

# 'Slaughterhouse-Five' believable

by Rick Sebak  
Film Critic

**SLAUGHTERHOUSE-FIVE.** Directed by George Roy Hill. Screenplay by Stephen Geller from the novel by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Photography by Miroslav Ondricek. Produced by Paul Monash.

There are several excellent anti-war movies with battle-and-bomb backgrounds: "All Quiet on the Western Front," "La Grande Illusion," and "Paths of Glory" among them. The most recent addition to this list of outstanding pacifist films, "Slaughterhouse-Five," is now playing at the Carolina Theater. If Saturday night was any indication, it has attracted the large appreciative audiences it deserves. Like the others mentioned, this film rises above the stock war movie genre, and proves itself as a statement on human beings. Unlike the others, its setting is not solely wartime, but lifetime.

"Slaughterhouse-Five" is based on the Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. novel and remains surprisingly faithful to it. Vonnegut freaks can find contentment in the filmmaker's remarkable attention to detail—Mr. Rosewater's hospital reading matter is by Kilgore Trout (look closely at his paperback's cover which is shown only in two quick shots)—and any alterations of the author's material is completely justified and appropriate—earthlings don't see Tralfamadore (as they could in the book) because the aliens not only see in four dimensions, but also live there.

The film's hero is the same as the novel's, Billy Pilgrim, and is portrayed near-perfectly by Michael Sacks. He is "unstuck in time" and wanders at random through the structured moments of his life. These pre-established instants are especially exciting in cinematic terms and George Roy Hill, the film's director, has grasped and utilized Pilgrim's time sense in a most effective manner. Some of the most interesting and unique film transitions and editing of all time result from Billy's travels.

The two main locations of the selected moments in the film are the Pilgrim house in Ilium, New York, and Dresden, Germany, around the time of the Allied fire-bombing in World War II. The clean

whites of houses and hospitals in New York make startling contrasts with the bombed out blacks and browns of Dresden. In the last part of the movie, Billy is taken to a distant planet, Tralfamadore, and mates with a young starlet, Montana Wildhack.

Billy's solitude and loneliness is projected effectively in the Dresden segments, and some segments of his married life, but Montana's companionship seems strangely out of place. Her character alone will date the film in years to come. Played by Valerie Perrine, this skin-flick star is sadly miscast and overly trendy.

Fortunately Miss Wildhack was the only disappointment; every other character is so well cast and portrayed that one marvels at these real and believable people on the screen. Even Sharon Gans' exaggerated characterization of Valerie, Billy's wife, is humanly appropriate. The Pilgrim family is the most look alike family in screen history — no one but Billy and Valerie could have produced the offspring which appear in the film.

Eugene Roche plays Edgar Derby, Billy's war buddy who was shot in Dresden. A teacher from Boston Trade and Industrial, he befriends Billy the first night in a prison camp and then takes

leadership responsibilities for the Americans when they are transferred to Dresden. Roche's performance is softer but similar in effectiveness and projected humanity to Louis Wolheim's as Katczinsky in "All Quiet."

Probably the most brilliant acting in the film was Ron Leibman's as Paul Lazzarro, the "wop asshole" who warns his enemies that one day their doorbell's gonna ring and "You better not answer it, Pops." His maniacal eyes and insane actions could have easily lost all effectiveness if attempted by a less talented actor.

There is a lot of laughter caused by the film — laughter generated from truth observed clearly through Vonnegut's eyes and Hill's film. It is not a comedy, and hardly a light film.

Next Tuesday is the twenty-eighth anniversary of Dresden, and in three more years Billy Pilgrim will die again on the same day. There is still a chance to see the film before it leaves Chapel Hill. Observe both of the above occurrences by trying to do just that. Celebrate your humanity.

# Taster's Choice

Chapel Hill Cinema

"Slaughterhouse Five." Film version of Kurt Vonnegut's novel of Billy Pilgrim, the time tripper. Splendidly written, acted, directed, photographed and edited. One of the year's best. Carolina Theatre. 1:08, 3:03, 4:58, 6:53, 8:48.

"Roma." Fellini's view of the Eternal City is a bit disappointing. Many scenes just go on and on without sufficient fresh inspiration and this causes the essential emptiness of the film to be quite apparent. Still, even at less than his best, Fellini is a master of imagery and the film is the work of a cinematic genius. Varsity Theatre. 1,3,5,7,9.

"Sounder." Story of black sharecroppers has a script that is occasionally irritating but it has been beautifully photographed and directed and acted with such simplicity, compassion and understanding that I do not see how it could fail to move anyone, black or white. At times a genuine folk movie. Plaza II. 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10.

"Jeremiah Johnson." Sydney Pollack's saga of a mountain man. Many interesting ideas float around but Pollack, his star Robert Redford and the scriptwriters aren't really up to it. Plaza I, 3, 5:03, 7:06, 9:09.

Theatre

"Camelot." The Lerner and Lowe musical.

Village Dinner Theatre. Raleigh, Durham. 6:45 p.m. buffet. 8:30 p.m. curtain.

"Little Murders." Lab Theatre. Directed by Michael Kerly. Satire on the meaningless violence in America. Feb. 8 and 9. 8 p.m. Playmakers Theatre.

"The Happiest Millionaire." Comedy at the Raleigh Little Theatre. Through Sunday. 8 p.m. "Indians." Carolina Playmakers production. Directed by John Mezz. Feb. 13-18. 8 p.m. at Graham Memorial. Tickets, \$2.50 now on sale at 102 Graham Memorial or Ledbetter-Pickard.

Tryouts

Reader's Theatre. "A Child's Garden of Grass." Wednesday and Thursday. Room 103 Bingham. 7 to 9 p.m.

Raleigh Little Theatre. "A View From The Bridge." Tuesday, 8 p.m. Raleigh Little Theatre. Pogue St.

Concerts

N.C. Symphony. Matilde Dobbs, soprano, will sing arias from Donizetti's "Don Pasquale," Bizet's "Les Pêcheurs de Perles," Meyerbeer's "Dinorah" and Mozart's "The Abduction from the Seraglio." John Gosling, conductor. Wednesday 8:15 p.m. Memorial Hall. Free with I.D.

Faculty Woodwind Quintet. Tonight at 8 p.m. Hill Hall. Admission free.

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### CAN A LOW-KEY CAMPAIGN WIN ON THIS CAMPUS?

When announcing my candidacy for President I stated my intention to run a low-key campaign, relying more on word-of-mouth from student to student, since symbols, cartoons, Pit parties, full page endorsements with friend's names, etc. are more of an insult to the intelligence of the students than anything else.

I have made use of the DTH by printing position papers to inform the students of my ideas concerning SG. Rather than spending hundreds of dollars on sets of elaborate posters, we chose instead to put our money into the student newspaper and in the process, hopefully, to inform the students of our positions.

To complement this I have spent three and four hours a night going door-to-door discussing my ideas with as many students as were interested. I was unable to cover the entire campus as did a few candidates, but that is only because I tried to spend ten or fifteen minutes with everyone I talked to—not just a meaningless, "Hello, I'm running for President. Please vote for me."

Many people have said that you can't run an effective campaign on this campus unless you just keep pounding your name into the students' mind — i.e. sliding posters or pamphlets under doors every night for a week. I don't feel that should be the case and it is my wish that future candidates will realize this and begin to aim their campaigns at the students' intelligence and interest in the issues.

In closing, we hope you will once again look at our positions as previously printed in the DTH:

Presently students have very little, if any, input into administration decisions that directly affect their lives on campus. Far too many crucial decisions are made about students, not with them. This system of University decision-making is both outmoded and out of touch with students. The time has come for students to press for a change along the lines of a University forum — which would equally represent all areas of the University community and be responsible for administrative decision-making.

Presently, since SG is without the power to actually govern, I feel its immediate responsibility is to serve the student in whatever way possible. Some of the key services that SG could, and should provide include:

- ACADEMIC COUNSELING
- Upper-classmen taking over as the main work force in General College Advising.
- STUDENT INFORMATION CENTER
- A coordinating unit for campus services to keep general information and to refer specialized questions to the appropriate agencies.
- CENTRALIZED COUNSELING SERVICE
- All counseling services located together & publicized as a group, thus enabling them to come into contact with more students.
- COURSE AND PROFESSOR EVALUATION
- SG has the manpower and funds necessary to establish a comprehensive evaluation booklet.

While working as a Presidential Assistant to Richard Epps this past year I believe I have acquired the experience necessary to conduct the work of the executive office efficiently, as well as the insight to recognize the areas where improvement is required. With the recent passage of re-organization, for a trial basis, SG faces a basic challenge. In order to meet this challenge we need a realistic and effective executive office with a new outlook on the responsibility of student government.

Before You Vote... Think Seriously About What You're Doing

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### VOTE DAVE GEHART

With the reorganized SG The president has NO VETO...

Dave Gehart Knows SG and knows how to get things Done.

(He sponsored the campaign spending limits bill, He is Speaker Pro Tem of SL and is chairman of Ways and Means)

1. OMBUDSMAN — A person to centralize all info on campus and town to HELP students, Faculty, administrators and non-academic employees.
2. LOBBYIST — Unite all 56 colleges and fund a lobbyist to work in Raleigh on tuition, state services, environment, health and other student services.
3. CAL — (Committee on Academic Life) year round Student-Faculty group to improve educational alternatives, Full time general college advisors, Living Learning Center.
4. DORMS — We live there, not Steele nor South Building. We should exercise Self-determination in dorm life. ...consolidate Residence Life and Physical Plant for better dorm service.

We believe in these issues... You won't see alot of fancy posters and leaflets from us.

STOP THE BULL IN SG



Chapel Hill, N.C.

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