

OPINION/PAGES

Our VIEW

Sold out

Lincoln theaters leave city cold during Oscars

The Academy Award nominees have been announced. The guessing has started. The race has begun.

This year's race for the Oscars will be different from those of the past — with the majority of this year's nominees coming from independent filmmakers, such as the Coen Brothers' "Fargo" and Scott Hicks' "Shine."

Even the more recognizable films were less-than-spectacular box office successes, such as "The English Patient" and "Jerry Maguire."

It will make this year's Academy Awards ceremony — airing March 24 — a nice and refreshing change from the past ceremonies of awarding blockbuster after blockbuster.

It is too bad we won't get the chance to see the movies ourselves.

Granted, there are six weeks between now and March 24, but given the films' low possibility of huge financial success, the chances of them playing in downtown Lincoln are slim-to-none, and Slim's out of town.

The best place to have caught most of this year's films hasn't been any of the flashy theaters downtown, but our own campus-grown Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater.

Dan Ladely, director of the Ross, is constantly trying to bring in films based on artistic content, not financial possibilities.

However, considering the ever-increasing number of quality independent films, the Ross can't possibly carry the entire load by itself.

Perhaps the Douglas Theatre Co. could lend a hand here — and also show some responsibility to the customers it serves — by screening films that won't necessarily bring in oodles and oodles of money, but will show some diversity in programming.

Officials of the Douglas Theatre Co. have in the past been quoted that they run a business, and you need money to run a business.

No one will argue that.

However, when you decide what an entire city gets to see at the movies (DTC owns and runs all but two theaters in Lincoln: the Ross and the Joyo Theaters), there is also an obligation to offer these customers as wide a variety of choices as possible.

It won't happen. Not with three screens of "Ransom" and none of "Ghosts of Mississippi."

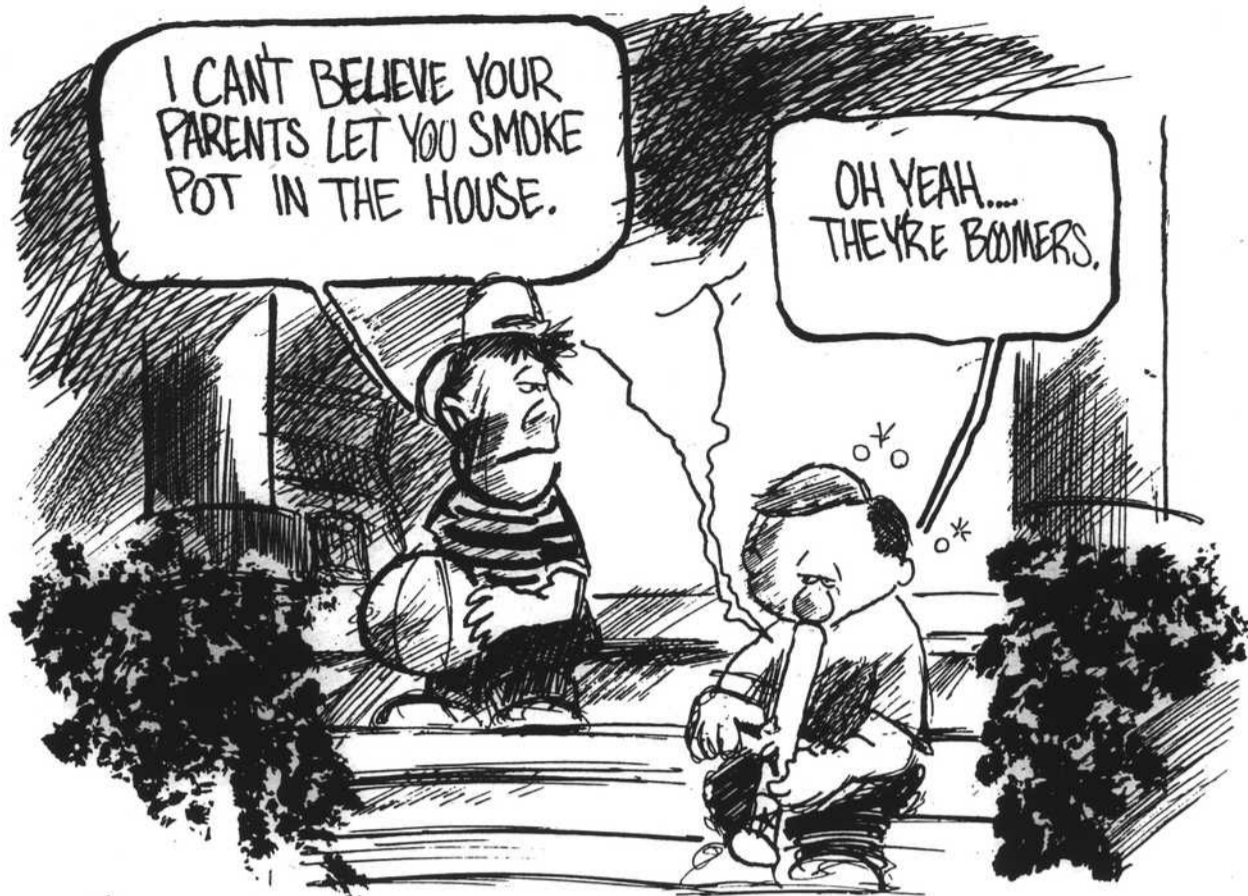
So during the next six weeks, there will be endless amounts of pre-Oscar hype, and late show hosts asking their guests for Oscar picks.

March 24 will arrive, and millions of people will tune in to see Billy Crystal introducing celebrity after celebrity, who in turn will announce nominee after nominee, and winner after winner.

It would be nice to at least have an idea what these people are talking about.

Not if you live in Lincoln.

Mehsling's VIEW



JIM MEHSLING 017 DAILY NEBRASKAN

DN LETTERS

In the Eye

I'd like to commend Heather Lampe on her column "Catwalk of Tragedy," (DN, Friday). It's refreshing to have someone point out society's hypocrisy toward women rather than labeling them victims and not addressing the problem at all. Women have fought for equal rights in voting, wages and recognition.

Unfortunately, the exponential growth of social diseases such as anorexia and bulimia prove we have only begun the battle. Women are judged on a daily basis by what they wear and how they're shaped.

Basically, women are judged on how they look and it is accepted by the majority of our society. Women who are heavy or even the "ideal" weight for their height and frame are often viewed as overweight and unhealthy.

Beauty comes in all forms and, in people, all shapes and sizes. Women need to pull together in an effort to change perceptions and educate. We need to make it known that being thin is not necessarily being healthy or beautiful and we want this ideal to change.

Mary Lyons
sophomore
general studies



MATT HENRY/DN

be taken seriously in regards to political oppression by Christian churches. Christianity has a rotten track record when it comes to individual civil liberties.

Christopher Nollett
junior
news-editorial

Misplaced Censor

I feel your Marilyn Manson editorial "Helter Skeltered?" (DN, Tuesday) should serve as a silencer for anyone who thinks college campuses are "too liberal."

Whether or not Manson's onstage antics are "beyond-the-limits," as judged by your subjective parameters, is really quite irrelevant.

He is not "abusing" the First Amendment, as you claim; he is not screaming "fire" in a crowded theater.

That you would seek to silence him from fear of the backlash (censorship) his show might provoke, is misplaced and indicative of the kind of cowardice that allows such totalitarian virtues as censorship to rear their ugly head.

Urging a boycott of Manson is not the answer. Leave such assessments as to whether or not one should buy his products to the arts department. Urging a tolerant society, where the First Amendment is safeguarded for those we disagree with, as well as more benign elements, is the answer.

Good and Bad

I would like to comment on Jason Nord's letter to the Daily Nebraskan regarding a column by J.J. Harder.

There is a lot of credence in Nord's point of view, however a few points need to be clarified.

The Nazis were NOT Catholic. I believe the Nazis were atheists like many of their socialist counterparts.

It is also important to realize that the lack of new learning in medieval times was largely because of translation problems. For example, most of the knowledge from the Greeks was only written in Arabic.

The Catholic Church did not ban these texts, there just weren't scribes who had the knowledge to translate the texts. Yet Nord's points should

Don't worry about Manson. Confront those who would censor him because they find him "offensive," and ask why when some people seek to censor it's labeled "political correctness," but when others seek to do it, they're perceived as safeguarding our morality.
Akim D. Reinhardt
graduate student
history

Money Game

Yesterday I was listening to my brand-new Marilyn Manson CD. As I sat listening to their music, I began to wonder about the steps that led up to me buying the album. I imagine it went something like this:

(Marilyn Manson are in their tour bus, heading to Nebraska.)

"Hey, where did you say we were going?"

"Someplace called Nebraska."

"What's there?"

"Lots of Republicans and churches."

"Good place to stir things up and get publicity. Lots of churches you say? Then we should put some devil things in our act; churchy people always have fits over satanic stuff."

"Then we'd better have a few heaps of gore on stage, maybe even an intestine or two."

"Yeah, and do the same things Ozzy was doing 15 years ago."

"What else do we know about Nebraska?"

"I think they are big on water rights there."

"Great! I'll shove a water bottle up my ass and pass it off as a statement against polluted water."

"Sounds like a plan."

"And afterwards, some sorry liberal campus newspaper will write an article about what nasty people we are, and that should generate juuuuusstt enough interest to get that punk kid Scotty Knutson to go out and buy our album, in turn giving us more royalties."

"I love it when the public does our advertising for us."

"Yeah. What a bunch of saps."

Scotty Knutson
senior
English

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