

'Venom' a poisonously bad horror movie

by Zach Browning
Staff Writer

Venom
Directed by Jim Gillespie
(Universal, 2005)

★

The new release *Venom* is the latest blunder to emerge from the ever popular horror/suspense genre.

The story takes place in the bayous of Louisiana, where an old voodoo priestess digs up a suitcase at a construction site that contains the tortured souls of several murderers and rapists that she "cured" over the years. The bad thing is that "curing" these people involved ritualistically allowing snakes to kill the evil inside with their venom. If the suitcase is opened, the evil inside will run rampant and bad things are sure to happen. All seems well until the suitcase is opened by a local mechanic.

The chaos that follows is all too typical for the genre and is painfully predictable. The mechanic dies and becomes a blood thirsty monster bent on killing every teenager in town. The ram-



page continues until the sole survivor is forced to fight the monster. Perhaps the most disturbing part of the whole movie is the very end where they imply a

sequel. Now that's scary. There are a few special effects and a few of gruesome murder scenes, but that doesn't

make up for the lack of plot variation and acting ability. The voodoo motif does add some spice to this otherwise mind-numbing shrine to youth slaughter.

I was particularly impressed that this film managed to get an R rating in a time when so many other films in the horror/suspense genre sit safely in the PG-13 range.

All in all, I was let down by the holes in the plot line and the lack of originality. This movie is mildly entertaining, but the experience could be definitely enhanced under the influence of alcohol. *Venom* is only worth renting if there is nothing else on the shelf. I give this flick a star and a half.

The Clarion Review Rating Guide

- ★★★★: Outstanding
- ★★★: Not great, but ok
- ★★: May do in a pinch
- ★: Don't bother

Matt's Take

Plagiarism a sign of extreme laziness, lack of ethics

by Matt Rutherford
Arts & Life Editor

Plagiarism is something that our campus has come to know well in the past few years, and even more just last semester.

To start, according to the University of Minnesota Glossary, "Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other stu-

dents or staff, information from the Internet, software programs and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material."

With that being said, plagiarism is nothing more than the complete and utter laziness that exudes itself through people's lack of originality and the lackadaisical attitude toward having respect for others' work.

My freshman year at Brevard College, one of my own papers was snatched from the computer lab and was used in an English 112 class. I was accused of copying my own work from an internet source. How-

ever, in the end, the culprit was captured and dealt with.

My point in all of this is, whether it is an idea, a piece of art, music, writing, etc, these works belong to people. What you do when you plagiarize, is stealing. And I have to say, it is absolutely horrifying to me to think that so many of our freshman students committed such an act.

I wonder if any of you know what this means? To me, it shows a level of maturity that is fit for grade school, the fact that you cannot think for yourself, you are ashamed of your inferior writing skills, and most of all you are not to be trusted. It

baffles me that any student would stoop this low.

There are numerous options to help you if you are having an issue with writing on this campus. Any of the professors of English here would be more than willing to sit and work through problems within your paper. Also, in the Academic Enrichment Center there is always a writing tutor on call to help with the same problems. There is simply no excuse for plagiarism. This needs to stop. Don't be lazy, think for yourself.