

## Video Classics

### Films to improve your cultural literacy

by Craig Campbell  
**The Collegian**

It's the beginning of a new semester and the homework is piling up almost as fast as the snow is falling down. The next thing you know, there's five feet of snow outside your window and three papers due tomorrow. What would a true Penn Stater do? Watch a few videos obviously.

#### Drop Dead Fred

Phoebe Cates of *Gremlins* fame stars in this film as a lady who, as a child, had an imaginary friend named Drop Dead Fred. Rick Mayall (who some of you will recognize from the *Young Ones*) plays her imaginary friend.

Cates was the only one who could see and hear Fred and together they were terribly destructive. They shaved the neighbor's cat, painted her friend's grandmother and destroyed most of her house - all in childhood fun.

Cates is now grown up and after losing her husband, car and job, her overprotective mother brings her home and that's when Fred comes back. Fred continues to be as childlike and destructively fun as ever as he tries to help Cates put her life back together and overcome her fears.

This movie is hilariously funny but it also lets us see how important it is to lead our own lives and not to let go of the child inside of us all. Rent this movie!

#### Point Break

Y'know I've often wondered just how far an actor with no talent and only moderate looks can go. Well obviously Patrick Swayze has gone pretty far. He's made tons-o-films (of which *Tiger Warsaw* was made in my

loses any potential that it originally may have had.

If you're in the video store and the only two videos left in the store are *Ishtar* and *Point Break*...well y'know *Ishtar* really wasn't all that bad.

#### Terror at the Opera



being plagued by a psychotic killer. The killer doesn't hurt her, but he does tie her up and slaughter her loved ones in front of her and, to make sure that she watches the entire killings, the madman tapes a row of needles to her bottom eyelids; that way if she closes her eyes she'll slice them to bits!!!

starred Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis. Hopefully the video market will give this film the attention it deserves.

Sarandon plays an over-worked waitress who is going with her friend, Davis, to the mountains for a weekend vacation. I'm not sure which is *Thelma* and which is *Louise*, but that's not important right now. What is important are the problems they run into that ruin their vacation.

While at a bar, within a few hours of their departure, both *Thelma* and *Louise* have a few too many drinks and one of them (I think it was *Thelma*) gets just a little too friendly with one of the locals. He tries to rape her, but *Louise* saves the day and shoots the guy dead. Then *Thelma* and *Louise* are on the run to Mexico.

This film is pretty good. There aren't that many buddy-buddy movies starring women out there. Go out, rent it and watch it with a buddy while you make your spring break plans.

Craig Campbell, a 4th semester communication major and the future *Entertainment Editor* of *The Collegian*, has nothing better to do than to watch videos.

### The Bullwinkle Head Rating System

The kind of movie Dean Lilly would watch.

The kind of movie you should skip class to watch.

The kind of movie Dave Shields would watch.

The kind of movie Police and Safety would watch.

hometown) and none of them were any good.

This one is up to par though. The only reason I rented this movie is because the guy from *Bill and Ted's* was in it, and also because it's been a long time since I've seen a movie about bank-robbing surfers.

I don't mean to say that this movie was terribly bad. It does have a lot of action in it, and the chase scenes are pretty cool, but after about an hour the story

This horror film was made in Italy about 10 years ago and I've been waiting for it to be released in the United States for about 3 years.

It is directed by the genius Dario Argento whose last film, *Suspiria*, was really spooky, so I couldn't wait to get a copy of this movie. I think over the years my expectations kind of surpassed the real film.

The film tells the story of an up-and-coming opera star who is

The film does have some very graphic and horrific scenes, but the dubbing job is poor and the plot isn't as great as it could be. A true horror fan who likes Argento will like this film, but all others may or may not.

#### Thelma and Louise

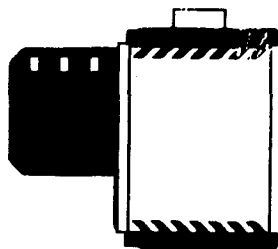
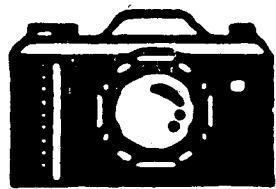
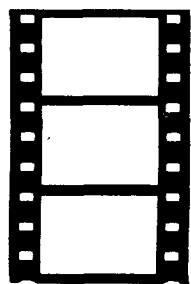


This movie didn't do very well at the box office even though it



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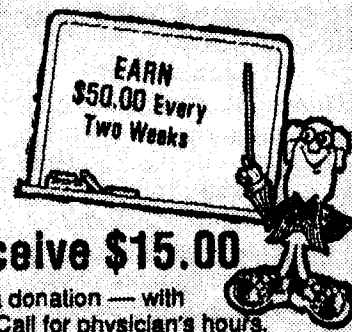


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