

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Monday, April 29, 1996

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State of the ARTS

Gerry Beltz

Drive-in a part of summer fun

Okay, people. The year is up, so lets review.

Last week, an Omaha high school banned shirts for the former Omaha band 311 because someone noticed the "11" could refer to "K," the 11th letter of the alphabet, thus making "311" into standing for "KKK."

The band members have already come forward and stated that isn't the meaning behind the name of the band (true meaning: police code for indecent exposure). Give us a break people! I guess if you look at a forest long enough, you look past the trees and just see the fertilizer.

The drive-ins are open, at least the one in Council Bluffs, Iowa is. This is an experience not to be missed, and the opportunities are fading fast. So next weekend, after finals, load up the car with fast food, beverages, lawn chairs and friends, and head over the bridge for a classic taste of cinema second to none.

(Hint: bring munchie food too, and a couple of sleeping bags for cuddling in the back seat, if the opportunity comes up.)

Okay, Douglas Theatres Company TECHNICALY doesn't have a monopoly of the movie theaters here in Lincoln.

They only run 97 percent of them. It may as well be a monopoly, but there are both good and bad sides to this.

The bad side is there is no competition, no need to prove themselves above anyone else, therefore quality service tends to slip from time to time.

The good part — which almost outweighs the bad — is the prices charged at a theater run by Douglas Theatres. As far as theater chains go, Douglas Theatres charges less for admission, drinks, snacks and so on than many other theater chain I have visited in this nation.

Granted, the prices are higher than at a U-Stop or whatever, but for a movie theater snack bar, they are rather reasonably priced.

Another gold star for the Douglas Theatre Company for some new additions to the snack bar, though only at the StarShip 9.

Nachos have muscled into the snack bar area for \$2.50, but the later in the day you go, the greater the risk of no nachos. Still, any port in a storm...

Also, concessions for a buck have reappeared. Boxes of Runtz and Tootsie rolls can be bought for only a dollar. Cheap concessions for the cheap movies; good idea.

Finally, Video Station sold out their five locations to Blockbuster Video, and now you can't swing a dead aardvark around without hitting one of the blue-and-yellow signs. Too bad their customer service sucks. Go to the independent video stores for service, selection and price.

Have a damn fine summer! And go to the drive-in!!!!

Beltz is a senior English education major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Stylistic thriller



Marni Speck/DN

Valerie Giunca, the assistant director of "The Walk," holds up a make-shift take board as shooting resumes. Chad Salem, the leading male, poses for the camera.

UNL graduate writes, directs own film

Ann Stack
Senior Reporter

It's not "Pulp Fiction," but it's a start.

Scott Piddock is getting his start in filmmaking at Rhiney's Bar and Grill, 421 S 9th.

Piddock, a 1995 UNL graduate, is producing and directing "The Walk," a short film he wrote.

"It's a film noir — a dark, stylistic thriller," he said. "It's about a guy whose life is turmoil. He goes to a bar, meets a girl and establishes a rapport with her. It's about what goes on be-

tween them during the night."

What happens during the course of the film will challenge how viewers think, Piddock said. The film is ominous, psychological and dark, he said, and it's not one he would take his kids to see.

"There's some unusual twists to it," he said. "But there's nothing graphic; no foul language, nudity or violence."

After majoring in photography and minoring in film at UNL, he decided to make his own film.

"I think there's a lot of interest in Lincoln and Omaha," he said. "But

there's nobody out there doing it, so I decided to direct and write my own features."

Making a film has been tough financially, but with help from a financial backer and volunteers, he plans to be done with "The Walk" in a few weeks.

The experience of making a film is one that Piddock values for himself and for everyone who worked on it, he said.

"It's been a learning experience for everyone involved — for the people working on sets, lights, the actors...everyone," he said.

Piddock plans to enter his work in as many film festivals as possible, he said.

"If that doesn't work, I'll send it to production companies and see if they find it interesting or not," he said. "It's a risk I have to take — I want to get it shown anywhere that I can."

Piddock said he hoped people would have a positive response to the film.

"I'm not looking to change the world, but I want people to think about something different," he said. "It's been nerve-racking, but I've been getting good feedback."

Summertime flicks lack blockbuster hits

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

Summertime can be counted on for sunshine, road construction and loads of movies.

Movie Review



Why would this year be any different?

The difference this year is the lack of any one or two outstanding blockbuster films (like last summer's "Batman Forever"). As usual, Disney awaits, along with a couple of sequels, TV-to-movies and a little something for everyone.

The release dates for those films are not set whatsoever, and can change with the wind. This list also may be missing a movie or two. Nonetheless, here's a rough idea of what to expect over the next few months:

MAY —

"Twister" (May 10) — Stars Helen Hunt, Cary Elwes and Bill Paxton, and directed by Jan De Bont ("Speed"). A bunch of people try to study tornadoes. The plot looks kind of lame, but the computer special effects look excellent.

"Flipper" (May 17) — OK, it looks

weak, particularly with Paul "no-life-after-Crocodile-Dundee" Hogan in the lead of this dolphin flick, but what other kid's films will it have to compete against? Also stars Elijah Wood.

"Mission: Impossible" (May 22) — Very highly anticipated film with some excellent response to the preview trailers. Features Tom Cruise, Jon Voight and Kristin Scott Thomas, but don't count on Peter Graves and company showing up.

"Spy Hard" (May 24) — A spoof on the James Bond and "Die Hard" films starring (who else?) Leslie Nielsen. At least he's not letting himself get typecast.

"Dragonheart" (May 31) — Special effects from the "Jurassic Park" wizards will be the highlight of this medieval film starring Dennis Quaid as the knight and Sean Connery as the voice of the fearsome dragon Draco.

JUNE —

"The Phantom" (June 7) — Billy Zane ("Sniper," "Tombstone") stars as the fearless purple comic book superhero who lives in a cave. But, will anyone remember the Phantom to make the film a success?

"Cable Guy" (June 14) — It's "Fatal Attraction" meets "Stay Tuned." A cable customer (Matthew Broderick)



Erin Grant (Demi Moore) plays a Miami stripper in need of some fast cash for a child custody battle in "Striptease."

Photo courtesy Castle Rock Entertainment

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