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# Zany 'Bingo' links gambling, religion

By John Fulwider

A plain metal-and-wood table and two chairs stand alone in a school hallway. A sign on the wall reads "God loves parochial schools."

Theater Review

Two old women enter one a rotund, dispirited-lookfigure ing dressed in a shocking red and white mumu; the other a tall, skinny woman says.

with enough eye shadow on to darken the whole room.

They reach into their bags, pulling out their lucky items: a teddy bear, a roll of toilet paper and several large ink stamps. They arrange them carefully on the table, then sit

Let's play bingo!

"The Queen of Bingo" is a play about bingo, bingo and more bingo that gambling game played to raise money for the same churches across the country that preach against gambling.

As one might expect from the Futz, "Queen" is just a tad irrever-

One line at the same time pokes fun at the traditional rivalry between Catholics and Protestants and points out the obvious hypocrisy of gambling in a church. Sis (the skinny one, played by Beth Muehling) tells that they'll both go to Hell for playing bingo.

"But it's not a sin for us," Babe prize, a frozen turkey. protests. "Only for those Protes-

out some sexual humor. Babe asks the Mission Arts building

#### The Facts

Play: The Queen of Bingo Company: The Futz, Inc.

Director: Rick Swaink

Grade: B+

Five Words: Old maids live for bingo

Sis why the number caller is taking too long to check the bingo balls.

"Well, nobody will get off their duffs and go check his balls," Sis

Besides the usual loveable silliness one would expect from the Futz, "Queen" offers something more: some really insightful character development.

In between shouts of "Bingo!," we find that Babe has a serious eating disorder—she's tried every diet known to man or woman, and yet every time she's alone in her house, she cats everything there. She has a pathological dread of moving up to a size 18.

Sis seems to have a gambling addiction. She tells Babe that she plays bingo every night, traveling across town to play at different halls. Her bingo habit is driving a wedge between her and her children, who sapprove of her gambling.

Both Edwards and Muehling deserve accolades for their excellent performances.

To further extend the bingo theme, Father Mac (Jim Hollerman) her younger sister, Babe (the ro- led a genuine bingo game for the tund one, played by Jan Edwards), audience at intermission, which most everyone seemed to enjoy.

Especially the lady who won the

"The Queen of Bingo" continues Thursday through Saturday at 8 Futz shows never go long with- p.m. at the Futz, 124 S. Ninth St. in

## **New Vid**

Continued from Page 9

age, if not less.

Dec. 19:

"Clueless" — Oh goody. Alicia Silverstone (receiving her acting training in Aerosmith videos) comes forth with a "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" for the '90s, and it's "Clueless."

(That wasn't just the title, but also

the quality.)
Cher (Silverstone) suffers through school, a driver's test and problems in social life, but she still has time to spout off valley girl-ish phrases for the audience to pick up on.

Writer-Director Amy Heckerling "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" missed on "Clueless," mainly because Heckerling apparently didn't know that valley talk is as dead as Mark

Fuhrman's career.
"Die Hard With A Vengeance"— Although a slightly different twist from the previous "Die Hard" flicks, this one still fits the bill ... except for the

very lame ending.
John McClane (Willis) and unwilling sidekick Zeus (Samuel L. Jackson) have their hands full with a gold heist, bad feelings for one another, and bomb triggers to decipher, all courtesy of Simon (Jeremy Irons).

The ending looks rushed and feels the same. Willis is good, Jackson is better and Irons is the best. Action fans — and fans of brain-teasers should take note.

"Mortal Kombat"—Another video game comes to the big screen, but unlike its predecessors ("Street Fighter," "Super Mario Brothers" and "Double Dragon"), this one actually has a redeeming value: special ef-

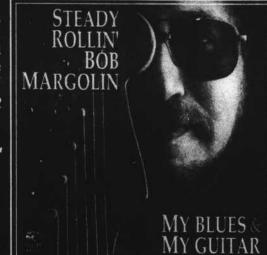
It's good versus bad in this contest of martial arts skill (and style), with FX highlights of the invisible Reptile, Scorpion's spear and the multi-limbed

Don't expect a great plot or good acting (it stars Christopher Lambert, for goodness sakes), but it is a nice diversion. Rent it if nothing else looks appealing and your brain has shut

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