

Hurricane Streets: obscured by glossier films

by Jon Stubbs
features editor

Don't feel inadequate if you haven't heard of *Hurricane Streets*. Almost nobody has, and this is unfortunate because it is without a doubt the most heartfelt, sincere movie released so far this year. The film is about five teenagers in New York City that make their living through petty crimes such as shoplifting. The main character in the film, fifteen-year-old Marcus (Brendan Sexton III), lives with his bartending grandmother because his mother is imprisoned. Marcus dreams of leaving the city and moving to New Mexico with his uncle. He shares this dream with Melena (Isidra Vega) a girl whom he has recently met.

Pressures from all sides close in on Marcus, as he sees his friends turn to heavier-duty crimes and his father figure of sorts, Mack (played by L.M. Kit Carson, the executive producer of

the film) becomes wanted by the law. Director/Writer/Producer Morgan J. Freeman takes us through the everyday life of a confused and lonely teenager that would be convincing in any setting; Marcus just happens to live in New York. It is so refreshing to see the characters that Freeman creates: they are real, everyday people

It is so refreshing to see the characters that Freeman creates: they are real, everyday people that audiences can relate to.

that audiences can relate to. Marcus' teeth aren't perfect and his face is dotted with pimples like a fifteen-year-old's face would be. Melena's hair is frizzled and pulled back to keep it out of her face. The characters are practical, they say what teenagers would say, they dress how teenagers

would dress.

In a typical Hollywood movie, the audience expects an escape of some sort; they expect unbelievable things to happen. But in a good story, such as *Hurricane Streets*, the action is close to home. It is difficult to convince yourself that what you just saw was a work of fiction when you walk out of the theater.

Despite the spirit of independent filmmaking present in *Hurricane Streets*, the film was actually released by MGM. The film even won a few awards at the Sundance Film Festival last year, where it was first shown. Awards include: Morgan J. Freeman, best director; Enrique Chediak, best cinematography; and an Audience Award in the dramatic category. Hopefully this film will not be overlooked come Oscar time next year simply because it lacks the gloss and budget of the types of movies that tend to win Academy Awards.

Looking at 20 years of punk/hardcore with The Bad Brains

by Dan Riefstahl
staff writer

The Bad Brains are one of the most underrated rock bands of the last 20 years. Whenever they seemed to soon be reaching stardom, things went astray and they broke up. The roar of their thrasher punk songs mixed with their radically different style of dub and reggae have forever changed the underground scene and raised them to an untouchable, almost God-like musical plateau. The lofty convictions that often put off masses from "hardcore" do not hold true for the Bad Brains. They get away with their Rastafarian and overtly political views. "PMA" (Positive Mental Attitude), which can be found on several albums including *Black Dots* and *Rock for Light* is an overriding philosophy of the Bad Brains trip taken from the Napoleon Hill Book "Think and Grow Rich." It goes without saying that The Bad Brains shattered musical, cultural, and racial barriers.

The band started playing jazz-fusion together in 1976 under the name Mind Power. In 1979 a friend of the

band introduced the bass player, Darryl Jennifer, to bands like the Ramones and the Sex Pistols. This forever transformed the band. With a new found love for punk rock and their eternal love for dub, reggae, and jazz the underground has never been the same. This radical transformation in 1979 became the Omega sessions in 1980, the bands first multi-track recording session. The Bad Brains' introduction to punk would provide

reincarnation to Jimi Hendrix that we have in the 80s and 90s. The percussion team, led by Darryl Jennifer on bass and Earl Hudson on drums, was always precise and in perfect synch.

In 1997 the Bad Brains' legacy continued through some rather unlikely candidates. Earl Hudson performed "Sailin' On" with No Doubt at the International Ballroom in Atlanta. Dr. Know produced the last Warzone album *The Sound of Revolution*. He

performed with Sublime at the Enough Already benefit concert in California in 95. Adam Yauch of the Beastie Boys has called the Bad Brains "the best punk/hardcore band of all time." I am going to have to say that I agree with him on that one. The Bad

Brains represent one of the most important bands of our times and I strongly urge you to pick up some of their material. I prefer older albums from before 1985. They are reggae fused with punk rock songs with outstanding character. Their new stuff is equally thought-provoking and talented, but everyone grows and everyone changes and their music must change with them.

It goes without saying that The Bad Brains shattered musical, cultural, and racial barriers.

the seed for one of the most important hardcore/punk scenes in history, Washington D.C. This scene spawned the likes of Ian McKay (Minor Threat, Fugazi) and Henry Rollins (Black Flag, Rollins Band). Vocalist HR, a.k.a. Ras Hailu, Paul Hudson, shines with his intense, unpredictable, charismatic melody and rage. The legendary Dr. Know knows rage with his nitro guitar. HR is perhaps the closest

Back Room: a place for student recreation

Chenise Corbin
staff writer

The Back Room is an activity room located on the first floor in the Reed Building. The Back Room consists of pool tables, a ping-pong table, video games, a jukebox, and a television. It also offers students the opportunity to rent various equipment, including basketballs, cross-country skis, footballs, tennis rackets, and soccer balls.

The Back Room is a nicely sized activity room, but not many students come in the Room, and virtually no women frequent the activity center.

A few students were asked if they think students were aware of the Back Room. Many of the students said that yes, students are aware of the activity room, but they do not

"The Back Room needs new equipment and more girls."

Michael Arnold
Behrend freshman

seemed interested. "Most of the students come in the evening and on the weekend," says Behrend sophomore Nikki Zalenchak.

A few students who frequently come to the Back Room spoke about what they thought could be improved about the room. Most of them replied that the Back Room needs new equipment. Michael Arnold, a freshman who works in the Back Room said, "The Back Room needs new equipment and more girls."

The Back Room is a friendly atmosphere where you can come to play a friendly game of pool or ping-pong or just hang out. So go and check it out.

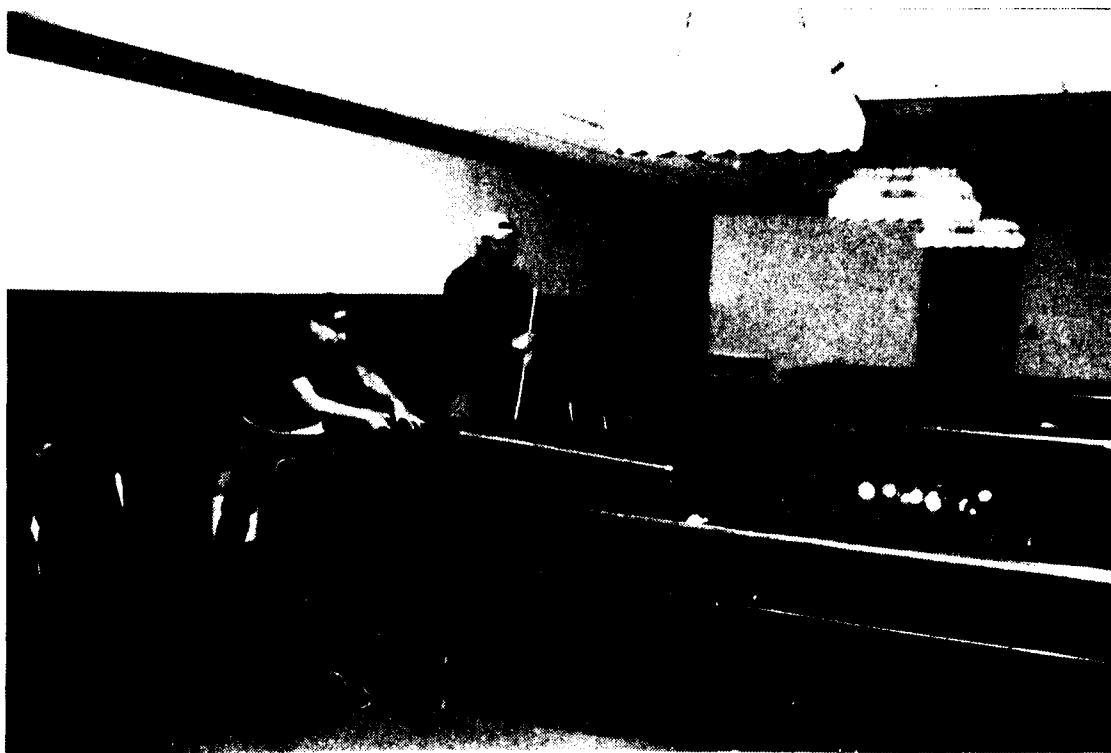


photo by Andrea Zaffino

Two Behrend students enjoy a relaxing game of pool in the Back Room.

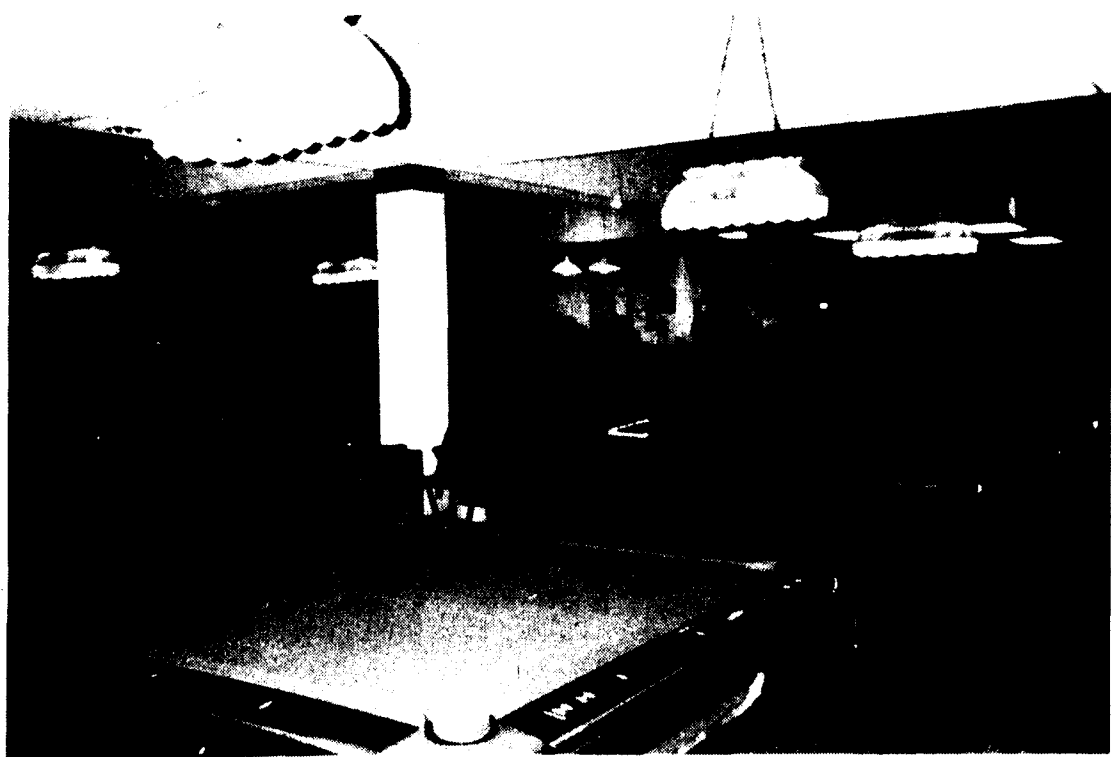


photo by Andrea Zaffino

The Back Room offers ping pong, video games, pool, and various rental equipment.

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- 1 Frigid
 - 5 Marine starter?
 - 10 Taverns
 - 14 Vicinity
 - 15 Niamey's nation
 - 16 Lecherous man
 - 17 Tight closure
 - 18 Pile of snow
 - 19 Dancer Pavlova
 - 20 Unable to tell one pitch from another
 - 22 Dutch painter
 - 23 Knight's title
 - 24 Swing at
 - 26 Thickset dog
 - 29 Limited experts
 - 35 Any person
 - 36 Chops into pieces
 - 37 Worn out
 - 38 Mines
 - 40 Wound marks
 - 41 Residence
 - 42 Stern deck
 - 43 Reddish horse
 - 45 Like a little Scot
 - 46 Annual event
 - 48 Puppy bite
 - 49 Right on maps
 - 50 Close kin, briefly
 - 52 "Thou ___ not covet..."
 - 55 Fail to make an impression
 - 60 Togo's capital
 - 61 Lacking sense
 - 63 Hair of a goat
 - 64 Copycat
 - 65 ___ Gras
 - 66 & others
 - 67 Harmless cysts
 - 68 High-tension wires tower
 - 69 Calendar info
- DOWN
- 1 Play's players
 - 2 Sandwich cookie
 - 3 Be inclined
 - 4 Small valleys
 - 5 Road-width tunnels
 - 6 Italian bread?
 - 7 Wage-slave's letters
 - 8 Ump's cohort
 - 9 Well-honed skill
 - 10 Like a spoiled kid
 - 11 Top of the line
 - 12 Cryptic character
 - 13 Actor Connerly
 - 21 Culinary concoction
 - 22 Erie Canal mule
 - 24 ___ Leone
 - 25 "The Heidi Chronicles" playwright
 - 26 Daddy
 - 27 Labor group
 - 28 Board
 - 30 Companion
 - 31 Burns slightly
 - 32 Displayed
 - 33 "My Cousin Vinnie" actress
 - 34 Much inclined
 - 39 Haranguers
 - 44 Eagles hit, "___ Eyes"
 - 47 Large tub

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60									61	62			63		
64									65				66		
67									68				69		

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answers on page 9

- 51 Inclined one's body
- 52 Cabbage dish, briefly
- 53 Have aspirations
- 54 Grace ending
- 55 Jung or Sagan
- 56 Remove knots
- 57 Small amount
- 58 Checked garment?
- 59 French pronoun
- 61 Minor devil
- 62 Turndown vote