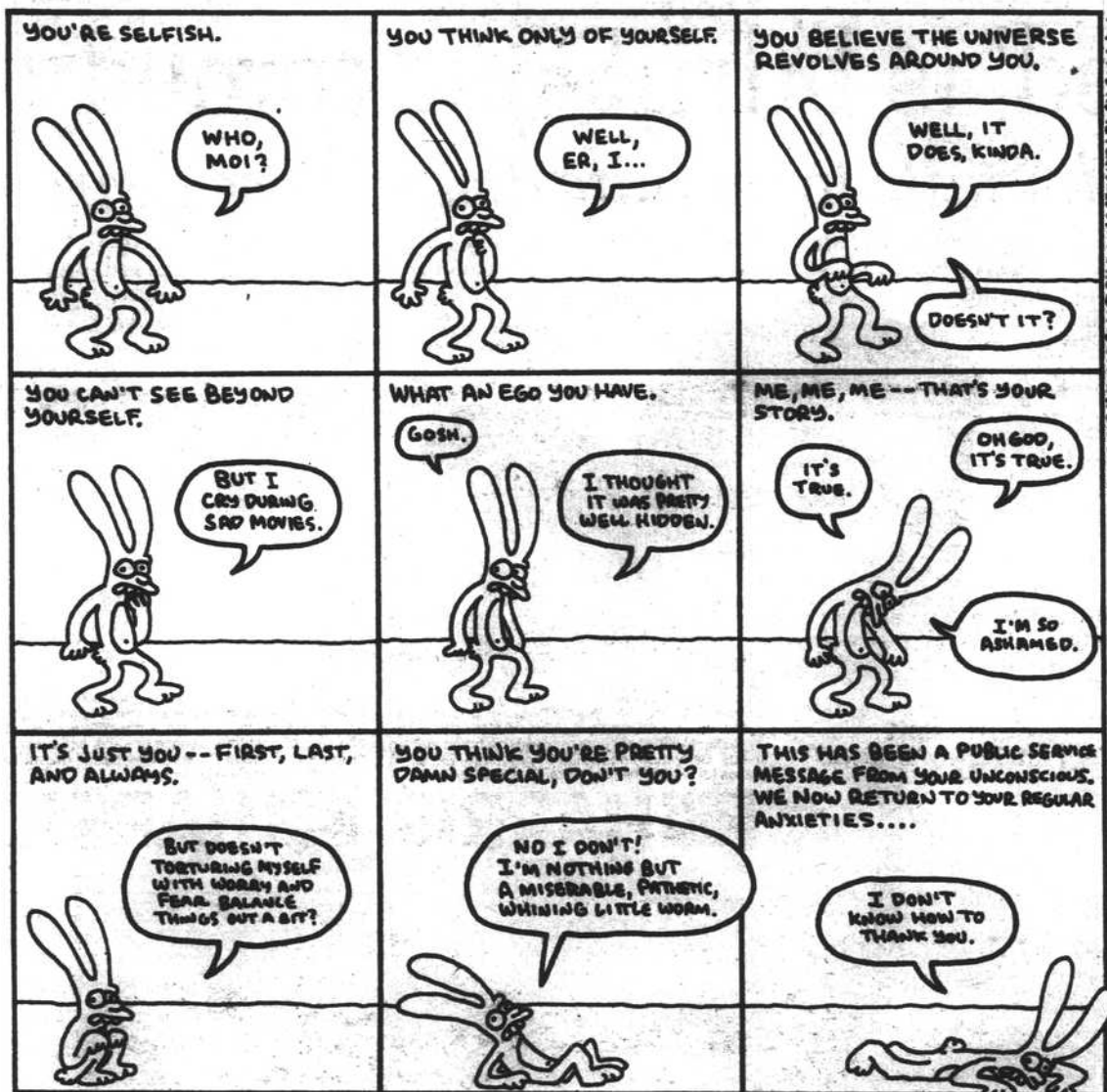


LIFE IN HELL

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Burnt-out drug spoof fails to reignite genre

BAKED from page 9

"Baked" never can get beyond that level of comedy.

The direction is typical of Davis' films (which include "CB4" and "Billy Madison"), focusing mostly on the comic talent of the cast and staying out of its way.

And while this approach works well with Williams and Chappelle, who were both outstanding stand-up comics before this film was made, the rest of the cast and the film seem to suffer for it.

When neither Williams or Chappelle are present to make the film worthwhile, "Half Baked" slips into tired stereotypes and even more tired jokes.

Overall, "Half Baked" stands as an example of how great comic actors can try to carry a poorly conceived film, but rarely succeed.

The Facts

Title: "Half Baked"
Stars: Dave Chappelle, Guillermo Diaz, Jim Bruer, Harland Williams.
Director: Tamra Davis
Rating: R
Grade: C
Five Words: Drug comedy fails to exhilarate.

As for the film's attempt to breathe new life into the "reefer-film" genre, it's unlikely that "Half Baked" will spawn any imitators. In all likelihood, it rather will be remembered as a less-than-spectacular cult film.

In short, "reefer film" fans should save their money - if they have any left - and rent a Cheech and Chong film instead.

Dramatic arts presents Freedman lecture tonight

From Staff Reports

The University of Nebraska at Omaha Department of Dramatic Arts is presenting a free public lecture featuring Gerald Freedman tonight. The discussion will focus on William Shakespeare's plays and the American musical and will include a question and answer section as well as a reception afterward.

Freedman is currently the dean of the School of Drama at the North Carolina School of the Arts and is highly regarded nationally for productions of classic drama, musicals, operas, new plays and television specials.

The discussion starts at 8 tonight at the Weber Fine Arts Building Theatre at 6001 Dodge St. in Omaha. For more information call (402) 554-2406.

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