

DeLuca's 'Transylvania 6-5000' a monster-movie horror story

By Charles Lieurance
Senior Reporter

When we were kids we played a game called "movie." We'd give ourselves a premise for a movie — a western, a space epic, knights in shining armor, a monster movie — and use our backyards as Hollywood backlots. We never scripted anything. We just started in on the premise and let the plot take any kind of twist it wanted to.

Movie Review

Usually we started at about 10 a.m. and by 4 p.m. (with a break in the studio commissary at my house) the plot had become chaotic, usually a fight had broken out and virtually nothing was left of the original, very promising premise. I had a habit of lying to my friends, and told them my parents had a movie camera and that after we had practiced all of the movies I would film them.

As I watched Rudy DeLuca's "Transylvania 6-5000" I thought about those "movies" we made as children and about how they would have looked on film — terrible, disordered, boring, and unplanned, with some refreshing glee here and there at the spontaneity of it all. They would have been a lot like "Transylvania 6-5000."

"Transylvania 6-5000" has a lot of promise. It has a promising title (for those of you without parents, it's a

takeoff of the Glenn Miller hit "Pennsylvania 6-5000"). It has a promising troupe of actors, including Jeff Goldblum ("The Big Chill"), Michael Richards (ABC's now-defunct "Fridays") and Ed Begley Jr. ("St. Elsewhere"). For all this promise, I sat through the film a little like a groom stranded at the altar after a long, trusting courtship.

The premise is simple. Two reporters for a Weekly World News-style scandal sheet set out for Transylvania to investigate a recent sighting of the Frankenstein monster. The reporters are consistently referring to the monster as Frankenstein. All literate, well-read people should cringe. One of the reporters is naive (Begley) and the other world-wise (Goldblum). Begley believes in all the things the scandal sheet prints while Goldblum is just along for the ride.

Everything from here on out is excruciatingly predictable, and when it isn't exactly the way you thought it would be, it's much worse.

Things start out on the right foot: Begley and Goldblum verbally sparring, Goldblum getting off some enjoyable cheap shots and Begley not really catching the drift.

Then things slow up and virtually stop while the director tries to figure out what he's doing and the scriptwriters get together and realize they forgot to write a middle for the film.

Richards saves the day as the demented butler Fejo. This is the momen-

tary glee of spontaneity I mentioned earlier. What Richards does has nothing to do with the story, but his improvisations and pratfalls distract the audience from the virtual absence of a coherent plot.

Other distractions are less endearing. John Byner and Carol Kane as a butler and a maid try to match Richards mayhem for mayhem but never get their schtick off the ground.

Goldblum and Begley stumble through the manic manor meeting vampires, werewolves, contortionists and anything else the scriptwriters could come up with instead of a plot.

"Transylvania 6-5000" could have been another "Rocky Horror Picture Show" had it burrowed its way further into plotless mayhem. It's got the same strings of non-sequiturs, the same easy-to-miss details and the same absurdly perverse characterizations, but the writers obviously wanted to make a "real" movie, and they get bogged down in tying random strings together in the last 10 minutes.

Don't spend any money on this, but the next time Richards is on "Late Night with David Letterman" watch for clips of his performance in the movie. They make no sense but as surreal humor they stand better alone than in the context of "Transylvania 6-5000."
G.P.A. 2.00

Applications available for arts fund program

Artists and art groups whose reaches might exceed their budgets can take heart — the Lincoln Arts Council is now accepting applications for its first set of 1986 grants from the "Arts in the Aisles" fund.

The application deadline is Feb. 15. The council guidelines state the purpose of the grant program is to

"provide seed money for innovative, well-organized projects of quality which are clearly focused in the performing and visual arts."

For more information or to request the application and guidelines contact the Lincoln Arts Council, P.O. Box 83051, or call 474-ARTS from 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays.

We'll Pay You To Come To Our Blue Monday Party Tonight!

Bring this ad and save 50 cents off our normal door price of \$1.50 and also receive one free drink.

That means for \$1 you'll see the Red-Hot Blues of COCKTAIL SHORTY AND THE TABLEROCKERS and receive a free drink as well.

That's tonight from 9-10:00 at the ZOO BAR, 136 No. 14th.

Tues., Wed.,
THE SWITCH



Thurs.-Sat.
THE BEL-AIRS

136 N. 14th, Lincoln

Page One

Paperback Book Exchange



We sell used paperbacks at 1/2 the cover price, including books used in literature classes.

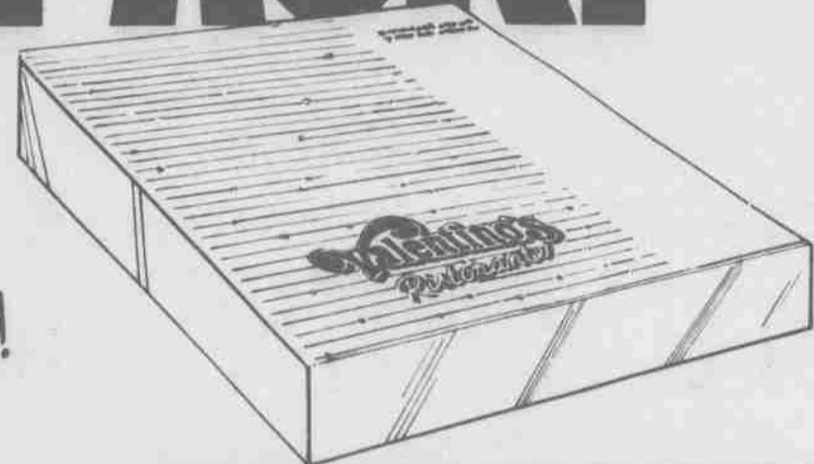
13th & "Q" (Gunny's) 474-6316

V A L E N T I N O S

WELCOME BACK PIZZA PACK!



Free Coke!



HAVE YOU HAD YOURS DELIVERED?

Valentino's new Welcome Back Pizza Pack is required eating for every student body.

Just give us a call, and in minutes we'll deliver a piping hot, scrumptiously delicious pizza direct to your door. And, on any order of \$5.00 or more, we'll throw in a liter of refreshing Coca Cola...FREE!

Our legendary pizza and ice cold Coke. What better way to start off the year?

Round up the gang. Pick up the phone. Then sit back and enjoy your Welcome Back Pizza Pack. From Valentino's, of course! Offer expires February 9, 1986.



35th & Holdrege • 467-3611

Campus Delivery Only

Come in from the COLD to the EAST UNION

Try our Daily Specials!

THIS WEEK . . .

Breakfast Special

Ham & Cheese Omelet
W/toast, Coffee or tea

\$1.85

Grill Special

Beef Tenderlion Sandwich,
Tater Tots, Drink

\$2.35

- ♪ Pete Townshend-White City
- ♪ Sun City
- ♪ Fine Young Cannibals-Fine Young Cannibals
- ♪ Sick-The Dream of the Blue Turtles
- ♪ J. J. Mitchell-Dog Eat Dog
- ♪ Who-Whys Missing
- ♪ Cars for Cars-Songs from the Big Chair
- ♪ Sade-Promise
- ♪ Yarbrough Peoples-Guilty
- ♪ Temptations-Touch Me
- ♪ Force M.D.s-Force M.D.
- ♪ Thompson Twins-Here to Future Days
- ♪ Elton John-Take the Fire
- ♪ Alarm-Strength
- ♪ Loverboy-Lovin' Every Minute of it
- ♪ Night Ranger-7 Wishes
- ♪ Grace Jones-Island Life
- ♪ R.E.M.-Fables of the Reconstruction
- ♪ Simple Minds-Once Upon A Time

Dirt Cheap
Downtown

217 No. 11th

477-6061