

Now Available...

## Stick this in your VCR

by Craig Campbell  
*The Collegian*

Siskel and Ebert never like anything, video review magazines are too expensive, and your friends...well they thought *Ishtar* was a winner! So what is a young video renter supposed to do when faced with the dilemma of picking out a decent flick? Listen to me, someone you don't know (and probably don't want to).

*The Hard Way*

Michael J. Fox finally broke away from all those teenage roles to do this film with costar James Woods. Fox plays Nick Lang, an actor whose roles are usually childish adventure heroes.

Lang decides that in order to win the serious hero role he's trying for, he has to study a real cop. James Woods plays that cop, John Moss.

Moss is tracking down the party crasher, a killer who calls the police before busting clubs to kill people.

Lang and Moss do not get along at all and the tension between them is humorous. There is action, adventure, romance, comedy and everything else a growing boy needs. Fox pulls this role off and Woods delivers an excellent (and funny) performance.

*Blind Fury*

After reading the back of the

box for this rental, one would think, "Oh No! Not another one of those blind, sword-wielding,

Zen master flicks again!" Well this one is different...

Rutger Hauer stars as Nick Parker, a Vietnam vet who was wounded and blinded then nursed back to health and taught to swordfight by Vietnamese Zen masters. Nick is looking up one of his old war buddies, Frank, when Frank's family is attacked by bad guys.

Frank has been creating designer drugs, and the bad guys decide they need to kill his family. Nick saves Frank's son and gets rid of the bad guys. Then the two (Nick and Frank's son) travel across the country to Las Vegas to save Frank.

The action in this movie is very intense and, at times, it gets fairly humorous (mainly the car chase with a blind, sword-wielding Zen master behind the wheel!).

*The Russia House*

Sean Connery's acting career has lasted almost 30 years, and he is a very powerful actor whose films usually are full of action, adventure and a thrill every minute.

Michelle Pfeiffer is an extremely attractive lady whose acting abilities are not to be overlooked since she can draw hundreds of men to the theaters with a small part in a film.

In this film the two must have needed a break.

A controversial Russian

author has written a book saying that Russia is years behind the United States in nuclear power.

Pfeiffer is a courier who delivers the manuscript to Connery to be published. Britain and the United States find out about the manuscript and recruit Connery as a spy (undoubtedly something new to Connery) to investigate using Pfeiffer.

Connery and Pfeiffer begin to fall in love and soon Connery is torn between his country and his heart.

*So what is a young video renter supposed to do when faced with the dilemma of picking out a decent flick?*

The idea behind this film is good and the acting is also good, but it is too long. It's the kind of film that you would love if your girlfriend brought it over to watch, but if your buddy would bring it, you'd stop the movie and play "Paper, Scissors, Rock"!

*Arena*

Picture *Wrestlemania* on the set of Buck Rogers with half the budget. This should give you an idea of what this film is like.

Somewhere deep in space gladiators from the far reaches of the universe are pitting their

fighting skills against each other and trying to win the title of Universal Champion. Aliens train and fight, but no human has fought or won for over fifty years. Then comes Steve Armstrong!

Steve is reluctantly forced into competing, but after winning his first match is coaxed into continuing by his "beautiful" trainer. The only problem is the reigning champion, a spooky alien/cyborg called "Horn" and his trainer who will stop at nothing to keep it that way. As Steve advances in the competition and Horn's trainer becomes more and more ruthless, we begin to wonder, "Will Steve Armstrong win?" (Of course he will...he's the hero!).

This film answers that age-old question that has plagued man for years, "Who buys all those old Halloween masks that no one else wants?"

*Men of Respect*

In the tradition of *The Godfather*, *Good Fellas* and all those other mafia films, this movie was created, but has a very interesting twist. It is a modern-day tale of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* with the mafia replacing the royalty.

The movie focuses on Michael Batalia a young, up-and-coming mafia guy. Mike is content with his situation and loves his new "family", but as he begins killing rival gang

members his girlfriend comes up with a plan. If he would start to kill off his bosses, he could take

control of the entire city. Mike is talked into it and so begins his downfall.

This movie is great to watch whether you are a Shakespeare fan or not. People familiar with *Macbeth* will recognize scenes like the witches' predictions, Michael's first murder and his girlfriend's sleepwalking. Those not familiar with *Macbeth* will enjoy seeing another fine gangster film.

*The Pit and the Pendulum*

Many of Edgar Allen Poe's works have been brought to the screen, most of which have been vague reflections of his work. However, Stuart Gordan recently produced a version of one of Poe's most famous works that is true to the story, horrific and sprinkled with the dark humor that Gordan is famous for.

*The Pit and the Pendulum* takes place in Spain, 1492 during the Spanish Inquisition. Antonio and Maria are simple peasants that earn their living selling bread to the crowd as the crowd watches executions.

At one fateful execution however, Maria is arrested by the High Inquisitor under the accusation of witchcraft. Antonio breaks into the dungeon to rescue her but is captured himself. After repeated attempts to free himself and Maria and enduring torture, Antonio is finally introduced to the Inquisitor's prize torture device, the pit and the pendulum.

## As seen on TV....

Fike laughs it up Friday night at Bruno's

by Craig Campbell  
*The Collegian*

One of *America's Funniest People* will be appearing this weekend at Bruno's. Comedian Al Fike is known internationally for his improvisational skills, comedy routines and unique musical abilities.

Fike has always done comedy. Aside from pulling pranks as a child and doing impersonations in front of the television show *America's Funniest People*, he has worked with Bob Hope, Mel Tillis and many other famed stars.

Fike's act includes stand-up routines, impersonations and some unusual musical displays. The instruments Fike plays are unlike what we would hear on the radio. He plays things like the hand saw, something he learned while on a mission project in Zambia, Africa.

Fike also impersonates stars such as Paul Harvey and Billy Graham to name a few, but also

dogs, cats, and eighteen wheelers, which is something you don't hear everyday.

Fike performs because he likes to make people laugh and have fun. He wants his audience to have a good time, but he also wants to encourage them to do everything better than they ever have before. He looks up to comedians Bill Cosby, Gallagher, and George Carlin for their styles of comedy more than their material, but the person he looks up to the most is God.

Al Fike feels most comfortable when performing in front of smaller audiences because it is more personal and closer, but he has worked on a number of radio stations.

He released a video entitled "Living Proof God has a Sense of Humor," two albums: *Laugh It Up* and *Tuning In*, and has performed in many top of the line comedy clubs.

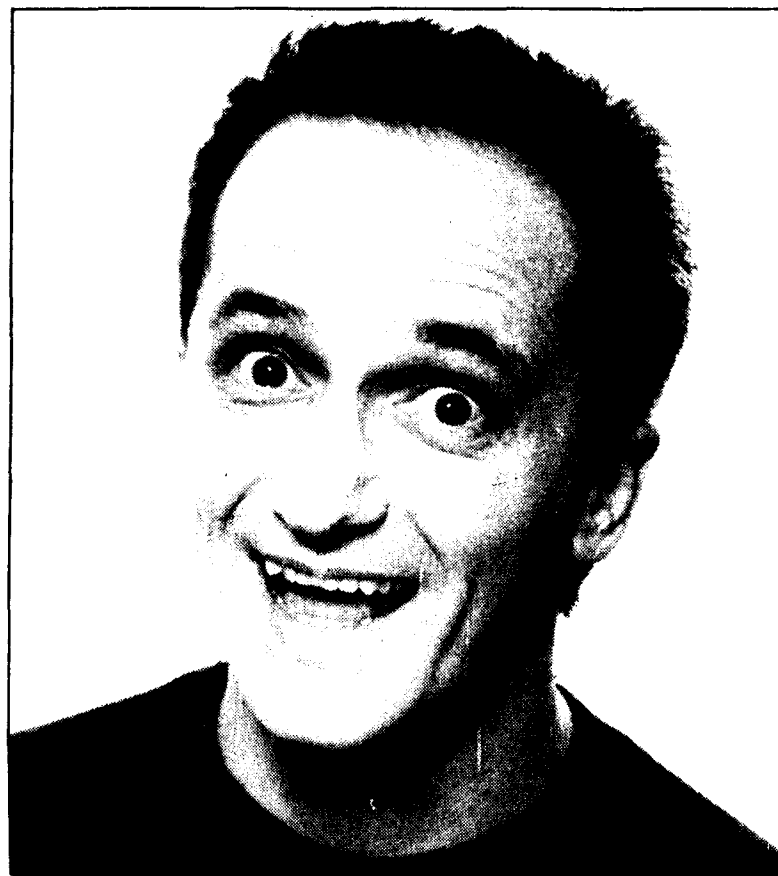
One of his worst memories of performing took place during a Christmas banquet in Texas. Fike

was performing for a large number of Boot Salesmen that apparently wanted to hear some country music instead of his act. Instead of the usual hour long act, Fike barely lasted eighteen minutes!

However, he has appeared with Bob Hope, The Imperials, and Dino Kartsonakis!

Fike's other interests include flying radio controlled planes, jogging, and listening to inspirational tapes. He has always wanted to ride in a jet pack like on the television show *Lost In Space* and parachute in a wind tunnel.

Fike's main interest, though, are his wife and his three children. With the fourth on the way and three other children already, Fike worries about the high costs of delivering a child these days. To solve this problem, he plans to have his next child in Domino's Pizza because of the fast, free delivery!



Fike isn't fake: Comedian Al Fike will be performing at Bruno's on Friday night at 9:00 p.m. His goal is to make his audience laugh and have fun.