

# Cube vehicle improves on original comedy

By Kam Williams  
Sentinel-Voice

"Are We There Yet?" (2005) was less a road comedy than a shameless, 90-minute car commercial. Fortunately, the sequel doesn't revolve around an automobile.

In fact, nothing about this movie resembles the first, except for the presence of the same four principals in the cast.

Ice Cube is back as Nick Persons, and he's now married to Nia Long's character, Suzanne, who is pregnant and expecting twins.

He's also adopted her two kids, Lindsey (Aleisha Allen) and Kevin (Philip Bolden), the two misbehaving little monsters who'd previously made his life miserable.

This time, though, Suzanne and the children are given little to do besides



Ice Cube and Nia Long reprise their roles as a new family seeking to get its bearings, along with children Aleisha Allen, Philip Bolden and crafty John C. McGinley.

dropping their jaws in wide-eyed reaction shots.

For this flick features Nick's frustrations with their new country home and his strained relationship with

Chuck (John C. McGinley), the slippery realtor who talked him into buying the fixer-upper secretly in need of wholesale renovations.

The reason the storyline

has been totally overhauled is because it is actually a remake of "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House" (1948), a romp starring Cary Grant, Myrna Loy, Melvyn

Douglas and Louise Beavers. And while Ice Cube's acting has certainly improved with age, it is unfair to expect the affable gangsta' rapper to measure up favorably to the charismatic Grant in terms of charm and screen chemistry.

That being said, this picture is stolen by Mr. McGinley, a perennial second banana who makes the most of an opportunity to upstage his relatively wooden co-stars.

He plays a jack-of-all-trades who, soon after selling the property to the Persons, returns not only as a contractor, but also as the city inspector, a Lamaze counselor, an herbalist, a baby whisperer and a midwife.

It comes off looking as though director Steve Carr ("Next Friday") decided to employ McGinley in a variety of roles, either to save his studio some money or because he was well aware of the rubber-faced funnyman's ability to make people laugh. Regardless, it proves to be a smart move, since the insufferable Chuck is the most entertaining aspect of the production.

As the film unfolds, we

get a hint that these Black folks might have a hard time adjusting to nature after living in the inner city when Lindsey complains to her parents, "I can't believe you're making us move to the country. This is child abuse of the worst kind."

However, Nick is the only one who ends up overwhelmed by the relocation. He is never allowed a peaceful moment, being disturbed by the revengeful raccoon who calls him "sucker" and by equally rude encounters with deer, sturgeon and a hawk.

Still, it's Chuck who most infuriates Nick, at least until he belatedly learns of the tragic loss, which turned the once-adoring husband into a crooked widower.

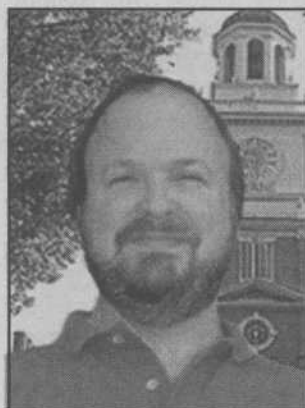
Stale and predictable, "Are We Done Yet?" is likely to be found hilarious only by tykes being exposed to plumber-butt sight gags, fart jokes, anthropomorphic animal fare and construction site slapstick for the very first time. Otherwise, yeah, we're done.

Fair (1.5 stars). Rated PG for sexual innuendo and mild epithets.

## Man linked to Snipes sentenced

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - A man who contended that he was not required to pay income tax, and whose case led to an indictment against actor Wesley Snipes, was sentenced Tuesday to 27 months in prison.

Arthur L. Farnsworth, 43, of Sellersville, was also fined \$500 and ordered to cooperate with Internal Revenue Service investigators in documenting his finances and beginning to pay his tax debt of almost \$83,000, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported on its website.



Arthur L. Farnsworth

He told the jury that his own research had convinced him that federal tax payments were voluntary. Prosecutors

argued that his research was created to cover his political beliefs.

Prosecutors said Farnsworth transferred his money to overseas bank accounts and put it into bogus trusts to try to hide his income. A raid on his home in 2002 found documents detailing some of the trust funds, leading to a nationwide probe of fraudulent trusts.

That led to charges against other people, including Snipes, the star of the "Blade" movies.

Snipes, who is awaiting trial, has suggested he was taken advantage of and has said he is a scapegoat and was unfairly targeted by prosecutors.

## Lighty

(Continued from Page 6) stop throwing money at a project that's not doing well. Or he's worked even harder than expected to boost things for a client: "With Lil' Scrappy right now we're having a hard way with his album, but I still believe in him as a star."

But the commitment remains, through hits or duds.

His relationship with many of his clients go back years — Diddy, an old friend, signed on recently for promotion of his latest album, "Press Play," and clients like LL Cool J, who is coming out with a new album later in the year, have been connected to Lighty for more than a decade.

That's why Rhymes stays

with Lighty — and why, he says, no other agency has even tried to steal him away.

"They see the loyalty, they see the commitment, they also see the success, and they see the history. And I don't think a lot of people have the courage to compete yet," he said. "What they would have to be offering me doesn't even exist yet."

## Jackson

(Continued from Page 2)

als for a comeback after his 2005 acquittal in California on child molestation charges.

His father, former Jackson Five manager Joe Jackson, also lives in Las Vegas. He didn't respond to a phone message seeking comment.

Ettinger said the collection was owned by luggage transportation company Universal Express Inc., of Boca Raton, Fla., which bought it last year from a New Jersey construction company owner.

The former owner, Henry Vaccaro, claimed a warehouse full of Jackson memo-

abilia after a failed business venture wound up in bankruptcy court. Michael Jackson and his sister Janet Jackson sued to stop Vaccaro from taking ownership, but a Los Angeles judge threw out Michael Jackson's claim in 2006. The status of Janet Jackson's claims are unclear. Messages left with her publicist weren't immediately returned.

Other items include a test pressing of The Jackson Five's "I Want You Back," Marlon Jackson's glitter jacket, Randy Jackson's futuristic 1984 stage boots and a white fedora believed to be from Michael Jackson's "Bad" album music video.

Boulder Station

# Front Row!

## MORRIS DAY & THE TIME

FRIDAY, APRIL 13 & SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2007 • 8:00PM  
TICKETS FROM \$22.95 + TAX

"JUNGLE LOVE" • "THE BIRD" • "PANDEMONIUM" • "GIRL"

### Railhead

At Boulder Station  
Boulder Hwy at US 93/95 • 631-1000

Tickets can be purchased at any Station Casinos Boarding Pass Rewards Centers by logging on to [www.StationCasinos.com](http://www.StationCasinos.com) or by calling (702) 547-6300. Station Bucks may be used to purchase tickets. All ages welcome. Under 21 must be accompanied by an adult. Digital photography is prohibited.

931  
©2007 Boulder Station Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV. A Station Casinos company.