Subject: Blockbuster
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 19 Feb 2005 14:54:35 GMT
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So what do we think about the new Blockbuster no late fee scam? Keep the movie 8 days and the bill you for the full price. Two new small video places have opened by me recently; maybe this is the warning shot for the Big guy. Same ten movies every time you go in there; I let my membership lapse.

Subject: Re: When the question is late fees.....
Posted by BillEpstein on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 01:04:16 GMT
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.....the answer is Netflix.I pay $18 bucks a month and watch an average of 13 movies. They show up in my mailbox in their own return PPD mailer. Thousands of titles to choose from your PC. Who needs Blockbuster?
Netflix

Subject: Re: Blockbuster
Posted by lon on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 04:14:56 GMT
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Sucks to be you if you go past the deadline. I never use BB. There's local outfit called FamilyVideo with locations all over the area. FV has first-runs,recently viewed (older) for a buck and a selection of basic stockat 2 for dollar. They have selection of kids movies for free.Sailor Moon is in the kids section but I don't know why. You may want to check out your library to see what theyare doing with media. Sometimes there's a wait so if youhave to be Mr. Firstnighter (like the old radio show) thenyou'd have to stick to the stores. I never go anyplace but FV and they have a good steady clientelle. What's funny is that here in Joe McCarthy's hometown, this place also has an adult section in the backwhich is monitored but not seen by the general browsers inany offensive way. Something for everybody. And they haven'tbeen busted since they opened 10-15 years ago. I think they have20 locations. So it's cheap and, like the sign says, has something for the whole family. Bill says he gets stuff delivered. For me that would takethe fun out of it. I have no kids so seeing the running andhearing the screaming is fun for me.

Subject: Re: When the question is late fees.....
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 10:04:54 GMT

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I think Netflix is probably the reason why Blockbuster changed their business model. I was shocked to hear they did this, since the last I heard, Blockbuster made more money from late fees than from movie rentals returned before the deadline. I guess Netflix must have taken too much business. They knocked the block off Blockbuster.Here's another funny thing. Alona always called 'em "Blockbastards." That's just what her ears heard and what she tended to repeat. I guess she didn't pay atention to the sign; Even after I pointed out how funny that was and showed her the actual name, she still called them "Blockbastards." The name stuck.But I'm still too spur of the moment to sign up with Netflix. I do a lot of business with Blockbuster. But I always return the next night too, paranoid about the late fees. Hell, that's the reason I put a hot cam and stuff in the Olds. Gotta get those damn movies back on time.

Subject: Re: Late fees and the laughter (screams) of children
Posted by BillEpstein on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 10:49:19 GMT
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When American Express bought us (Shearson), they made a point of filling us with "inside information". One of the tidbits I carry around was/is that their #1 source of profit was the interest on the "float" of the Travellers Cheques. Everybody had $20 or $100 bucks of those cheques in their sock drawer. Over a billion dollars at any given time! No surprise about Block-bastards(!) revenue. And I love to hear the laughter of children in my store when it turns to shrieks of terror as I come upon them unawares while driving my forklift....

Subject: Re: Late fees and the laughter (screams) of children
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 11:19:22 GMT
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Subject: Re: When the question is late fees.....
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 13:10:18 GMT
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Block-Bastards; man that is too funny. I have to remmember that.

Subject: Re: Blockbuster
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 13:11:20 GMT
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Lon; did you see I love Huckabees?

Subject: Re: Blockbuster
Posted by lon on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 18:27:18 GMT
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I only read a little about it in Film Comment magazine. What's the news?

Subject: Re: Blockbuster
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 18:40:58 GMT
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Unwatchable. I assumed with the interesting cast it might work but; mish-mosh of ideas slapped together. It appeared to be a poor approximatoin of the Hudsucker Proxy/Putney Swope. Without the wit.Lot of half-baked budhistt philosophy applied to modern advertising and marketing culture. And the current infatuation with therapy.I would take a pass on it. Thought maybe you might have seen it.

Subject: Re: Blockbuster
Posted by lon on Sun, 20 Feb 2005 19:04:17 GMT
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There's a snow storm here, so today I'm a mouse potato. Your title references are interesting and well-noted. Ididn't think anybody remembereed Putney Swope by Robert DowneySr. I have always weanted to see his film "Pound". And Hudsucker is one of the Coen brothers bet films. Ithas musical adaptation written in big letters all over it, butthat never happened. I always thought Luiz Valdez' film"Zoot Suit" should be done on Broadway as well. Anyway, as much as I like Naomi Watts, the two films Iliked her in best were "Tank Girl" and "Mulholland Drive." Current 'content' films of note that I like to refer peopleto are things like "The Contender". And I've been revisitingDavid Cronenberg's stuff: I got the dvd version of "Videodrome"and just saw "Spider." As slow as Spider is, it's still worthseeing. It had that "Reflecting Skin" feel to it where we recognize the world we know but it's skewed to details that arenot at first apparent. "Bubba Ho Tep" had that feel as well.

Subject: Re: Late fees and the laughter (screams) of children
Posted by lon on Tue, 22 Feb 2005 18:18:23 GMT
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And of course you know the old joke about what WC Fields saidwhen asked how he liked children. Fields replied:"Par-boiled." For me it's different

Subject: Re: Late fees and the laughter (screams) of children
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 23 Feb 2005 12:44:41 GMT
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Actually what W.C. said when asked if he liked children was;"I do if the're properly cooked."