

I want my EDtv

Starring

Matthew
McConaughey,
Ellen
DeGeneres,
Woody
Harrelson,
Jenna Elfman

No
schmaltzy
Truman Show
stuff here.



Ondes (Louis 19: King of the Airwaves), *EDtv* explores why fame is considered the ultimate achievement in our society and how it affects people once they acquire it.

When the fledgling cable network True TV decides to put an ordinary person's life on the air, 24 hours a day, without scripts, actors, or

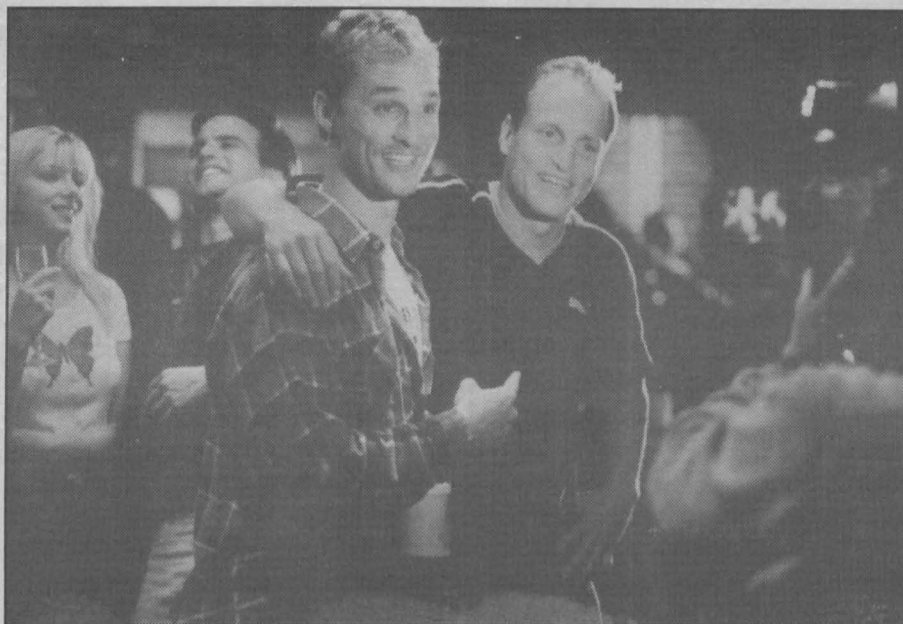
Jami Burke
assistant movie reviews
editor

"It used to be that someone became famous because they were special. Now people are considered special just for being famous. Fame, itself, is its own virtue." About halfway through *EDtv*, the new comedy from director Ron Howard, a character makes this statement in an attempt to rationalize the American public's obsession with celebrity. Based on the little seen French-Canadian film *Louis XIX: Le Roi des*

editing, program director Cynthia Topping (Ellen DeGeneres) chooses Ed Pekurny as the subject. A thirty-something Texan who works in a video store, loves Burt Reynolds, and lives in San Francisco, Ed is a tame choice. Despite this, the masses respond to his goofy charm and he is suddenly propelled into the national consciousness. At first, Ed embraces the attention, but eventually the fan clubs, stalkers, and newspaper polls take their toll, especially by criticizing his off-kilter family and love life.

The ensemble cast is incredibly effective with bright performances from Woody Harrelson as Ed's asinine and entrepreneurial brother, Elizabeth Hurley in a small self-referential take as a sexpot fan, and "Dharma & Greg's" Jenna Elf-

man as Shari, Ed's uptight girlfriend. Sally Kirkland and Martin Landau also entertain as Ed's oversexed mom and ailing - albeit sweet - stepfather. Howard complements the story by keeping a documentary-like feel to the photography and a collection of catchy tunes on the soundtrack. He also knows enough to avoid *Truman Show* preachiness by staying light-hearted and not overkilling the morality theme.



FILE PHOTO

Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson star in *EDtv*.

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