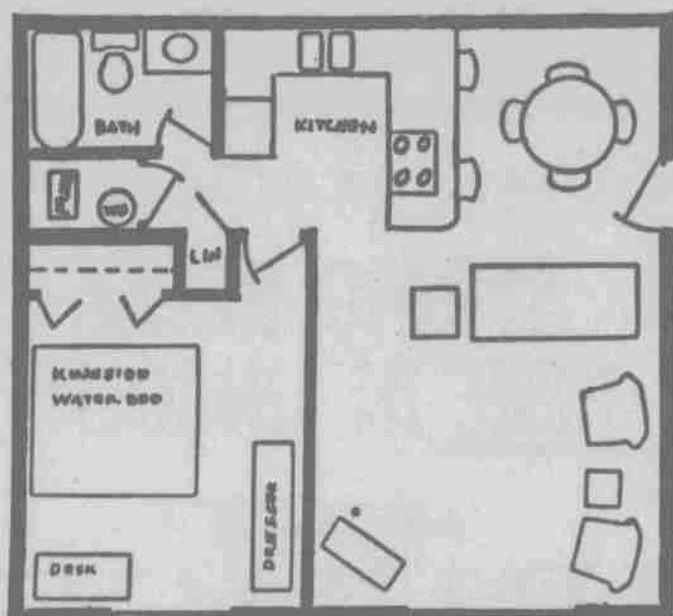


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The Glassy Eye

By
 Dave
 Meile

Thursday, midnight. HBO,
 ch. 26

"C.H.U.D." (1984) John
 Heard, Daniel Stern

Any old bozo can tell you that C.H.U.D. stands for "Cannibalistic Humanoid Underground Dwellers," right? This film is not only a provocative, environmentalist film but also a compassionate look at the plight of the homeless.

A bunch of slimy, unscrupulous Nuclear Regulatory Commission-type guys have been dumping toxic gruel into the bowels of New York City. Before you can say "MD 20-20," a bunch of bag ladies and stereo head transient guys become... yup, cannibalistic humanoid underground dwellers. It's every wino for himself until an eccentric, sweaty soup-kitchen guy and a cop (an overacting guy in an Arrow shirt) uncover the NRC's dastardly deeds.

Meanwhile, a reporter's wife pokes around underground and finds a dog's head on a meat hook. Naturally she calls the cops and files a mangled-dog-head report. Later she's attacked in her apartment by a C.H.U.D. with a stretcho-neck and glowing eyes, but she promptly beheads the little devil, leaving a stump that oozes pus. A poignant and uplifting film.

Saturday, 1 p.m. USA ch. 17.

"The Loch Ness Horror"

(1984) Directed by Larry Buchanan

Once upon a time, in the 60s, Texan Larry Buchanan made some of the worst low-budget horror films in the annals of film history. Shooting on schedules of seven to ten days with budgets sometimes as low as \$18,000, Buchanan churned out inept, hilarious junk that left bad-horror-film devotees slack-jawed. Some of his immortal crap classics include "In the Year 2889," "Mars Needs Women," "Curse of the Swamp Creature" and the legendary "Zontar, Thing from Venus." Sadly, "The Loch Ness Horror" is not typical Buchanan fare. Sure, it's rotten to the core, but it's not as silly and awkward as his '60s work.

The flick takes place in Scotland with lots of American actors going overboard with the thrilled r's. The "nessie" is a real freaky inflatable thing with a dopey expression that



walks on land and shoots steam from its nostrils. The giant dino in front of Sinclair station stations is scarier.

I think the real problem here is that Buchanan spent way too much on this film. It cost \$40,000. If there's any justice in the world, somebody will write a book on L.B. If you can sit through this flick, you have what is known as "bad-film stamina."

Saturday, 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.
 USA, ch. 17

"Damaged Lives" (1933)
 Diane Sinclair

I don't know where the USA network is getting these creaky old sex-and-drug-exploitation flicks but it's commendable, as most are quite obscure and considered so hopelessly archaic that they're rarely shown on TV. This one's about the shame and misery of venereal disease.

Saturday, 10:30 p.m. KPTM,
 ch. 9

"Twelve Angry Men" (1957)
 Henry Fonda, Lee J. Cobb

Quintessential Henry Fonda. An excellent social drama that tries to explore the old "prove beyond a shadow of a doubt" notion. Twelve jurors cram into a sweltering deliberation room intent on convicting a young Hispanic of murder. Fonda, typically, is the dissenter who has doubts and patiently and fairly tries to convince the others of the possibility of the defendant's innocence. Great performances by everyone including Jack Klugman, Lee J. Cobb, Ed Begley and Jack Warden.

Sunday, noon. WGN, ch. 2

"Sherlock Holmes in Wash-

ington" (1943) Basil Rathbone

During WWII the film industry constantly was trying to boost morale, so they decided to bring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's great character into the 20th century so he could outfox Nazis. It makes no difference to me since all the old Holmes films are clever and Rathbone is the best Holmes ever.

In this one, Holmes has to obtain

and decode some microfilm hidden in a matchbook cover before the Nasties get it. George Zucco and Henry Daniel are great as the bad guys. Watch the ending where Holmes and Watson ride in front of a bogus rear projection of Pennsylvania Avenue and give the obligatory patriotic spiel.

Sunday, 3 a.m. WGN, ch. 2

"Up in Smoke" (1958) Dem
 Bowery Boys

I dare you to watch this. Remember all the compare-and-contrast papers you've written here at UNL? Well, compare the 1937 classic "Dead End" with the Dead End kids to 1958's "Up in Smoke" with the later version, The Bowery Boys. The problem is that they're not boys and Leo Gorcey, who was usually crooked during many of the later films, had left by this time, leaving only Huntz Hall. Hall, looking wrinkly and tired, tries to act like a dumb 15-year-old. Messrs. Schwalb, Bernds and Ullman (creators of those epic Three Stooges films) are absent, so even Larry, Moe and Curly fans won't laugh. The plot is immaterial because it's always along the lines of: Huntz gets hit on the head and can read minds, Huntz drinks some funny face and gains the strength of a thousand men, etc. I dare you to laugh.

Conclusion

Next week, WGN, ch. 2, will be showing three "Planet of the Apes" movies at 11:30 p.m. I don't like to brag, but well, I've been through two "Ape-A-Thons" here in Lincoln, one at a drive-in and one at a modern indoor theater. I came out of each one walking semi-erect and ready to write a master's thesis on Roddy McDowell.

An ape summation: the first ape film is good; the second, not bad; the third, pretty silly; and the fourth and fifth feature guys like Paul Williams and John Huston as apes. Sheesh! The wienies at WGN are only showing the first three in the ape series.