

TASTE OF TRUMAN

— with Grace Bueckendorf —

Tired of microwaveable pizzas and boxes of mac and cheese? Do you wish you could make delicious and easy home-cooked meals but don't know where to start? You're in luck. As a student, I understand how busy your schedule can be, and I'm here to serve as your guide to a better culinary experience. In Taste of Truman, I'll provide you with simple and low cost recipes that will taste great and impress.

Chocolate caramel bird's nest snack offers the best of sweet and salty worlds



Katey Stoetzel/Index

Preparation time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 20 seconds

Cool Time: 15 minutes

Ingredients:

- 20 oz. of Rolos
- 12 oz. festively colored M&M's
- 16 oz. pretzels

Cooking Instructions:

1. Place pretzels on a microwave-safe plate.
2. Place Rolos on the middle of each pretzel.
3. Microwave for 20 seconds.
4. Place M&M's face-up on Rolos and press down lightly.
5. Refrigerate treats for 15 minutes.

SAB shows controversial film "Dear White People"

BY COURTNEY KAUFFMAN
Staff Reporter

Straying from the usual blockbuster films, the Student Activities Board showed "Dear White People," a film that sparked controversy when it premiered at the Sundance Film Festival last year.

"Dear White People" follows the story of four African-American students attending an unnamed Ivy League university where controversy breaks out about a "black-face" party thrown by the Caucasian community and shows the students struggle to stand up for their own opinions about the event.

Freshman Laura Woods said she heard about the film through SAB and was interested in the plot and its divisive nature.

"I did like [the film], but I didn't like how it ended in a positive light, not that I wanted it to end in a depressing way," Woods said. "I think that it made it seem like the problem just went away. It didn't feel realistic [and] was way too fairytale for me."

Woods said one moment in the film that stood out to her was when Sam, the female minority lead, stood up for herself, since it demonstrated how oppressed people can stand up to voice their thoughts and push forward.

Woods said she thought she belonged to Sam's cause even though she is not affiliated with it in any way. She said it was interesting seeing the issue from a different perspective.

"I really liked how they portrayed different African-American characters in the movie and [how] they each wanted a different outcome for themselves," Woods said. "They all are, in some sense, coming from the same place but they are completely taking it different ways."

Woods said she thought the film's humor helped convey its message. She said she realized the reason why she would laugh at a moment in the film might be completely different from that of another audience member, and it put things in perspective for her. She said the controversial nature of the film stood out to her during those moments as well.

Woods said she didn't realize the film loosely was based on real events. The film showed photos from actual parties at other schools, she said, just like the party shown during the film's credits. Woods said seeing these photos made the film real to her.

Listening to others as they left the showing, Woods said she heard a lot of people saying they enjoyed it and were happy a divisive, race-central film could be shown at Truman State.

"We bring a film series every semester," said senior Anna Selle, SAB Comedians and Film Committee Chair. "Traditionally, we've brought a lot of blockbuster movies in the past — this year we've tried to mix it up and bring a few blockbusters and then a few smaller, more independent films."

Selle said she wasn't concerned about the controversial nature of the film. Students would have expressed their concerns beforehand if they had them, she said, since Truman has an active student body that tends to freely share feedback about campus events.

SAB previews all of its films and chooses its films with a consciousness of how they might impact the campus, how people might interact with them and the different responses people might have, Selle said. She said SAB wouldn't show a film it didn't think would be received moderately well or that it thought would upset or disturb students.

"It's good for us as an organization to bring entertainment that doesn't just entertain but also encourages a dialogue of some nature," Selle said. "I thought it was a good inclusion in our series to balance out some of the other pieces which were more entertainment. [This film allowed us] to serve the diverse needs and interests of the student body."

SAB previously has brought similar events to Truman, which did facilitate student dialogue about issues of race and discrimination, Selle said. This film in particular addresses issues which are

relevant to American society today, she said, which made it a great topic to start discussions.

Selle said the turnout for the showings was lower than normal, but she expected that because "Dear White People" is a lesser-known film and the showings were on a weekday.

Selle said she saw faces she had not seen at past film showings, and it was a good indicator that SAB is reaching parts of the student body it previously had not reached.

Although Selle will relinquish the committee chair position to another SAB member next semester, she said she hopes SAB continues to bring more lesser-known films to Truman when it can.

Junior Sarah Burns, SAB Film Series Chair, said she always had been a kind of movie buff, and being involved with the film series was a great way to share her love of movies with other Truman students.

Burns said she started researching different kinds of movies to bring to Truman as soon as she was given the position. She said she stumbled upon the Sundance Film Festival and The Spirit Awards which led her to "Dear White People."

Burns said she also heard students talking about the film. She said she knew it had not been shown in Kirksville and she said she thought that would make it significant to show at Truman.

"I felt the way the movie portrayed [any controversial elements] was in a way that a lot of people could accept it," Burns said. "I feel like it addresses issues in a way that a lot of people can sit and listen to it and see both sides. Since it was a satire it was supposed to be funny, but there are parts of it that you need to think about, that are real and make you realize this is happening."

Burns said she hopes everyone who saw the film enjoyed it and said SAB plans to continue to show films that address controversial issues in the same way "Dear White People" tackled the issues of race and equality.

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