Hughes' film mildly amusing effort

Mark Hain and cky Tideman Reviewers

Mark Hain: Remember way back those days of prepubescence, when hn Hughes' latest flick was a numental and possibly life-alterevent? "This man has glimpsed



nto my very soul," murmured the westruck teenage masses, their oices cracking. "The screen has ecome a mirror; that is me." We all unkered down in our seats as the ights went up, hiding from the ushers f we could in a desperate attempt to sit through another showing of "The Breakfast Club" in rapt silence. But now Anthony Michael has grown out of his gangliness, and along with it his charm; Molly Ringwald is quickly joining the ranks of the "Where are they now?" club, and as the world-

weariness and cynicism of "adult life" turns those theater lights to full beam, John Hughes is no longer the cure for feelings of alienation and loneliness, only a purveyor of mildly amusing films about the interaction of teenagers and adults.

Becky Tideman: I also was hoping this movie would be of the same caliber as past Hughes films, but "Uncle Buck" displayed none of the humor or effort of Hughes' previous films. I feel Mr. Hughes should take the advice so eloquently dispensed by Steve Martin in "Planes, Trains and Automobiles' (another Hughes film starring John Candy). Martin explained, "Here's an

idea, next time you tell a story, have a point. It makes it so much more enjoyable for the listener."
I think "Uncle Buck" had poten-

tial. Unfortunately it turned out to be a 90-minute exercise in mediocrity; good TV, but not good film-making.

MH: I was expecting to be miserable at this movie. I knew the only way I could get to the theater to see this film was on my bike, and just as I hopped on my rickety love machine,

ing it to the theater without getting struck by lightening, I sat down in the air-conditioned dimness. Three teeny-bopper girls giggled mali-ciously behind me as I tried to dry my spattered glasses. Once again I was a shy, insecure teenager who had been mesmerised by "Sixteen Candles. (I suppose you're wondering why I'm blathering on and on, but there's really not much to say about "Uncle buck" without giving away the plot.) I shivered in my clinging clothes as the lights went down, my bangs thrickling cold, stinging water into my eyes. Despite it all, I had a good time. Not a great laugh riot, and no insight into life, but I laughed.

BT: I think I was less satisfied with this movie than you. True, I did laugh occasionally, but the film left no lasting impression; it bounced right off me. I was much more interested in making squishy noises by wiggling

my tows about in my drenched Keds.
The premise of the film is that the drinking, smoking, gambling, prodigal uncle, Buck Russel, is recruited by his yuppic brother to care for his the rain began. I felt like I had been three children while he and his wife

thrown in a pool. Miraculously mak- are called out of town on a family emergency. Candy and his nieces and nephew have a series of battle-of-thewills confrontations, none of which are overly entertaining or interesting. Basically pretty Mr. Belvedere/ Punky Brewster type stuff.

> MH: I wouldn't say it was quite all that bad. I mean, I didn't cringe in embarrassment or anything. I think some of the faults of the film were overshadowed by appealing per-formances by Candy and a surprising cameo role by Amy Madigan. She managed to be her earthy, personable self and still not seem out of place in this film. Also surprising were the two child actors, who were both cute and precocious without being saccharine and annoying. Most child actors make me want to have a vascctomy, but for the most part I could tolerate these two wee ones. The same, however, cannot be said for Jean Louisa Kelly, queen of the withering stare and icy putdown. I have a feeling that she's really rather a good actress, but she manages to be so callous, that she reminded me of every hateful teenage shrew I've ever known.

BT: It was the small things that made me laugh in this movie; Uncle Buck's pride in his personalized bowling ball, the school principal's face-encompassing wart, and mi-crowaved laudry in lieu of a functioning clothes dryer (it never dawned on Uncle Buck to hang the clothes on a clothesline).

MH: It's interesting that it seems like as we've grown up so has John Hughes. But now that we're young adults he seems to be a cynical old man. While Hughes' humor has in the past been broad, bawdy and slapsticky, it's now rather sedate and somewhat disconcerting. (Uncle Buck's delightful giant pancake does not make up for his creepy, unsettling serial-killer imitations.) Hughes seemed tired and bored. About the only interesting technique he used was a fish-eye lens in shooting Marcy, the neighbor woman in toreador pants who comes over to rumba with Buck. There is a sense that this film is a half-hearted effort for almost everyone involved. Since all of them didn't seem to care much, I guess we can't either.

The show that runs Sept. 7 through

9 features Jent Monk of Sioux City,

Iowa, and Ted Lyde of Chicago.

Nationally known comedians help comedy club celebrate

said Noodles will serve free cham-

Noodles opened Sept. 8, 1988,

pagne and cake.

By Gretchen Boehr nior Reporter

Noodles Comedy Club celebrates its one-year anniversary Sunday night with nationally known comedi-

The three-hour show is called 'The Best of Noodles' and features Scott Nivotny of Minneapolis, Willie Farrell of Des Moines, Iowa, Craig Peters of Los Angeles and Thor

Ramsey of Colorado.

Bobby "Red" Tolnai of Lincoln will serve as the master of ceremonies for Sunday night's show.

Tony Coe, manager of the comedy club, said Sunday night's show will bring together comedians with various styles of humor.

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Farrell and Nivotny, who are con-sidered headliners for the show, have made appearances at Noodles before, Coe said.

Nivotny has appeared on "Showtime's Funniest Person in America" and Farrell's television credit includes the Playboy Channel, Johnson said.

Ramsey has been on HBO, Showtime and "The Arsenio Hall Show." Peters also has appeared on Showtime.

Coe said the show already is

booked.
"This is going to be a great show," Johnson said. "We just wanted to celebrate our anniversary and thank everyone who's supported Noodles this year."

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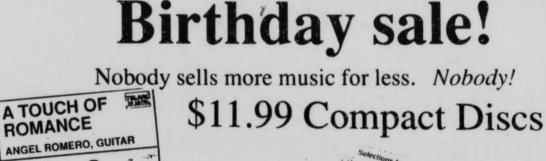
Friday through Sunday, Noodles will feature Farrell, Jeff Sutherland Coe said.

"When we first opened we were of Minneapolis and Tolnai." Reservations are highly recom-

to comedy," Coe said, "but we've

been overwhelmed by customers."

Mark Johnson, general manager, unsure if Lincoln would be receptive





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