Page 11 Tuesday, December 5, 1989 Daily Nebraskan 'Dad' goes straight for the heartstrings All of the actors give gripping able. Dukakis handles Bette with John together, and Hawke does a performances. One of the best per- compassion and genuine affection. John together, and Hawke does a great job of breaking down the walls

By Julie Naughton Staff Reporter

"Dad" is an excellent movie that hits close to home, and students who realize that his parents are growing have elderly grandparents (or par-ents) will be able to relate easily to the story.

"Dad" tells the story of Jake Tremont, a retired Lockheed employee living in Los Angeles. Jake lives with his wife, Bette (Olympia Dukakis). The movie starts with a typical grandma/grandpa breakfast scene -eating toast, clipping coupons and talking. In the next scene, Bette has a heart attack at the supermarket.

As the family is left to deal with

Bette's heart attack, doctors discover that Jake has colon cancer. These tragedies force Jake and Bette's somewhat self-centered son John to

In the process of rediscovering his relationship to his parents, the New York financier becomes closer to his estranged son, Billy (Ethan Hawke). He also learns to relate better to his sister, Annie (Kathy Baker) and his brother-in-law, Mario (Kevin Spacey). Jake's illness forces each family member to examine what they want from life, and forces each family member to examine how they relate to the other people in their lives. formances is turned in by Lemmon. seem to realize is that it's OK if he's lent job of conveying this feeling.

Olympia Dukakis is great as the to the silver screen. feisty, strong-willed Bette Tremont. Bette is the mouth of the Tremont Hawke plays Billy, a freshman at the bearing, but Dukakis manages to ther and caring toward his grandfa-Spielberg, Kath keep Bette from being too unbear-ther. Jake's illness draws Billy and Frank Marshall.

Ted Danson plays John Tremont, He is truly astounding as Jake Tre-mont, a man who will remind many mortality. Danson is believable and mont, a man who will remind many viewers of their own parents. Jake wants nothing more than for his fam-struggle in a few places. Overall, viewers of their own parents water the tradition of "Terms of Endearment," This is a very realistic movie, and one that will ily to be happy, but what he doesn't "Dad" is an excellent representation of Danson's talent. Danson, also of the movie "Cousins," is no stranger members of its audience. to the silver screen. "Dad" is based on the William

family, and is fiercely protective of University of California at Santa her family. At times, Bette is over- Cruz. Billy is hostile toward his fa-

of mistrust that have surrounded Billy and his father.

force children to deal with their parents' aging process. It is a movie that happy, too. Lemmon does an excel- the television show "Cheers" and will hit very close to home for many

Wharton novel and is written for the screen and co-produced by Gary David ("Family Ties") Goldberg. The executive producers are Steven Spielberg, Kathleen Kennedy and

