

No Double-Dipping

By Reg P. Wydeven
February 1, 2015

My wife is a huge Oprah Winfrey fan. That's why several years ago I happily went to see 'Beloved,' a movie starring and produced by Winfrey. She portrays a former slave in post-Civil War Ohio who meets the spirit of her deceased daughter.

The movie was weird and creepy, but I was glad to go because my wife has gone to several Star Wars and Star Trek movies with me. Because she loves Oprah so much, I was surprised when halfway through the movie she wanted to leave. Of course, it was right after Oprah whipped up her dress and squatted on the ground to pee, so I guess it wasn't that surprising.

On the way out of the theater, we walked past the screen where 'The Waterboy' was playing. The flick stars Adam Sandler as a young Cajun man who goes from nerdy water boy for his local college football team to its star player. While it didn't win any Oscars, it was a funny movie that would have been worth the price of admission, unlike 'Beloved.'

Although it would have been tempting to walk in to check out Sandler's antics and creole accent, we bought tickets for 'Beloved' and not 'The Waterboy.' Instead we went to The Moasis to get pancakes and onion rings.

In addition to the great food, skipping the double feature was a wise decision. Lendsey and Delilah Harbin are probably wishing they had gone out for pancakes and onion rings.

Two years ago the couple went to see 'The Snitch,' an action film starring Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, in a Portage, Indiana, theater complex. After the movie ended, a couple of off-duty police officers working security noticed the Harbins leaving 'The Snitch' but never saw them exit the complex.

After searching several other movies, the officers found the couple watching 'Warm Bodies,' a teenage zombie love story. The officers escorted the couple outside where they confessed to sneaking in and even admitted they had done so several times previously.

Like many people, the Harbins viewed their actions as a harmless prank. Since movie ticket prices have hit \$17 a piece in some parts of the country, it's easy to rationalize seeing two movies for the exorbitant price of one, especially if that one features Oprah urinating.

The theater didn't see the prank as being harmless. Because theaters have to pay a ton of money to studios for the right to show movies, they like their customers to actually pay for tickets. Accordingly, the Harbins were charged with theft, a class D felony, and warned for trespassing. The couple was taken into custody and transported to the Porter County jail where they were later released.

While 'The Waterboy' was comical, it was definitely not worth going to jail over. That would have to be a Star Wars or Star Trek movie.