



Cliff Hicks

Europeans crack down on violence

Allow me to set the scene. The time is early June of 1994. The setting is the city of Rome, at a youth hostel. Herb and Joel are my roommates on the tour.

We were on a tour of Italy and Greece as part of our Latin Club. Herb walked into the room first and turned on the television. It was a game show that involved stripping.

"Look at the stuff you can find on cable over here," Joel said.

"This isn't cable, Joel," I told him. "This is public television. Look, they're going into a news flash."

So here I am, almost two years after having seen Europe, and look what I find but a local debate over Playboy. Let me provide some contrasts.

In Europe, nudity and sex are not censored on television, nor do their film ratings reflect sexual content. What they screen out is violence.

That's right, what might earn an R rating or worse over here might qualify for only the equivalent of a PG rating over there.

But the "Terminator"-type films with guns blazing will get a cautionary rating slapped on them quicker than an action hero can reload (so fast you don't even see it!).

I asked Derek, one of our tour guides who everyone on our tour will remember, what the deal was about violence and sex over in Europe. Derek spent most of his life in Europe, but had lived in the United States for a few years.

"They aren't ashamed of their bodies over here. Sex is something blissful and special to be shared between two people, not something hid in the dark and taught in back alleyways by women with horrible fashion sense," he told me.

"And violence? How come they don't have action films and cop shows?" I asked.

"See, it's reversed in Europe. The censors crack down on violence, not letting murder and such on the tele during daytime."

It was funny because I did a little research on the subject when I got back. See, Josh, another guy in my tour group and I went out for food at 1 a.m. in Rome. We were hungry and wandered the streets for almost an hour, quite safely. It was unbelievable. Rome felt like a big small-town.

Europe has about a third of the violence the United States does. The crime rate is a lot lower. There are fewer unwanted pregnancies over there, as well as, fewer sexually transmitted diseases. Europe is just a much nicer place to be.

Granted, Europe isn't as "free" as the United States, but in just a personal comparison between the two, Europe seems to be a much nicer place, socially, to live.

I was only there two weeks, so the statement I'm making may be a little broad. But from what I saw and what I was told — this holds.

So riddle me this. Why do we censor nudity/sex and not violence? Are we really that afraid to admit who we are and too scared to deny what we shouldn't be?

Hicks is a freshman news-editorial and English major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

Instrumental



Tom Deppe, vocalist for Plattsmouth band Rasputin, performs in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

Photo by Holly Thumann

Rasputin follows its own road to stardom

By Brooks Hitt
Staff Reporter

Having played its first show a little longer than a year ago in the upstairs of the Godfather's Pizza in Plattsmouth, Rasputin is beginning to establish itself as a power on the local music scene.

Playing with national talents like Fear, Season to Risk and Hammerhead helped the band's fan base grow enormously. They recently scheduled a recording session at Eclipse Studios in Omaha. In other words, Rasputin is counting on sticking around for a while.

Originally from Plattsmouth, Rasputin doesn't plan on following the recent trend of some local bands. They plan on moving to — not from — Omaha.

"No one from Plattsmouth understands, and

everyone condemns us," drummer Corey Thumann said.

Guitarist Chris Miller added that the musical tastes in Plattsmouth were not exactly up to the times.

"It's not uncommon to hear someone blasting 'Shout at the Devil' from their Trans-Am."

The band plans on completing its move to Omaha in a little more than a month.

Headed to the studio with up-and-coming producer Mike Saklar, the band has been catching the ears and eyes of many people. Nothing is set in stone, but plans are being made for the release of "Hidden Agenda," one of its most powerful songs, on a seven-inch by the end of the summer.

Rasputin plays the post-punk-TouchNGo-Jesus Lizard style of rock to perfection, complete with a stage-diving madman.

Thumann sets the pace with quick, tribal beats, followed closely by bassist Ken Deppe's run-you-into-the-ground bass lines. Both Thumann and Deppe form a frame in which Miller creates havoc with his guitar.

The gritty, minor key playing meets with the proper use of effects to set the tone for an eccentric frontman. Vocalist Tom Deppe uses a combination of rambling and screaming to round out this unique blend. And in case you're wondering, Ken and Tom are brothers.

Unlike most bands, Rasputin admits that lyric come second.

"Instrumental music is definitely the most important thing," Tom Deppe said. "The lyrics are nothing more than the music in words."

"I just listen to an instrumental version of a song and get a feel for it, and go from there."

'Faithful' fares better on stage than in movies

By Brian Priesman
Film Critic

What do you get a loving, rich wife for her 20th wedding anniversary? In Paul Mazursky's newest film, "Faithful," she gets a contract taken out on her head.

Cher, in her first movie since "Mermaids," plays Margaret, a suicidal housewife who has known for 10 years that her husband, Jack (Ryan O'Neal), has been cheating on her.

Jack, in an attempt to cash in on her rather large life insurance policy, hires a mafia hitman to rape and kill her.

As Margaret is ready to kill herself, Tony, the mafia hitman (Chazz Palminteri), breaks in and announces his own plans to kill her.

As he's tying her up, the two get into a philosophical discussion about love and fidelity. As Tony begins to like Margaret, he is forced to call his shrink for an impromptu session about whether he should or shouldn't kill her.

Needless to say, it's pretty macabre. "Faithful" was originally a stage play. And that's all it should have been.

The film is charming at times, funny at others and sometimes it's even deep and philosophical. But it tries to be too big. Mazursky should have, instead of making a movie version, directed the stage version.



Photo courtesy of New Line Productions, Inc. and Savoy Pictures

Cher is a suicidal housewife and Chazz Palminteri is the philosophical hitman hired to kill her in the black comedy "Faithful."

Cher is annoying at times and cute at times. But she has aged too much to be considered a "sexy" woman. O'Neal is overbearing and obnoxious as Jack. And that's all he needs to be.

The only real redeeming performance in the film comes from Palminteri. His philosophical mafia hitman is right on the mark. Unfortunately, by the end of the film you wish he'd shoot both Cher and O'Neal.

"Faithful" is, all things considered, not worth the price of admission in a first-run theater. Stay faithful to your pocket book and wait for cable.

The Facts

Film: "Faithful"
Director: Paul Mazursky
Starring: Cher, Chazz Palminteri, Ryan O'Neal
Rating: R (language)
Grade: C
Five Words: Cher needs a face lift.