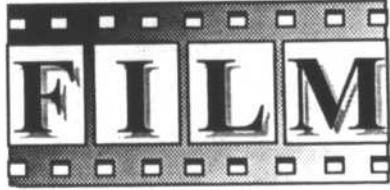


Movie's plot
not 'Brief'
but complex



"The Pelican Brief"



By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

"The Pelican Brief," the newest film adaptation of a John Grisham novel, tries too hard to follow the book, leaving filmgoers who haven't read the novel in the dark.

The story begins with the murder of two Supreme Court justices. The CIA, FBI and every police department in the nation are baffled and are unable to find any worthwhile leads.

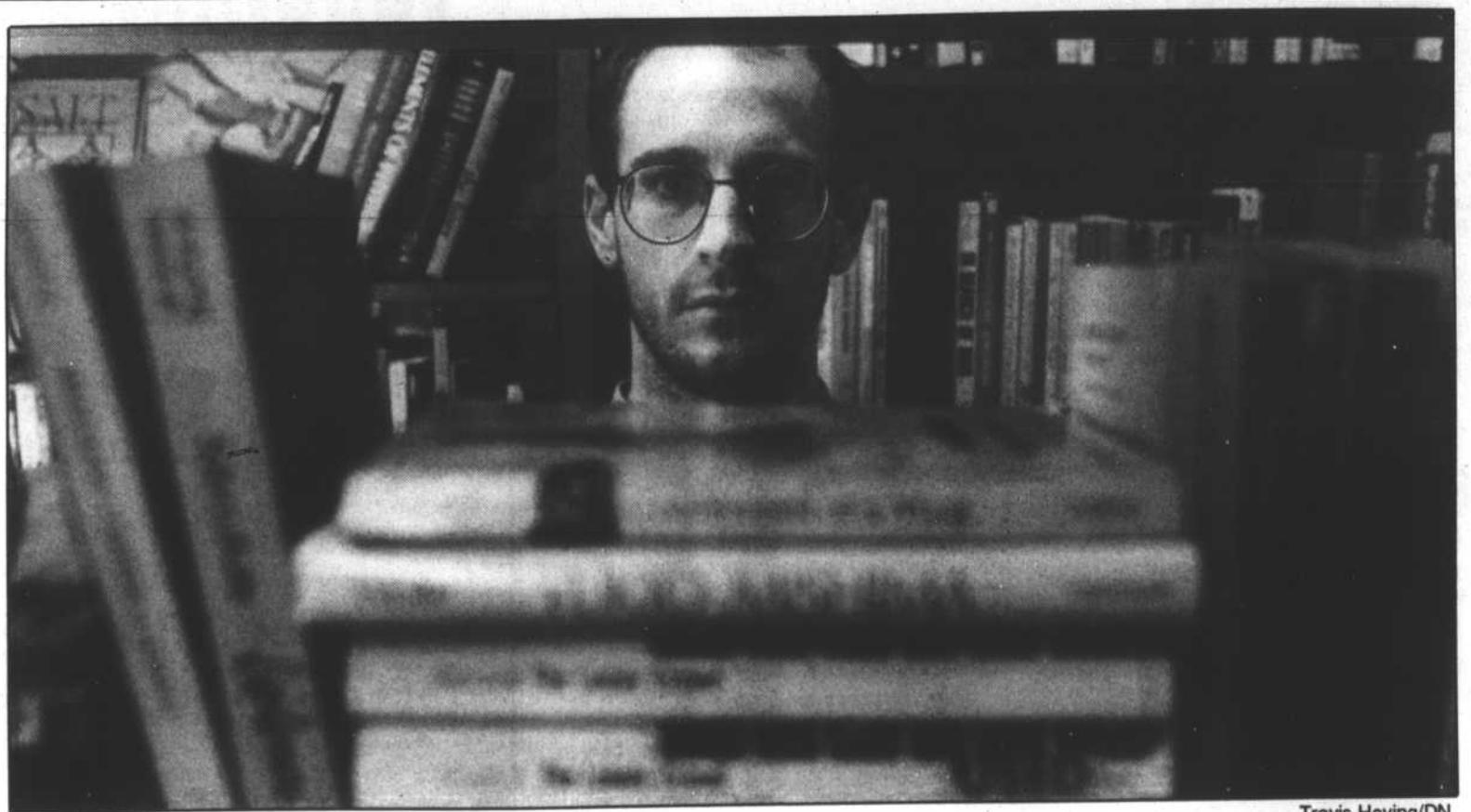
A Tulane law student, Darby Shaw (Julia Roberts), uncovers an unlikely suspect by researching possible connections between the two justices. Shaw compiles her theory into the Pelican Brief, which she shows to her professor and lover Thomas Callahan (Sam Shepard). He thinks it has some merit, and he gives it to a friend in the FBI.

The brief gets passed up through the ranks until it reaches someone who doesn't want the information revealed. Callahan is killed in a car explosion from which Shaw luckily escapes. She goes underground and attempts to discover who is trying to kill her. Unfortunately, everyone she tells about the brief gets killed.

Shaw elicits the aid of Washington Post reporter Gray Grantham (Denzel Washington). The two of them research the contacts that Darby's suspect had with law firms in the capital city. After some lucky breaks in their research and in escaping from the assassins, they manage to expose the conspiracy behind the deaths of the Supreme Court justices.

Julia Roberts is convincing in her role as the frightened but determined Shaw. She does a solid job of portray-

See PELICAN on 14



Travis Heying/DN

Bryan Peterson and Cinnamon Dokken (not pictured) started their bookstore with only 3,000 books and no heating. A Novel Idea, at 118 N. 14th St., shows their entrepreneurial success with more than 30,000 books in stock.

New bucks in old books
Persistent owners cultivate A Novel Idea



By Heather Sinor
Staff Reporter

An entrepreneurial spirit, ecologically sound merchandise and a love of books make the used book store A Novel Idea at 118 N. 14th St. the ideal business for owners Cinnamon Dokken and Bryan Peterson.

These two UNL graduates opened the original A Novel Idea on 16th Street 2 1/2 years ago as full-time students.

Peterson had been collecting books in his father's basement and said that both he and Dokken bought

and read far too many books.

Between the two of them, Dokken and Peterson had two to three thousand books when they opened their store in the summer of 1991.

"They spent their first year in a basement room with no heating or air conditioning that they rented for \$50 a month.

"It was so cold in there that sometimes I wore six layers of clothing," Dokken said.

Because of the wiring, Dokken said only one major appliance could be run at a time.

"Lots of times the lights would go out and people would look for books with flashlights," she said.

Because it was just the two of them running the store, Dokken said they studied, took catnaps and practically lived there.

"I can't believe we did it," she

said.

They built bookshelves out of wood from old homecoming floats donated by fraternities, and they adopted their store pet, O.K. the cat.

In fact, O.K. has become such a strong favorite to passers-by in the new store that often Peterson and Dokken come to work to find lipstick kisses on the glass window.

The owners said many of their devoted customers had been with them from the beginning and had followed them to their current location three blocks from campus.

Everyone has been supportive and encouraging, they said, and they have good relations with the other used bookstores in Lincoln.

Dokken and Peterson have at least 30,000 books in stock. This tenfold increase from the original

inventory has come from trade-ins, garage sales, auctions and attics, Peterson said.

"At first we couldn't imagine filling the place. Now we don't have enough room."

Their strongest sections in the two-level store are martial arts, literature and foreign languages, and all books sell for about half of their original cover prices, Dokken said.

They also sell a few textbooks, role-playing game supplies (such as Dungeons and Dragons), chess books, new martial arts books and store T-shirts.

Both Dokken and Peterson said they enjoyed their self-made business and continually come out ahead.

"What we lacked in knowledge and experience we made up for in blind ambition," Peterson said.

New horror novel is like a geneological project

Anne Rice
"Lasher"
Alfred A. Knopf

I have never been a big fan of Anne Rice.

I have always found her work to be long-winded and full of information that has absolutely nothing to do with the story.

Her latest work, "Lasher," does nothing to change my views, only to reinforce them.

"Lasher" is the sequel to the novel "The Witching Hour," which intro-

duced Rowan Mayfair, her husband Micheal Curry, and the whole clan of Mayfair witches. The first half of the "Witching Hour" was good, until Rice goes into an extensive history of the Mayfair family.

Boring.

"Lasher" chronicles Rowan's abduction by the demon Lasher and her attempts to escape with her and Micheal's child, which Lasher has tried to take over. After Rowan escapes, Lasher sets out to mate with another Mayfair witch, but this doesn't

work and a good many witches bleed to death as a result.

Although the story itself sounds interesting, the execution is anything but.

Rice spends an unbelievable number of pages on events that really don't deserve the treatment. The first forty pages are dedicated to Mona Mayfair's seduction of Micheal Curry, who is her uncle, and are full of too many references to other Mayfairs.

This seems to be the main problem with a book like this that has a huge

number of characters: it's hard to keep them all straight.

While reading "Lasher" I got to the point where I didn't care about any of the characters because there were too many to worry about.

Fans of Rice have no doubt already picked up and consumed this book. For non-fans who are looking to add another author to their reading list, look elsewhere.

— William J. Harms

Tale of Earps is more than O.K.



"Tombstone"



By Gerry Beltz
Staff Reporter

In an adventurous trip back to the Old West, "Tombstone" tells about

more than just the infamous gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

Director George Cosmatos ("Rambo: First Blood Part II", "Leviathan") again proves his incredible ability to weave an enjoyable tale for all kinds of moviegoers. From adventure to drama to suspense, this one has it all.

Wyatt Earp (Kurt Russell) has just arrived in Tombstone, Arizona after resigning as Marshal in Dodge City. He and his brothers Virgil (Sam Elliott) and Morgan (Bill Paxton) plan on starting their own business and settling down to a quiet life.

Nope. Not a chance. Before Wyatt's spurs have had a

chance to stop clinking, he realizes that a gang of ruthless gunmen called the Cowboys — characterized by a red sash — have a viselike grip on the throat of the town.

Sure enough, a power struggle ensues between the Cowboys and the Earps (aided by Doc Holliday, marvelously portrayed by Val Kilmer). People start getting killed left and right, and eventually anyone wearing a red sash has the life expectancy of a security officer for Captain Kirk.

The shootout at the O.K. Corral is shown, but it's not the climax, and

See TOMBSTONE on 13

The Daily Nebraskan's Film Rating System



Definite classic; a must-see

Catch it on the big screen

Worth seeing eventually

Go see if you have nothing better to do

Go only if someone else is paying for your ticket