

# ARTS & LEISURE

Take a breather on November 16. Join the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout - and give yourself 24 hours away from your old routine.

## On stage at Area theatres

### Allenberry Playhouse

Allenberry Playhouse in Boiling Springs continues performances of "Black Coffee," by Agatha Christie, through Oct. 29. Tickets range in price from \$10 to \$12, and reservations can be made at the box office at (717) 258-6120.

### Theater of the Seventh Sister

The Theater of the Seventh Sister presents the Lancaster premiere of the highly acclaimed Broadway show, "Agnes of God." The play follows the painful examination waged by a court-appointed psychiatrist into the sanity of a young nun accused of murdering her own baby. "Agnes of God" addresses the very roots of faith, commitment, love and tolerance. Performances continue Oct. 26-29. Show times are 8 p.m., except Sundays when the curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to all shows are \$8. For further information and ticket reservations, call The Seventh Sister at (717) 392-4983.

## Film review: Taking another look at "The Big Chill"

Steven Klinewski  
Capital Times Contributor

This comedy of values looks at the lives of a group of former friends from the sixties, who are reunited during their friend Alex's funeral. Each person reevaluates their life and fears a loss of the innocence and idealism they shared during the '60s.

Although we never get to meet Alex, his character can represent the ideals and beliefs of the '60s. His friends had lost touch with him and in doing so lost touch with the values and beliefs they felt they once held.

Alex committed suicide because he could not adapt to the present and the values today's society held. But we find out through his girlfriend, Meg Tilly, he wished he could have changed. She told his friends Alex wished he would have accepted the Rutledge Fellowship, which would have represented his being able to change and become part of the establishment. Therefore Alex did see something good in the '80s.

If you look at the scene in which the characters are unpacking we are shown several quick shots of their possessions, which establish each character's personality.

The journalist, Jeff Goldblum, possessions include bikini briefs, condoms, batteries and a tape recorder. This shows that he is very shallow and

usually thinks from below the waist. His character is a representation of the state of journalism in America today. He is not concerned with content, but with digging up any story no matter who it hurts and trying to manipulate everyone he sees including his friends.

The depiction of journalism is one of no moral guidelines and suggests today's journalism as a profession is sleazy and of no redeeming value.

When the actor, Tom Barenger, unpacks we see a copy of "People" magazine with his picture on it, with his characters name, T.J. Lancer, in big letters.

This character has a problem separating himself from his television character. He believes, he can do whatever his character does. For example when asked he tries to jump into his car the same way his character does in the opening of every show.

This points out how Americans view television, not being able to distinguish something they see on television from reality.

The housewife, JoBeth Williams, also has a copy of the magazine with T.J. Lancer on it, with her possessions. She is discontent with the boredom of the life she has chosen and sees the excitement of Barenger's character as the way her life is supposed to be.

Her husband is shown taking out his children's pictures. Therefore he represents a good family man and provider. In other words not much excitement, but stability.

Female lawyer, Mary Kaye Place, is shown opening her briefcase and blocking out the crucifix on the wall, showing she is an atheist. The fact she has nothing but her things from her law practice with her tells us this is her life.

She later gives a speech about the problems of dating says she wants to have a baby, but doesn't want the complications of a husband. She represents the modern woman, who is successful and doesn't want to have to depend on a man for anything.

The drug dealer, William Hurt, is

worried about the drugs underneath his car. He represents the men who served in Vietnam and were disillusioned when they returned.

He is having a hard time dealing with the society in which he lives. He has the attitudes and beliefs of the '60s and has a hard time functioning within our society. Therefore, he doesn't like or respect authority, for example the police officer who arrests him he is very hostile toward him.

He is very much like Alex except in the end he has the ability to adapt to the present.

The businessman, Kevin Kline, is able to see things for how they are. He doesn't see himself as losing his idealism and being dirtied by the society as the rest of them do.

He is a realist and represents the '80s attitude. When he tells his friends about his company getting bought out by a big corporation, although he knows it is breaking the law, but considers it helping out a friend and is content with himself.

His wife, the doctor, played by Glenn Close, is torn between the '60s and the '80s. We are told she had an affair with Alex, who represents the '60s, but also loves her husband who represents the present. When Alex died she felt she had lost touch with that side of her.

You can also say television played a part in the film. Television could be seen as the truth seeker of the film. Each time someone had a camera on them, they told the truth.

Also, as was said earlier, people believe what is on television, whether it is true or not, it becomes a mediated reality. A good example of this in our own world is when voters were shown a commercial of Mike Dukakis looking like a child playing in a tank, this picture of him, then becomes taken for reality.

Which means television played a big role in this film as it does in our society.

All the characters in the film come to grips with the people they are and reestablish their bond.

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