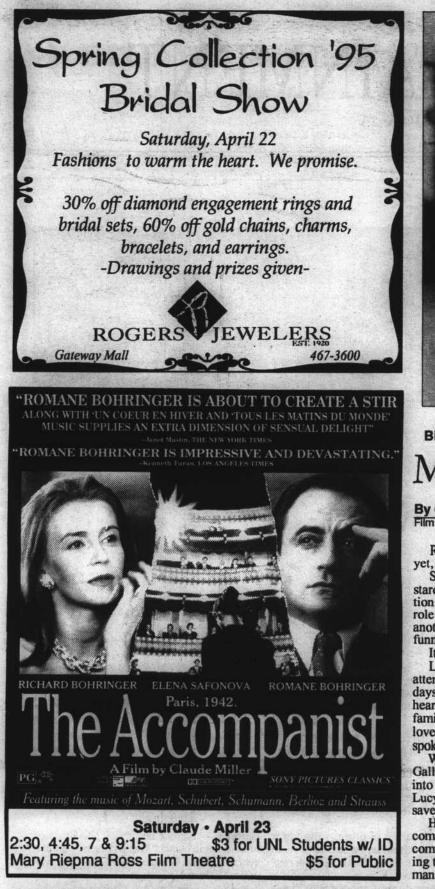
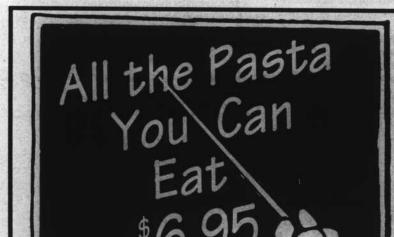
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Bill Pullman and Sandra Bullock appear in "While You Were Sleeping."

Movie predictable, heartwarming

By Gerry Beltz Film Critic

Romance is not dead ... not quite yet, anyway

Daily Nebraskan

Sandra Bullock, who has leapt to stardom with movies like "Demoli-tion Man" and "Speed," takes the lead role in "While You Were Sleeping," another romantic comedy to tickle the funny bone and warm the heart.

It works, too.

Lucy (Bullock) is a lonely subway attendant who is tired of working holidays and has an empty spot in her heart her cat can't fill. She has no family, few friends and has fallen in love with a man to whom she's never spoken.

When Lucy's mystery man (Peter Gallagher) falls onto the tracks and into the path of an oncoming train, Lucy springs out of the booth and saves his life just in the nick of time.

However, the mystery man is in a coma and one standard cinematic miscommunication gets everyone thinking that Lucy is Peter's (the mystery man's) fiancee.

The Facts

Film: "While You Were Sleeping'

Stars: Sandra Bullock, Bill Pullman, Peter Gallagher

Director: Jon Turteltaub

Rating: PG

Grade: B

Five words: Romantic comedy with comatose twist.

Lucy has no real problem with this at first, because now she has a family to be with that needs her as much as she needs them. They accept her into the family and everything is going reat ... until Lucy falls in love with eter's brother Jack (Bill Pullman).

Bill Pullman has played a lot of good-hearted spamheads in the past ("Spaceballs," "Malice") but avoids ABLE, good-hearted spamhead in "While You Were Sleeping." Still, he

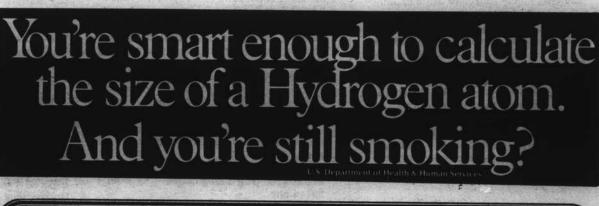
is enjoyable.

Director Jon Turteltaub ("Three Ninjas," "Cool Runnings") knows all the tricks on what to do and when to do it in a romantic comedy, but he doesn't seem to know where to stop. Although the movie's running time is about 90 minutes, it feels like it takes more than two hours to get from beginning to end.

Sandra Bullock proves she can handle a leading role with "While You Were Sleeping," but only if that lead role is supported by a strong cast and a strong script. If either of those fac-tors had been any weaker, she would have been in trouble.

Gallagher plays a great vegetable, just lying there, completely motionless. It's easily the best performance of a body in a non-speaking role sin Kevin Costner in "The Big Chill."

(By the way, you don't need to use our free call to the Psychic Readers Network to figure out the end of this flick.)



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