

# 'Chocolate' lives up to its name

CHOCOLATE from page 12

Most of the stories in "Better Than Chocolate" are about the search for love. Still, the film isn't a Harlequin romance. Very real problems are presented concerning homophobia. It is not a completely idealistic movie, which justifies the end.

My only criticism is that the movie is so funny that these scenes seem to stick out at times. Perhaps it is because they aren't expected, which is good. Or perhaps Wheeler's forte is comedy and not violence. Either way, these scenes are important for their social significance and contribute to

the quality of the film even though they may be tacked on.

The quality of the camera work matches that of the action. The framing of scenes is great, with new and interesting ways of shooting used. The film contains a wonderful use of background blur and foreground focus. Without giving anything away, this technique creates some of the most hilarious scenes in the movie.

But the use of light was the most striking element. Many films stick with one type of lighting, be it natural or artificial. "Better Than Chocolate" has both. The scenes shot in Maggie's apartment use beautiful natural light, which adds to the realistic quality of

the film. Scenes shot in the nightclub are highly original in their choreography and use of artificial lighting. One scene has three characters on stage wearing wigs, lipstick and boots that put off a neon glow under a black light. Scenes such as these are both aesthetically and artistically pleasing.

Jesse Helms is probably the only person that would dislike this film. But he should see it. It's not a film aimed solely at a gay and lesbian audience. The humor, drama, social significance and artistic qualities are a good experience for everyone.

So what's better than chocolate? Quite possibly, "Better Than Chocolate."

# 'Girl' almost perfect

GIRL from page 12

Boy Modeling School by Father Guido Sarducci that fully illustrates the overall lighthearted nature of "So...How's Your Girl?"

Despite having a few boring tracks, the album is still extremely fun and intriguing, both musically and lyrically.

And the best thing about "So...How's Your Girl?" is that it's cheaper than actually attending a Handsome Boy Modeling School but still just as flashy.

- Jason Hardy

# 'Best Man' takes No. 1 spot of box-office list

FILMS from page 12

movies, with universal themes about the "hesitancy of men to commit and that bachelor party thing," Dergarabedian said.

"The movie appeals more to mature audiences and has something for men and women," he added.

Scorsese's movie drew more of a niche crowd for those who like their movies gritty and a bit depressing. "Bringing Out the Dead" stars Nicolas Cage and Patricia Arquette in a manically paced drama about a New York City paramedic on the verge of a breakdown.

"It really plays strongly in urban markets - New York, Chicago, San

Francisco - and not as strong in the smaller markets," said Wayne Lewellen, distribution president for Paramount, which released "Bringing Out the Dead."

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