

Woody and Wesley back in action

COLUMBIA PICTURES-
-Wesley and Woody are back.

Columbia pictures and Peters Entertainment re-team this explosive combination, this time as New York City Transit cops in the high speed action adventure *Money Train*. Foster brothers, they share a life-long dream of robbing the Money Train that collects millions of dollars each night from NYC subway stations. Only two things stand in the way: They're cops; and Donald Patterson (Robert Blake), the hard-assed MTA chief, is their boss. They're *his* trains, it's *his* money, and he's *never* been robbed. But on New Years Eve, the rates are going up...

Newcomer Jennifer Lopez stars as the woman they both love.

John (Snipes) and Charlie (Harrelson) are foster brothers who both work as transit cops for the New York City subway system. "Transit cops are almost the actors of the subway," explains producer Jon Peters. "They create characters and put themselves into vulnerable situations to act as bait, which has actually reduced crime in the subway tunnels. Their job is also to protect the Money Train."

Loaded with millions of dollars in collected fares, the Money Train makes its long journey through the tunnels of New York City. With its state-of-the-art security system and fleet of armored guards to protect it, the Money Train has never been robbed.

"Charlie and John met when Charlie escaped from an orphanage," explains Harrelson, who starts as the reckless, childlike Charlie. "He ends up becoming sort of adopted by John's family and the two boys grow up together. They fight a little bit. Charlie, for instance, is inclined to think the big institutions of the world should share their wealth; he wants to



Money Train: (Left) Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson reteam as two foster brothers working as transit cops in *Money Train*, a Columbia Pictures release. (Bottom) Loaded with millions of dollars in collected fares, the Money Train makes its long journey through the tunnels of New York City.

take the money off the Money Train. John is a little more respectful of the system. He believes they're cops, not robbers. This causes some friction between them."

"The Money Train is visual; it's consistent, and you know it's always loaded," says Snipes, who stars as the responsible, enigmatic John. "I can understand how Charlie could develop a strong attachment to that. It's an appealing fantasy."

Harrelson describes his character as part gambler, part dreamer, part rogue: "Well, rogue is a flattering, euphemistic term for what he is," says the actor. "Charlie doesn't seem to have much luck with women -- whereas John, Wesley's character, does."

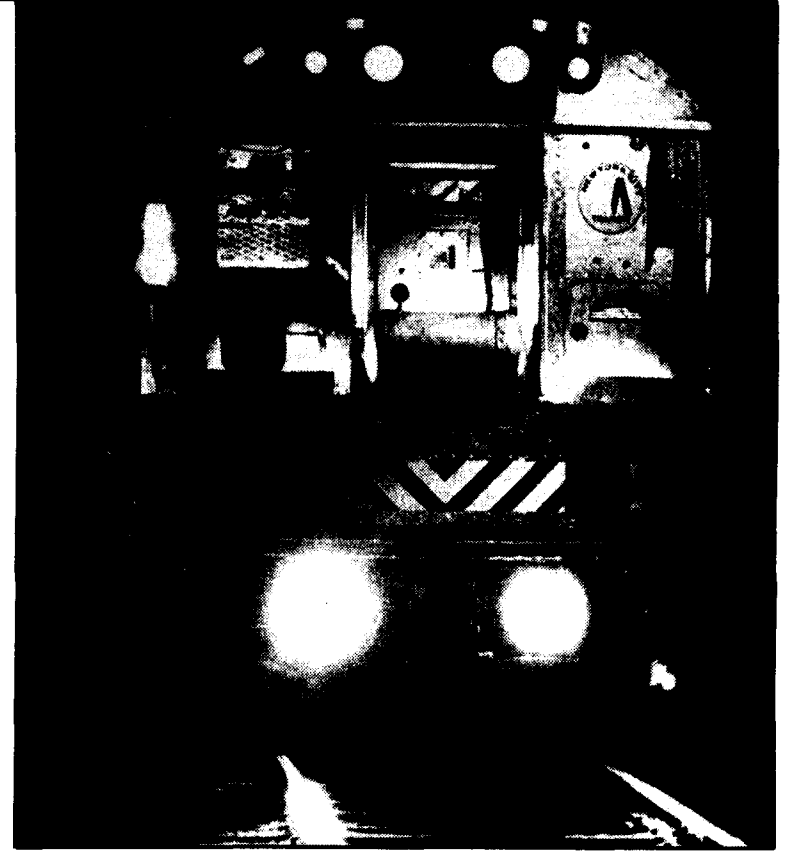
"He's explosive; he's hot-tempered; he's always getting in trouble with girls," Peters adds. "He's racing; he's crazy; he's wild; he's gambling and losing money. He's always messing up. And John is always there to

bail him out."

In stark contrast to his brother, John is a responsible member of his community and a dedicated cop. "He lives in the same neighborhood he grew up in and is a hell-for-leather cop who will do anything his job asks him to do," comments Ruben. "Early in the film, John sees somebody in trouble, so he races a train and jumps across the tracks right in front of it. Charlie has always sort of been in John's shadow. How do you compete with that?"

John and Charlie are joined in their adventures by a beautiful new decoy cop. "She's a very attractive police officer who is also somewhat provocative to both brothers," says Snipes. "Charlie gets the hots for her, but he basically doesn't have a snowball's chance in hell of getting her. She, of course, chooses me, which is the likely scenario."

An intense film, *Money Train* is a must for Snipes and Harrelson fans alike.



Candlebox

by R. Carl Campbell III
Opinion editor

Nothing fills the room with energy like live music. Music takes energy and places it into a form of tangibility. Last night at the Erie Civic Center, Our Lady Peace, Sponge, and Candlebox played before a minute Erie crowd.

The show started at 7:30 with Our Lady Peace opening. They played for a solid half-hour. They played their music, not the crowd. OLP sounded better live than they did on their CD. (Check out my review from last week.)

Sponge played next, adding a multitude of energy and excitement. Like Our Lady Peace before them, Sponge were more concerned with their music than they were kissing up to the crowd. Although the lead singer did jump into the audience, I

believe it was more of him getting into his music and getting pumped up. The peak was a punked-out version of the Romantics classic, "What I like about you."

Then Candlebox lit up the stage with a bunch of lights and a hallucinogenic ameoba on the backdrop. For the most part, they bored me. Their songs were long and drawn out and in the middle of their set, they stopped to pick up coins for about ten minutes. If I wanted to watch people pick up change, I'd go to Perry Square with a roll full of quarters.

Basically what Candlebox reminded me of was a band that sold a lot of their debut album and became "sell-outs." They were more concerned with trying to seem cool than they were doing what got them to be such pompous jerks, concentrate on their music.

Smooth Jazz Cafe at 1010 W. Erie Plaza

by Adria Kovaly
Collegian Staff

If you're looking for a relaxing evening out or someplace quiet to talk on a date, I highly recommend the Smooth Jazz Cafe, located at 1010 West Erie Plaza, in Erie (which runs along Pittsburgh Ave. between W. 8th and W. 12th Street).

I dropped in on a Friday night, around seven, to get a taste of my first coffee house. The Cafe had a dark, quiet atmosphere, with televised jazz videos playing. Tables lined the walls, stretching all the way back to the counter where you place your order.

Owner Robert Thakmazov and co-owner Harry Aukimov weren't due in for a while when I was there, so I got the chance to talk to Roman Dzhanumov, one of the servers, about the coffees

and treats available.

The coffees are Armenian and Turkish blends, along with the Smooth Jazz House blend, which is a Supreme Colombian and Classic Blend. A majority are priced under \$2.00 (there is tax, though), and include espresso, cappuccino, and the house specialty, Coffee-Glisse, which is the house blend topped with vanilla ice cream. Hot tea, hot chocolate, and a variety of cold drinks are also available, along with ground coffee for you to take home and enjoy.

Also on the menu are a variety of sweets. Just looking at the New York cakes sent my diet out the window, and I couldn't leave without trying the Russian and Armenian cookies for sale at the counter. Cheesecake, muffins, and danishes are also available for

those who choose not to indulge their sweet tooth.

The jazz videos are always playing, but the music doesn't stop there. Live performances are planned for every two weeks, on Fridays or Saturdays, and this coming Saturday a jazz band is scheduled to perform live. (Their name shall remain a surprise, since it was unavailable at the time.)

The Cafe isn't always as quiet as when I was there, Roman informed me. After nine on Fridays, and on the weekends, the place gets pretty full. On other weekdays, though, he said, people tend to "come and go."

So if you really love jazz, or coffee, or both, be sure to check out the Smooth Jazz Cafe for a terrific blend of coffee and culture.