How to Lose a Guy: A Not-So-Romantic Comedy

By Lindsay Martin
Staff Writer

If the formula for love was to take a boy and a girl, give them contradictory bets that meant lying, deceiving the other person, and pretending to be who they’re not, then How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days is the solution we’ve all been looking for.

This unoriginal romantic comedy illustrates the worst possible beginning to a relationship, attempting to show its audience the humor in the ridiculous circumstances the plot follows. Andie Anderson, played by the ever-charming Kate Hudson, is trying to get her foot in the door at Composure magazine by writing entertaining "how-to" articles. (Her dream is to write about issues of poverty and politics, not that these issues are ever included in her daily conversations.) Her next assignment is given, and the bet begins: she must find a new boyfriend and then get him to dump her within ten days by acting out the clingy, needy stereotype which guys can’t stand.

Movie Review
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days
Showing in SC 106
Friday at 9 p.m.
Saturday at 8 p.m.
Weather Vane’s rating (out of four emus): ★★★☆☆

Luckily it doesn’t take this beautiful blonde long to find a love interest; unfortunately for her goals, he happens to have a bet of his own. Matthew McConaughey plays Benjamin, who is vying to win a new advertising campaign for a diamond company. As the laid-back sports fanatic, his associates doubt his capabilities in this "sensitive" area, so to prove his worth he vows that he can get a girl to fall in love with him in (you guessed it) ten days.

Put these two together and some very funny moments result; Andie scaries the female gender almost as much as the male with her strategies of decorating, invading on guys’ poker night, and pet names. Hudson carries off her humorous role well, going from one extreme to the next with her wild schemes. I did have to wonder how this nightmare of a girlfriend has come to be possible in today’s society; I hope for everyone’s sake that this behavior is really reality. Andie and Ben give you a glimpse of their chemistry before they transform into the most unlikely versions of themselves, making their underlying “love” unbelievable even to the hopeless romantic. The clichés and extreme predictability of this movie make it less than entertaining. There are not enough redeeming moments to make the movie worth seeing, but go if you must in order to have a few laughs, with the knowledge that nothing you see is an accurate portrayal of the dating world.

And don’t try to answer the question of how two people who act this way can truly fall in love (since they can’t), because that’s not what romantic comedies are for.

Ethics Experiment Surprises Some and Worries Others

Compiled by Michael J. Sharp

Most EMU students think Enron executives should be put in jail for stealing millions of dollars from investors, but their take on stealing “little things” is a bit different.

The EMU Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) team decided it would be interesting to get a perspective of how students at EMU involve ethics in their decisions and actions for Business Ethics Month in October.

They showed a movie, The Insider, which depicts a top executive of a tobacco company who becomes a “whistle blower” because he feels that letting the public know what products are being used in cigarettes is the ethical thing to do. Because he makes this ethics-based decision, his life is changed. His family is threatened, his marriage fails, he loses his home and cars, and he finally ends up teaching high school chemistry.

SIFE’s interest lay in studying whether watching this movie had an effect on students of EMU and the way they view ethics in decision-making.

On Oct. 26, SIFE distributed a pre-survey to 25 people that included five questions. One hundred percent of the participants responded that ethics in America needed to be improved. However, 100 percent also answered that they would not report other students to the professor if he or she had plagiarized a paper, and 95 percent said they considered taking an ink pen from work to be ethical.

After viewing the movie the exact same survey was distributed to see if the movie had had any effect. “We thought that people’s thoughts might be changed or their idea of ethics might be changed, but it really didn’t seem that way at all,” said SIFE president Caleb Stitely.

While the responses to the ink pen question dropped to from 95 to 85 percent saying it was ethical, 100 percent still said they would not report the incident of plagiarism to the teacher.

Does this information reflect the ethics of EMU? One observer said, “Probably people think ethics are important, but they think it’s personal, too. They’d feel good if an authority like a teacher caught a cheater, but they don’t think it’s their business to ‘tattle.’”

SIFE members, however, found it disappointing that in an institution where academic integrity is a crucial part of life, 100 percent of respondents would not report acts against this integrity, and a very high percentage of respondents thought stealing a pen was ethical. “While some may think of it as just an ink pen, items as small as pens have an effect on company budgets and may lead to other unethical actions and decisions,” said Stitely.

While he pointed out that the 25 people surveyed weren’t necessarily representative of the whole campus, he said, “The whole thing is kind of disturbing.”