

'Woman in Red' is blend of humor and humanity

It's a tacky poster: Gene Wilder ogles a gorgeous woman whose dress billows up around her waist. In today's pro-flesh, anti-substance movie market, subtlety doesn't sell. It's also a misleading poster. Wilder cheats ticket buyers who only want to glimpse more (or less) of those red silk panties, delivering instead a surprising, warm blend of humanity and humor, *The Woman in Red*.

STEVE MURRAY

Review

Written and directed by — and starring — Wilder, the film comes second-hand from a French script, but it feels fresh. Unlike previous vehicles Wilder has appeared in, the plot doesn't get out of hand, and, most rewarding, character isn't sacrificed for the gag.

As businessman Teddy Pierce, Wilder plays a bored mid-lifer transformed by the sight of female thighs into a kid in a candy shop. The thighs in question belong to Charlotte (Kelly Le Brock), and they transform Teddy into less of a kid and more of a romantic bull in the china shop of his own life.

Most of the humor comes through Teddy's bungling attempts to rendezvous with his dream woman. Early on, for instance, he mistakenly makes a dinner date with office crone Gilda Radner instead of his goddess. Stood up, Radner launches a vengeful campaign against Teddy, centering on his car.

Instead of showing Radner vandalizing the car scrap by scrap, Wilder turns this into an elegant running joke. Each time the car appears it sports a new injury, adding bonus background humor to the scenes.

This focus on consequence versus action is thematically central to *The Woman in Red*. Teddy wavers between action and indecision like a modern-day Hamlet, though the verb he debates is somewhat stronger than "to be."

The secondary characters provide a background almost hectic enough to keep Teddy's mind off his elusive brunette. Nobody in this movie leads an uncomplicated life.

Teddy's wife, for instance, is pursued by her daughter's boyfriend, a squat punk with prismatic hair. One of Teddy's friends operates adulterously on a doctor's wife. Another married friend propositions anyone fulfilling his basic requirements: young, endowed, female.

Caught in this web of casual betrayals and human foibles, it would seem easy, in fact normal, for Teddy to consummate his yearning for Charlotte and think nothing of it. To his credit, Teddy looks before leaping into the tangled threads.

This might sound overly moralistic for a comedy, but the joy of *The Woman in Red* is that it isn't a dull, cautionary tale. Wilder treats his characters' weaknesses and embarrassments with a fond, understanding humor.

A good example of this is Teddy's friend Joe (Joseph Bologna), the biggest leech ever to give Gloria Steinem cause for an ulcer. As director, Wilder obviously disapproves of Joe's raunchy behavior, but he doesn't dole out punishment. Instead, he points out Joe's better side, as well. None of the characters are perfect, but who is?

There are plenty of laughs, provided not only by Wilder and Radner (who have recently announced their engagement), but also by Charles Grodin as Teddy's friend Buddy, whose fake blind scene is a comedy classic.

Judith Ivey as Teddy's wife bears up well under the pressure of being the character nearest to moral perfection. Symbolizing physical perfection, Kelly Le Brock fills out a red silk dress along with the best of them and manages not to come off as a complete airhead when she speaks her few lines.

What lifts *The Woman in Red* above other sex comedies blistering the screens these days is its god-natured spirit. In Wilder's post-Willy Wonka vision, we're all just a bunch of chocolate bars in a big candy store. And our wrappers are coming off.

Potpourri of area bookstores available

By SHARON SHERIDAN
Assistant Features Editor

Attention bookworms: Chapel Hill offers several secondhand and specialty bookstores for your perusal.

The Foundation Bookstore at 136 E. Rosemary St. specializes in science fiction and fantasy. "It's kind of an exclusive shop," owner Larry Shapiro said.

The bookstore carries new and used books and comics. Some comic books are collector's items, Shapiro said. And, because of his interest, Shapiro offers books on magic and the occult.

There are Dr. Who books featuring the cult television figure and Isaac Asimov stories, tarot cards, horror tales and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Star Trek fans will appreciate the fuzzy Tribbles on the shelves.

The Foundation Bookstore is open daily, 12-6 p.m.

The Community Bookstore at 409 W. Rosemary St. sells books and sidelines, including anything from natural foods to incense to woks to yoga pants.

The store carries "things that people have trouble finding elsewhere," Davis said.

"We try to find stuff that's natural," he added. This means food without additives or preservatives and clothing made of natural fibers, such as cotton.

There are calendars, greeting cards, tarot cards, maps and window transparencies. The natural foods section includes whole wheat pretzels with sesame seeds, herbs and Soho drinks. Nearby are herbal shampoos and Auroshikha essential oils.

And there are books. Their topics include Eastern religion, mushrooms, gardening and yoga. One finds *The Science and Fine Arts of Fasting* by Herbert M. Shelton, *The Taste of Country Cooking* by Edna Lewis, *The Interpretation of Dreams* by Sigmund Freud and *How to Enjoy Your Life in Spite of It All* by Ken Keyes Jr.

The Community Bookstore is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Sunday in the summer. Winter hours are from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"Fine New and Used Books Bought and Sold," reads the sign outside Bookends, located in The Courtyard on East Franklin Street. Inside the shelves are stuffed with hard and soft cover books.

In the reference section one can purchase the 11th edition (1910) of the



The Community Bookstore on Rosemary Street sells books and sidelines.

Encyclopaedia Britannica for \$65 or *Webster's New World Dictionary, 2nd College Edition* (1978) for \$6.50.

The fiction shelves overflow with a varied selection, from *Tristram Shandy* by Laurence Sterne and *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy to *Evening in Byzantium* by Irwin Shaw and *Walden Two* by B.F. Skinner.

Other sections include history, classics, nature, exercise and nutrition.

"We try to keep the quality pretty good," owner Linda Saaremaa said. In buying used books, she said, "I select what I want, and I don't buy textbooks."

"It's a good area for it because of the school and people constantly moving in and out, and they always find out they have too many books," she said.

Saaremaa's customers include "a lot of students, a lot of townspeople — generally just people who like to read a lot and can't afford the price of new books these days."

It is smarter to go to the library of a used bookstore for books, she said. Also, one can find out-of-print books at a secondhand bookstore, she said.

Saaremaa said she enjoys her business.

"You never know what comes in next, that's why it's so much fun," she said.

Bookends is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday.

Keith and Martin Used and Rare Book Shop at 310 W. Franklin St. has something for everyone, from bargain hunters to rare-edition collectors.

"That little gem up there is \$1,100," said proprietor Bill Loeser, pointing to a book on a shelf above his head. "I've got one thing that's (worth) over \$2,000."

"The whole basis of the thing is supply and demand," he said. "People have to want it. Now, there're some things that historically people want. First editions are the most obvious."

Dust jackets can make literature more valuable.

"People who are interested in literature want the book to look as much like it did when it appeared," Loeser explained. "They will pay a great premium to have it look like it looked in 1944 (when it was new)."

Some books are valuable because they are out of print.

"Some of them are out of print for reasons that are inscrutable for everybody but publishers," Loeser added.

Not all the old publications sell for thousands of dollars. A 1901 "Harper's Weekly" may be \$3, an 1864 edition for \$10.

The shop has a mystery room, shelves of Southern Literature, philosophy, religion, sociology and occult sections, a history room and a roomful of nature, hunting and fishing, gardening and art.

Keith and Martin is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Message

from page 1
the parlor had reopened.

Since the investigation is over, however, University Massage is free to resume operation.

"We got a temporary restraining order, but all that does is bar any illegal activities from taking place," Thompson said. The restraining order will remain in effect until the court reaches a decision in the case.

Three men and five women were arrested in mid-July following the investigation.

William Douglas Johnson of Durham owns University Massage. He was charged with operating a business for the purposes of prostitution. Parlor Manager Phillip Morris and Michael Gerald Dickerson, assistant manager, both of Durham, were also arrested under the same charges.

Sandra Jane Brown, 21, also known as "Starr," of Durham, was charged with two counts of solicitation for crimes against nature, one count of

solicitation for prostitution and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Janie Louise Teale, 20, also known as "June," of Hillsborough, was charged with one count of solicitation for crimes against nature and one count of solicitation for prostitution.

Diana Lane Fortinberry, 27, also known as "Zelda," of Durham, was charged with one count of solicitation for crimes against nature and one count of solicitation for prostitution.

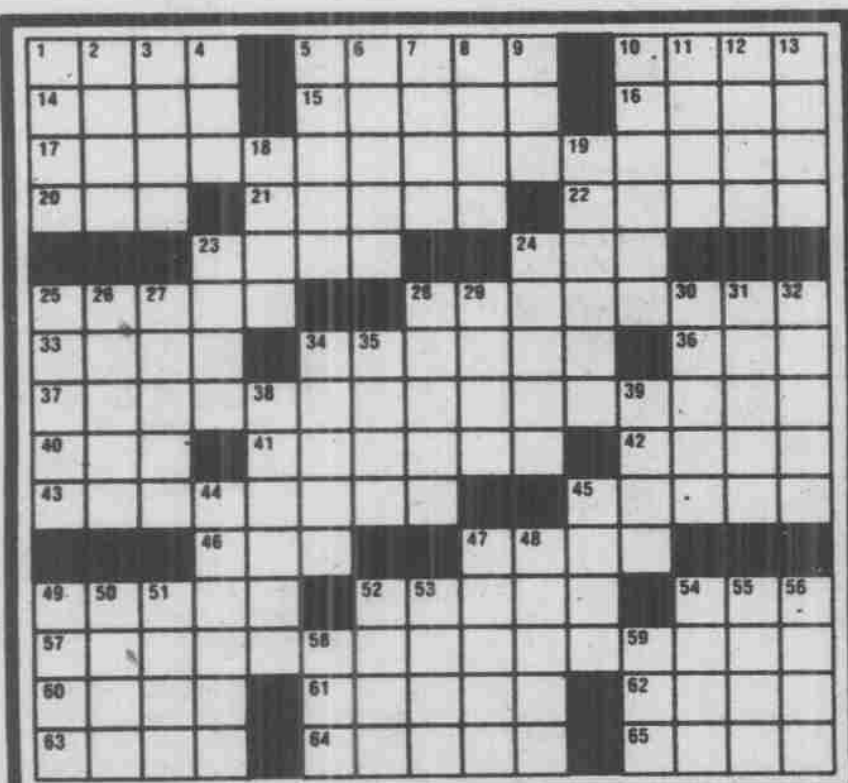
Patricia Hair Massey, 23, of Raleigh, was charged with solicitation for crimes against nature and solicitation for prostitution.

Charged with one count of solicitation for prostitution was Martha Anne Whitt, 31, also known as "Britt," of Durham.

Despite several attempts by the DTH to interview operators and employees of the parlor, University Massage refused to comment on the arrests.

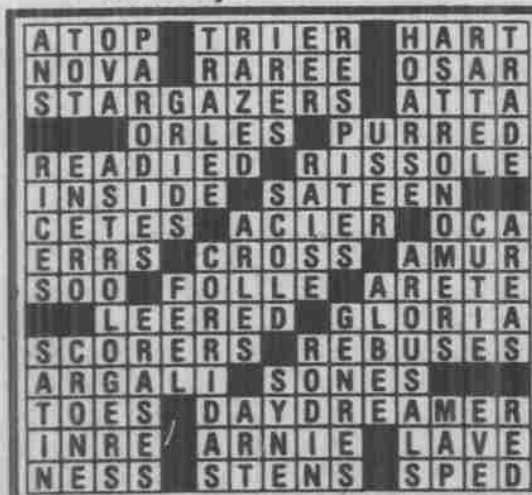
THE Daily Crossword by John H. Hales

- ACROSS
1 Guthrie
5 Reduced gradually
10 Habit
14 Sullen
15 Start of a Dickens title
16 Melville story
17 Not working
20 Interpret
21 Lab heaters
22 —France
23 Foundation
24 Brace
25 Gaynor or Leigh
28 Extensive
33 Met highlight
34 Eagle's weapons
36 — de plume
37 Loaf
40 Power agency: abbr.
41 Snack fare
42 Mystical sign
43 Vulgar
45 Eatery
46 Letters on a dreadnought
47 "—Goriot"
49 Stiletto wounds
52 Island: It.
54 Lupino of films
57 1895 song
60 Nobleman
61 Actor DeLoan
62 Ore concentration
63 Weight system
64 Biblical king
65 Stream



© 1984 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved 8/30/84

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



- DOWN
1 Fusses
2 Womanizer
3 Minstrel
4 Instrument
5 Sp. gold
6 Agreements
7 In agreement
8 Hindu deity
9 Trees
10 Agnus —
11 Road construction sign
12 Pierre's friend
13 Cross
13 Skeletal part
18 Derring-do
19 Provincial college
23 Wampum unit
24 Fractional part
25 Medicinal plant
26 Satellite of Uranus
27 Relative
28 Bitter drug
29 Guidry and others
30 Honest —
31 Lorna —
32 Firebrand particle
34 Huck's creator
35 Tolstoy's Karenina
38 Black Sea city
39 Pa. port
44 Effervescent
45 Wagon
47 Child's disease
48 Afr. antelope
49 Editing direction
50 "— she blows!"
51 Flying prefix
52 Unemployed
53 Place for rigging
54 Pagan inspiration
55 Behind-the-times person
56 Freshly
58 Slangy rejection
59 Pixie



Students! Work Smart. Work Simply...With Hewlett-Packard.

Take a good look at your class schedule.

If you're in Science or Engineering, chances are your classes include Calculus, Physics, or Chemistry. Engineering Statics, or Dynamics. You're running up against some tough calculations, with statistics problems, hyperbolics, and logs. The HP-11C calculator helps you breeze through those problems with a few simple keystrokes.

Need to simplify problems that are even more complex? The HP-41CV gives you 128 built-in functions—and the HP-41CX over 200—to simplify your long homework assignments. Use up to 6,437 bytes of memory to save the programs and formulas you use often. And there are thousands of software programs, so you don't have to start from scratch next term.

If you're in Business or Finance, you're probably taking Accounting, Statistical Methods, Finance, and Investment Analysis. Classes loaded with tedious calculations. End the pencil-and-paper drudgery with the HP-12C. The most powerful decision-maker on the market! Dedicated keys make time value of money calculations, amortization, Net Present Value (NPV), Internal Rate of Return (IRR), and statistics solutions as simple as a single keystroke. And it's easy to change values or correct mistakes without reentering your entire problem.

Hewlett-Packard calculators. They help you work smart this term. And next term. And even later on the job. Get your HP today from your local HP dealer.

For the location of the dealer nearest you, call TOLL FREE 1-800-FOR-HPCC.

