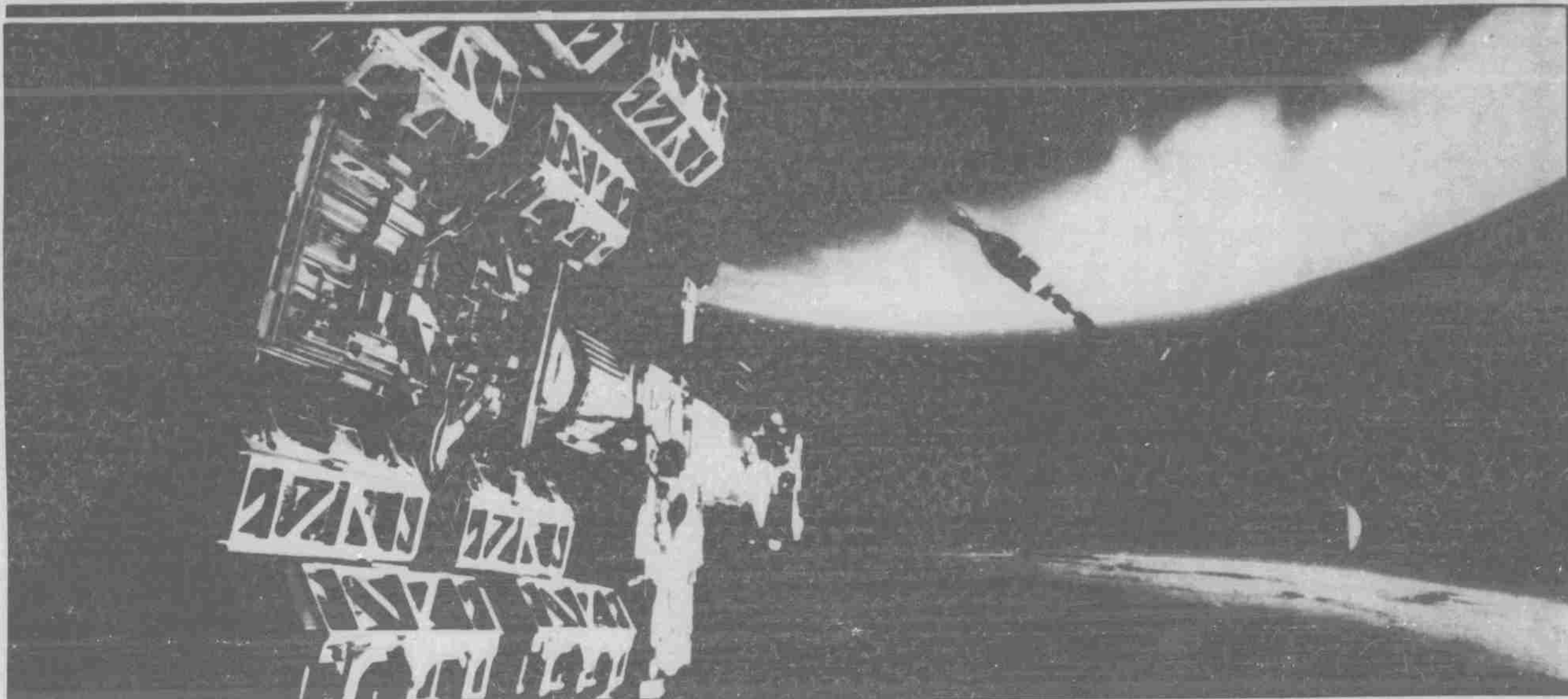


Arts and Entertainment



'2010' combines special effects, human element in '2001' sequel

Review by Steve Noble
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

The year is 2010, and a lot of things have changed. Pan-American offers interstellar flights, the trees in front of the White House have grown, and people are keeping dolphins as pets.

Fans of the classic "2001: A Space Odyssey" have reason to rejoice with the release of its sequel "2010: The Year We Make Contact." Both films are based on novels by science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke.

"2010" picks up the story where "2001" left it. Astronauts and scientists from the United States and the Soviet Union have formed a tense, uneasy alliance. Combining forces, they seek answers to what happened to The Discovery and its curious and inquisitive on-board computer, HAL-9000.

The American crew is composed of Heywood Floyd (Roy Scheider), who blames himself for the fail-

ure of the 2001 mission; R. Chandra (Bob Balaban), a man who has strangely intimate relationships with computers and is the only person capable of finding out what went wrong with HAL; and Walter Cumow (John Lithgow), who seems to be along just for the ride, although he is a frequent icebreaker in this tense film.

The astronauts reach The Discovery, which has been floating around somewhere near Jupiter for the last nine years. Meanwhile, back on earth, the United States and the Soviet Union are on the brink of nuclear war over the situation in Central America, thus complicating the situation for the crew of The Leonov.

Visually, the film is stunning. The special effects and photography alone are worth the admission price.

Unlike many science fiction films, "2010" doesn't dwell on effects at the expense of characters. The human element is never

ignored and is actually explored as the American and Soviet characters become people with similar hopes and fears.

An interesting and speculative look at the concept of "man and computer" is provoked.

But those who never saw "2001" may be left confused and asking some of these questions: Why is Dave Bowman changing from an old man and then into a fetus right before my eyes? Who is the old woman, and why does her brush magically levitate and fix her hair? What do we make contact with in the year 2010? What are those mysterious monolith things? Do we have to wait for another sequel to find out? Is this movie symbolic, or am I just too slow to understand what's going on?

Yes, "2010" is a deep movie. So deep that it is possible to drown in its symbolism and abstraction.

Despite its loose ends and pretentiousness, "2010" is a captivating and intriguing movie.



Photos courtesy of MGM/UA

Top: The Russian spacecraft and the American Discovery between Io and Jupiter. Above: Roy Scheider ("Blue Thunder," "All That Jazz," "Jaws") plays Dr. Heywood Floyd, senior member of the American team and the man blamed for the failure of the discovery mission in 2001.



Sleep, food and alcohol alleviate finals anxiety

When finals rear their ugly little heads at the end of each term, anxiety never fails to be close behind. Ranging from severe to excruciating, this stress that everybody inevitably feels can manifest itself in some odd ways.

Mark Holt

For a lucky few, it only goes as far as toenail biting or bedwetting.

Others who have more trouble adapting often make the news as hijackers or arsonists.

Unfortunately, the diversions that are about to be provided may not be rash enough for students with felonious tendencies. Casualties will pile up during finals week no matter what is done. But, with any luck, these ideas will save those who are teetering on sanity's edge and give them a way to channel their end-of-the-semester nervousness.

1. Dodge Salvation Army bell ringers. Why confront these people and add to an already stressful day? Cross the street or walk behind somebody tall, then snicker

when his or her face reddens at the ringer's pleading "How are you?" as you slide by undetected.

Better yet, beat them at their own game. Confront them with a friendlier "How do you do," carry a bigger bell, maybe a gong, and claim to be collecting for people even less fortunate than the ones they collect for. If that seems extreme, then at least be prepared. Keep a few washers handy.

2. Sleep. This always relieves tension and is especially ideal for the avid procrastinator. If there is a choice between finishing homework late at night and doing it early in the morning, it's usually wise to opt for the latter. Nothing can breathe more life into an assignment than the bright-eyed, bushy-tailed feeling a full night's rest never gives.

3. Bathe. Close attention to personal hygiene is important for most occasions, but the role it takes during finals can be doubly vital. Few things are as relaxing as a visit with Mr. Bubble and a fresh bath-sized bar of Irish Spring. It also serves to eat up time that might be frivolously frittered away on studying. Here's a good rule of thumb to follow: "Would that tub look more occupied if I was in it?"

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