Check out Cage and MacClaine in "Guarding Tess"

by Jen Dugan Collegian Staff

We usually see Nicholas Cage as a criminal with a crazy life. In "Guarding Tess," we see him on the other side of the fence as Secret Service agent, Douglas Chesnic.

His job for the last five years has been to protect former First Lady, Tess Carlisle (Shirley MacClaine). She is the widow of an assassinated president. Mrs. Carlisle is tired and old, and hardly ever leaves her home. She

is very demanding and a big pain in the neck! She uses her secret service protection agents more as servants than as body guards.

Finally, the time has come when agent Chesnik can say goodbye; his assignment with Mrs. Carlisle is over. NOT! She makes a request to the president that Chesnik stay on for another two years. With the president on his back, Chesnik must stay. Now his chances for an exciting assignment are on hold once again.

However, he does get his

chance for excitement when Mrs. Carlisle's driver kidnaps her. Agent Chesnik solves the puzzle to save her life.

So, do they ever become friends? I think you know the answer to that before the movie even starts.

I like this movie. I love Nicholas Cage and he does a good job with a different kind of character. Shirley MacClaine is excellent too. It's a light-hearted comedy and about the best movie out as far as I'm concerned! I give it 3 out of 4 stars.



Nicholas Cage plays Secret Service agent Doug Chesnic assigned to protect a very difficult former First Lady (Shirley MacClaine) in the comedy "Guarding Tess."

Are you "Dazed and Confused?"

by Scott Moore
Collegian Staff

On a visit home last weekend I got a tip from a friend: "Dazed and Confused" was playing at a nearby discount theater. Oh, the joy! I had only been waiting for this movie to arrive in my town for the past six months. "Dazed and Confused" is a tale about rites of passage, high school, and of course, drugs in the 1970s which has been praised by every magazine I have read. Does it live up to the hype? You bet it does!

"Dazed and Confused" is directed by Richard Linklater, whose 1991 movie "Slacker" received serious accolades and gave a name to a generation.

In "Dazed," Linklater recounts the events that occur on the last day of high school in 1976. Aerosmith's "Sweet Emotion" opens the film, providing the perfect soundtrack for rolling joints on the way to school.

There is no single, central group of characters or focal plot line. Instead, the action follows several cliques of kids who only sometimes interact: the football players, the stoners, the

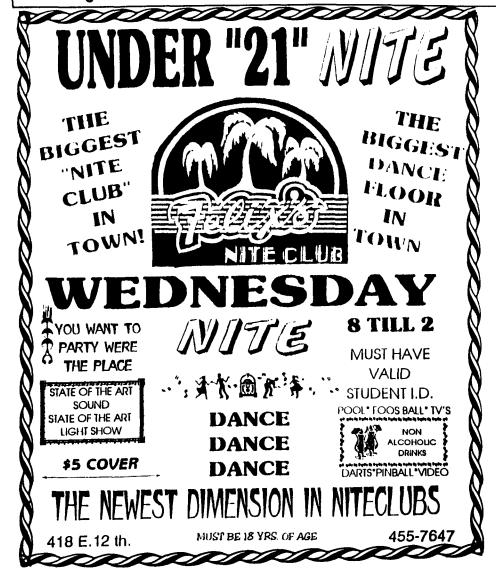
intellectuals, and the freshmen.

Randall "Pink" Floyd (Jason London) faces a dilemma. Should he go along with the other football players and sign the coach's "no drugs and alcohol" pledge, or continue to hang out with his pot-head friends, like ever-wasted Slater (Rory Cochrane)?

Other characters have trials to overcome, as well. For example, Mitch Kramer (Wiley Wiggins), an incoming freshman, must endure the brutal initiation rituals that welcome a student to high school.

The soundtrack of "Dazed and Confused" sets the mood perfectly, utilizing songs by Black Sabbath, Deep Purple, and Faghat. Even though this movie is retro, it seems so real and so NOW, and that's not just because those 70s styles are coming back.

I guarantee you'll see at least a portion of yourself in one or more characters. This movie is a classic period-piece that still manages to say something to our day and age. My recommendation: go with a few buddies to see "Dazed and Confused" -- that is if you can find it.





Be There!