Waterboy' quenches thirst for football fun

I laughed; so sue me. Adam Sandler's ambition to be the next millennium's Jerry Lewis has made him easy pickings in films like 'Billy Madison' and 'Happy Gilmore.' That won't change with 'The Waterboy.' But it will be harder, at least, to deny that the writer/actor is for real.

the write/ractor is for real.
Using his "Cajun Man" character from "Saturday Night Live" as a springboard, Sandler's big screen version is one sorrowful schnook. It worked for Lewis as "The Bellboy," "The Errand Boy" and "The Geisha Boy." Why not "The Waterboy"?

Bobby Boucher is a socially

inept, 31-year-old stuttering simpleton from the swamps of Louisiana. His mama (the wonderfully-loud Kathy Bates) has home-schooled him right there on the bayou, with only a toilet-drinking live-in mule as a classons: Happiness comes from the sun's rays, alligators are mean because they have so many tender and no toothbrush, and Mama herself invented electricity. Don't meas with Mama if you think otherwise.

Bobby lives to dispense 'high

otherwise.

Bobby lives to dispense "high quality H2O" to the local college football players, who rag him mercilessly. When our waterboy ("I'm a Water Distribution Engineer") is fired by the coach (coun-

try's Jerry Reed), he gets a similar job with Reed's rival, Coach Klein (Henry Winkler), whose Mud Dogs have amassed a 40-game losing streak.

game losing streak.

Bobby is put on the team when his imagination morphs the faces of opposing players into those of his tormentors - including Mama - and he becomes a lean, mean tackling machine. The lanky linebacker is a one man highlight film. He delivers such bone-crushing, breath-suching sacks that the team makes it into the Bourbey. Bowl, his chance for ultimate redemption covered by ESPN. That is, unless Mama finds out; she doesn't approve of Bobby "playin' no foose-ball."

All right, Sandler stiffens his lower lip and stays in one groove the whole film through. All right, almost all the big laughs stem from those sound-enhanced hits on the field. And all right, almost none of the many "Airplane" style quick-cut sight gags even approaches funny.

But there are an awful lot of young filmgoers who are going to find enough to like to make "The Waterboy" a big hit in this pre-holiday season.

Sandler's character, after all, is a lot more reachable here than in "The Wedding Singer," which has taken in \$120 million at the box office and video stores. He's a dope who wears his daddy's old leisure suits, but he's our dope.

Winkler's droopy-dog coach

Winkler's dropy-dog coach looke at life like it's a third down, and very, very long, and who hasn't been there? And Bates' awamp queen might be the one person rejected by The Jerry Springer Show.

"Erreat Cumm" it inc't had.

"Forrest Gump" it isn't, but when the stadium crowd roars "Wa-ter-boy, wa-ter-boy," you don't want to be the one staring at him across the line of scrim-

Thirst quencher: Shy, socially inept, Louisiana bayou

native Bobby Boucher (Adam Sandler, right), is a col-lege football team waterboy who after being fired from one team, is hired by the coach (Henry Winkler, left) of another team where he proves to be a waterboy with a talent for tackling.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Nov. 13

"AMERICAN HISTORY X"
Exclusively at the Main Art. Contemporary drama about a family torn apart by hate and racism. Stors Edward Norton.

"MEET JOE BLACK"

"I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS"

"THE CRUISE"
Bennett Miller's homemade, video Bennett Miller's nomemade, video-lensed documentary chronicles the life and times of an eccentric New York City tour guide.

Scheduled to open Friday, Nov. 20 "CELEBRIY"
A comedy written and directed by
Woody Alten set in New York with all-star cast including Kenneth Branagh,
Judy Davis, Leonardo DiCaprio, Melanie

Griffith, Winona Ryder. "ELIZABETH"

Exclusively at the Main Art. Historical drama that chronicles how a young queen overcame internal conspiracy, assossination attempts and foreign assumments are not sold in composition to emerge as one of Europe's most powerful monarchs during the 16th century. Stars Cote Bianchette, Geoffrey Rush, Joseph Flennes, Richard Attenborough.

"ENEMY OF THE STATE"

"ENEMY OF THE STATE"
Action drama from producer Jerry Brockheimer about how a chance encounter
with an old friend destreys one attorney's life when he is framed for murder.
Stars Will Smith, Gene Hockman, Jon
Voight, Scott Coan, Regina King.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, Nov. 25

Holiday comedy: Jonathan Taylor Thomas (right) stars as Jake Wilkinson, and Jessica Biel as his girlfriend Allie, in "I'll be Home for Christmas."

obsessed with the same woman, one obsessed with the same woman, one wants to marry her, the other to kill her. The trio's lives intertwine in unexpected ways that are orchestrated by the brothers' highly eccentric mother, Stars Drew Barrymare, Catherine O'Hara.

Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 11

WAKING NED DEVINE
A comedy fable about the true meaning of fortune. Someone in a small trish town wins a lottery and the towns peo-

Scheduled to open Friday, Dec. 18

"JACK FROST"
Fantosy adventure about a man who becomes a real father after returning to life as a cooler guy than he'd ever imagined possible beflow freeing to be precise, Stars Michael Keaton.

"YOU'VE GOT MAIL" A romantic comedy about two book store owners, rivals who accidentally fall in love in cyberspace with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

British band Candyskins plays on Backstage Pass



BACKSTAGE
PASS

BACKSTAGE
PASS

City that wellcomes diversity in the arts, and here at Backstage Pass we do the same.

The ability to take completely different styles of music, art and any other form of entertainment you could think paccomplished. At Backstage Pass, on Dotroit Public Television, we strive to bring you the viewers a little taste of averything, and I do mean everything. On this wook's show we will go from a Birtient pose loved pro bands. And they are stopping by Backstage Pass to give us a live demonstration of just how musically telented these five gyes are togother. It has been five years since their last U.S. release and their fans were definitely ready for another Candyskin fix.

their fans were definitely ready for another Candyskin fix.

■ 'The Candyskins are a band in the great tradition of British Pop. They are inventive, energetic and have their own unique world views that make their songs consistently interesting."

Gary Graff Backstage Pass

Q Magazine has praised the band's "driving pop-rock energy, tuneful choruses and sparkling melody." That was not the end of the media attention for this group. Vox commented, "List some chancer in a rowing boat pitching up in Calais and announcing he's discovered France, these Oxford types have loid a claim on Britpop."

This band has really stirred up a frenzy when it comes to praise, but I am not done yet. I spoke to segment host Gary Graff and he also had nothing but great things to say about the band. "The Candyskins are a band in the great tradition of British Pop. They are inventive, energetic and have their own unique world views that make their songs consistently interesting."

Pewabic tiles are not some-thing new to the Detroit area, probably because they were founded in Detroit in 1903 by Mary Chase and Perry Stratton. This was a major part of Detroit's Arta and Crafts move-ment between the 1800s and Detroits Arts and Crafter movement between the 1900s and 1910s. The goal of this movement was to produce handmade, practical works of art. And another major goal was to stress crafts-manship and uniqueness over a mass-produced object. Segment producer David Toorongian will take us all through a more indepth look at the Pewshie tiles on this week's Backstage Pass. All this and much more on this week's Backstage Pass on Detroit Public Television. Check your local listings for dates and times.