

# Ferrell anchors doofus flick

## MOVIE REVIEW "ANCHORMAN"

★★  
BY MICHAEL PUCCI  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

When I decided to review "Anchorman," I went with a good friend who shared an appreciation for fine cinema. After the film, we went to a Starbucks and discussed its merits over frappuccinos.

"The problem with critiquing a film like this is that the reasons it suffers are the very reasons people will fill theaters to see it," I said.

"Stop talking in critic-speak," she said, lighting a cigarette. "Did you like the movie or not?"

"Tough to say."  
"Why? Either you liked the film or you didn't."

"What can I say? I liked some of it, I didn't like other parts."

"Be specific, Mike. You always make these general comments and never back them up. Remember your Keller Williams review?"

"Well, that's just not true," I replied feebly.

"Just stop whining and tell me what you thought of the movie."

"No. You first."

"Boy, am I glad I went out with you tonight," she said, breaking off a sliver of the cookie.

Our evening was fast heading the way of "Anchorman": beginning with so much potential, riding along on the charisma of its leading man, descending into irredeemable absurdity by the second hour.

"I thought Will Ferrell did an admirable job playing someone so over-the-top," I offered.

"Ugh. I hated his character, and the ragtag group of chauvinists he hung out with."

"I think that was the idea."

"Yeah, you know everything, don't you?" Her attention was waning, lost to the ironies of kitsch-based cinema. She fished another cigarette out of her pocketbook.

"I don't think you're supposed to smoke in here, actually —"

"Let them throw me out. I'll fight them. And it'll still be more entertaining than that sorry-ass street fight in the movie."

"Come on, the cameos were great. Not as great as in 'Dodgeball,' maybe, but you gotta admit, Ben Stiller's 323rd film appearance this year was pretty funny."

She flicked ashes into her now-empty coffee mug.

"Look, what do you want me to say? Of course this film was one big lost opportunity. But I still laughed a little — and isn't that the idea?"

She grounded the remainder of her cigarette into the cookie plate and smiled ever-so-slightly.

"That's all I wanted, an opinion. Was that so hard?"

"You know, you haven't told me what you thought of it yet."

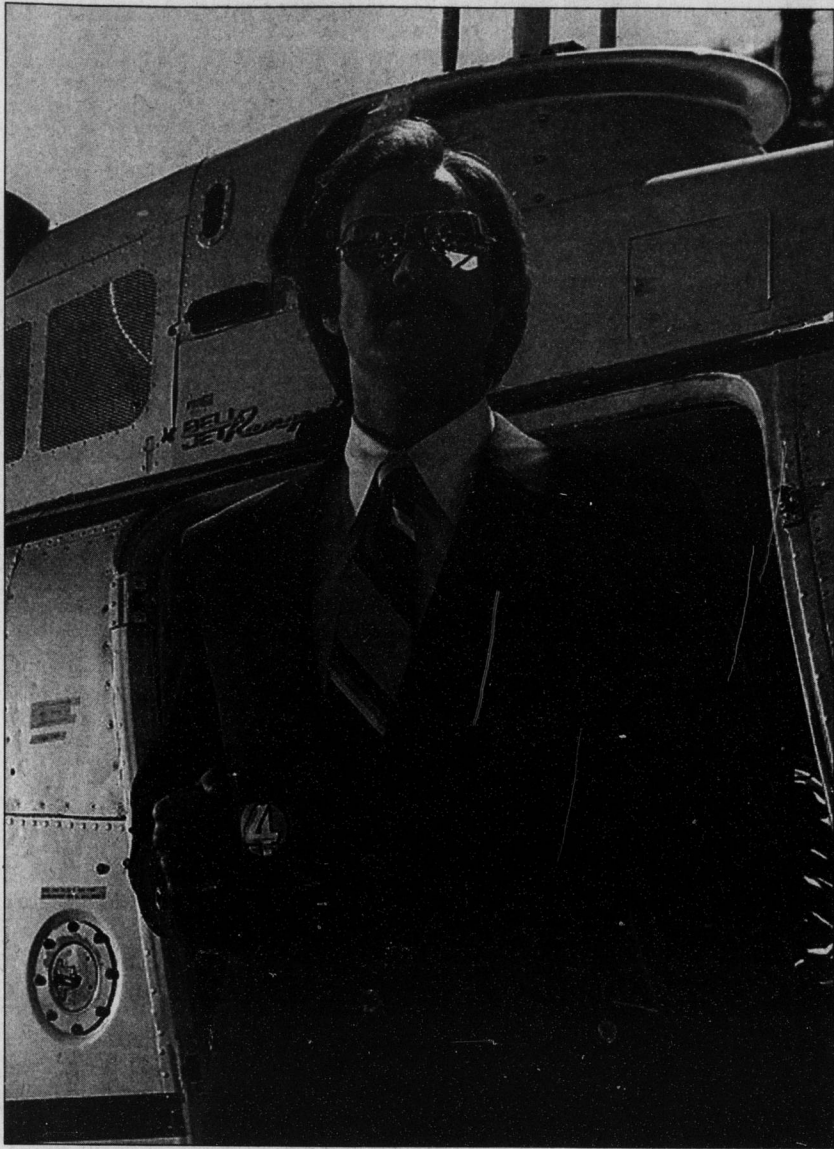
"It sucked, of course. A lot."

"Yeah," I said. "It sure did."

And so we go on, sails against the wind, beat back endlessly into time.

Or whatever.

Read the entire dialogue at [www.dailytarheel.com](http://www.dailytarheel.com).



Ron Burgundy: Man, or mammoth myth? Is he of the spherical 'do a legend, or merely a vermilion-clad peasant among titans? In the comedy "Anchorman," Will Ferrell delves into the mind of the jocular television journalist.

COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS PICTURES

# McGee's latest LP ultimately a doomed voyage

## BY KRISTEN WILLIAMS SENIOR WRITER

Maybe one needs to indulge in some mind-altering substances to truly enjoy Umphrey's McGee.

Like Phish, the band's talent is best heard live, where the meandering jams can fully be embraced in all their glory.

Whatever the reason, its latest album, *Anchor Drops*, coincidentally reflects its title accurately, but the puns will be sparse.

While some bands are able to mix and match their output, Umphrey's McGee's attempts at changing it up fall flat. Every song on the album sounds like Pearl Jam and Bela Fleck had a love child — and it's in pain.

The LP's opening track, aptly titled "Plunger," does seem equally as pleasant as unclogging those old pipes. The lead guitar's chord progression is catchy, but the mediocre lyrics and poor delivery make the Alice in Chains-meets-Bonnaroo track flop.

Following the sad lead of "Plunger" is the title track. Slower with more jam to it, the track doesn't represent the album as a whole and more reflects the group's jam band influences than themselves.

Then again, the band does offer its signature whiny lyrics, with nothing much to say, other than ironically preaching a message evocative of the album, "The less you have to offer/The less you have to lose." Even the air guitar-worthy solos and funky bongos are unable

## MUSIC REVIEW UMPHREY'S MCGEE ANCHOR DROPS

★★

to resuscitate the song.

The lilting voice of an uncredited songstress on "Bullhead City" seems like a welcome relief to the band's vocals, yet instead of being a refreshing break from the rest of the album, the track is ruined by stunted and clichéd lyrics.

The group isn't as gifted as its influences, primarily Frank Zappa and Phish, to be experimental and innovative with its meshing of grunge-era alternative rock guitar and neo-hippie percussion.

So rather than going *Anchor Drops*, go anchors away and see the band live, because then it might be better appreciated with a beer in one hand.

Contact the A&E Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

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