

# 'Nerds' has 'simple beauty, Familiar, likable characters



Photo courtesy 20th Century Fox

Anthony Edwards (Gilbert) and Robert Carradine (Lewis) get a sinister warning via window in "Revenge of the Nerds."

By Ward W. Triplett III  
Daily Nebraskan Sports Editor

According to the Fonz, who popularized the term for his "Happy Days" co-stars, a nerd is anyone who wasn't in the same ego and self-confidence league as he was.

But according to "Revenge of the Nerds" (Plaza Four), a nerd is not only one hell of a smart cookie, he or she is also one prickly foe to tangle with, capable of rising to the challenge of the Fonzie-ish egomaniacs of the world, then sweeping them up in the dust and guffawing as they stroll by in their eternally out-of-date duds.

Therein lies the simple beauty of "Nerds," a largely ensemble case comedy with a pair of likable stars, sad, single-minded bad guys and girls and a natural cast of college cuties who don't come close to stealing the show from the heroes, who, the film insists, are really the majority of us.

"Nerds" is primarily the story of two high school chums Lewis (Robert Carradine) and Gilbert (Anthony Edwards), who arrive at Adams College talking about sex and ribaldry but holding on to their fond memories of computer camp.

The characters of "Nerds" range from the wonderfully stereotypical to the coyly surprising. While no one gets as much attention as Lewis and Gilbert from a screenwriting crew that must have liked all of its characters, there are some enjoyable supporting performances in not-so typical roles.

Curtis Armstrong, who is best known for his role as Miles Dalby in "Risky Business" is the most convincing as a sleazy social rebel Booger, while Andrew Casse, a 16-year-old veteran of commercials, is equally likable as a 12-year-old genius stuck in the broad category of a nerd.

Most of the cast has little headline experience, as Bernie Casey appears in what amounts to a cameo role, and only Julie Montgomery and Ted McGinley, who play the lead villains, have lead-role acting experience from "One Life to Live" and "Happy Days" respectively.

But the true master stroke which saves "Nerds" from the banality of a "H.O.T.'s" or any of

Continued on Page 59

"'GHOSTBUSTERS' IS THIS SUMMER'S COMEDY BLOCKBUSTER."  
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## GHOSTBUSTERS

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A BLACK RHINO/BERNIE BRILLSTEIN PRODUCTION  
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WRITTEN BY DAN AYKROYD AND HAROLD RAMIS PRODUCED BY IVAN REITMAN

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