

The Week in Preview

MUSIC

Duffy's Tavern,
1412 O St.

(all shows start around 10 p.m.)

■ Monday: Comedy Workshop

■ Thursday: Live karaoke with Shithook

Knickerbockers,
901 O St.

(all shows start around 10:30 p.m.)

■ Saturday: Goldfinger and the Skeletones (early show, doors open at 6 p.m.)

The Zoo Bar,
136 N. 14th St.

(all shows start around 9 p.m.)

■ Monday: Ripple Effect
■ Tuesday: open stage
■ Wednesday: Rhythm

Method

■ Thursday: Steady Rollin

Bob Margolin

■ Friday and Saturday:

Charlie Burton and the Texas Twelve Steppers

THEATER

The Lincoln Community Playhouse,
2500 S. 56th St.

■ "Amadeus" runs Thursday through Sunday

ART GALLERIES

Metro Underground Gallery,
1316 N St.

■ Gallery Walk reception Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. featuring John Carlini. Sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council.

The Week in Preview runs Mondays in the Daily Nebraskan and is compiled by members of the arts and entertainment staff. Send all listings to:

The Week in Preview
c/o Daily Nebraskan,
Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St. Lincoln, NE 68588-0448

'Half Baked' is burnt-out comedy

Weed-inspired film fails to reignite drug-abuse genre

BY JEFF RANDALL
Film Critic

Ever since the counter-culture movement of the 1960s reared its head, the use and abuse of drugs has held a special place in the hearts of many Americans.

But as the '60s and hippie culture waned, the openly positive attitude toward narcotics that many held in that decade went along with it.

Films such as "Trainspotting" and "Panic in Needle Park," as well as countless films depicting the tragedies that accompany alcoholism, took over mainstream filmmaking. Most of these films preferred to examine the dark underbelly of drug abuse.

"Half Baked" has no such illusions.

Granted, the drug in question in this film — marijuana — is not as widely abhorred as heroin, crack cocaine or even, in some circles, alcohol. But director Tamra Davis and screenwriters Dave Chappelle and Neal Brennan have taken a renewed crack at drug abuse as a form of low comedy, a genre from which such behavior has been noticeably absent for quite some time.

Following in the footsteps of Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong, "Half Baked" is the story of a group of unabashed pot heads who must sell off a stash of marijuana in order to bail their friend out of jail.

The friend in question is Kenny (Harland Williams), a fellow stoner who is arrested after feeding junk food to a policeman's horse. Unfortunately, the horse is diabetic and keels over shortly after receiving Kenny's offerings.

Kenny, who is a kindergarten teacher, quickly shows he is not cut out for prison life, and his friends — Thurgood (Chappelle),

Scarface (Guillermo Diaz) and Brian (Jim Breuer) — hatch a plan to raise the \$100,000 for his bail.

Their plan is to start a home-delivery weed service, unknowingly supplied by the government-funded research lab in which Thurgood works as a janitor.

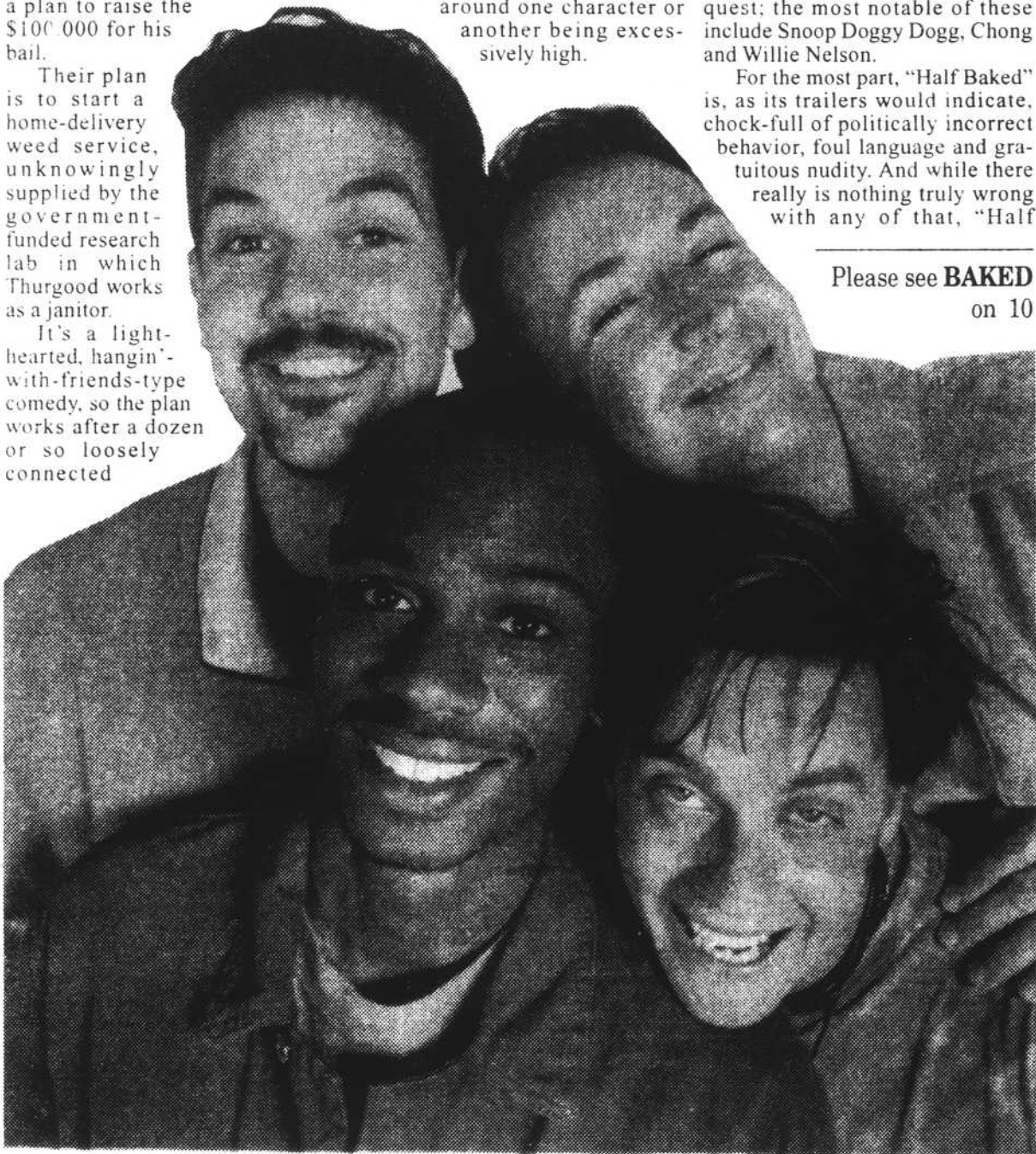
It's a light-hearted, hangin'-with-friends-type comedy, so the plan works after a dozen or so loosely connected

scenes of comic mayhem take place, most of which revolve around one character or another being excessively high.

A series of genre-friendly cameo appearances aids in this quest: the most notable of these include Snoop Doggy Dogg, Chong and Willie Nelson.

For the most part, "Half Baked" is, as its trailers would indicate, chock-full of politically incorrect behavior, foul language and gratuitous nudity. And while there really is nothing truly wrong with any of that, "Half

Please see **BAKED** on 10



THE CAST OF "HALF BAKED" includes (clockwise from bottom left) Dave Chappelle, Jim Breuer, Harland Williams and Guillermo Diaz. COURTESY PHOTO

Dust Bunnies emanate warm, fuzzy feelings

Album has soul-searching sounds

Bettie Serveert
"Dust Bunnies"
Matador Records
Grade: A

It is an easy guess that Bettie Serveert turns the large downstairs room of the Middle East Café in Boston into a sweaty, crowded bohemian haze.

During the emotional climax of such an evening, one envisions a mop-topper losing his spectacles on the dance floor because of a *crazy urge just to shake it* during a flailing fuzz guitar melody reminiscent of some acne-plagued MIT student named Mascis.

Like the melody just mentioned, Bettie Serveert's "Dust Bunnies" feels like an old, warm blanket quilted from the Dinosaur Jr./Pixies generation; it is manufactured from the heart.

In Beantown, reinventing 1980s college rock is nothing less than a credible folk tradition with the snotty attitude of a junior high clique. Through Cambridge and through Brookline these smart, safe sounds are revered as much as Richard Lloyd's bodily fluids were in Manhattan during the swaggering heights of Television.

However, Bettie Serveert is neither from Boston nor New York. In fact, they're from the Netherlands.

From the slow and sultry "Sugar the Pill" to the ballad-like "Fallen Foster," Bettie Serveert's newest offering avoids being a one-note bunny hop, which seems to be a trend for many groups of three or four people calling themselves bands these days.

"Dust Bunnies," however, is mainly a collection of soul-searching punk rock tunes. Every song clings to honesty and traditional rock 'n' roll topics such as love and powerlessness.

"Pork and Beans" systematically builds into nice, dissonant indie rock guitar-speak as singer Carol van Dijk reinstates her ability to carry a song by the graceful innocence of her voice and words: "Let me have this cutest little thing I ever did see in my life."

"Story in a Nutshell," arguably the best song on the album, clocks in far shy of two minutes and reminds one of a short, relentless pillow fight.

For good measure, the entire record seems to fly by just as fast.

—Chris Heine



BETTIE SERVEERT is (from left to right) Herman Bunschoeke, Carol van Dijk, Peter Visser and Berend Dubbe. COURTESY PHOTO