

# Arts & Entertainment

## Bad movie beat spotlights Marx vs. comatose couch potato

By Dave Meile  
Staff Reporter

Two weeks ago I told you that the great Lon Chaney film, "Indestructible Man" (1957) would be on. Well, the milquetoasts at the USA Network didn't show it. Now I've been publicly humiliated. I smell some graft and corruption here. This means action! Write your senators c/o Senate Chaney Investigating Committee.

### Obligatory Elvis Reference

This past week has been Elvis Presley Week on KPTM Channel 42. WGN Channel 2 has had the temerity to counter with a bunch of 'good' Bogart films. Tonight KPTM shows "Girl Happy" (1965). The King plays "Rusty Wells," a cool combo leader who has to guard a gangster's daughter played by Shelley Fabares, who sang the bitchin' tune "Johnny Angel." Elvis sings "Do the Clam," not to be confused with "Clambake," the theme song from the great film of the same name. Since it is the last night of Elvis week, build a shrine around your television and perform a communion-type service. I suggest using your bottle of Elvis Wine and fried pork rinds.

Friday 10:30 p.m. Ch.12 NETV  
"Monkey Business" (1931) The

### Marx Brothers

True Marxists love the early Paramount films because they are the least conventional. There are no plots and no romantic twaddle. There are too many funny scenes to document here but watch for Groucho talking a gangster out of shooting him and all the brothers attempting to get off a ship by claiming to be Maurice Chevalier.

Friday 1 a.m. Ch.8

"The Haunting" (1963) Julie Harris, Claire Bloom

The last time I saw a good film it nearly sent me into a coma, but I must recommend this one. It's considered to be a classic supernatural thriller. Directed by Robert Wise, who directed horror and sci-fi classics like "Curse of the Cat People," "The Body Snatcher" and "The Day the Earth Stood Still" as well as "Somebody Up There Likes Me" and "West Side Story."

The Canned Film Festival  
Saturday Midnight Ch.10/11

"The Crawling Hand" (1963) Peter Breck, Alan Hale, Allison Hayes

A film with Nick Barkley, the skipper from "Gilligan's Island," and the star of "Attack of the 50-ft. Woman" has to be great. An astronaut's arm falls from space and starts choking the hell outta

people. It chokes a nice kid named Paul and causes him to become a murdering guy with black mascara around his eyes.

Scientist Nick Barkley doesn't act as tough as he does on "Big Valley." Sheriff Skipper wants to riddle Paul with bullets. Allison Hayes, who'd previously been a "voodoo woman" and a "50-ft. woman," is only about 5'8" here, but she pours a mean cup o' coffee. There's a great kill-joy maltshop owner who keeps saying, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you die!"

The crawling arm/hand is a big show-off. Before it kills, it likes to meander around the woodwork for awhile. At the end, Paul, obviously embarrassed about the mascara circles around his eyes, runs to a dump with hand in tow. The skipper/sheriff thinks he's a little too androgynous and threatens to shoot him. The theme song is "The Bird's the Word" by the Rivingtons. They had two other songs, "Papa Oo-Mow-Mow" and "Mama Oo-Mow-Mow" and they both sound just like "Bird is the Word," which sounds like "Surfin' Bird" by the Trashmen.

## Browne in Omaha

By Chris McCubbin  
Staff Reporter

Faster than a speeding Eric Carmen, more powerful than Cat Stevens. Able to leap James Taylor in a single bound. It's mellow, it's middle-aged, it's Californian, it's... Jackson Browne! Browne will be appearing in Omaha Saturday.

In the "Rolling Stone Record Guide" arch-critic Dave Marsh says, "Jackson Browne is the most accomplished lyricist of the seventies. His miniaturist landscapes of life in the nether end of the '70s century, as seen from the emotional and geographic climate of southern California, provide rock's surest touchstone with the mood of the recent era."

OK, Dave, fine. Seriously though, even though Browne was right up there with Alan Alda himself as an icon of '70s pseudo-sensitive wimpiness, he undeniably produced some excellent stuff during his salad days.

Starting his career with the excessive but moving single "Doctor

My Eyes", as effective a portrait of 20th century alienation as has ever hit the pop charts, Browne hit his peak with two consecutive albums in the late seventies. "The Pretender" was an excruciatingly personal record of Browne's reactions to the death of his wife. He followed it up with "Running On Empty," a concept album about life on the road which not only lived up to Marsh's hyperbolic evaluation of Browne's songwriting skills, but even managed to generate some genuinely exciting rock'n'roll. This album gave us at least one certifiable rock classic in the title track.

Browne has never been able to equal the excitement of these two albums, but he's still in there plunging. He's touring to promote his latest album "Lives in The Balance." A single, "In The Shape Of A Heart," is getting airplay.

Browne will perform at the Omaha Civic Auditorium at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15.25 and are available at both Pickles and Dirt Cheap.

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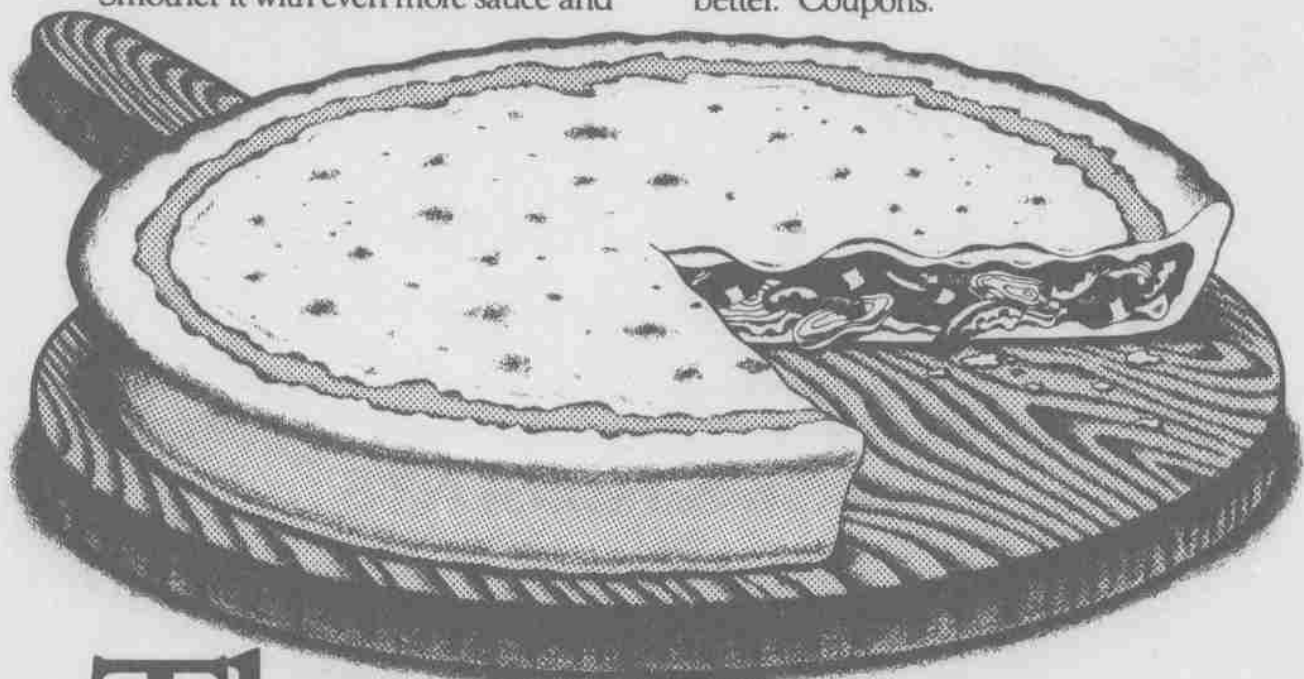
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