

New western film realistic portrayal of frontier life

By JOHN MAASS
Staff Writer

Hollywood has produced a deluge of westerns that misrepresent the settlement of the American frontier, depicting the West as an action-packed Marlboro country. That's why *Heartland*, an independent film partially financed by the National Endowment for the Humanities, is so refreshing.

The slow pace and simple story line of *Heartland* are appropriate for a film treating the often uneventful Big Sky Country of 1910. Conchata Ferrell plays Elinor Pruitt, a strong-willed widow who heads West with her daughter Jerinne (Megan Folsom), to work as housekeeper for Clyde Stewart (Rip Torn).

Elinor gradually adjusts to the taxing work and to her gruff employer. Mesmerized by the beauty of the region, she decides to apply for a homestead plot alongside Stewart's land. Stewart and Elinor eventually tie the knot in order to combine their adjacent property.

The miserable winter months that follow test Elinor's resiliency. She soon realizes that all will not be peachy during the exceptionally demanding winter, especially since she is pregnant. As Clyde bluntly puts it, "You got what you wanted, now you gotta take what comes with it."

Heartland's West is clearly not a wild, wild one. The plot is secondary. Throughout the film, director Richard Pearce emphasizes everyday events in the

Stewart's lives such as branding cattle and milking cows.

In one scene, cinematographer Fred Murphy graphically records the birth of a calf. His shots of the expansive and spectacular landscape (filmed in Montana) rival Peter Weir's depiction of Western Australia in *Gallipoli*.

The filmmaker's commitment to detail, along with solid performances by Torn and Ferrell, make *Heartland* a credible film. If the musical numbers from *Fame*—playing in the adjoining theater—had not been so loud, perhaps the audience could have immersed itself in the turn of the century world.

Review

Heartland lacks the excitement of an episode of "Bonanza" or a passage from a Laura Ingalls Wilder book, but it doesn't matter. Director Pearce, producer Annick Smith, and scenarist Beth Ferris wanted to do something unique with their federal government grant. They succeeded.

Heartland touches upon aspects of frontier life that are often lost amidst the gunfights, saloon brawls and lynchings that pervade popular westerns.

Instead of portraying beautiful prairie people involved in sensational adventures, Pearce meticulously documents the harsh and tedious life of an ordinary frontier family.

Baseball beats UNC-Charlotte

A pair of home runs by Barney Spooner and Chris Pittaro, a seven-hit, seven-strikeout performance by pitcher Scott Bankhead, and a fourth-inning demonstration of spot-hitting by Carolina all combined to power the Tar Heels over UNC-Charlotte 10-2 yesterday at Boshamer Stadium.

After Spooner's right-center blast in the bottom of the first, the 49ers bounced back with a triple and a single to tie it up in the third. Following an error that put catcher Tim McGee on second, center fielder Greg Schuler drove him in with a drop single to left center to make it 2-1, UNC.

In the bottom half of the fourth inning, DH Todd Wilkinson sparked a five-run Carolina rally with a two-bag shot to left center, and scored on a single by third baseman Tim Koch. Spooner singled to short right field to move Koch in, and second baseman Jeff Hubbard knocked in two more, then came home himself on a Pittaro single to right.

First baseman Pete Kumiega then scored after doubling off the right field wall on a Koch base hit in the bottom of the seventh. Pittaro cranked his opposite field blast over the right field fence to make it 9-1, and Wilkinson punched a broken-aluminum-bat-single to drive Kumiega in for the final run.

Tar Heel tennis teams split matches this week

Just when the Virginia Tech doubles team of Jerry Dorenfeld and David Wolfe seemed to have the match wrapped up, Carolina's Neil Alderman and D'Arcy Carroll rallied to win the No. 3 doubles match and give the men's tennis team a 5-4 victory over the Gobblers yesterday on the Hinton James courts.

Alderman and Carroll were the last team to finish. They won the first set over Dorenfeld and Wolfe, 6-4, but lost the second, 7-5. Dorenfeld and Wolfe jumped to a 5-2 lead in the third set, but a furious rally by the Carolina pair sent the match into a third-set tiebreaker, which they won 7-5.

Singles winners for Carolina, now 6-6, were Ron Erskine, Ken Whitaker, and John Grigg. Ken Ludwig, Josh Sarnier, and Robbie Bach lost their matches. In doubles, Erskine and Grigg teamed to beat Dean Channell and Kimbo Clark, but Whitaker and Bach lost to Greg Williams and Jon Ramthum.

"We were very tired today," tennis coach Allen Morris said. "We didn't get in from Athens until 2 a.m. this morning." The team was returning from a three-match road trip in which they lost to nationally-ranked Alabama and Georgia.

The Tar Heels open the Atlantic Coast


Conference season against Georgia Tech today on the James courts. The Tar Heels defeated Tech, 8-1, last season, but Morris said the Yellow Jackets should be improved. Tech outscored Carolina in the Southern Intercollegiate Tournament in Athens, Georgia during the fall. "This is not a match we'll take lightly because it's an ACC match," Morris said. Today's match begins at 2 p.m.

The North Carolina women's tennis team raised its record to 7-4 by blanking Minnesota 9-0 Monday. UNC lost 5-4 in a close match against Northwestern Sunday.

The next home match for Carolina will be today at 2 p.m. against a tough Georgia team.

—EDDIE WOOTEN and BOB HENSON

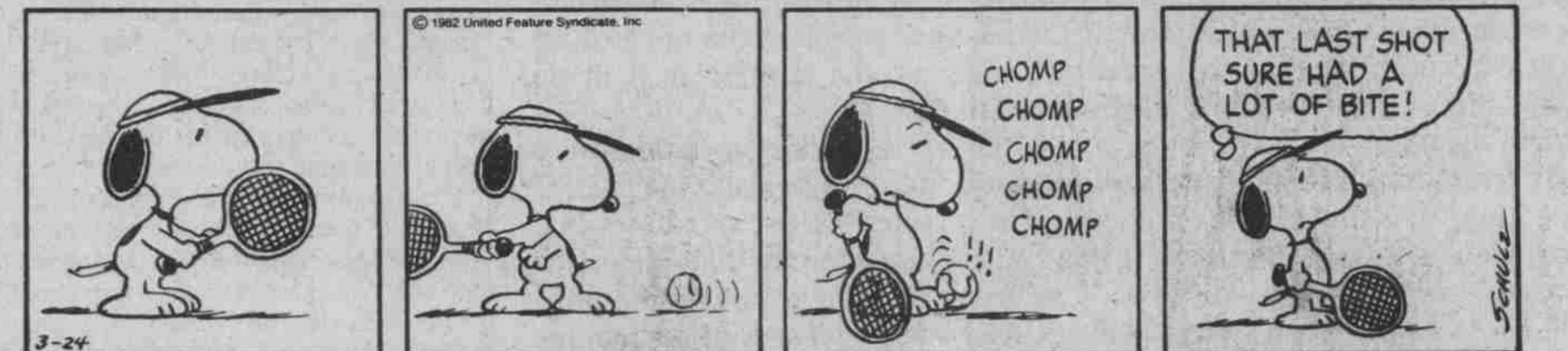
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3:15 A story of roots and origins, love and survival.
5:10
7:05
9:00 **Heartland (PG)**

2:15
4:45
7:15
9:45 **Fame**

2:30 Jack Lemmon • Sissy Spacek
4:50
7:10
9:30 **missing.**

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3:15 • 5:15
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ACROSS	27 Seasoning	50 Tiny opening	17 State of disorder
1 Schism	28 Not many	54 Cargo boat	21 Far
5 Certain school:	31 Flying prefix	55 Escort boats	23 Timid
abbr.	32 Shy	57 Clifford, the playwright	24 Turkish title
9 Ray	33 Burning one	58 At a distance	25 Give back money
13 Sandarac tree	35 Courageous one	59 English college	26 Speechify
14 Indonesian island	37 Everlasting	60 Ten: prof.	27 Weight
15 Bout	38 The Mad —	61 Metallic fabric	28 Last
16 Boat with twin hulls	39 Female deer	62 Flower	29 Take out
18 Condiment bottle	40 Near, Far or Middle		30 Shoe strips
19 Most acute	41 Yes		32 Profession
20 Somewhat drab	42 Pianist		34 Cargo boat
22 Direction	44 — Standish		36 Ship-to-shore boats
23 Boat used in sculling	45 Perfect		37 Goddess of the dawn
24 Stage items	46 Fall behind		39 Currency note: abbr.
	47 Boats for hunting		43 Mischievous one
			44 Hair on a horse
			45 "— Song Go out of My Heart"
			46 Book: Fr. boat
			47 Lumber
			48 Pelt
			49 A Waugh
			50 Rowboat
			51 Preminger or Klemperer
			52 Carillo and Durocher
			53 Anglo-Saxon slave
			56 Two — kind


Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

WASP PLAY THUMP
OPAL ROLE RURAL
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FRONDS STAG SEA
TAURUS HIGH
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INK PEDRO RIATA
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ALONG NALIVE NAB
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