

## TWIF

By Chris Bendet

### Local bars offer weekend entertainment

After a long, tiring first week of lines, parking hassles and classes, look to the bars for some hot entertainment.

At Knickerbockers tonight, check out the rockin' sounds of Suckerpunch and Spelling Tuesday. One Size Fits Most and Borrowing Mark, from Bellville, Ill., play there Saturday. Cover charge for both nights is \$3.

You could sit at the Zoo Bar all weekend long and be entertained.

Starting at 5 p.m. today, The Led Jaxson Band, the No. 1 blues band from Seattle, will be playing with a \$1 cover charge. After that, Indigenious, with a Texas-blues style, will play with a \$4 cover. Sunday at 9 p.m. and for a \$3 cover, Tango Ray and the Tonics, the "in-house" Chicago blues band, will take the stage.

Tonight and Saturday at Duggan's, The Led Jaxson Band will be ready to set your night on fire. Showtime is at 9:00 with a \$4 cover.

Don't forget the Rail, sponsoring "Grasshopper Takeover" tonight in the beer garden. This Omaha band will soon be relocating to Santa Barbara, Calif., so if you're a fan you'll want to catch them before they head west. An added bonus will be two extra guests with the show, but they haven't been announced yet. It's at 9 p.m., but have a \$2 cover ready.

If the bars aren't on your agenda, check out the new movies downtown. Although nothing really jumps out as a blockbuster, "Emma," starring Gwyneth Paltrow will open at The Lincoln. Billed as a comedy, the movie follows the Jane Austen trend that seems to be sweeping the movie industry.

Mike Stretz, owner of Filmstrip Video, recommends several new movies on video for those staying home.

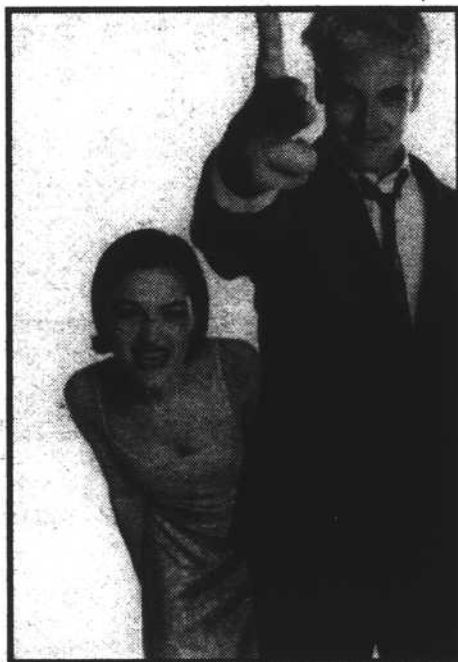
Stretz said he recommended "All Dogs Go to Heaven II," "Mulholland Falls," "Gulliver's Travels," (the complete, uncut version with Ted Danson) "Faithful" and "Mary Reilly."

Another noteworthy release is the re-mastered version of the classic "Sound of Music" (doe, a deer, a female deer...).

After the bars or the movie, don't forget to try the newest coffee joint in town, "Coffee Culture." This java stop is open until 2 a.m. on the weekends and has everything a coffee lover (or even a non-coffee lover) could possibly desire in a cup.

Bendet is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

# M a K i n g T R A C K S



(L to R) Robert Carlyle, Ewan McGregor, Kolly MacDonald, Jonny Lee Miller, and Ewen Bremner star in "Trainspotting" Photo courtesy of Miramax Films

## Film reveals highs, lows of drugs

By JEFF RANDALL  
Film Critic

When "Trainspotting" (the book) hit the United Kingdom in 1993, it became an instant critical and commercial hit. Author Irvine Welsh quickly became a wildly popular cultural icon.

When "Trainspotting" (the movie) hit the United Kingdom two years later, it followed similar footsteps. It is now listed as the second top-grossing home-grown film in the United Kingdom's history ("Four Weddings and a Funeral" is first, by the way).

And, now the "film that conquered Britain" is ready to take over America.

Created by the same directing/producing/screenwriting team (Danny Boyle, Andrew MacDonald and John Hodge, respectively) that was responsible for 1994's incredibly good "Shallow Grave," "Trainspotting" is a thoroughly dark comedy about the ups and downs of a small clutch of heroin addicts in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The central figure and narrator is Mark Renton (superbly played by Ewan McGregor), who is affectionately referred to by his friends as "Rent Boy" or "Rents." As the film begins,

Renton is mired in the depths of heroin addiction. He details the desires, pains and pleasures of his situation through both his words and his actions.

Within a matter of minutes, the audience is able to see Renton go from a Christ-like position of post-injection bliss to a desperate search through a toilet for a pair of opium suppositories he uncerefroniously and accidentally "ejected."

These stark contrasts of filthy pleasure and pure torture continue through the whole film, as one moment's happiness shifts directly into the next moment's agony. This certainly isn't the typical character of a blockbuster film.

Renton's friends vary as wildly as his own emotions. "Sick Boy" (played by Jonny Lee Miller) is a suave and appealing womanizer with an affinity for heroin and an even stronger one for Sean Connery. Spud (played hilariously by Ewen Bremner) is an introverted, awkward junkie who follows the others around with a near reverence. Tommy (played by Kevin McKidd) is the innocent of the group, an initially clean young man who slips into addiction after his girlfriend leaves him. And Begbie (played by Robert Carlyle) is a drug-hating alcoholic who

is more adept at communicating with violence than words.

Boyle, MacDonald and Hodge have done a superb job in translating Welsh's masterpiece, which was more of a collection of short stories than a novel, into a coherent and singular film.

Although some of the more appealing sections of the book have been downsized or omitted because of the film's time constrictions, "Trainspotting" maintains the book's desperate and manic tone without sacrificing any of its harsh realism.

McGregor's portrayal of Renton is as believable as any performance so far this year. He drifts from insane scene to insane scene with his own identity intact and his inner struggle fully visible to the audience.

Miller's approach to "Sick Boy" is equally impressive. His charm and his dark side are both displayed at their best (or worst), blending the seductive and the appalling so effectively that it's hard to know whether one should love him or hate him.

Bremner's "Spud" is also memorable. Relying on his character's ignorance as a motivating factor rather than an inhibitor, Bremner elicits both sympathy and laughter from the audience.

### The Facts

**Film:** "Trainspotting"  
**Director:** Danny Boyle  
**Stars:** Ewan McGregor, Ewen Bremner, Jonny Lee Miller, Kevin McKidd, Robert Carlyle  
**Rating:** R (language, violence, drug use, nudity)  
**Grade:** A  
**Five Words:** Heroin addicts' sorry lives exposed

providing an almost Shakespearean comic relief from the film's otherwise dark, albeit energetic, tone.

But despite these outstanding performances, Boyle, MacDonald and Hodge's presence is felt throughout the film. From Hodge's seemingly effortless writing to Boyle's innovative employment of the camera as another character in the film—something the book could not relay.

What "Trainspotting" ultimately becomes is an entirely new beast, a haunting and exhilarating story supported by intensely believable characters and imaginative and energetic direction. It may not be the blockbuster here that it was in England, but it certainly deserves to be.

## Junior high problems portrayed in 'Dollhouse'

By SEAN MCCARTHY  
Film Critic

If you were lucky, you never had to endure the first scene in Todd Solondz's film, "Welcome to the Dollhouse." In this scene, Dawn Wiener (Heather Matarazzo), a mousey, profusely unpopular 7th grader, tries to find a place to sit during lunch. Students sit at each of the tables like the cereal section at a supermarket. But Dawn is like the discounted store-brand cereal of junior high.

Constantly squinting from her

thick, plastic glasses and wearing clothes that seem perfect for the 5th grade, Dawn naturally draws humiliation towards her. Even a wimpish 7th grader, fresh from a beating by 3 bullies, calls her "wiener dog." Matarazzo skillfully downplays these punishing moments, trying to put on a happy face. Bottling her rage, she unleashes it on her pampered little sister, Missy (Daria Kalinina).

Dawn's trials in adolescent hell are hilarious, but affecting. After having her hair littered by spitwads, Dawn fires one back at her attackers. She mistakenly hits a teacher's eye, and

gets a visit to the principal's office for punishment. When she tells on a kid who tries to cheat on a test, she gets detention as well.

Dawn's few escapes from her miserable life are few and desperate. Her love interest is Steve Rogers (Eric Mabius), a dim, guitar strumming kid who is a computer course away from flunking out of school. Dawn's brother, Mark (Matthew Faber) agrees to help Steve with his course if he will play in his band. Steve is one of the only people who will acknowledge Dawn's existence. She mistakes this general politeness as feelings of love. Steve

### The Facts

**Film:** "Welcome to the Dollhouse"  
**Director:** Todd Solondz  
**Cast:** Heather Matarazzo, Victoria Davis, Brendan Sexton Jr., Daria Kalinina, Matthew Faber  
**Grade:** A  
**Five Words:** "Saved by the Bell's antithesis"

says "Hi" to Dawn, later she makes a miniature shrine of Steve.

Another tormenter of Dawn, Bran-

Please see DOLLHOUSE on 13