

Grass

Continued from Page 2 and to the center, because it is a collaborative effort."

The center may not be a forever thing, Waller said. It would depend on how well things go in the first three years.

The anticipated accomplishments for the next three years include appointing a director, holding a conference to summarize current grassland activities and programs, submitting grant proposals to fund specific projects, and building public awareness of the grassland's contribution to urban and rural development, Waller said.

The success of the center will be reviewed after three years to determine if it has accomplished its objectives, and if it has been able to generate enough external funding.

The next step for the center is the Board of Regents approval of the proposal at its July 16 meeting.

The task force on Grassland Studies is optimistic, Waller said. He said that they were confident that the center would accomplish its goals and bring public awareness.

"We hope when students come back in August, that they will be able to say 'This is the Center of Grassland Studies, where we are going to make a difference'."

Grisham does it once again



"The Chamber"
By John Grisham
Doubleday

The master of the legal thriller is back, and this time he's written about a darker subject than usual — the death penalty.

John Grisham's latest novel, "The Chamber," deals with the personal ambitions of Adam Hall, a young lawyer fresh out of law school, who deigns to keep his grandfather from the gas chamber.

Adam's grandfather, Sam Cayhall, was given death row residency after a bomb that he allegedly set went off at the wrong time, killing 5-year-old twins.

Sam's execution date is only four weeks away and Adam is armed with only a string of weak, last-ditch appeals to try to obtain a stay of the execution.

"The Chamber" is set in the same racially tense environment of "A Time to Kill," Grisham's first novel. Unlike his other four books, "The Chamber" deals more with human reactions and feelings than with the main characters being chased by the mafia or the government.

The bombing that Sam was involved with was planned by the Ku

Klux Klan. The Cayhall ancestors have always been closely linked with this organization.

Sam's family had tried to bury his dark past and to keep everything hidden from Adam. Adam's father was unable to cope with the atrocities that Sam had committed, and killed himself. Adam's aunt comes to terms with the past through her roaring alcoholism.

Adam must deal with the fact that Sam indirectly caused his father's death and might not be worth saving from the chamber. He must contrast the evil man that Sam used to be to the frail, repentant old man that he is now.

Grisham does manage to make "The Chamber" a thriller as well as an exploration of Adam's dealings with the past. He shows the readers that Sam had a partner in the bombing — a partner who has so far remained anonymous and will do anything to ensure that he will not be revealed.

Grisham also tackles one of the most two-sided issues in our judicial system today: the death penalty. Advocates and opponents raise their voices and explain their beliefs to the readers who, despite their personal ideals, will find themselves having doubts and maybe even jumping to the other side of the fence while reading



Courtesy of Doubleday

John Grisham has written four best-selling novels, three of which have been made into movies. His latest book is called "The Chamber."

this novel.

Grisham does what few authors have ever been able to do. He makes stories about courtroom dramas and legalities not only interesting, but compelling. His writing style is highly attuned to the comprehension of the layman, and he makes the legal system not only understandable, but enjoyable.

While not his best book, "The Chamber" is a great read, enlightening as well as entertaining.

— Joel Strauch

Decent movies have their day with dog



By Gerry Beltz
Staff Reporter

This week, the new release shelves are seeing quite a bit of traffic, because the movies are all fairly good, except for one killer-dog piece of garbage. However, the pick-of-the-week is a horror-suspense classic that you may not have seen for some time. All were released Wednesday.

"The Air Up There" — Not just another find-yourself-through-sports flick, "The Air Up There" is actually entertaining and surprising.

Intent on finding a power player for his team, Jimmy Dolan (Kevin Bacon) travels to Africa and meets Saleh (Charles Gitonga Maina in his screen debut), who prefers the company of his tribe to playing basketball.

Naturally, the film's climax is a close basketball game, but it takes place over the land ownership of Saleh's tribe, not a national championship.

See it if everything else is checked out.

"The Pelican Brief" — Although

the movie has a very strong cast and director, John Grisham's book is better than the movie, and you can't follow the movie without reading the book first.

Darby Shaw (Julia Roberts) is a law student that uncovers some unlikely suspects in the unsolved murders of two Supreme Court justices, and she finds herself in over her head. Denzel Washington shows up as an ambitious reporter who turns out to be the only aid that Shaw has in escaping death.

Skip the movie, read the book, and avoid the confusion.

"The Getaway" — A remake of the 1972 Steve McQueen-Ali McGraw film, this one stars real-life husband-and-wife team Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger.

Baldwin plays Doc McCoy, an incredible thief who is imprisoned down in Mexico. His wife Carol (Basinger) enlists the aid of power broker Jack Benyon (James Woods) to get McCoy out of prison, the price of which includes some extra-marital favors from Carol, and a special job from McCoy.

Great talent and a decent chase scene, it's worth seeing.

"Iron Will" — It looks like another "Will the kid beat the adults?" flick, but it works as a film because of its real feel.

Granted, this is a Disney movie,

and you can't help but worry about your saccharin intake during the film, but the movie's emphasis on family and courage help to overcome this problem.

Based on a true story, "Iron Will" is about Will (Mackenzie Astin), a boy who is suddenly made the man of the house after his father dies. Facing financial deficits, Will's only chance is winning a 522-mile dogsled race with a \$10,000 first prize.

Check it out.

"Man's Best Friend" — BLECH!!!! There's always one dog in the group, and "Man's Best Friend" definitely qualifies. The main star is Max, a gigantic dog that is a hybrid of the DNA from chameleon, cheetah, and dog, and others. He is one mean pooch, who ends up in the custody of investigative reporter Ally Sheedy.

Go alphabetize your soup instead of seeing this one.

PICK-OF-THE-WEEK — It's one of those nail-biting thrillers with a dose of humor thrown in, as well as a great cast of young actors and an awesome soundtrack.

It's time to find "The Lost Boys." With modern-day vampires in an amusement park, "The Lost Boys" features a terrific performance from Kiefer Sutherland as the lead vampire. Who could ever eat rice the same way again after seeing this flick?

See it with someone you trust.

N EXPRESS LUBE

17th & 'N' St.
No Appointments Necessary
476-9466
\$6 Off
Oil Changes Service

PENNZOIL **QUAKER STATE**

NOW FOR **\$18.95** (reg. \$24.95)
ONLY

*We change oil, oil filter up to 5 quarts.
*We lubricate the chassis.
*We check and fill: Automatic transmission fluid, brake fluid, battery fluid, power steering fluid and washer fluid.
*We check anti freeze, air filter, wiper blades, tire pressure, vacuum interior, and wash your windows.

Best Service in
Just 10 Minutes
Most brands available
Expires 8-31-94
Mon-Fri 8-6 Sat 8-4

Sand Volleyball

Sand volleyball leagues now forming at the new Bambu Beach, State Fair Park. For league information call 477-2005, 438-3077, or stop at the East beer garden under the yellow tent.

Thunder Sports

Attention
August 1994 Graduates
Your Degree Application is Due
June 24, 1994
Apply at 107 Administration

Looking For A Good Time?



Join the Party
at
W.C.'s
Downtown

Featuring...

Lie Awake

Friday, June 17, & Saturday June 18
(9pm-1am)

F.A.C. Specials; Only \$3 Cover

1228 'P' Street

477-4006