'J. Edgar' is not Hoover's legacy

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Clint Eastwood's long-awaited film, "J. Edgar," fails to live up to reputation and should have remained in the "confidential" files of the FBL

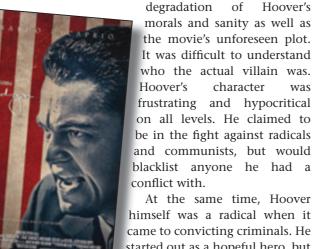
Conspiracy films have always been an endless source of entertainment. Films like "The Untouchables" and the "Mission Impossible" series have been both engaging and motivating especially when rooting for the "good guy." However, Clint Eastwood's new thriller is less about the Bureau and more about the awkward and almost disturbing personal life of former FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover (Leonardo DiCaprio).

"J. Edgar" semi-chronicles the political ascension and ethical degradation of Hoover from a small-time idealist working for the Department of Justice into one of the most powerful men in the U.S.

Throughout his career he obsessed about snuffing out radical groups and communists for the sake of the country's sanctity. While a very successful director, he falls short in balancing his

personal and professional life.

Within the first 10 minutes, the audience's attention is caught by an explosion of Hoover's boss's house, but that was the highpoint of the movie. As the film went on you could predict the gradual



At the same time. Hoover himself was a radical when it came to convicting criminals. He started out as a hopeful hero, but was portrayed as a very dangerous villain. The unorthodox timeline also

character

was

made it difficult to follow the progression of the story. This film was truly a twisted love story with strong political overtones woven into the fabric, which detracted from the actual plot.

Clint Eastwood's fans have always admired his work as a director and as an actor. However, this movie tainted his credibility in my eyes and ranked him in with other directors, such as Oliver Stone, who sensationalize and embellish historical films by transforming them into works of fiction.

One redeeming factor was Leonardo DiCaprio's performance. DiCaprio's immersion into the character was uncanny and at times made him almost unrecognizable. He completely went the extra mile in maintaining the integrity and energy of the real-life controversial figure.

"J. Edgar" is a good attempt at shining light

into a seemingly dark and mysterious character, but not enough to motivate the audience into joining the FBI. It's definitely not a film for the family and certainly not one I would take my parents to. Sitting through "Immortals" again would have been a better waste of money than this film.

