

# Stephen King does it again

## Lawnmower Man is full of special effects but lacks substance

by Susan Kass  
The Collegian

I was excited to see *Lawnmower Man*. Based on a Stephen King short story, starring Pierce Brosnan and containing awesome animation, I anticipated two hours of excitement. Unfortunately, my excitement was wasted.

The story isn't scary, but it is Stephen King. The movie revolves around something called virtual reality. It is the fictional computer system in which people touch, move, etc. without leaving a harnessed contraption because it consists of visualized

Eventually Jobe gets smarter and talks back to the people who have picked on him; thus, the scientist gets approval to expand the treatments at the lab.

Things turn bad when the supervisor adds some sort of violent hormone into Jobe's medication. Soon his headaches increase and the lawnmower man becomes psychic moving things with his mind and increasing his intelligence to the point where he believes he is the messiah. But, in reality, he begins to act more like Satan.

Brosnan is not likable in this role. He does not fit the role of the mad scientist although he

to a smart, masculine lover and finally becoming almost satanic. This is a broad range, but he handles it well.

The animation is good and it's used quite often in unusual ways not seen in other films. Perhaps the most imaginative, creative part is the love scene between a couple using virtual reality. Director Leonard and the virtual effects designers use an "abstracted, stylized expression of lovemaking" in a scene between Marnie (Jenny Wright) and Jobe which is not graphic, but expresses a "total unity."

Also, as the movie progresses, Jobe gets rid of a few

*The animation is good and it's used quite often in unusual ways not seen in other films. Perhaps the most imaginative, creative part is the love scene between a couple using virtual reality.*

brain waves. Yes, safe sex that is really safe.

The scientist (Pierce Brosnan) who is perfecting virtual reality to increase general intelligence is frustrated by a lack of support from the conglomerate he's working for. The dark and dreary lab also seems to be linked to some kind of military intelligence.

Taking matters into his own hands, the obsessed scientist gets the Lawnmower Man, Jobe (Jeff Fahey), to begin working with his virtual reality programs at home and to take drugs which are painfully injected into his neck.

appears dirty and grimy. His character's devotion to work is displayed in one scene where his girlfriend leaves complaining of neglect.

But we don't know whether to like him or hate him when he risks Jobe's life to see if a human subject's intelligence will increase. It seems most of the movie he's nursing the same glass of bourbon. Basically, his character is underwritten and Brosnan didn't try to develop his character in any way.

Fahey has the difficult job of playing the dumb but sweet Lawnmower Man, then changing

enemies by turning them into hundreds of balls of flying mass circling in and out of human shapes. These animated escapades are difficult to describe unless you're Stephen King, but they are the best parts of the movie.

The movie is left open at the end as most King stories are, so New Line Cinema is already talking about a sequel. But judging from the lack of box office returns, it is not likely. Except for the effects, this movie is simplistic and predictable, otherwise known as a small, soon to be forgotten movie.

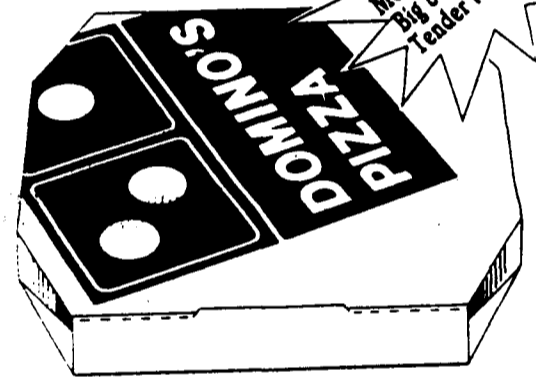
### Campus Paperback Bestsellers

1. *Life's Little Instruction Book*, by H. Jackson Brown Jr. Rutledge, \$5.95. Advice for attaining a better life.
2. *The Firm*, by John Grisham. Dutton, \$5.99. A young lawyer confronts the hidden workings of his firm.
3. *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe*, by Fannie Flagg. McGraw-Hill, \$6.95. A woman's remembrance of life in the deep South.
4. *The Prince of Tides*, by Pat Conroy. Bantam, \$5.99. Southern man confronts his family's past in New York City.
5. *You Just Don't Understand*, by Deborah Tannen. Ballantine, \$10.00. How men and women can understand each other better.
6. *Heartbeat*, by Danielle Steel. Dell, \$6.50. A chance encounter leads to love of a man and woman both achievers in the world of television.
7. *Wayne's World: Extreme Close-up*, by Mike Myers and Robin Swicord. Hyperion, \$7.95. Based on Saturday Night Live sketches.
8. *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, by Steven R. Covey. Presidio, \$9.95. Guide to personal fulfillment.
9. *Scientific Progress Goes Bonkers*, by Bill Watterson. Andrews & McMeel, \$7.95. Latest Calvin & Hobbes cartoons.
10. *Unnatural Selection*, by Gary Larson. Andrews & McMeel, \$7.95. Collection of Fry, Sog, cartoons.

### New & Recommended

- The Wild Colonial Boy*, by James Hines. Washington Square Press, \$9.00. An American innocent abroad in Ireland thus misadventure taking part in the violence of contemporary Irish politics.
- The Sherbrooke Bride*, by Catherine Coulter. Love, \$5.99. The magnificent first novel in a trilogy of love and adventure.
- Zapp!*, by William C. Byham, Ph.D. with Jeff Cox. Fawcett, \$10.00. How to improve quality, productivity, and employee satisfaction.
- ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE STORES

## Get to Know the New Domino's Pizza®



**NOBODY KNOWS LIKE DOMINO'S**

How You Like Pizza At Home.

**More Melted Cheese. Big Better Toppings. Tender Tastier Crust.**

**899-1999**

4265 Buffalo Rd. Eastway Plaza

Open for lunch  
11am-1am Sun.-Thurs.  
11am-2am Fri. & Sat.



MASTERCARD/VISA ACCEPTED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:  
-MINIMUM PURCHASE \$25.  
-MUST INFORM DOMINO'S PIZZA EMPLOYEE WHEN ORDERING.

Delivery areas limited to ensure safe driving.  
©1991 Domino's Pizza, Inc.

**CALL NOW! \$2.00 Off**

Receive \$2.00 off any 16" cheese pizza with two or more toppings.

Expires: 4/26/92

Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. Prices may vary. Customer pays sales tax where applicable. Delivery areas limited to ensure safe driving. Our drivers carry less than \$20.00 Cash value. © Our drivers are not permitted for sale deliveries. ©1991 Domino's Pizza, Inc.

---

**CALL NOW! \$1.00 Off!**

Receive \$1.00 off any cheese pizza with one or more toppings, either medium, large, or Pan pizza.

Expires: 4/26/92

Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. Prices may vary. Customer pays sales tax where applicable. Delivery areas limited to ensure safe driving. Our drivers carry less than \$20.00 Cash value. © Our drivers are not permitted for sale deliveries. ©1991 Domino's Pizza, Inc.

**Part-Time Work**  
\$8.25 starting pay, flexible schedule to fit classes. Full training provided. May continue full-time over breaks. All majors should apply.

Call NOW 838-0752

**HAURY RENTALS**  
OFF - CAMPUS APARTMENTS  
FURNISHED PAID UTILITIES  
COIN LAUNDRY CABLE READY  
PARKING ON BUS LINE  
WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE  
899-9784

**Comedy Night**

The Student Programming Council presents

**Janeane Garofalo**

Friday night  
9:00pm

*Bruno's Behrend's Campus Nightclub*