'The Prinicpal' art of elevating garbage into cinematic craft

By Charles Lieurance Senior Reporter

"The Principal," State Theater, 14th and 0 streets

Sometimes it's hard to tell exactly what it is a movie director does. Films have become so slick and seamless that the director's work is nearly invis-

In the past the auteur was not so

Movie Review

a terrifying place, a maze of corruption and lawlessness, where scrav led anarchy symbols on the walls take on a new, menacing significance. Belushi emotes and jokes his way through the terrors around every cor-ner perfectly. There are occaner perfectly. sional thuds throughout the film, though, where the true banality of the situations shows through the slick. kinetic veneer. Here and there Gossett or Belushi get a tad too sentimental and land on a laughably maudlin line or two. Here and there one of the jungle kids gets a little too cute and winds up playing Jai to Belushi's white savage.

The last lines of the film thud like a plumb bob hitting the bottom of an

Who do you think you are, man?" "He's the principal, man!" shouts

Jai proudly Yeah, I'm the principal, man,"

says Tarzan. But considering the enormity of trash potential in this film, these lines and scenes are forgivable, because all in all "The Principal" is perfectly likable and involving. It rides along with breakneck momentum and sheer charisma, never stopping to let the audience think about how ludicrous each this film, it would have fallen apart

This is the director's craft and sulof art, to suspend disbelief, to create sees his wife in a bar with her divorce piece of general entertainment.



Troy Winbush, James Belushi and J.J. Cohen in "The

inconspicuous. The great directors -Eisenstein, Truffaut, Godard, Hitchcock - lent a certain jaggedness and eccentricity to their films that, although it hampered commerciality on occasion, left a definite director's signature on the celluloid.

Principal.

In modern corporate America, the mark of a truly ingenious director may be his or her ability to salvage complete trash.

The Principal," directed by Christopher Cain, is a perfect example. Sporting a script full of obvious holes, nearly absurdist situations and an inane "new Tarzan" mentality, "The Principal" would look like unfilmable crap to most reasonable directors. But not to Cain, who manages to quell natural disbelief with an explosive soundtrack, gritty cinematography and totally engaging performances by James Belushi, Louis Gossett Jr. and Michael Wright.

Belushi plays a sort of anti-hero Tarzan festering in a good white subsituation is. Had a lull ever appeared in urban school. His dead-end job and frequent drunkenness have made him a man of somewhat "uneven" temperament. In the first few minutes of len art, to elevate garbage to the level the film, Belushi explodes when he

lawyer. Belushi is one of the few people who could make a bat-wielding drunk sympathetic.

As punishment for his behavior, Belushi is sent to hell, a blackboard jungle littered with kids who eat sweathogs for breakfast. The teachers have reached a level of scared impotence. The police have better things to do in the neighborhood than keep track of the kids. And Michael Wright, as Victor, has formed a brutal, violent terror-mafia in the school.

As white principal of this black jungle, Belushi's first reaction is to jump ship fast. But it seems Gossett, the school security guard who knows 'how things are 'round Brandell High," has been waiting for a last-chance white man with Belushi's feverish personality. And together they set about quenching the fires of this urban inferno.

For those hypercritical souls who see through sheen to vapidity with ease, "The Principal" can hardly be recommended. At its core is a fraud.

For those who glory in the illusion and escapism movies can provide, "The Principal" is an explosive, taut

Grampa's Ribs and Secret Sauce

Buy one sandwich get the second for half price with this coupon!

HOURS:

Monday-Tuesday — 5-10 p.m. 💈 Wednesday - Closed Thursday - 5-10 p.m. Friday - 5 p.m.-3 a.m. Saturday — 2 p.m.-3 a.m. Sunday 2-10 p.m. **EXPIRES OCT. 31, 1987**

2297 Holdrege



476-6076



MUELLER PLANETARIUM UNL

LASER FANTASIES

"NEBRASKA'S BEST HOUR OF ROCK AND ROLL"

EXPERIENCE THE ULTIMATE IN LASER ROCK SHOWS WITH OUR NEW FIVE COLOR LASER SYSTEM. DAZZLING BEAMS AND SPECTACULAR SPECIAL EFFECTS WILL OVERPOWER YOUR SENSES. 2500 WATTS OF SUPER SOUND BRING OUT THE BEST IN YOUR FAVORITE ROCK GROUPS



SHOWTIMES:

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 p.m.

ADMISSION TO ALL LASER SHOWS: \$3.50 - Adults \$3.00 Students with ID \$2.00 Children 12 and Under



TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

SEPTEMBER 25-26 GENESIS VAN HALEN OCTOBER 2-3 BOSTON OCTOBER 9-10

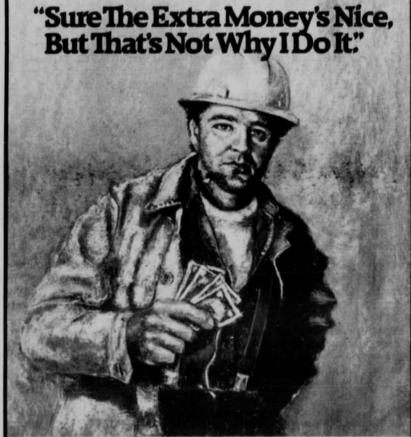
U2 OCTOBER 16-17 ZZ TOP OCTOBER 23-24

PINK FLOYD "DARK SIDE OF THE MOON" OCTOBER 30-31

ROLLING STONES NOVEMBER 6-7 LED ZEPPELIN NOVEMBER 13-14 HEART NOVEMBER 20-21

WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF LASER FANTASIES "MIND WARP EDITION" - AN HOUR OF CLASSIC ROCK 'N' ROLL FEATURING JIMI HENDRIX, KANSAS, DEEP PURPLE, JEFF BECK, THE DOORS, TRIUMPH, BILLY THORPE, AND OTHERS.

> MORRILL HALL 14TH & U ST.



do it because I know that it saves lives. That's why I donate plasma. Millions of people all over America rely on plasma products to stay healthy-or to stay alive! That's a good enough reason for me. But I sure can use the extra cash, too.

Up to \$132 a month!

That's how much you can earn donating plasma in safe, easy visits to University Plasma Center. Call today to find out just how easy it is, and to set up an appointment

University Plasma Center

Associated Bioscience of 1442 O Street Lincoln, NE 68508 Phone 475-8645

\$2BONUS! On your first visit with

this ad.

WEEK	1	2	3	4
1st visit in a calendar week	*10	*10	*10	*10
2nd visit in a calendar week	120	120	¥20	120
Donor Referral	13	13	#3	13
Weekly Totals	#33	133	133	133

Example amount you can \$132 earn in each calendar month