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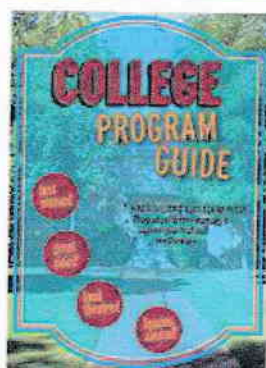
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Review by Gena Hymowech

In "Quality of Life," Curtis and Michael are devoted friends and young graffiti artists. Unfortunately, they live in the present day, which is not the graffiti artists' paradise of the '70s and '80s. They get caught for vandalizing property rather quickly, and the judge promises them they'll be sent to prison for a year if they're caught doing it again. Curtis and Michael must now decide whether they want to keep tagging, or, as the song says, "straighten up and fly right."



Graffiti artists don't have it as easy as they used to in the coming-of-age film "Quality of Life."

For Michael, the judge's threat eventually serves as a wake-up call. He networks with Lisa, Curtis' girlfriend, and lands a sweet, legitimate artistic gig as a result.

Lisa suggests that Curtis help Michael with the project, but Curtis would rather continue on his path to self-destruction.

Curtis and Michael soon begin to resemble Goofus and Gallant, from the children's magazine *Highlights*. The ending in this case, though, isn't kid's stuff.



• Beautiful City (pictured)
• Take My Eyes
• Thank You for Smoking



• Merry Christmas (Joyeux Noel) (pictured)
• Duck Season
• The Hills Have



• Water (pictured)
• Our Brand Is



• Spirit of A Be (pictured)
• Somersault
• Who Gets to Art



Show Business Weekly: Review: Film: Quality of Life

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Unfortunately, while director (and co-writer) Morgan has an interesting, MTV-like visual style, and the leads, Lane Garrison and Brian Burnam, give credible performances, the film remains mediocre.

For one thing, there are just too many scenes of the boys doing graffiti. This is especially frustrating considering there are so few scenes in which we actually learn about the kids themselves.

Also, it's hard to feel bad for Curtis. He's very talented and bright. He can go to college and study to become an artist, or find other ways to express himself. But he chooses to go with the worst possible option instead, not caring that his choice hurts everyone around him.

Still, we shouldn't be too hard on Morgan, or co-writer Brian Burnam. This is a difficult kind of film to pull off. And "Quality of Life" does pose a fascinating question: What happens when a creative passion is taken away from you? Certainly something to think about the next time you are staring at a spray-painted wall, waiting for a train.

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