

# Hanks delivers with *That Thing You Do*

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Tom Hanks' *That Thing You Do!* is a typical movie of the feel-good, reminiscent genre (i.e. "Sleepless in Seattle," "It Could Happen To You"). Set in a small town of the '60's, it brings back memories of small-town values and stereotypes.

A fresh new band from Erie, PA decides to enter its original ballad, "That Thing You Do," written by the group leader, Jimmy (Johnathan Schaech), into a fraternity talent contest.

When the drummer breaks his arm unexpectedly, the band finds Guy (Tom Everett Scott) as a replacement. He speeds up the song on stage, surprising the other members of the band and turning

the ballad into a catchy rock tune, sending the band, managed by Mr. White (Tom Hanks), to stardom. While the Cinderella-story-line of *That Thing You Do!* is quite appealing, it has a very predictable and minor conflict. The development of the plot is very gradual, and quite tedious.

The cast, in contrast, is winning. The actors convey their emotions to the audience effectively. When the band hears its song on the radio for the first time, the audience feels the band's excitement. Scott, the drummer of *The Wonders*, bears a striking resemblance to Tom Hanks, which gives the impression of a strong bond between their characters. Faye (Liv Tyler),

Jimmy's girlfriend, portrays a naive, but loveable girl who is easy to relate to. While she is simpleminded, she has an immense emotional maturity which makes her very admirable in times of conflict. Schaech plays a

moody and serious lead-singer. His ideals are ambitious, but his morals are lacking. Hanks, the veteran actor, though in a minor role as the band's manager, gives an outstanding performance. His character transforms from an overbearing manager into an engaging, respectable father-figure.

While the cast is excellent, the dialogue is lacking. The actors do not say very much. They spend most of the movie singing their hit, "That Thing You Do," which leads to another downfall of the movie. "That Thing You Do" is a nifty little tune, but, when overplayed, becomes excessively annoying and repetitive.

Despite the flaws, the directing of the film is very impressive, especially considering it is Hanks' first attempt. Staging and camera angles throughout the movie are unique and effective, showing the creative side of Hanks. The opening camera angle of the movie, which shoots upward from the inside of a washing machine, sets the tone of the film and provides an interesting perspective.

Overall, *That Thing You Do!* is a feel-good movie that requires very little serious thought. Its simple nature is appealing and provides a nice afternoon stress reliever.

"... A feel-good movie that requires very little serious thought. Its simple nature is appealing..."

## *That Thing You Do*

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### RATING SYSTEM:

- \*\*\*\* Biscuit Day
- \*\*\* Premium Night
- \*\* Frito Pie
- \* Corned Beef Hash
- Chicken Liver And Onions

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## ETC Construction: Behind the fences



Photo by Lakhtdeep Deol

ETC completion is now slated for late Fall 1997. Students and staff have complained about the noise.

TIALE TAWAKE

Students know it is happening; some of them wake to the alarms of bulldozers backing up every morning. While most students will profess to hearing the sounds of construction, few actually see it happening or know how much progress has been made.

"It woke me up at 7:00 this morning," said junior Molly Kepley of 4th Bryan. "It's annoying for the first thing you hear in the morning to be a chainsaw, but it's encouraging to see cement blocks and walls."

Most students, however, do not get to see the progress made by construction work-

ers. In fact, the only students who see the construction on a regular basis are those who live on the side of Bryan facing the PEC. Students who don't live there glimpse it from between wire fencing and trailer houses.

Junior Farrah Herbert of 4th Bryan said, "I never see or hear anything going on down there so I wonder if they're even doing anything."

Many students who are awakened by the whine of machinery do not seem to mind. Speaking of her younger brother, senior Kim Logan of 4th Bryan said, "It wakes me up in the morning but I'm willing to sacrifice a few hours of sleep for my brother if he decides to come here [to go to school]." Logan said she

wants her brother to have the benefit of the ETC.

The hum of machinery, the occasional encounter outside the fence, of course, with a construction worker and the draining of the ETC area after Fran—these are a few events that hint to that mystery of all mysteries: construction at NCSSM.

## FALL EXAM SCHEDULE

Exams are listed in the order they are given. First exams of the day are between 9 and 11 a.m.; second exams of the day are between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 16  
Physics, Foreign Language

Tuesday, Dec. 17  
Electives, Chemistry

Wednesday, Dec. 18  
Social Science,  
Study Period

Thursday, Dec. 19  
English, Biology

Friday, Dec. 20  
Adv. Math/Math Elective,  
Mathematics