

# ARTS

## 'Running Scared' two funny cops running on empty

By MICHELLE TENHENGEL  
Arts Editor

"Running Scared," if not for Billy Crystal and Gregory Hines, would be running on empty. Along with a cast of nobodies, Crystal and Hines create a Xerox copy of "Beverly Hills Cop."

The story is set in Chicago, which the movie portrays as the dirtiest, filthiest, cocaine-infested, crime-ridden town ever to be inhabited by human life. Gregory Hines and Billy Crystal play Ray and Danny, two of the coolest desperado-type cops that Hollywood has ever plopped out. Yet, Hines and Crystal add their own invention to each character.

Ray (Hines) and Danny (Crystal) are the force's two hot-shot detectives chasing the Godfather of Chicago, a cocaine-dealing hellion named Gonzalez.

However, the police captain believes that Danny and Ray are becoming too emotionally involved with the case, so he puts them on a vacation. Ray and Danny then go to Key West, where sun is always setting and the women are always beautiful, of course, so we are treated to about five minutes of Hines and Crystal riding mopeds with scantily clad females.

After Ray and Danny have their share of fun in the sun, they decide that Chicago is not the place for them anymore. "Crime will continue whether we're there or not," says Danny to Ray as they ogle at passing babes. So they buy a bar in Key West and head back to Chicago to tell their captain.

After they arrive in Chicago, the captain tells them that their arch-rival Gonzalez is back on the streets. Ray and Danny then decide that this will be their last big arrest and go out

with glory. The captain assigns Ray and Danny two rookies for them to train, but of course, Ray and Danny make a mockery of them.

Gonzalez's fatal crime was having large quantities of cocaine shipped in from Colombia. Crystal and Hines quickly catch on, and chase Gonzalez around Chicago until he masterfully gets away — without his cocaine — and vengefully captures Danny's ex-wife (with whom Danny is still madly in love) to exchange for the cocaine.

The arena for the exchange is the government building in Chicago. Gonzalez has his men surrounding the place (because, as all good criminals do, he has captured all the guards and replaced them with his men). Ray and Danny cleverly blast holes through all of Gonzalez's men, and then save the final rounds of ammunition for Gonzalez himself.

After ridding Chicago of its No. 1 criminal, Ray and Danny decide that there's no place like home and

that they should stay right in Chicago where they are needed.

Director Peter Hyams seemed to have gotten many ideas for this film from "Beverly Hills Cop." The only difference between this clone and the original is that there are two stars instead of one.

The last third of the film has many false endings; the audience really does not know what is going to happen until it really does happen. For instance, the viewer does not know whether Ray and Danny are going to stay in Chicago or go to Key West, or if Danny's ex-wife loves him or is going to marry a dentist that she has been dating, or if the two rookies are really better detectives than Ray and Danny, and the list continues.

The format is basically the same as "Beverly Hills Cop" — same chase scenes, same sugary plastic music made for MTV videos, and the same tanned blondes wearing bikinis the size of band-aids. Yet, Hines and

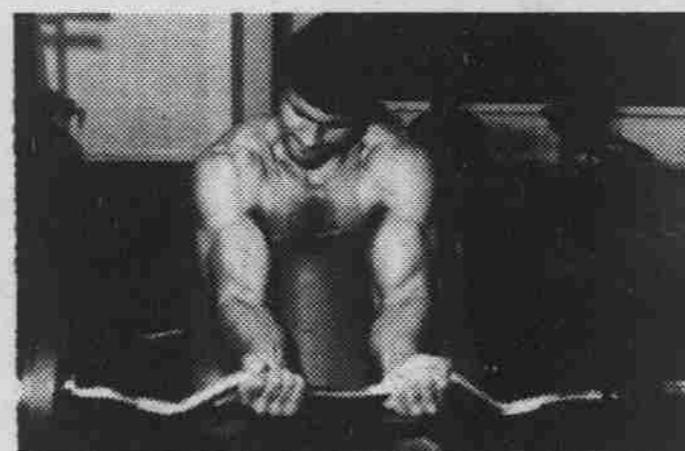
Crystal do a fairly decent job with a script that may have not had much to start with.

Some of Crystal's impersonations or perhaps improvisations do merit

some laughs here and there. "Running Scared" is definitely a breed of movie that's nice to go see when it's too hot for anything outdoors, but too boring for indoors.



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