

Movies

NEXT WEEK'S MOVIES (by theater):

"The Dead" (PG)

★★★★

James Joyce's "Dubliners" short story is adapted faithfully and wonderfully to the screen for John Huston's final film. Set in the changing Ireland of 1904, the story explores the emotional relationships among a group gathered for an annual Epiphany dinner party, and the passion that inextricably links the living with the dead. It is abstract to the point of meriting several viewings to capture everything the film puts across, but this is not a criticism. Exemplary performances by all and masterful direction by the late Huston make "The Dead" a most beautiful film. Starring Angelica Huston and Donal McCann. 87 minutes. Varsity: 2 and 7:30 p.m.

"Hope and Glory" (PG-13)

★★★★

Nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director, this is John Boorman's hilarious autobiographical film of his family's struggles through World War II in a blitzed London. The story is largely seen through the eyes of Boorman as a 7-year-old boy, excellently portrayed by Sebastian Rice-Edwards. The war ensures that nothing will ever be the same again for anyone, least of all the Rowan family. At one level this movie has an epic feel, but Boorman captures all the fears and hopes of the times in an intimate style. The film takes place on a set entirely constructed on an airstrip in the English midlands that slowly gets destroyed in the ensuing blitz. Sarah Miles also stars. 118 minutes. Varsity: 4 and 9:30 p.m.

"Au Revoir Les Enfants"

★★★★

Louis Malle's moving, autobiographical story of the friendship that developed between two school boys in France during World War II. Varsity: 2:10, 4:20, 7:10 and 9:20 p.m.

For more information call the Varsity at 967-8665.

"The Unbearable Lightness Of Being" (R)

A steamy, dramatic tale of love and anguish during the 1968 invasion of Prague. Directed by Philip Kaufman ("The Right Stuff") and starring Daniel Day-Lewis ("My Beautiful Laundrette," "Room With A View"). Carolina: 8:30 p.m. only. Weekend matinees at 1:45 and 5 p.m.

"Johnny Be Good" (PG-13)

Former nerd Anthony Michael Hall is a star high school quarterback who is so good that he has colleges desperate for his enrollment. Co-starring Robert Downey Jr. Carolina: 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Weekend matinees at 1:30, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

For more information call Carolina theater at 942-3061.

"The Last Emperor" (PG-13)

★★★★

Fascinating, epic true story of last emperor Pu Yi, who was crowned ruler of China at the age of 3 and died in 1967 as a humble gardener in the Federal Republic. Sumptuous location shooting and much color and imagery characterize Bernardo Bertolucci's slightly distanced direction. John Lone is stunning in the lead role. Also stars Peter O'Toole. Nominated for nine Academy Awards and could well scoop the lot. 165 minutes. Plaza: 8:30 p.m. only.

"Bright Lights, Big City" (R)

Michael J. Fox and Kiefer Sutherland star in this screen version of

Jay McInerney's novel of corruption in yuppie-dom. Plaza: 3, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30 p.m.

"The Fox and the Hound" (G)
An animated Disney classic. Plaza: 2:45, 4:45 and 6:45 p.m.

"A New Life" (PG-13)

Alan Alda writes, directs and stars in this comedy about adult relationships. Plaza: 2:40, 4:50, 7 and 9 p.m.

For more information call the Plaza at 967-4737.

"D.O.A." (R)

★★

It's a great idea; a man gets poisoned by a slow-working toxin and has under 36 hours to find out who was responsible for his own murder. But it doesn't quite work, and even though Dennis Quaid is great as the doomed English professor, a script full of cliches and a lousy anticlimax ensure that the best thing about this remake is the direction from the creators of Max Headroom. Ram: 7:10 and 9:15 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:10 and 4:15.

"The Seventh Sign" (R)

A prophecy is discovered about an unborn child and the destiny of the world. Starring Demi Moore and Michael Biehn. Ram: 7 and 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 and 4 p.m.

"Biloxi Blues" (PG-13)

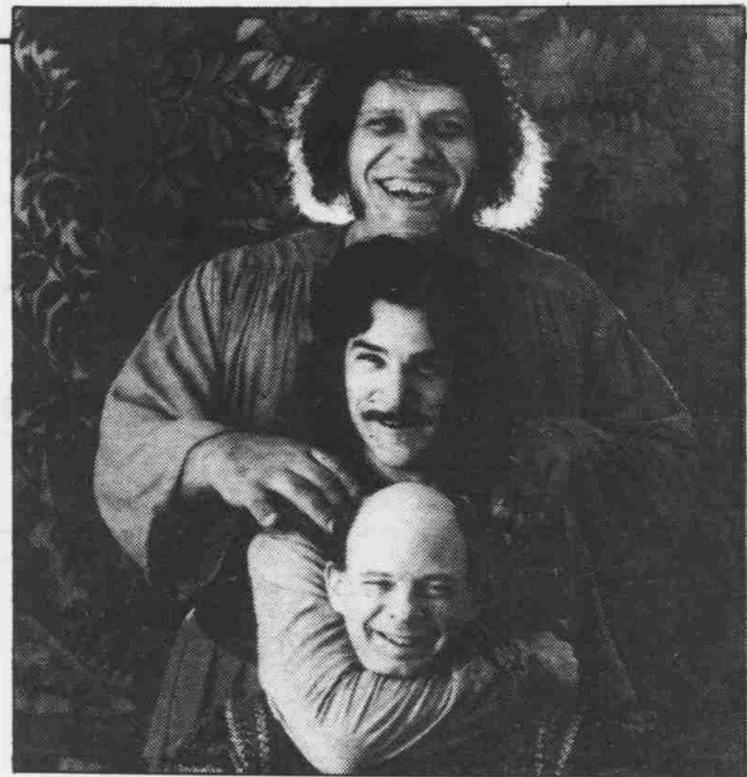
★★★

See review above. Ram: 7:05 and 9:10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:05 and 4:10.

Starting Friday: **"Beetlejuice" (PG-13)**

Michael Keaton stars as a bizarre ghost in this comedy about a couple of humans who invade a ghosts' house, making it unlivable for even the dead.

For more information call the Ram at 967-8284.



Andre the Giant, Mandy Patinkin and Wallace Shawn star in "The Princess Bride," which will be shown Friday at the Union

Union Movies: (Check Union film schedule for complete listings.)

Thursday — Science Fiction Night

"King Kong" The 1933 original version, with Fay Wray as the ape's leading lady. 7 p.m.

"20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" (1954) 9 p.m.

Friday
"The Princess Bride" Rob Reiner's film version of William Goldman's engaging comic tale of adventure and true love. A host of hilarious performances by Mandy Patinkin, Wallace Shawn, Andre the Giant, Peter Falk and memorable cameos by Billy Crystal and Carol Kane make it one of the

year's most spirited movies. 7 and 9:30 p.m. Admission \$1.50; tickets available at the Union Desk.

"Life of Brian" (1979) The Monty Python crew's zany interpretation of the Christ story. Friday and Saturday midnight movie.

Saturday
"Prick Up Your Ears" (1987) 7 and 9 p.m.

Sunday
"On the Beach" (1959) 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday
"The Last of Sheila" (1973) 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Listings compiled by Richard Smith and Cathy McHugh. Only reviewed movies have been rated.

'Blues' takes lighthearted look at rites of passage

By **SALLY PEARSALL**
Staff Writer

It's 1945, and raw Army recruit Eugene Jerome is headed to Biloxi, Miss., to begin basic training. Over the next few weeks, he will endure brutal workouts in the sweltering Southern sun, lose his virginity and fall in love.

In the meantime, he's on a train loaded with stereotypical characters in a movie that was probably more entertaining as a play.

This is "Biloxi Blues," of course — the second installment of playwright Neil Simon's autobiographical trilogy. With few exceptions, Simon's plays don't translate well to the screen. His last few movies — that-were-once-plays — including "Chapter Two," "I Oughta Be In Pictures" and "Brighton Beach Memoirs" — received mixed reviews and didn't do well at the box office.

But "Biloxi Blues" is an improvement on the dismal Simon-cinema record. It's disappointing plot-wise, but it's also a lighthearted comedy with its own unusual charm.

The story is told through Eugene's diary. As our hero, Bambi-faced Matthew Broderick is both

sophisticated and naive. He wants to win the Pulitzer prize someday, but right now he's bewildered by the rigors of basic training and the peculiarities of his fellow recruits. "It was hard to believe that these people had mothers and fathers who were worried about them," he notes.

It's also hard to believe that some of these guys are realistic characters rather than stereotypes. Polish soldier Joseph Wykowski (Matt Mulhern) is (of course) a big, dumb slob. And the Jewish recruit, Arnold Epstein, is (of course) a wimpy, unathletic prig. As Epstein, Corey Parker keeps up a continual pout — he looks like he's got an upset stomach. It's probably due to a chronic case of overacting.

At least there's an interesting sergeant — Christopher Walken, who rarely raises his voice and even drinks a little on the side. He's certainly a refreshing change from the typical Louis Gossett-esque sergeants one usually sees in Army films.

The setting is quite realistic, from the hazy Mississippi swamps to the

"Biloxi." Surprisingly, Broderick & co. say it right: "Biluxi" as opposed to the incorrect "Bilochsi." These actors know their stuff.

"Biloxi Blues" is very much a rites-of-passage film. Eugene and his buddies visit Rowena, a local hooker, so Eugene can lose his virginity; later on that night, he meets the girl of his dreams, Daisy Hannigan (Penelope Ann Miller, who also played the part on Broadway). Eugene's meeting with Daisy is supposed to be sweet and innocent, but it turns sordid when he has to explain to her why he's wearing Rowena's perfume.

And despite the movie ads' claim — "the Army made Eugene a man, but Daisy gave him basic training"

— that one scene is the last we see of her, except for two shots of Eugene visiting her at school. If anyone gave Eugene basic training, it was Rowena, not Daisy.

Eugene learns a few other things during basic training, including that he's got to get involved in life if he wants to be a successful writer. "You're a witness, standing around watching what's happening," Epstein scolds him after Eugene takes a neutral stance during a fight among his bunkmates. "You have to get in the middle of it — you have to take sides. Until you do, you'll never be a writer."

Scenes like this are thought-provoking, but they don't flow

together in "Biloxi Blues." The film tries to explore too many themes in one shot, and the result is a disjointed plot. Mike Nichols' direction is also unstructured; there are a lot of long, dull stretches. The couple in front of me distracted themselves by French-kissing during the boring parts.

"Biloxi Blues" isn't exactly a makeout movie, but it's good for a laugh or two and it's an interesting look at an era of innocence. Even if the play was probably better, the movie version proves that Neil Simon can still be entertaining on the wide screen.

Lotus Inn
CHINESE RESTAURANT

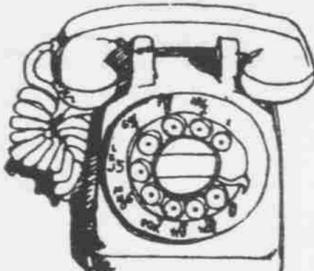
Chinese Gourmet Dinner Buffet

All the SHRIMP, BEEF, CHICKEN & ORIENTAL
VEGETABLES You Can Eat
Plus Fried Rice, Eggrolls & Dumplings

967-4101

\$200
OFF
Dinner
Buffet
For 2

with coupon only
expires 4/15/88



Roommate
Hotline

967-0044