

Screen talk: Highlights Hitchcock's history

by T. McGee
Collegian Contributing Writer

Alfred Hitchcock. The mere mention of the name conjures images of knife-wielding maniacs, frenzied chases and perilous entrapments.

Ask any movie critic to list the ten best film directors of all time and Hitchcock's name will almost surely be at the top of the heap. Through almost fifty years of filmmaking, he has thrilled audiences time and again with his tightly constructed stories of ordinary people caught up in extraordinary circumstances.

Hitchcock's legendary tactics and innovative techniques have become the focal point of study for thousands of film students all over the world. He practically invented the moving camera and was the first to employ extensive use of point of view to enhance dramatic action. (Perhaps I should define point of view—that is when we see exactly what a character sees, not a shot with that character in the frame.)

Film studios and producers were in love with Hitchcock, since he normally finished his pictures ahead of schedule and under budget. Add to this his enormous popularity and box office success, and you can see why Hitchcock's every whim was catered to.

The actors in his films did not have it so easy. Hitchcock considered them necessary evils—a bit of nagging scenery that could not be omitted. This is not to say that he really disliked them, but he demanded that they know exactly what they were doing. He

rehearsed his actors for days and days and then shot only one or two takes on film. (Which is part of the reason he brought pictures in under budget—he used very little film stock.)

In the coming weeks, Behrend students will have the opportunity to see some of the old master's greatest works as the Student Programming Council presents a salute to Alfred Hitchcock.

Four films are scheduled for your viewing pleasure including "Vertigo", the compelling story of a man whose memory loss envelops him in a web of romance and intrigue. Then is, "Rear Window", the brilliant tale of a man who, confined to his bed, witnesses a murder through the window of a neighboring apartment. "The Man Who Knew Too Much", a somewhat docile film from the King of Suspense, depicts a vacationing family's struggle to escape the clutches of a violent group of political activists.

All three of these films star Jimmy Stewart, Hitchcock's favorite leading man and one of the most enigmatic actors of all time. Also look for Doris Day in one of her few dramatic roles, as Stewart's spunky wife in "The Man Who Knew Too Much". The final film to be screened is "Marnie", a movie which, unfortunately, I have not seen. However, it received fantastic critical acclaim and I look forward to a first viewing.

So, suspense lovers, go see a little Hitchcock and catharsize some of those pre-test blues. You'll be surprised at what a dose of edge-of-your seat sitting can do for your retention of data.

WBCR record review

by Anne Wskowitz
Collegian Staff Writer

After a year of silence from the rock band Dire Straits, the group returns with a fantastic album.

The original band, formed in 1977, chose to call themselves Dire Straits because of the pitiful conditions they were living in.

In January 1978 the band released their first album entitled *Dire Straits*. The song "Sultans of Swing" became a hit from the album and the band was on their way to way to public recognition.

After the album *Dire Straits* the original band released three more albums. The last of these albums, *Love Over Gold* recorded only five songs. The songs are very long with the shortest lasting five minutes. After, *Love Over Gold* the band decided to go through major member changes. With these changes came their current drummer Terry Williams who was, previously the drummer for the band Rock Pile. This change also gained a new guitarist and a new keyboard player.

The debut of the "new" Dire Straits was heard on their live two record album *Alchemy*.

After recording this album, the band took a year off and returned with this years album *Brothers in Arms*.

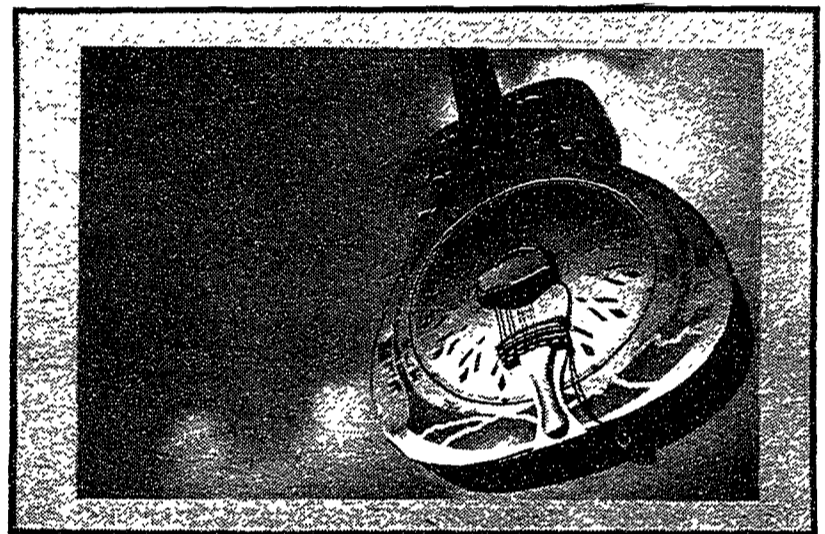
Many musicians, including Sting appear on this album. The current hit, *Money For Nothing* is presently the number one song on the national music charts. The song is powerful and somewhat sarcastic to the music and bands exhibited on MTV. The song is also truthful.

The next hit of the album will

probably be "Walk Of Life" which is the third song on the first side. The song is already playing on some Pittsburgh rock stations and receiving a positive vote.

It is amazing to me how powerful this Dire Straits record is. None of the songs sound the same and the lyrics are very strong when compared to many of the current hits.

Brothers in Arms is definitely an album worth adding to the collection.



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