

The Reader Reviews

The Paper Chase

by Fred Prouser

The Paper Chase, starring Timothy Bottoms of "The Last Picture Show" fame portrays a first year student at Harvard Law School. At the outset, the quest for high marks predominates the concern of many of Hart's (Timothy Bottoms) friends in the dorm. In pursuit of this goal, Hart is asked to join a study group by Ford, a fellow student. Ford, a fifth generation Harvard schemer assumes initial leadership in the film. The purpose of the study group is that it enables members to outline a particular course for the group and in return receive the other members outlines. The study group becomes crucial at exam time.

After a hard night cracking some law books, Hart goes into town for a pizza. While walking back, a girl rushes up and takes his arm. She is being followed and asks him to escort her home. Hart seems to be attracted to her. After she is in the house, Hart gazes at her through the window awhile. The following night he returns to her apartment, and is invited in and spends the night. From this point on, Hart's relationship with Susan (Lindsay Wagner) affects his work at school. It seems that women and the first year at law school can no coexist. On this issue Ford tells Hart, "The celibate mind is sharper." Eventually Hart's relationship with Susan is strained by his need to study and his desire to organize and rationalize their relations together.

There are complications throughout the film. The study group is composed of clashing personalities. Arguments erupt over such trivial matters as the use of derisive language and not being prepared on time. Competition in Prof. Kingsfield contract law class is getting tougher. More students are participation discussions and Hart finds he must prepare more to keep up in class.

The script captures the language of life in the dorms. Favorite expressions include "you pimp" and "eat shit". Philosophical elements emerge as Hart emerges as Hart quotes that law students are, "the logical extension of all past judges and their decisions," the quote comes from Prof. Kingsfield's notes when he was a student.

Visual elements in the film are memorable. Scenes of studying late at night capture the agony and fatigue inherent in cramming. As finals near, Ford and Hart take a hotel room to cram without the distractions

of the dorm. The room is reminiscent of many rooms here at Capitol Campis. Garbage, books, and clothes are strewn about the room waiting for the maid to put them in their place.

The characterization of Hart grows throughout the film. At the beginning he seems to be unsure of himself. He tries to win the respect of Prof. Kingsfield, but is rebuffed in his efforts. Gradually through hard work and personal growth, he emerges as leader not only of his study group but on a larger scale, his floor at the dorms and the contract law class.

Susan, Hart's girlfriend, is confused with their relationship. She is at the end of one marriage and at the brink of a new love. She is desperately trying to rid herself of the domination of her father. But at the same time is clinging to memories of her youth. Hart and Susan tend to reinforce each other. His rational versus her irrational outlook on life melt together to form a different personality when they are together.

Prof. Kingsfield (John Houseman) is a stern task master who holds complete control over his lecture hall. He is quick to cut down the student who comes unprepared or who cannot express his thoughts in class.

The film captures the mood of college today. It is easy for one to relate to Hart's experiences, the varied students personalities and the feeling of uncertainty prevalent in today's college existence. The Paper Chase has received critical acclaim as one of the year's ten best films. It received Best Picture honors at the 1973 Atlanta Film Festival. Just remember, that old college try just might kill you.

No Drowsey Eyes

Sleeper

Starring Woody Allen

Diane Keaton

by Jim Bollinger

After a year of dark news and even darker deeds concerning the major figures in our government, something good has finally surfaced from 1973. That something is Woody Allen's *Sleeper*, the most hilarious comedy of the year, and possibly even this decade. I am sure that everyone is aware that 1973 was a rather lean year for comedy, so it may seem that it wouldn't take much of a movie to earn the title of "Best."

However, *Sleeper*, is of such quality that it could probably take this prize in almost any given year, and it would probably be near the top of the list even if compared with comedies from other decades.

Since his last movie, *Everything you Always Wanted to Know about Sex, But Were Afraid to Ask*, Allen has indeed matured as a comedian and improved as a writer. *Everything* had its ups and downs; its funny parts and its bad parts. *Sleeper*, however, is just one long continuous laugh. From the moment Woody is unwrapped from his aluminum foil (just like any other frozen meat), until the final credits appear on the screen Allen hardly gives the audience a chance to catch its breath.

The plot, simply stated, is that a man from 1973 who was hospitalized for a peptic ulcer and ended up in a coma with a variety of strange complications (A la *Hospital*) was frozen and placed in a capsule for later defrosting, revival, and treatment. He was revived by a revolutionary group to aid them in their struggle against tyranny 200 years later. After being marked by the government as a criminal, with brainwashing as its only alternative, he reluctantly agrees to help the subversives. In his attempts to reach the main group of rebels, he meets an average girl-of-the-times, and induces her to join the movement.

He is captured and brainwashed by the government, then recaptured and rebrainwashed by the rebels. In the end, he gets his girl and becomes the hero of the revolution by capturing the disembodied nose of the government's Great Leader, who had lost the rest of his body in an explosion caused by a terrorist bomb (and which was to be used to recreate a new Leader), thereby depriving the government of its head, without which it would collapse.

Throughout the picture, Allen's visual and vocal antics serve to keep the audience in stitches; most noteworthy are: his attempted escape from the secret police via a jetbelt, and his series of one-liners concerning "artifacts" from the 70's. In other major highlights of the movie, Woody masquerades as a robot and fights a life-or-death battle with a mound of chocolate pudding, falls in love with a sex-machine called the Orgasmatron; gets high on a stainless steel globe; crosses paths with two homosexuals and their lisping robot; and is forced to beat a man senseless with a super-king-size strawberry.

All in all, *Sleeper* is the best movie I've seen in many a year, and it clearly outdoes everything else Woody has done to date. The sheer hilarity of the movie is just incredible. If you are the type that likes to look for symbolism in movies, be ready to shell out some dough, because you'll have to see the film at least twice: the first time you see it, you'll be forced to laugh and enjoy it without once getting a chance to analyze it. After that, you might be able to get something done, but I doubt it. So, be sure to see Woody and Diane Keaton (who also turns in a magnificent performance) in *Sleeper* at least once before TV gets hold of it. It's well-worth the price of admission, and you don't have to put up with all those disgusting commercials and censors.

My final rating: 9.5 on a scale of 10.

C C Cookery

Shepherd's Pie

This recipe is directed to the busy student and to guys who don't think that they can cook but find out it is very easy. Also this recipe is another way to cook ground beef (or the 80% beef that is sold in local stores). Chopped beef and pork can be used as alternatives.

You need mash potatoes for this so peel and slice about 5 - 6 medium potatoes. Then boil them for about 20 - 25 minutes. In one inch of water and a teaspoon of salt. Mash them in a little bit of milk and butter.

This is called a Shepherd's Pie for it is a good way to get rid of leftover vegetables and create a meal to your own taste. You can use a combination of the following vegetables. Three or four different ones is recommended.

6 small onions (about the size of a small egg.)
1 Cup of cooked sliced carrots
1 cup of cooked or can peas
1 cup of cooked or can corn.
1 cup of shredded cabbage
1 cup of cooked or can beans (lima, string or others).
1 cup of tomatoes
1 cup of cooked celery.

Brown about two cups of meat in two tablespoons of oil with a tablespoon of flour. The flour thickens the broth into a gravy. Pre-heat your oven to 425 degrees and grease a large casserole dish with butter.

You can use any canned gravy of brown gravy mix. Pur this over the meat and add all of the vegetables. You will need about 2 1/2 cups of gravy.

Beat one egg into the mashed potatoes. Pour the meat and vegetables mixture into the casserole dish and arrange the potatoes on the top.

Bake in the oven for about 10 - 15 minutes or until the gravy is bubbling and the potatoes are lightly browned. This makes enough for four hungry guys.

The 52nd State of Confusion

Just this
side of
Who-Knows-What
(before you get to Where-When)
lives the beauty
of
Alone
Mellowed there
to resolve the
questions
meant to be left
unanswered,
Ever so peacefully
flow the thoughts -
past Comprehension
(Which lies further from Known)
pledging allegiance
to those who
admit
the
52nd State of Confusion
is indeed
a place
to which
it's good to
return.

Lisa

Middletown Bowling Lanes

Welcome Back

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Still same low price

Weekdays-3 games-\$1.25

Weekends-3 games-\$1.50

Shoes Free

The Strength of Love

by Romeo Trajanus

The ground is white, the skies are grey
The world is dead on this chill day.
Life looks bleak and even black
But as for love, I do not lack.

'Tis true, I had 'nother whose love
was mine,
But long ago, another time:
Though sweet they are, mem'ries are mere
clay;
Simple images of things that were, and dead
shall they stay.

Through these days of ruin and decay,
My soul never once has felt dismay
For there is she, and she is me,
And forever happy shall we be.