

'Breakfast Club' brings high school memories

By Don Strausburger

Thoughts of movies about teens and for teens bring to mind few positive outcomes. Most people immediately think of films like "Hardbodies" and others of that genre.

As a result, when a good teen film is released, few people pay any attention, or consider seeing it.

"The Breakfast Club" is an exception to the teen standard -- one which teens of all ages should see.

The film, which is the second part of a high-school trilogy by John Hughes, shows how five high school students learn to look outside of the peer groups of which they are a part. In looking outside, they both look at other peer groups and are

given an opportunity to look back in at themselves.

The Breakfast Club consists of five students who, for one reason or another, must spend a Saturday in the school library as a form of punishment for earlier misgivings. The five individually represent one of the five dominant types of high school student.

Among the cast's women, Molly Ringwald stars as Claire, the school prom queen and most popular student, while Ally ("Wargames") Sheedy plays Allyson, an antisocial girl who seems most interested in shocking anyone willing to watch or talk to her.

In general, each is perfect at his/her own game. However, when the "games" begin to interact, the individuals panic.

From their day of closed confinement, the five go from being relative strangers -- a few have already met in school -- to revealing intimate secrets to each other in a candid conversation. The conversation is reminiscent of group therapy sessions; however, no therapist is present.

John Hughes, who both wrote and directed this movie, took several steps which make the characters relative to the problems and thoughts of high school students.

understanding of the gap that separates adults and teenagers.

Paul Gleason portrays Mr. Vernon, an administrator who considers himself vitally important to the operation of the school. Because of his attitude, he blatantly ignores the psychology of troubled teens in favor of preserving his own image.

His counterpart, Carl, played by John Kapelos, is a school janitor who understands the students' actions and motivations, serving as a link between Vernon and the five "delinquents."

"The Breakfast Club" leads the audience across an emo-

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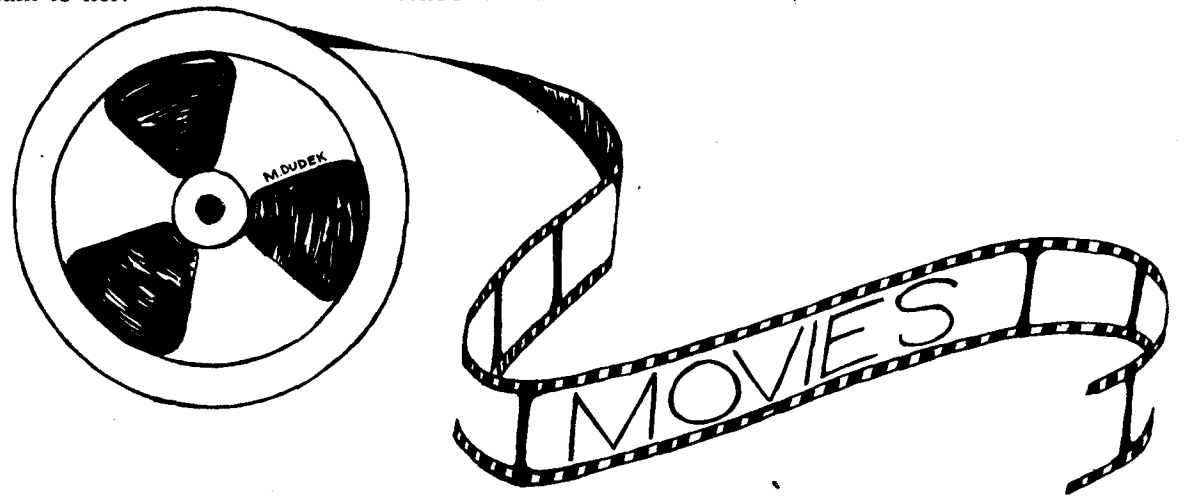
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The men of the cast are more obviously stereotypical, but only in what they represent.

Emilio Estevez is a super-athlete, Anthony Michael Hall, who co-starred with Ringwald in "Sixteen Candles," is the school's intellectual, non-athletic type, and Judd Nelson is the perpetual troublemaker.

Although all of the representations are stereotypical, the characters face problems that, in this case, seem unique and very believable. Each actor adds a special quality to his/her character giving reason to believe that more occurs on the screen than just another performance.

When Judd Nelson tells of life in his home anger generated by his negative attitude becomes sympathy for his situation.

Brian, the intellectual, reveals that, despite his ability to design anything, he is unable to build from his plans.

First, instead of giving his actors a detailed script to use, he gave the five teenagers rough outlines of the characters whom they would portray. The roles developed through the eyes of the actors observing their peers and fresh memories of their own pasts, rather than the glorified recollections of a middle-aged man trying to enlighten memories of his own youth which usually results in the bad teen-sex films of the last few years.

Second, unlike many teen-oriented films, "The Breakfast Club" does not become burdened with scene changes. Nearly all interaction between the students occurs in the library allowing audience concentration to focus on the personalities of the five rather than where and why they go to certain places.

Supporting roles in this film are seemingly minor yet are vitally important to the

tional tightrope very slowly and, at times, very painfully. Memories of my high school years became evident as the five actors revealed the different ways in which each one suffers leading the audience from knowing laughter to unsuspecting tears of sympathy and understanding.

Although most people are not exactly like any of these characters, everyone is bound to see himself/herself in a combination of these characters. Some will even see a little of all five wrapped up in one personality.

"The Breakfast Club" is the sequel to "Sixteen Candles" and the middle offering of a trilogy which ends next year with a film called "Wierd Science." With the critical success of the first two, one can only wait for what is yet to come.

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Reagan wants aid cut

(continued from pg. 1)

Study programs," Martin contends.

"Roughly one million more will be displaced by the \$32,500 cap on GSLs, and another 300,000 will be affected by the cuts in state grant programs," he predicts.

Congress must still review and approve Reagan's proposals, or pass its own version of the education budget.

Martin frets he and his col-

leagues face a hard battle to beat back the proposed cuts.

"We're in a totally different environment this year," he explains. "Last year was an election year and no one wanted to do anything too unpopular."

This year, he says, "because of the tremendous pressure to control the deficit, we should not assume that Congress will automatically step in and reduce the cuts."