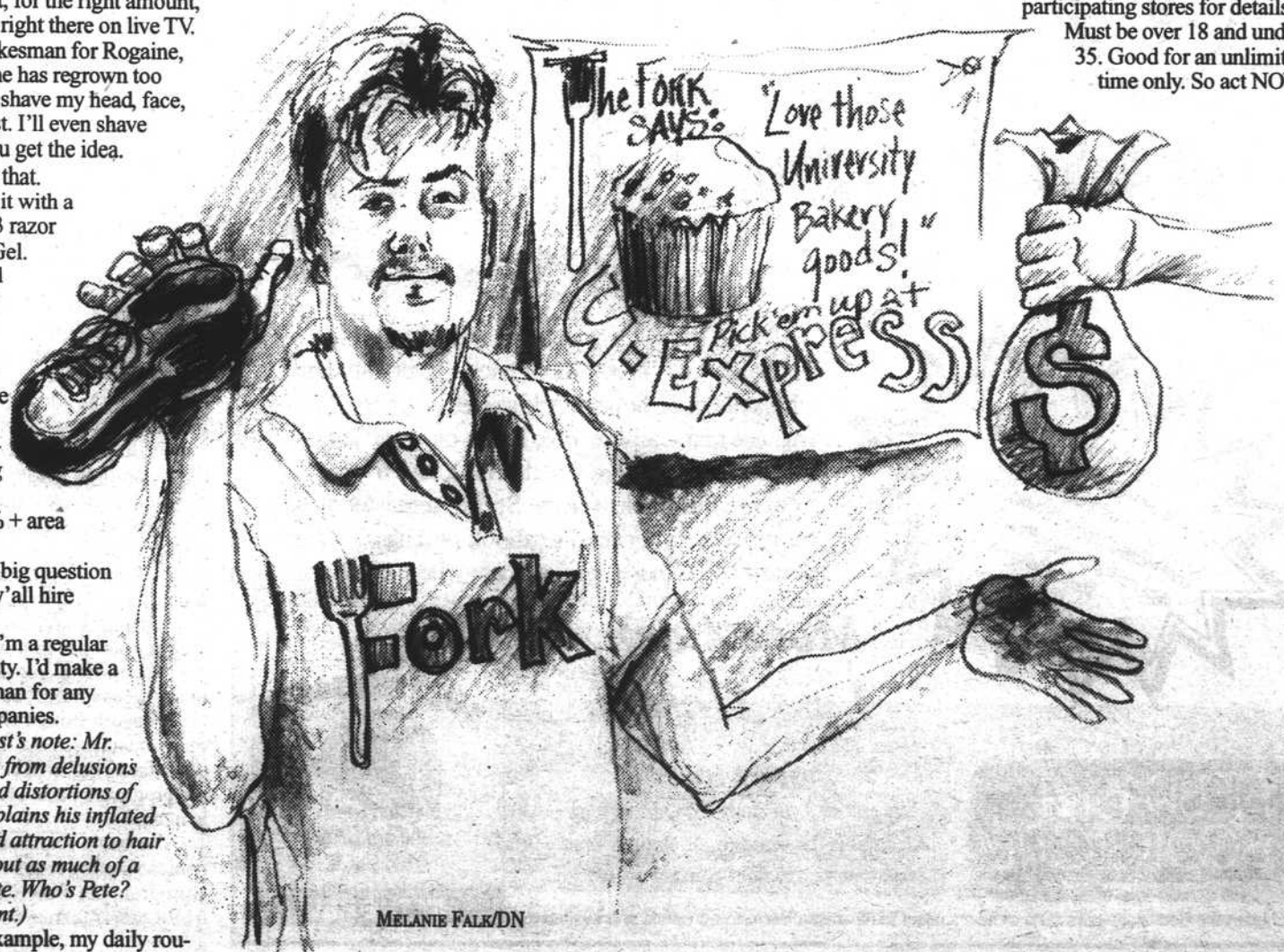
Friendly staff like John, Keenan and Ann Marie will make sure that your visit is enjoyable.

Once again, that's Old Chicago, Home of the World Beer Tour. The corner of 9th and P streets, downtown Lincoln.

Tell 'em The Fork sent ya.

A.L. Forkner is available for weddings, bar mitzvahs and personal appearances. Yes, add life to any social function with A.L. Forkner. Offer void in Florida, Kansas and New Mexico. (Sorry Tennessee!) See participating stores for details.

Must be over 18 and under 35. Good for an unlimited time only. So act NOW.



MELANIE FALK/DN