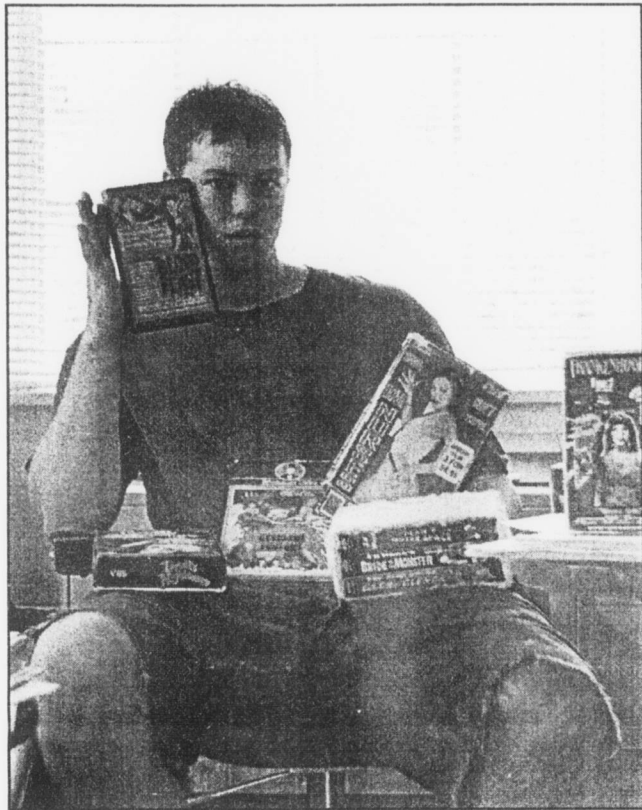


IT CAME FROM THE VIDEO STORE

By Will Dodson
FEATURES COLUMNIST

To me, there's only one thing funnier than nubile teenagers being chopped to bits while having premarital sexual rela-



MATT ZUEHLKE

I watch Richard Simmons infomercials just to see those voluptuous vixens shake as they sweat to the oldies.

tions: Fat kids. Holy God, they're funny. Like when they go to J.C. Penney's for clothes, and they have to get "Husky" sizes, and their mothers buy them overalls, and they whine about how uncool overalls are.

Osh-Kosh B'Gosh, Chunky.

So these human weeble-wobbles in overalls go to middle school, and they really get it from their peers. They hear taunts like "Hey, fat boy!" and "Hey, you dumb fat boy!" Thank goodness they can drown themselves in their lunchboxes full of Ho-Ho's and Ding-Dongs or their self-esteems would really suffer.

Kids are cruel to each other, let's face it. Even if one of these puff daddies manage to lose the overalls, they have to wear sweatpants. Most of them avoid the dreaded "pantsing" by pulling the sweats up over their bellies and tying the drawstring in a triple-knot. Unfortunately, the side effect is nearly as bad—mega-wedgies. Husky kids just can't win.

The most humiliating torture fat kids have to endure is, of course, fat camp. Do you think being around other calorically challenged hot-dog fiends makes

them feel better? Fat camp is like a circus freak show, except instead of the dog boy and the Siamese twins, you get fat boy and fatter boy.

I watched a fat camp movie this week. It's called *Heavyweights* and it covers a weighty, moral issue. Is it okay for fitness gurus to exploit fat kids in order to make the world's most popular weight-loss infomercial? Ben Stiller stars as an unbalanced exercise freak (as if any exercise freak could be referred to as "balanced") who plans to force these poor chubsters to shed the pounds. This ain't sweatin' to the oldies, folks, this is real horror. These kids are forced to jog and diet and other insanities. Worse yet, their counselors are German. Can you imagine exercising while being screamed at by some blond with huge nipples in biker shorts named Lars?

Seriously, these nipples are bigger than Volkswagens. Not the beetles, the buses. Absolutely gigantic.

Anyway, Stiller wears headbands and does tai chi. He's

all messed up. Finally the kids decide they can't take it anymore and revolt. Long story short, they imprison Stiller and the well-toned Aryans and then have a celebration.

It really warms the heart to witness the camp-wide junk food binge that consummates the triumph of the oppressed. Lesson: fat kids are people too, and we have no right to encourage them to go easy on the Milky Ways. That would damage their self-image.

* * *

I was at work the other day, and this fat kid wobbled in with his mom. He shuffled to the candy rack, grabbed some chocolate, smeared it all over his face, and started rolling around in the floor, gurgling. His ketchup-stained shirt rose up to his neck, exposing the drawstring of his pea soup green sweatpants pulled up to his ample breasts. His mother winked at me and said, "Isn't he a cutie?"

Thanks to *Heavyweights*, I know how to say "Gosh, ma'am, he sure is."

**THE STORY OF
CHIP DANGER
DAREDEVIL SQUIRREL
part ten**

by
Bill Burg
Guilford College
c.1997

CHIP HAD AN ODD RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANS. SOMETIMES HE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THEIR ACTIVITIES...

AT OTHER TIMES, HE COULD BE RATHER ANTAGONISTIC.

BOMBS AWAY, YOU HAIRLESS MONKEYS!

IT WAS CHIP WHO FIRST EXPLAINED TO ME THAT WE LIVED ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS. HE LEARNED IT FROM SANFORD, WHOM I STILL REFERRED TO AS THE OLD SQUIRREL.

BUT WHETHER CURIOUS OR ADVERSARIAL TOWARD HUMANS, CHIP ABSOLUTELY REFUSED TO BE COWED BY THEM.

WE SHOULD STEAL A CAR... CHIP!...

THERE WAS THIS ONE GUY WHO OFTEN SAT ON A BENCH AND FED PEANUTS TO THE SQUIRRELS ON THE LAWN.

WATCH THIS!

PEANUTS ARE A LOUSY SOURCE OF NUTRITION FOR SQUIRRELS, BUT THEY TASTE KIND OF GOOD, SO CHIP VOLUNTEERED TO GET US A FEW. HE FEIGNED TREPIDATION AND CREEPT UP TO THE GUY.

CHIP WOULD SIT OUTSIDE CLASSROOMS FOR HOURS, STRAINING TO UNDERSTAND THE DISCUSSION WITHIN.

BUT THE GUY WOULDN'T TOSS HIM A PEANUT, SO CHIP SLOWLY CLIMBED UP THE GUY'S LEG AND TOOK IT FROM HIS HAND.

I'LL SHOW THAT GUY!

CHIP APPROACHED THE TWO ON THE BENCH, AGAIN PRETENDING TO BE CAUTIOUS. AGAIN, THE GUY WOULDN'T GIVE HIM A PEANUT UNTIL HE CLIMBED UP ON HIS LAP.

CHIP TOOK THE PEANUT (ANOTHER EMPTY SHELL), THEN TURNED BACK AND GAVE ME A WINK.

HE LOOKED UP AT THE GUY WITH HIS BEST "CUTE WOODLAND CREATURE" EYES...

BEST OF ALL, WHEN THE GUY JUMPED UP SCREAMING, THE PEANUTS FLEW OUT OF THE BAG AND ONTO THE GROUND. WE RETRIEVED ALL OF THEM.

TO THIS DAY, I ASSOCIATE THE TASTE OF PEANUTS WITH PAINFUL STOMACH CRAMPS—NOT FROM EATING TOO MANY PEANUTS, BUT FROM LAUGHING SO DAMN HARD.

...AND PEED ON HIM.

Coffee, con'd from page 9

stract and artistic. You are very likely to overhear neobeatniks exchanging poetry. Again, the prices here were more appropriate for college students with a large flavored coffee costing \$1.75.

Yet another perfectly good alternative to cafeteria coffee lies right under our noses. Carolina Coffee is a coffee shop and bookstore that offers a unique charm and a great cup of joe. A large vanilla flavored coffee is \$1.25. The shop offers Internet access and shares space with The Book Rack, a small and inviting used bookstore.

So to rekindle your energy and restore your warmth in the dreary winter months ahead, grab a few bucks and a friend and head to the Java joint of your choice.

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"STUNNING!" "NOT TO BE MISSED!"
-RICHARD CORLISS, TIME MAGAZINE -DAVID ANSEN, NEWSWEEK

Ma Vie En Rose
(my life in pink)
A FILM BY ALAIN BERLINER

Wednesday, November 18th Leak Room, 8:30 p.m.

Visit the Sony Pictures Classics site at <http://www.spe.sony.com/classics>