

# OPINION PACKETS

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**VIEW**

## Film flubs

### Megaplex should devote screens to art

For the film purist, the word "megaplex" is in the same league as "malignant tumor" and "audit."

But, luckily for big business, most filmgoers aren't all that haughty or choosy when it comes to their local theaters. And when it comes to big business in Lincoln, Douglas Theatre Co. is about as big as it gets.

Douglas holds a virtual monopoly on Lincoln's movie market, owning nearly every screen in the city (with the exceptions of the Joyo and Mary Riepma Ross theaters).

Lo, it spreads.

Last week, Douglas announced plans to build a 16-to-20-screen theater complex in downtown Lincoln. The theater, scheduled to open in 2000, would nearly double the number of screens in the downtown area.

David Livingston, president of Douglas Theatre Co., claims the megaplex will contribute to the revitalization of the downtown area; that means it will bring in more people, more money and — most importantly — more ticket sales.

And maybe it will. Maybe downtown Lincoln will evolve into the thriving, bustling marketplace some of us believe it is destined to be.

If that is the case, more power to Douglas Theatre Co. and the Downtown Lincoln Association.

But while we're waiting for that to happen, may we humbly suggest a more noble purpose?

When considering our population and our demographics, the selection of films that passes through this city is somewhat anemic. Hollywood sheen and big-budget gloss have a stranglehold on Lincoln's movie market, virtually shutting more ambitious independent films out of the city limits. That is, until the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater grabs them a few months later.

Granted, this phenomenon is purely the result of economics. The management at Douglas knows that small films make small money, and, subsequently, big films are chosen to occupy the limited screen space.

The proposed megaplex could be a solution to this problem. With the staggering jump in available screens that such a megaplex would bring to Lincoln, Douglas has an opportunity to make money and give Lincolniters the chance to see films they may not have previously been aware of.

With 16 to 20 extra screens to go around, Douglas could afford to give up one or two screens for films that may not turn a profit, but contribute to the idea of film as an art form.

Think of it as a public service of sorts. Think of it as a deliberate effort to give the public something worth watching.

At the very least, think of it as salvation from showing "That Darn Cat" on three screens simultaneously. Come to think of it, that's probably the best reason.

*Mook's*  
**VIEW**



## Dare to date

### Rewards are worth the emotional peril



**BARB CHURCHILL is a graduate student in saxophone performance and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.**

Naked. Vulnerable. Dating. What do these three words have in common?

Well, when dating someone, people have to be themselves, hence the naked and vulnerable references. Being vulnerable and letting naked emotions show are some of the hardest things to do in contemporary society.

Many people fail to grasp how painful dating can be, and those who do close themselves off to dating because they think it can be very emotionally draining. Yet it's something we all want, so it seems necessary.

Dating is an intimate experience. It's irrefutable. The only way it works is if people are being themselves, not acting like someone they aren't. They have to be willing to be hurt in the process. It's kind of like going in for surgery. People know they need the procedures, but they're going to hurt. It's painful, yet the potential rewards are too great to ignore.

I've known many successful dating relationships, including one right here at the Daily Nebraskan. The successful relationships work because both partners feel free to be themselves, free to talk, relate, explain themselves and their purpose, as well as enjoy each other's company. Both partners, in a good relationship, should not expect their partner to meet all of their emotional needs.

That's one of the biggest mistakes many people make. They expect their partner, because they love and care about them, to meet every last one of their emotional needs. That's just not realistic.

Think about it. If their partners are capable of meeting their emotional needs, why have so many therapists and counselors made money selling self-help books?

Authors Barbara DeAngelis, "Secrets About Men Every Woman Should Know," and John Gray, "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus," who are also successful psychotherapists, have made millions upon millions of dollars from book sales. The success of these books and others like them shows how many people need help finding and keeping a good man or woman.

I recently, at long last, found a good and decent man to share my life with. Yet, in my search, I experienced much pain and suffering in my dating life. As such, I should be able to give people a few good suggestions on how to improve their prospects in the wonderful world of dating.

**Rule No. 1: Treat your date with respect.**

This should be self-evident. After all, why would you want to go out with someone who wants to be abused or ignored? Yet, many individuals completely misunderstand the purpose of dating, seeing it as a way to "score" or "get some," rather than getting to know someone as a person.

**Rule No. 2: Do not close yourself off to your friends.**

Again, this should be obvious. Most people, when they find a significant other, spend all their time with this new person. They blow off their friends, give their family less time and may even fail to perform their daily activities, such as eating and bathing.

This is not what you should do. You need to be yourself; after all, this

is why you attracted Mr. or Ms. Right. Do not lose your individuality, even as you revel in being a couple. It is important to stay close to your friends and family, because they are a part of who you are just as much as your partner.

**Rule No. 3: Try not to jump at the first opportunity.**

Perhaps a better way of explaining this rule is to view it as refusing to be desperate. If your date has some big flaws (for example, he or she is abusive verbally or physically, doesn't listen to your concerns, is wrapped up in himself or herself or other egregious faults), dump them. Life is too short to be with a person who is bad for you.

The right person will accept and appreciate you for who you are. Don't settle for anything less.

Sometimes, it seems people who are less attractive than others are getting dates. This view is relative. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and can't be explained easily to another person. What one person finds attractive, another person finds repugnant. It all depends on point of view.

So, when you are alone, it doesn't necessarily mean you are a bad person. It just means you just haven't found the right person yet.

Try to be patient. I know it's difficult; believe me, I know. But it's important to realize you are a good and decent person in your own right. You don't need another person to validate your existence.

Dating, when it works, can be the most exciting and exhilarating experience on earth. But when it doesn't, it can be one of the least rewarding and most problematic experiences in life. Wait for the right person, enjoy your life and try to relax. The right person, when you least expect them, will show up and make a difference in your very being.

Trust me, I know.

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## Got an opinion?

The Daily Nebraskan is hiring 2-4 columnists, starting immediately. Occasional columnists are expected to turn a column every two weeks, approximately 1000 words in length. Applications are available in the Daily Nebraskan offices, Nebraska Union 34. Students must be enrolled in classes and have at least a 2.0 GPA. Got questions? Call the opinion editor, Cliff Hicks, at 472-1768 for more information. Positions will be filled as quickly as possible.

