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Daily Nebraskan

'Star Chamber' ...

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Thankfully, the creators of "The Star Chamber," unlike the creators of "Death Wish," want us to question the wisdom of forming vigilante groups. But because of the stark portrayal of two men wrongly accused of a specific crime, audiences will probably leave the theater esteeming those who take the law into their own hands.

The film's lofty ambitions are also impaired by a plethora of cliches, stereotypical characters and implausible contrivances.

The cops and detectives look like they graduated from the Hill Street Blues Police Academy. While looking for evidence needed to arrest a murderer, one of the detectives jokes to his partner "Join the police and see the world".

All the hoodlums are either wearing Hawaiian shirts or soiled tank tops. One of these criminals is asked to give himself up by a jocular officer who hates the paper work that is involved in shooting people.

And then there is Michael Douglas as the nascent superior court judge. Of course, he is young, good looking and quickly disillusioned by what he sees. Personally, I wondered how he kept his ideals intact as a lawyer. Douglas' charming wife welcomes him home with "Here comes the judge." Later she tells him, "I feel like I'm losing you and I don't know what to do about it."

The most implausible sequence occurs when the judge travels to the seediest part of town to inform the wrongly-accused-but-acquitted hoodlums that a hit man is out to get them. In his mission, he manages to survive a severe beating, a fall through a chute and a chemical explosion.

For having such a ridiculous part, Douglas delivers an excellent performance. As a man torn by the dark ambiguities of the legal system, he makes his



headaches and ulcers palpable. The rest of the cast is adequete but their parts are too absurd and insignificant to merit any attention.

The title for this film, by the way, comes from the name given to an English court of law founded by Henry VII. In a room where stars adorned the ceiling, the court enforced laws that could not be enforced by other courts. Going into further detail would give away most of the plot and give audiences one more reason why they should not see the movie.

Bel-Airs bring blues, soul to Zoo Bar

The Bel-Airs, a fourpiece rhythm and blues band from Springfield, Mo., will be featured at the Zoo Bar, 136 No. 14th, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Bel-Airs, who have played the Zoo with increasing frequency over the past two years, specialize in blues music from the '50s, as well as '60s soul.

The band has recorded an album for Texas-based Amazing Records. However, due to financial troubles at the label, the record has yet to be released.

There will be a \$2 cover for the Thursday show, \$3 for Friday's and Saturday's. The show starts each each night at 9 p.m.

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