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CHARTROUSE CABOOSE

'Last Night at the Alamo' guitars play lonely tune of Western people

The best American movies are often expected to come from New York or Hollywood. The cities in between are thought to be a vast, barren, cinematic wasteland.

Contradicting this theory is "The Last Night at the Alamo," showing this weekend at the Sheldon Film Theatre. The film is a fine example of regional American cinema made and produced entirely in Texas, and shot on a budget of only \$61,000.

With a guitar twanging a lonely tune in the background, the film opens on the skyscrapers and urban setting of Houston. But this is the only glimpse of the outside world shown. The rest of the film is shot in The Alamo Bar and a few other run-down locations.

This is the last open night of

the bar because the building is being scrapped to clear the way for a condominium complex. The bar's regulars have gathered for what turns out to be one hot and steamy evening.

"Last Night at the Alamo" is about people, people who nurse their Lone Star Beer, and hide behind their cowboy hats and western cut shirts.

Claude (Louis Perryman) sits at the bar drowning his sorrows and calling his wife on the pay telephone because she has kicked him out of his own house. He feels trapped and forced by her into struggling to keep up with a white-collar, middle-class group he has trouble identifying with.

Ichabod (Steven Matilla), who lacks any trace of social grace,

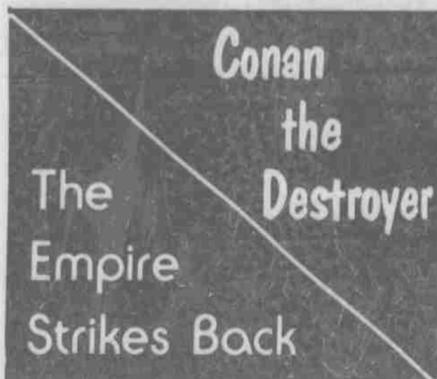
arrives in his company's exterminator pickup. He is a sleazy punk who shops at Montgomery Wards, swears often and finds comfort in playing pool with his girlfriend. Because his place is full of roaches, he borrows \$50 hoping that he can take her to the Paradise Motel (they show X-rated movies there). After becoming a little more intoxicated, he stands on top of the bar and invites everyone to the Paradise Motel to watch the two of them.

Providing a common thread throughout the storyline is Cowboy (Sonny Carl Davis). He's lost a few jobs, isn't quite sure of where he's going or where he's been, but he finds status at The Alamo.

Continued on Page 10

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Nebraska Dance Ensemble to perform at Mabel Lee

The Nebraska Dance Ensemble, three-time winner of the Midwest American College Dance Festival, will perform in the Mabel Lee Hall studio theater Friday through Sunday.

dance are members of the ensemble.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are on sale at the box office in the Temple Building from noon to 5 p.m. weekdays.

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