

# Arts & Entertainment

## Well-made film misleading

*"Hoosier's" predictable plot lacks award-winning material*

By Kevin Cowan  
Staff Reporter

Ethereal countryside. Dilapidated barns, fields — flat as oceans — feed themselves through the filter and onto the film. A 10-minute introduction.

"Hoosiers," by consensus, appears to be a well-made film. Indeed, well made, with a big budget and some "big names" from Hollywood. But a bottomless budget, some good acting and a timely release during the state basketball tournament are about the only things "Hoosiers" has going for it.

### Movie Review

Now, before those of you who have seen "Hoosiers" begin to form a lynching committee, let me explain why I didn't really care for this movie.

To the best of my knowledge, a film like this requires a couple of basic essentials before it can be called a "good film." It needs to have a plot and a moderate amount of character development. Other than the development of the town drunk, played by Dennis Hopper, the characters progressed little, if at all.

And if dogmatic — nearly psychotic — small towns with fundamentalist values and a near blood-lust for basketball appeal to you, then so would the film.

But frankly, I get tired of "Cinderella" stories where the outcome is always victory and everything in the world has to go wrong before the anticlimactic plot can reach its predetermined destination. Let's not kid ourselves, everyone who sees the movie knows that the little team from nowhere will win the tournament and the hero and heroine will fall in love. I don't see Academy Award material in that.

So what, you may ask, is the plot? It's about a volatile coach who comes to a small town after being "removed" from a college basketball team for striking a member of his team. He then combines his flair for anger with a bit



Courtesy of Orion Pictures  
Gene Hackman runs his team through practice drills in "Hoosiers."

of humbled self-actualization and a team of red-tag basketball players to form a winning team. Sound new? Not really. More like a less humorous version of the Bad News Bears.

The plot "thickens" around a small-town basketball demigod who says fewer than 200 words throughout the film. His only crucial line arrives via a town-council meeting called to dispense the new coach for, of all things, trying to coach the team "his way." Up to this time, Jimmy (Maris Valainis) had not said one word to Coach Dale (Gene Hackman), but for no logical reason he saves the coach from certain doom by telling the townspeople, "I'll play if he stays."

Thus the tables start to turn and, with the help of the town's only liberal father and the town drunk, a team begins to emerge.

You know the end. However, the film has its good points. For one, it was not shot on a soundstage, lending a devout realism to the final product. The cinematography, especially the shots of the country, is a little over dramatized by enjoyable.

The main characters — Gene Hackman, Barbara Hershey and Dennis Hopper — all give highly commendable performances.

Hopper is the film's best source of colorful acting. His first several encounters with Hackman are, to say the least, enjoyable. Hopper's character speaks with unusually interesting slang throughout most of the film.

"They're a bunch of mites who'll run you off the boards... unless you make 'em chuck it from the cheap seats. Watch the purgatory they call a gym... no drives 12 feet in," Hopper tells Hackman on their first meeting. Hopper rambles out his dialogue with a pleasing meter.

Technically, it's a good film. Only those who desire an active plot will be disappointed. Also, if you don't like to know the outcome of a film before it begins, don't waste the money.

But for basketball fanatics or those who want to see a revamped version of "Cinderella," the film maybe your self-proclaimed "best of the year."

"Hoosiers" is showing at the Plaza 4.

## 10 lips from Boston weave notes of brass into graceful melodies

By Jann Nyffeler  
and Joan Rezac  
Staff Reviewers

Imagine an organ of brass. If you closed your eyes, that was the Empire Brass in Friday night's sold-out Kimball Hall concert. Ten lips that sounded like 10 fingers on the finest pipe organ.

### Concert Review

In pieces like Bach's "Sleepers Wake," Copeland's rendition of "Simple Gifts" and "When the Saints Come Marching In," the five men from Boston transcended ordinary performance. They took on the qualities of the instruments for which the music originally was written.

In two toccatas, originally written by Alessandro Scarlatti and German baroque organist Johann Jacob Froberger for keyboard, the quintet wove the melodies from one instrument to another so smoothly that it was impossible to detect the seams. Even the tuba walked the pedal part with effortless deliberation.

**The three-part Tribute to Rafael Mendez in the second half of the show brought Empire Brass down to earth.**

The Rossini aria, "Una voce poco fa," from "The Barber of Seville," wasn't

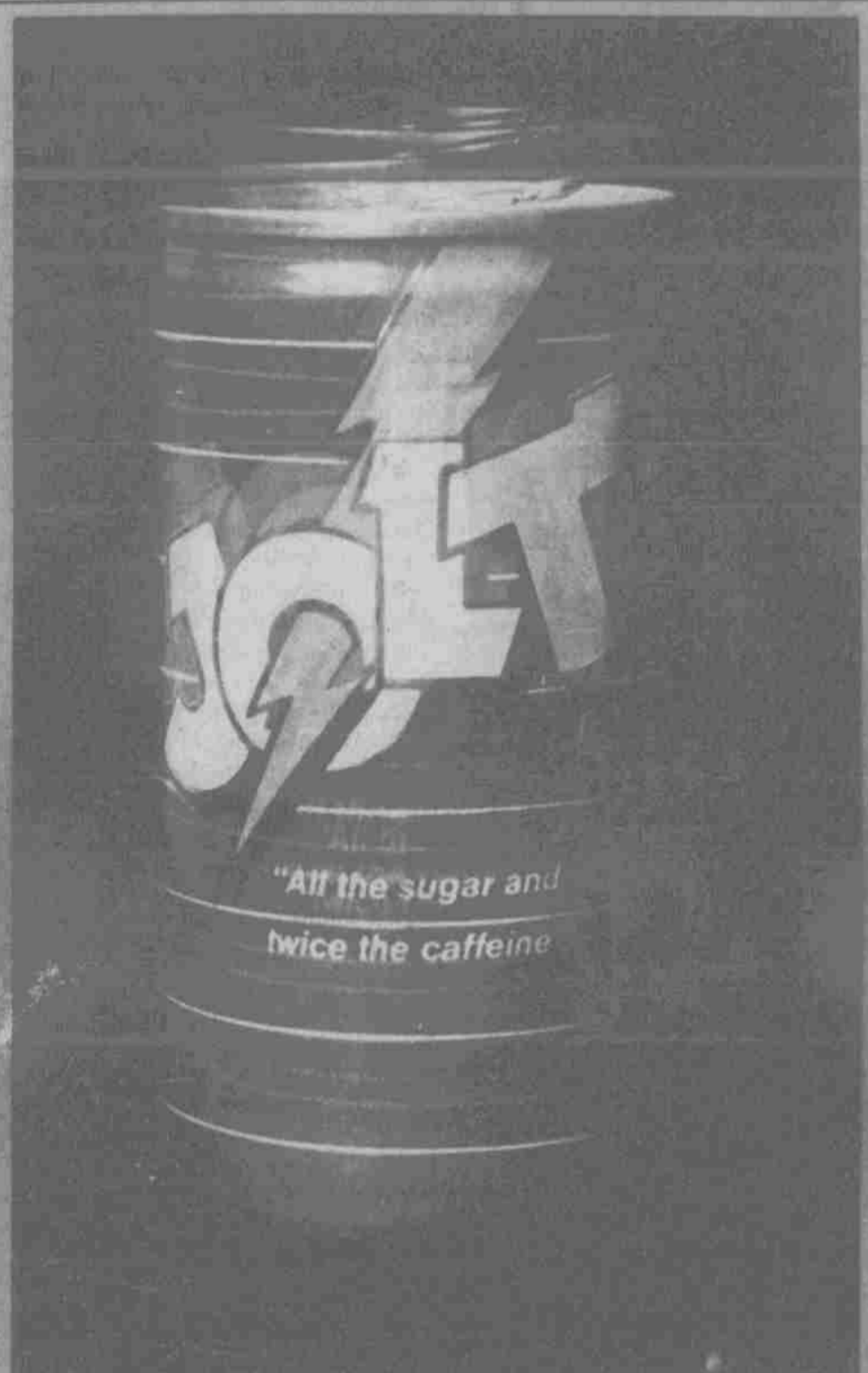


Courtesy of Columbia Artists Management  
Empire Brass

**... the quintet wove the melodies from one instrument to another so smoothly that it was impossible to detect the seams.**

sensuous, expressive interpretation. The third part, "La Virgen de la Macarena," which introduces the bull at the bullfight, evoked Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises."

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Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

Jolt Cola: "All the sugar and twice the caffeine."

### Pop opens eyes

## Always had it, always will; Jolt caffeine — loaded

By Stew Magnuson  
Senior Reporter

Some of us don't want to drink sugar-free Tab with no caffeine and no sodium. Some of us rejoiced after seeing headlines last spring for a cola with "all the sugar and twice the caffeine." Hey, if you don't want caffeine, sugar and sodium in your drink, pour yourself a refreshing cup of carrot juice!

Jolt Cola started on the East Coast last spring and slowly has made its way to Nebraska, sneaking in the grocery stores with little or no fanfare. Unlike other soft drinks whose advertising swears they never had and never will have any caffeine, Jolt Cola has the maximum amount allowed by the FDA, said Jim Beauchamp, vice-president of the Jolt Cola Company, from his office in Rochester, N.Y.

**'All the products on the market are just like the 'me-too, me-too' products. They're boring or following the same trend. We wanted to come up with something bold and counter-trend.'**

— Beauchamp

The president of the company, C.J. Rapp, and his father, two employees of the 7-Up company, wanted to develop a product to catch the public's eye.

"All the products on the market are just like the 'me-too me-too'

products," Beauchamp said. "They're boring or following the same trend. We wanted to come up with something bold and counter-trend."

**'It's the opposite of what you're supposed to do with all the caffeine and sugar... so the kids must like it.'**

— Neumann

Since Jolt's introduction 11 months ago, the cola has spread rapidly. Now, it's found in 41 states and three Canadian provinces. Beauchamp said the soft-drink industry is shocked by the company's rapid growth.

A spot check of Lincoln grocery stores indicated that Jolt is available in approximately 75 percent of the stores. Store managers said the cola was selling from fair to very well.

Dale Neumann, owner of Dale's IGA, said the cola is selling quite well, and one high school bought 12 cases for a big dance.

"It's the opposite of what you're supposed to do with all the caffeine and sugar... so the kids must like it," Neumann said.

Jolt tastes more like Coca-Cola than Pepsi. It doesn't taste as full as Coke. But it's not too sweet like Pepsi. The caffeine, as expected, kept me wired for hours. Those studying for tests or writing papers late at night might want to try it as an alternative to coffee. But if you're going to bed, don't drink this stuff, you might end up staring at the ceiling for hours.

Finding Jolt may be difficult for on-campus students. University vending doesn't distribute it and has no immediate plans to do so.