

Second Read-a-Thon held

From Staff Reports

Today the Writing Assistance Center will feature three hours of juice, coffee, treats and literature.

"Spring Fever: A Student and Faculty Read-a-Thon" will be held in the Writing Assistance Center, 129 Andrews Hall, from 9 a.m. to noon. Students and faculty members will read various forms of literature to the audience.

The event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

This is the center's second Read-a-Thon. The first one was last fall. It had enough support that the organizers decided to hold a Read-a-Thon twice each year.

Nancy Welch, the center's asso-

ciate coordinator, said the event was well-received by both students and faculty.

"We know there is a lot of writing happening in the Writing Assistance Center and around campus, but not many ways for students to hear and write what they do," Welch said.

Last fall, 30 people presented their work and about 25 people came to watch, she said. Welch said several people came in during breaks between classes, sometimes staying only a few minutes.

Many of types of literature can be read, including book reviews, essays, journals, letters, fiction and poetry. Every undergraduate who has signed up and reads will be entered in a \$25 drawing.



Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Dustin Hoffman, right, and Cuba Gooding Jr. star in the medical thriller "Outbreak."

You're smart enough to calculate the size of a Hydrogen atom. And you're still smoking?

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

'Outbreak' of boredom at theater

By Chad Johnson
Film Critic

The Facts

Film: "Outbreak"
Stars: Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo, Morgan Freeman
Director: Wolfgang Petersen
Rated: R
Grade: C-
Five Words: Super killer virus threatens humanity.

becomes just another Hollywood exercise in boredom.

Yet again the viewer gets to see the faceless, sub-human soldiers rounding up the innocent civilians in the name of "National Security." The evil government tries to eliminate the infected and deny the truth to the public.

The film does not just lead the viewers by the hand; it grabs them by the nose, screaming, "OK, have you got the point? Good, next point! Did you get it?" This is not only irritating, but insulting to one's intelligence. Most people who have evolved beyond the stage of slime mold will be able to get the point just fine, thank you.

The actors were asked to do too much when they were asked to save this film. Heck, they were probably asked to do too much when they were asked to appear in it.

Many may not enjoy the film, but will definitely want to wash their hands when it's over.

It is so refreshing to see an original, challenging film that offers new insights and unusual ways to explore an idea... a film that is nothing like "Outbreak."

"Outbreak" is stale. Put together like a cut-and-paste art project, the film redefines predictable. Predictable, because the viewer has already seen all the action in other, better films.

Dustin Hoffman is an accomplished, highly regarded actor. His performance and Morgan Freeman's are the only bright spots in this dismal film.

Hoffman plays Col. Daniels, a virologist for "AMARIID," a bureaucratic, faceless government machine that seeks to destroy viruses for the public while making biological weapons in its spare time.

Morgan Freeman plays his boss, who uses and abuses the system to his own advantage. Freeman's boss is

played by Donald Sutherland, who needs to stop appearing in films where humanity is threatened by something that "takes over" and wipes everybody out.

Director Wolfgang Petersen must have gotten bored after the first few days of shooting. He starts off with some interesting shots that indicate the film has some potential. That soon breaks down, and the camera work

Plays

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Instead she meets up with pals at a gay bar, slams some shots and helps her friend Rob come out of the closet.

Rob's brother, Kevin, reacts with typical hysteria, pricelessly capturing the social stigma associated with homosexuality.

Jessie then wakes up at her best friend Kara's apartment with a hang-over (gratuitous panty-flashing scene) and has another mind-boggling conversation with Kara (Laura Holman).

The two discuss Rob's homosexuality, and Kara says she is a bisexual. "We're all gay," she had joked the night before at the bar. Now we know she wasn't kidding.

"Dumb Movie," a play by Mark Weitzenkamp, was an interesting twist on boy meets girl. It featured two

friends, one discussing a stupid movie he had been to where he met a 6-foot pregnant girl. It ends with the girl coming over for dinner, baby in tow.

"The Bench," written by Amy K. Rohr, was better than "Dumb Movie." It centered on a young girl sitting on a city bench, doggedly trying to read a juicy book. But weirdos and freaks alike keep gravitating to her bench, wanting to discuss life.

She gets rid of the first freak by buying a \$7 ticket to a pancake feed, but the next one comes along soon enough, plopping himself down on the ground in front of her bench.

The fourth one-act, called "It's Business," by Andrew M. Hayes, was about just that — business. It was set apart by the unique dialogue, mostly characters exchanging one-liners.

The characters go 'round the firing desk, all losing their jobs. ("Econom-

ics," the boss says. "Commitment," the employee fires back.) The play ends with an appropriate note; the song "Minimum Wage."

The last, "Karaoke Love," by Corby Tushla, centered on the life of one pitiful woman. Meg recalls her life in snippets of sappy love songs, like "Crazy" by Patsy Cline and "Hopelessly Devoted to You" from "Grease."

Meg (Valerie DeVoe) has spent her white-trash life dreaming of princes and white horses, so when she meets Buck Corduroy, the town's mayor, she falls hopelessly in love. The rest of this monologue, though it dragged at times, was funny and well-acted, carried by DeVoe's trilling soprano.

Overall, these plays were fresh, with a smart, eager and funny cast that really had a passion for acting and theater. Next time, save your cash, pass the Lied and keep going until you get to the next Theatix production.

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