

'Statistically perfect' summer movies

By Mark Holt
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

It's been a perfect summer in movies. Statistically perfect, that is. Instead of the usual lopsided curve with most films crowded into the fair category, viewers were treated to a season of bell-shaped quality. But while this means there were fewer bad movies, it also means there were fewer excellent ones.

"Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" — A second helping of the "Raiders of the Lost Ark" entree. Steven Spielberg has the action scene down to a science with this thrill-and-spill-a-minute adventure story. But what am I saying? The whole movie was an action scene. Not that it all wasn't very exciting, but action and violence just for the sake of action and violence seem only to spell overkill in this case.

"Ghostbusters" — A modern day ghost story starring Bill Murray and Dan Akroyd. The makers of this picture were smart enough to realize that Bill Murray was the one to put the spotlight on, and that is why it has become the blockbuster that it is. Murray's comedic genius shines through beautifully.

"Breakin'" and "Beat Street" — Break dancing has finally and thankfully found an avenue to channel its dying breaths into.

"Star Trek III, The Search For Spock" — Possessing all the elements of a good Star Trek episode, this Leonard Nimoy-directed sequel to a sequel managed to be even more than just another good Star Trek episode. The Enterprise and the same familiar characters were back, flawed and human as ever, and

their mission was to recover the missing body of Spock. And although Spock was visible through much of the movie, his personality and mind are with Dr. McCoy. We didn't get to see enough of the whole Spock, and that's what kept this film from being more than average.

"Gremlins" — Another brain-child of Steven Spielberg. Starring those oh-so-marketable Gremlins and a surprisingly clothed Phoebe Cates, this movie made use of the odd combination of humor and horror. It was competently crafted, but bordered on being too cutesy.

"Conan the Destroyer" — Think about "Conan the Barbarian" plus Grace Jones minus sex.

"This is Spinal Tap" — One of this reviewer's favorite movies of the season. This "rockumentary" featured the antics of the washed up heavy metal band Spinal Tap during the up but mostly down cycles of their long career. Being both subtle and bombastic, "This is Spinal Tap" did a neat job of exposing the stupidity and self-indulgence within the rock genre. There's no laugh track, so you'll have to pay attention, kids. And do listen to the lyrics.

"Romancing the Stone" — What appeared to be a carbon copy of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" turned out to be its own person. While it was nothing bold or innovative, the characterizations were excellent, and the cinematography was terrific. Just good (sometimes), clean (occasionally), American (on foreign soil), fun.

"Splash" — Another movie that was just plain fun, fun, fun.

Darryl Hannah was gorgeous and Tom Hanks was good but restrained in this mermaid tale. With their combined talents, and director Ron Howard's ability to keep the story moving, the finished product had a neat little chemistry.

"Karate Kid" — The Rocky story of the summer. Ralph Machio, who was awful in television's "Eight is Enough," redeemed himself with a fantastic performance. This is one of those cheer-for-the-underdog kind of movies that makes you feel good. Despite a few major character flaws, it worked quite well.

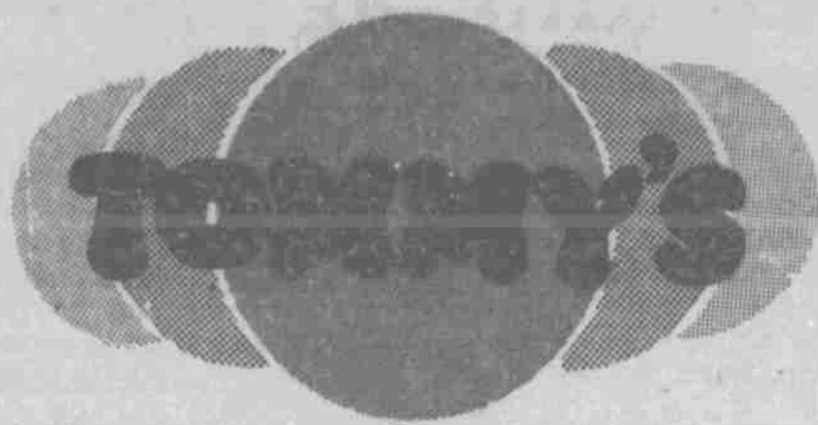
"Sixteen Candles" — Fit into the teen-age sex romp category, but didn't have the sex. It was actually a cut above most other movies, replete with fully developed characters and a neat eye for detail.

"The Jungle Book" — A re-release of the 60s classic. Whether you're a kid or not, animation, music and talking animals are always great fun.

"Purple Rain" — After a great deal of success with his 1982 debut album, Prince decided to couple his music with acting for a movie debut. Early indications say he's going to enjoy as much, if not more success this time around. Bad acting and pseudo-artsy lighting, though, keep this film out of the excellent range.

"Meatballs II" — It's asinine.

"The Last Starfighter" — Yet another shoot 'em up type of space movie that was surprisingly okay. Again, nothing overly inventive here, but the whole package was mildly entertaining. At least I now know what video games are really for.



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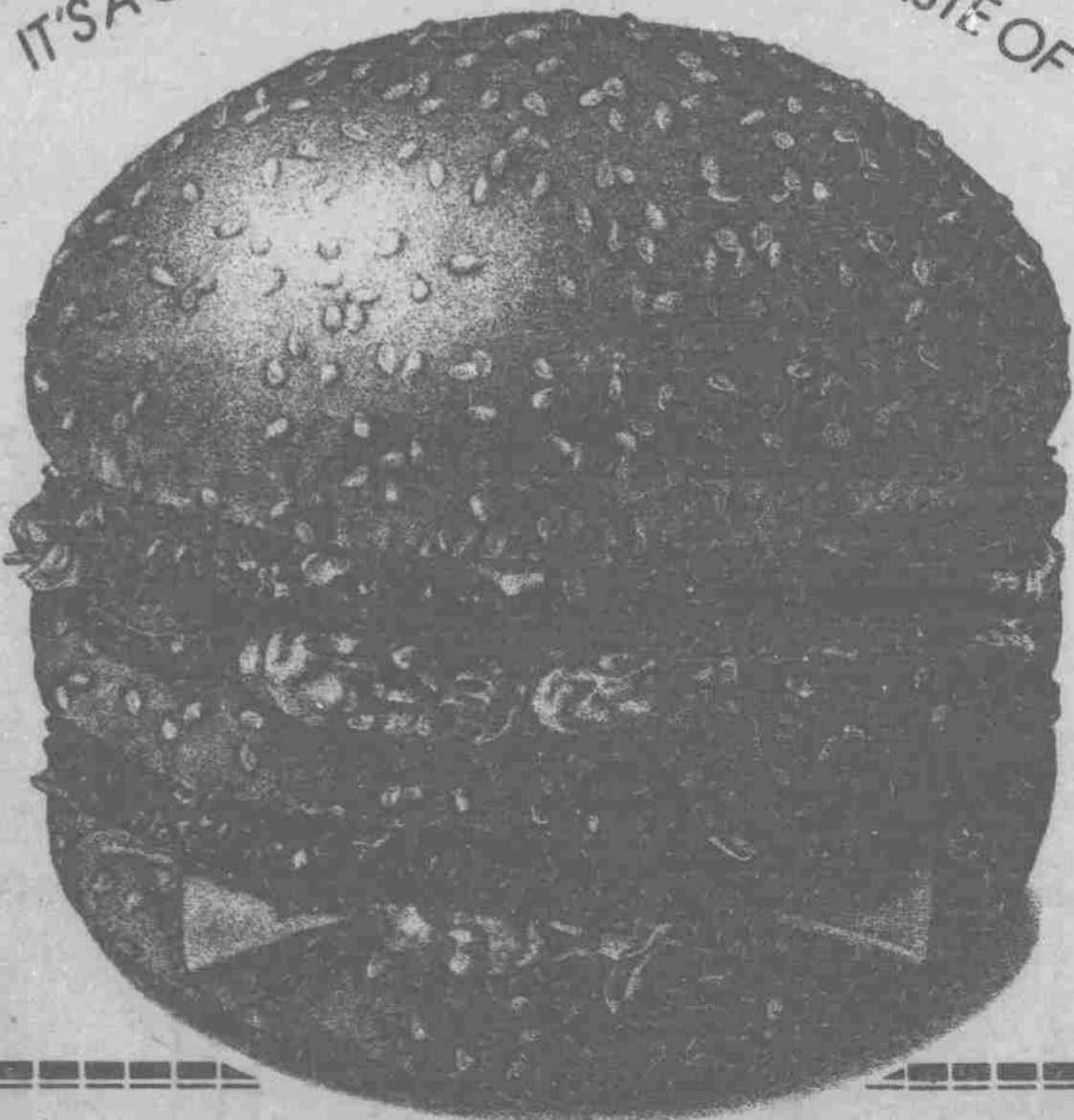
| Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| | Gun Club 22 JEM recording artist Special Guest "4 Against 1" | 23 Caribe | 24 Caribe | 25 Caribe |
| 28 DaDa Curve Hot New Awesome Texas Band | 29 The Shy | 30 Model Citizens Club Pre-Labor Day Celebration | 31 Model Citizens Club Pre-Labor Day Celebration | |

September Calendar

| Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | Model 1 Citizens Club Pre-Labor Day Celebration |
| 4 So It Goes | 5 Pagan Idols | 6 Boys With Toys | 7 Boys With Toys | 8 Boys With Toys |
| 11 The Shy | 12 The Shy | 13 Brave Combo Nuclear Polka from Austin, Texas | 14 Charlie Burton and The Cut Outs | 15 Charlie Burton and The Cut Outs |
| 18 So It Goes | 19 The Phones | 20 The Push | 21 Yabba, Griffiths and Traxx | 22 Yabba, Griffiths and Traxx |
| 25 New Movement | 26 Love Slave | 27 Model Citizens Club | 28 Model Citizens Club | 29 Model Citizens Club |

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