'Pictures' starts theater's '83 season with laughter

Collegian Staff Writer

was what producer Douglas N. Cook son last Thursday night. And if you find laughter refreshing,

production of Neil Simon's "I Ought To Be In Pictures" was just that. One of Simon's newest comedies, "I though often funny, was the weakest Ought To Be In Pictures" is set in the in the production. When he first stumcluttered Hollywood bungalow of bled onto the stage wearing an inside-Hert Tucker (Tom Markus), a once- out T-shirt and rumpled pajamas and successful screenwriter. Sixteen tried to unstick his left eye, he creyears earlier, Herb gave up his three- ated a hilarious picture of the slovenyear-old daughter, infant son, and ly screenwriter. And his delivery of NYC's pastrami sandwiches to es- Neil Simon's one-liners caused alcape his wife's humorless lack of most sure-fire laughter. understanding." Now Herb struggles

Blondell (Jane Moore), can help him regain his confidence. Suddenly, Libby (Jane E. Beckhard), Herb's now 19-year-old daughter, appears at the door. She's try ("If you're not gorgeous, you hike more than you hitch.") to convince

movies and to let her back into his The cast did a good job of bringing out the comedy in this production. Beckhard played an energetic version of the brick-laying, car-repairing Libby. Even Libby's frankest remarks and actions (She calls her father a shit-heel within ten minutes of meeting him.) are made believable by the strength Beckhard brings to

Although given a sketchy character

mension to the roll. Simon has developed Steffy as a raisonneur — a character who stands outside of the action and speaks the author's opinplay. Yet even though Moore had few lines, her attention to Herb and Libby and silent reactions to their struggles made her an important part of each

scene in which she appeared. Markus' performance as Herb, al-

Yet as the play progressed, it became obvious that Markus was trying and not even his girlfriend, Steffy for audience-response as an actor, rather than living within the scene as

His exaggerated gestures (drawing an imaginary circle around his head to suggest a sombrero at the mention of Morrocco) and punch-lines (drawing out the word "rhoooo-doooo-dendron" when the character was angry and probably snapping out quickly) received some chuckles. They also lost much of the character's credibility and made parts of his performance appear pre-planned and stilted. An audience finds much more humor in a person they can realistically identify

Broadway production, "(Pictures') provides a touching blend of laughter

more serious side of the play that was resolutions between the father and daughter. With the end of each verbal Herb and Libby haven't seen each battle, Herb and Libby are a little less other for sixteen years — almost the defensive and a little closer to each whole of the girl's life. The pair must other. In the end, as Libby prepares overcome a lot of time, guilt and to hitchhike back to Brooklyn, having resentment during the course of the found what she came for, she and her father truly care about each other as ert E. Leonard or Markus' overly-

Festival Theater's production. The problem was that the characters went the whole distance in the first Whether the fault of director Rob-

That sense of acceptance between his arms in acceptance by the end of Libby and Herb did come out in the the first act. There was no significant

But to make a long article short, the Festival Theater's production of "Pictures": Entertaining, yes. Con-Simon develops this conflict individuals and not merely out of a nice portrayal of Herb, Herb had

Comedy is highlight of Superman III

By TOM SAKELL Collegian Staff Writer

Should you see "Superman III?" It all depends upon your mood. Do you wanna laugh? Gasp in awe at spectacular scenery? Cheer for heroics and cringe at near-catastrophe? How about just leaving the theater with a smile on your face?

But if you feel a comic strip hero with super powers and straightfor you, perhaps you would be better off watching documentaries on

director Richard Lester successfully cuts between three subplots. The first follows Clark Kent to Smallville, Kansas for his 15th the Superman series works so well high school reunion. There he finds is the comedic screenplay by Leslie subject of Kent's adolescent admitters in the story get a generous ration. Lang finds herself attracted share of throw away one-liners and to the kind and sensitive reporter. funny situations.

Back in Metropolis, Gus Gorman (Richard Pryor) is down to his last dollar and-out of unemployment benefits when he takes a computer programming course. Realizing he is a programming genius, Gorman goes to work in a company owned by a financial dictator.

Ross Webster (Robert Vaughn) is logical havoc on South America's coffee bean crop and control the world's oil tankers. If you haven't guessed it by now,

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Superman meets Gorman and computer treachery, world dominance and, of course, Kryptonite. Suprisingly, Lang finds Kent more Reeve, too, is given a chance to



the stumbling bumpkin in the big

the opportunity to devote more time mance as Lang, and moviegoers to the Clark Kent character, where can look forward to seeing more of he does an admirable job. Always Lang's relationship with Kent in Superman IV. While (Lois Lane) city, he finds a certain confidence Margot Kidder took a vacation in and grace as he comes to know "III," you can bet she will be back

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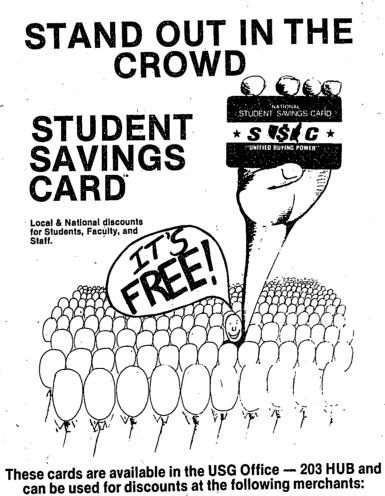
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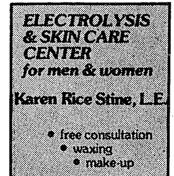
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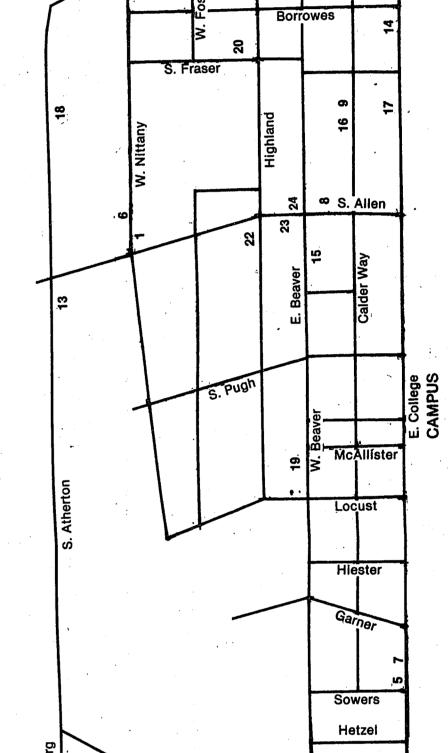
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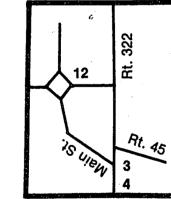
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