

By Tim Swarr

"Chariots of Fire" was the surprise winner of this year's Academy Awards honor for best picture. This small British production opened quietly in a few theaters in the larger cities in this country. The box office take started out small, but with a warm response from the critics and word-of-mouth, "Chariots of Fire" turned into a major motion picture.

"Chariots of Fire" chronicles the true story of two British runners and their quest for gold at the 1924 Olympics. The film deals with the background of each runner and studies the motivations that drive them.

Benn Cross gives a powerful portrait as Harold Abrahams, a young Jewish sprinter from Cambridge who uses his ability as a runner to overcome the anti-semitic prejudice he encounters at Cambridge. Ian Charleson gives an equally strong performance as Eric Liddell, a sprinter from Scotland who studies divinity at Glasgow. Liddell

has his motivations for running firmly founded in his strong Christian beliefs. He holds these beliefs so strongly that during the Olympics there is a conflict as to whether or not he will run in a heat race that is scheduled for a Sunday.

"Chariots of Fire" is primarily about sports and athletic competition, though the movie goes farther and deeper than the romantic notion of underdog-against-all-odds drama that so many sports films go for. Just view "Rocky" and Michael Douglas' "Running" for examples of this sort of shallow study of athletic motivation.

Director Hugh Hudson and screen writer Colin Welland have worked together to give the film a flawless flow. The story of each young man's life is told separately until they are brought together to race each other and then brought together again for the Paris Olympics. Hudson also received a lot of support from director of

photography David Watkin. Watkin brings out the beauty of the Scottish countryside as well as the exuberance and energy of college life. The athletic contests themselves are superbly filmed. Slow motion is used to heighten the drama of the events but to such an extent that it becomes overbearing and calls attention to itself. The Academy award-winning score by Vangelis blends in smoothly and helps to draw the viewer into the action on the screen.

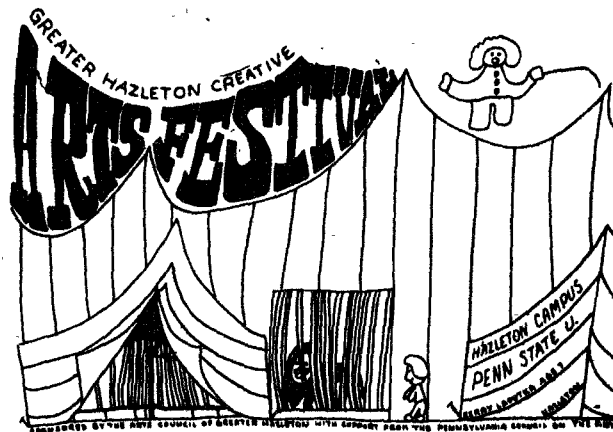
"Chariots of Fire" is a small movie that does not gather viewer interest by a lot of flash and spectacular effects. It captures the viewer by showing in an honest and in-depth manner the motivations that can drive a man through his life. While this movie deals with athletics its message can be applied to any personal endeavor. For these reasons, I feel the movie deserved its Academy Award and the box-office renewal that will come.

Men like to fish

As early as 3 o'clock Saturday morning, anglers were worming out of a warm bed pulling up their flies. This might sound a little fishy, but it isn't. Pennsylvania fishermen just want to get to their favorite fishing hole before they wake up. At 8 o'clock they threw their lines in hope to pick up a little fishy. I know some guys that do this in bars at night. Chances are they could get a Sucker, or hook up with a real wild Cat-fish. They'll go after them if it's sunny, or even if it rains in hopes of catching themselves a Rainbow. If they get a big one they might exclaim, "Holy Mackerel." But not in these waters. I asked some fishermen why they would sit on a perch all day, and they said, "Just for the Halibut." But I guess everyone dances to their own tune, but as R.E.O. Speedwagon once said, "You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish." And if you think this story is bad, you should have seen the one that got away.

Comedy in Classroom Building

In conjunction with the Penn State Arts Festival, the Highacres Drama Club will present two one-act plays on May 5, 6 and 8 at 7:30 P.M. in room C-1. The first play is of particular interest — it is written and directed by Bob Tier, a student, here at Highacres. The play is entitled "Ladies & Gents," and according to Mr. Tier, it is "a serious comedy about lost love." The production of this play has been handled solely by the students of the Drama Club. The cast of "Ladies & Gents" consists of an experienced group of actors: Alaine Bolish, Lisa Skuba.



Phil Voystock, Gregg Rhinesmith, Bill Creed, Kathy Keane, and Annette McGuiggan. The second play, which is the main feature, is called "Black Comedy," a humorous play which takes place in England during a power failure. The play was written by Peter Schaffer with special arrangement by Samuel French Inc. This play is under the direction of Alexis Neopolitan, an experienced writer and director from this area. Mr. Neopolitan has volunteered his time and talent in an effort to make "Black Comedy" a master production. The cast of this play also includes some very talented actors: Alaine Bolish, Lisa Bosak, John Gormley, JoAnn Gursick, Gregg Rhinesmith, Phil Voystock, Bob Tier and Steve Zarick. Tier, head of the Drama Club, said all the actors and crew members are working hard in preparation for the production, which is sure to be interesting and entertaining. Students showing ID will be admitted free. The cost is \$1.00 for all other students and \$2.00 for adults. There will be refreshments during the intermission, and all proceeds will go to the Highacres Drama Club.



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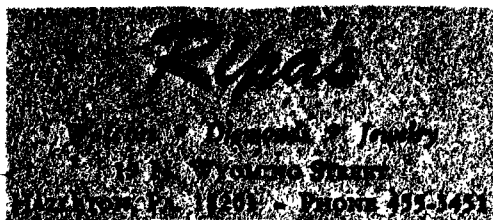
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