

# Handy pause button a VCR plus

Video cassette recorders are rapidly growing on America's list of favorite forms of entertainment. A Merrill Lynch study reported that 85 percent of the nation's homes will have a VCR by 1995. And the more VCRs people buy, the better value renting movies will become. Cheap entertainment is what it's all about. At Curtis Mathes, 443 N. 48th,

you can rent a recorder and two movies for two days and \$7. And with a "Budget Stretcher" coupon you can get the same deal for \$4. That's the cheapest place I've found.

Excuse me if I count out loud, but that's two movies for as many people as you can fit in the same room with a television, free parking, a fridge full of

cheap liquid refreshment and a bathroom nearby.

## Mark Davis

It's not that they've made a better mouse trap, VCRs are just built to catch a different class of mouse.

In the traditional trap are the people that like to get out and see a movie; don't mind dealing with parking; they have the patience to deal with crowds; and they have the money to pay four or five bucks for a ticket and \$1.10 for a box of Jujus Fruits.

Of course there are benefits to going out. Seeing a movie on TV cannot compete with seeing one on the big screen.

But VCR offers one option that the theater doesn't — a pause button. If you need a refill, hit the pause button. If you get a phone call, hit the pause button. And more importantly, if you didn't hear or understand a part of a movie, hit the pause button and talk it over with someone. Or simply rewind it and watch it again. In your own home you don't have to whisper to the person sitting next to you, who probably would not hear what you said. By the time you

get an answer to your question you missed another part.

VCRs allow you to discuss movies, which helps you think about them and, in turn, enjoy them more.

One problem that you have when renting VCRs is finding current movies. Most of the time you have to wait for a movie to finish its run in theaters before it's available in VCR. But while you're waiting, there are thousands of movies that many people overlooked while they were in the theaters. Discovering these movies at a relatively cheap price is one of the advantages of renting VCRs.

"Birdy" was one movie that spent a few short weeks in Lincoln overshadowed by hits like "Back to the Future" and "Rambo," the bloody second part.

Birdy is about two boys growing up in Chicago, one with an obsession for flying. After being drafted and going to war the two meet again in a veterans hospital. Mathew Modine and Nicolas Cage play convincing parts in the Alan Parker film of William Wharton's book "Birdy."

Another very good movie that slipped by somewhat unnoticed is a Sergio Leone film, "Once Upon a Time in America."

Robert DeNiro plays a young man growing up in Manhattan's Lower East side. The film portrays the prohibition-era underworld.

Lasting almost three hours, the movie is best seen on the couch.

The movie based on John Steinbeck's "Cannery Row," isn't as current as the previous two, but it is equally entertaining. With narration from John Huston and great leading parts portrayed by Nick Nolte and Debra Winger, this movie set in a seedy, nearly abandoned California fishing community is good watching.

Nick Nolte is an ex-baseball player seeking refuge as a biologist, and Debra Winger is a runaway seeking refuge. Together they make this one of my favorite movies.

"Popeye" was a movie billed as family entertainment, as well it should be, but it is also a very funny movie for all ages. Robin Williams plays a perfect Popeye and Shelly DuVall is equally good as Olive Oyl. Nicely done as a non-traditional musical, "Popeye" is a good excuse to skip your night class.

One movie that everyone should see again is the original "Rocky." Seeing the latest in the "Rocky" sequels can make a person forget what started all the mayhem. "Rocky" deservedly won Oscars in 1976 for "Best Film," "Best Director," and "Best Editing." Sylvester Stallone was nominated for "Best Actor." The film beat out "All the President's Men," with Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford, for the years' top honors.

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## 'Down and Out in Beverly Hills' fails with thin plot, stale dialogue, cliches

By Scott Harrah  
 Staff Reporter

Bad taste in films, literature and music can be either delicious, or deplorable, depending on how well it's presented. In "Down and Out in Beverly Hills," the bad taste is simply bad.

### Movie Review

In the past, director/writer Paul Mazursky has weaved some wonderfully satirical webs with such fine flicks as "Moscow on the Hudson," "An Unmarried Woman," and "Alex in Wonderland."

"Down and Out in Beverly Hills" is a supposedly campy variation of Jean Renoir's 1932 classic "Boudu Saved From Drowning," trashed up with a modern California twist. The idea itself is inventive, and with camp queen Bette Midler as the female lead, you'd think it would work. But the thinly-veiled plot, stale dialogue and pace are all so heavy-handed, it never does.

Nick Nolte plays an unhappy, unshaven bum who searches through the trash dumpsters of Rodeo Drive for discarded pate' and caviar. When he tries to drown himself in a backyard swimming pool, he is saved by the pool's owner, Richard Dreyfuss.

What follows is the pointless account of how Dreyfuss' family takes Nolte under their glitzy wings, cleans him up, dresses him like a Don Johnson clone and showers him with kindness.

It's amazing that a well-known satirist like Mazursky picked something as absurd as social classes and failed to add any wit, substance or intelligence to the subject. Even when he exaggerates the material with dog psychiatrists, a teenage son with a penchant for make-up and gender-blend fashions, and a wife into every Eastern religious fad imaginable, the humor falls flat with cliché-ridden lines and visual puns.

Part of the problem is that Mazursky is often too faithful to "Boudu," for he

tries to add a tone of Renoir's sincerity to the modern premise. This is all rather confusing and makes the viewer wonder whether the film is satirical or serious.

The film's only true merit is its star-studded cast, whose talents are all wasted. Midler is hilarious as the gaudy, credit card-crazed wife in pursuit of the ultimate outfit and a satisfying orgasm.

Overall, however, this purported parody of the rich is just too poor to be convincing or worth watching.

## 'Official Story' vies for best foreign film

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The nominees for best foreign film were "The Official Story" from Argentina; "Angry Harvest," West Germany; "Colonel Redl," Hungary; "3 Men and a Cradle," France; and "When Father Was Away on Business," Yugoslavia.

Although Kurasawa was nominated as best director, "Ran" was ineligible in the foreign-language category because it was not nominated by Japan.

Pop star Lionel Richie captured a nomination for best song with his "Say You, Say Me," from "White Nights." Richie also was named for co-writing lyrics to "Miss Celie's Blues (Sister)" from "The Color Purple."

Other songs nominated: "Power of Love" from "Back to the Future,"

"Separate Lives" from "White Nights" and "Surprise, Surprise" from "A Chorus Line."

Other nominations included: Original screenplay — "Back to the Future," Robert Zemeckis and Bob Gale; "Brazil," Terry Gilliam, Tom Stoppard, Charles McKeown; "The Official Story," Luis Puenzo, Aida Bortnik; "The Purple Rose of Cairo," Woody Allen; "Witness," Earl W. Wallace and William Kelley (screenplay) and Kelley, Wallace and Pamela Wallace (story).

Screenplay adaptation — "The Color Purple," Menno Meyjes; "Kiss of the Spider Woman," Leonard Schrader; "Out of Africa," Karl Luedtke; "Prizzi's Honor," Richard Condon, Janet Roach; "The Trip to Bountiful," Horton Foote.

Huskies miss Hobbenu, KSN coach says