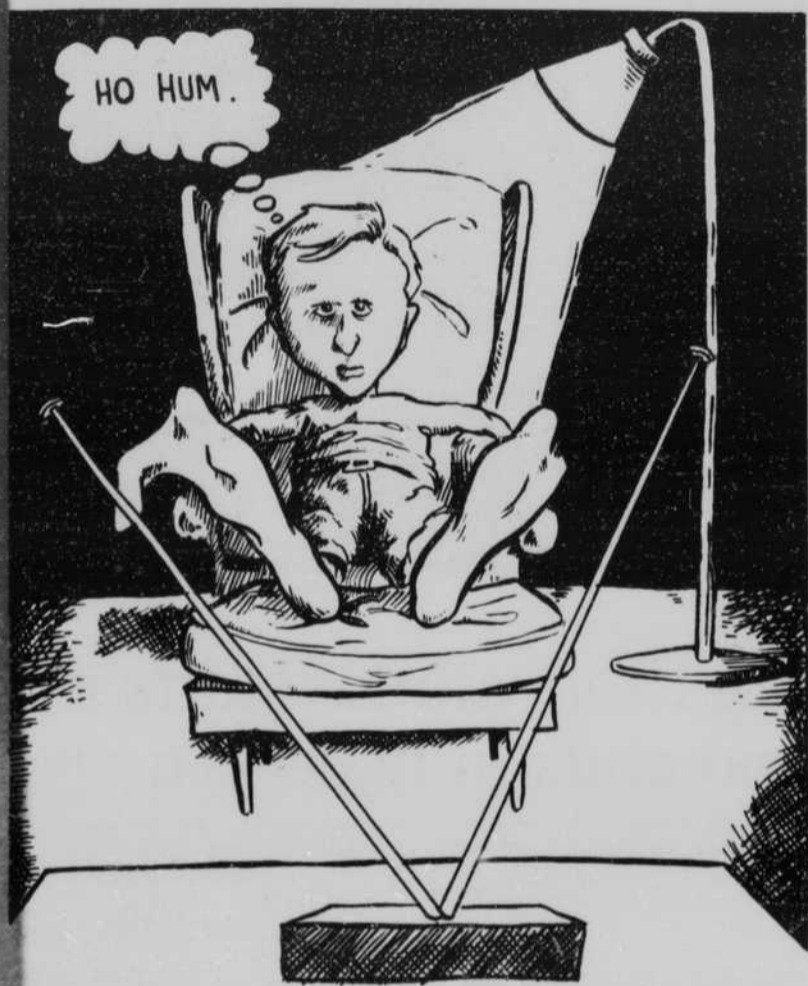


Punt the '80s, live for total pleasure in '90s



Brian Shellito/Daily Nebraskan

By Jim Hanna
Staff Reporter

I watched a lot of TV, and I slept a lot over my semester break. One night I merged both hobbies when I fell asleep with my TV on. It got to be about 6 a.m., and I woke up to a live broadcast of the



Jim Hanna

latest space shuttle launch (being the livin'-on-the-edge guy I am, I dozed off with CNN on my screen).

Even though I was half-asleep, I still managed to ask my dozing self, "Why in the hell are they still broadcasting shuttle launches live? Who cares anymore?"

Who hasn't seen at least one shuttle take off? Are people seriously setting their alarms to wake up at 6 a.m. and watch this crap?

Do me a favor CNN. Only carry live shuttle launches if they're going to blow up. Give me a reason to watch.

I turned off my TV and slept until noon.

So, what's the point? Well, I don't think I need to remind anyone that it became 1990 while we were away.

As I watched the stupefyingly dull shuttle escapade, it occurred to me that we should breathe some new life into a new decade.

This is not the '80s. The shuttle was a big deal in the last decade, but it's nothing to the high-tech Americans of the '90s. If all we are going to do in 1990 is copy the dull trends of 1989, why even have a new decade?

A lot of things have just gotten old lately, and now is as good a time as any to get rid of them. Here are some things I hope we can punt this decade.

I'd like to open with a touch of pessimism...

I don't think any of us will make it through this decade alive. One of the doomsday forecasts (greenhouse effect, overpopulation, Quayle as leader of the free world) will almost certainly come true before the decade is out.

Even if our world isn't destroyed by 1999, we should live our lives as if it were going to be. We should live our lives for total pleasure, as if we were in the final days. I guarantee we'll have more fun.

Now then, I'll start by suggesting that we ban buddy/cop movies. Don't get me wrong. This was an okay film device back in the '80s, but we are just too cool for it now. Plus, it's been battered into the ground as a movie theme.

I haven't seen it, but how good can "Tango & Cash" be? Ooh! Ooh! Let me guess. Two cops are forced to

work together on a case even though they hate each other and would rather work alone, but they go through some trying times and experience a few near-death, macho bonding experiences and end up complementing one another as a law enforcement team. Yikes! My heart races and my crotch tingles at the thought of such an utterly innovative and engaging movie.

Another hope of mine as we head toward the 21st century is that Bob Hope will either die or just shut up. Talk about something that's getting old -- crapes. Hope made movies with Bing Crosby, who was ancient when he died almost ten years ago. I'm sorry, but old people are never funny on purpose. Oh, Bob! Please tell another Dolly Parton/big breast joke ...THEY'RE SO FUNNY!

Another elderly comedian who needs to move on to the nether world is George Burns. I do happen to have a great deal of respect for George, but he has simply become too old. Are we really supposed to believe that he's sleeping with all of those young, pulchritudinous babes he surrounds himself with? I find it hard to believe he even gets erections at his age.

Let us also hope that the '90s will see the end of Spuds McKenzie, a far too over-rated organism. Are we to believe he's sleeping with those women he hangs out with, too?

On the University of Nebraska-

See HANNA on 11

Cops, suspense featured in 'Internal Affairs'

By Troy Falk
Staff Reporter

Richard ("An Officer and a Gentleman") Gere and Andy ("The Untouchables") Garcia star in "Internal

movie REVIEW

Internal Affairs," a gripping thriller about the investigation of a corrupt cop. Sex, drugs, violence and rock 'n' roll, "Internal Affairs" has it all.

Gere plays Dennis Peck, a classic "black hat" character. This cop runs

a prostitution ring, a protection agency and an assassination ring.

In a scene that displays this lack of morals, Peck's partner calls his wife to discuss their troubled marriage. While she is talking to her husband, she is in bed with Peck.

Avila, played by Garcia, is an internal affairs cop who ends up investigating Peck after Peck's partner is found to have planted drugs on a suspect. Avila is the "white hat" character of the movie. In a classic scene, Peck offers Avila a prostitute. Avila's response? "No thanks."

Peck tricks Avila's wife into meeting him at a restaurant. He knows that

Avila is tailing him. This causes Avila to believe that Peck is sleeping with his wife, even though Avila's wife is innocent.

Speaking of sex, Peck has sex with almost every woman character appearing in the movie. Peck also is an expert at using psychology to get others to do what he wants. "Trust me, I'm a cop," he constantly says to those that doubt his morals.

Nancy Trivic plays Amy Wallas, Avila's partner in the internal affairs department. Her performance is less than breathtaking -- any actress could have portrayed Wallas just as well as

Trivic did.

Avila and Wallas get a big break in their investigation of Peck when Peck's current wife submits valuable information. She turns in Peck after she suspects him of having something to do with the murder of an elderly couple. Wallas is the senior partner, but she eventually loses control of the investigation and become Avila's side-kick.

The information about the elderly couple's murder leads Avila and Wallas directly to Peck and inevitably into the interesting and suspenseful, but still Hollywood-style, ending.

Gere and Garcia make the plot of

"Internal Affairs" believable. Gere takes Peck, the highly decorated cop, and shows the audience his capacity for cruelty. Garcia's Avila shows what can happen to a good husband and cop when he is pushed beyond his limit. Avila is believable because of his ability to succumb to human imperfection. During one emotional outburst, he slaps his wife in a crowded restaurant because he thinks she is cheating on him.

After seeing this flick, it becomes hard to trust any police car driving by. "Internal Affairs" is playing at the Douglas 3 Theatre, 1300 P St.

Minor characters sacrificed, but novel good first effort for Weyr

By Julie Naughton
Senior Reporter

Garrett Weyr
"Pretty Girls"
Pocket Books

"Pretty Girls" is the story of three young women coming of age at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Weyr's novel, written in the present tense, focuses on the escape

book REVIEW

of the students who call themselves the Amazon Club: Penelope, Alex and Caroline.

The sometimes-sappy protagonists deal with various subjects and problems: from anorexia, bulimia and rape (Alex), to pregnancy (Penelope), and a brother's death in Vietnam (Caroline). The women use their friendship as protection against the terrible world.

Penelope is the daughter of the American ambassador to France. She is an American citizen born and raised in England, and had only been to America once or twice before beginning college in North Carolina. Penelope is wild, always ready for a new adventure, and her

two friends depend on her to provide the excitement in their lives. She is the most interesting character in the novel.

Next there is Caroline, a Colorado native who lost her brother in the Vietnam War. She cares more about her friends than she cares about herself. She has very low self-esteem and busies herself with pleasing others. When others take advantage of her, her first impulse is to shut herself off -- to isolate herself and stop dealing with her problems.

Finally, there is Alex (short for Alexandria), a New Yorker. She is street-smart and intelligent, an aspiring journalist. She works at her school paper, runs five miles a day, and forces herself to vomit after every yummy meal.

Alex is absolutely terrified of men, having been raped several years before, and avoids relationships and dates at all costs.

Minor characters include roommates (Cristen, Nancy, Belinda, and one identified only as "South Campus Sorority Sue"), boyfriends (Edward, Colin, Simon), and down-right enemies (Sue).

Although most of Weyr's major characters at least have moments that ring true, many of her minor characters are unbelievable. It's

understandable that Weyr wants Penelope, Caroline and Alex to be the most exciting, the most interesting, the most valid characters in the story. After all, they are the main characters.

But in illustrating this, Weyr has sacrificed the minor characters. The minor women are complete clods to the goddesses who call themselves the Amazons. The men are portrayed as jerks. In short, the minor characters -- the supporting cast, if you will -- fall somewhere short of human. They are not believable people.

Weyr also tends to mention one subject and, without saying anything more, completely describe another subject. This is not only confusing, it also is annoying.

Weyr makes a valiant attempt to make her characters live and breathe. She comes close to this goal.

For a first novel, it's not a bad book. More than likely, Weyr will clear up the writing problems she had with "Pretty Girls" by the time she finishes her next novel.

Weyr is a 1987 graduate of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She lives in Philadelphia and is reportedly at work on her second novel.

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PRETTY GIRLS

"AN ENORMOUSLY TALENTED WRITER..."
— Judith Rossner

Courtesy of Pocket Books