

Timo

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"That's about it. I don't have a lot of time. I grow flowers, I guess," Makkonen says referring to his flower garden at his girlfriend's apartment.

Basketball also cuts into Makkonen's study time. Although he likes to travel, he says it's the aspect he likes least about being on the team.

"Traveling takes off the school work." Makkonen says he does a lot of his studying during the season in planes and hotels.

Blue-eyed, blond, fair-skinned Makkonen talked of his past and his health between bites of roast beef, carrots, potatoes and iced tea at Granville Cafeteria.

He passed right by the milk and the fish in the cafeteria. "That's all we drank in Finland was milk, so I got fed up with it." He said his family only ate fish because beef was too expensive.

Sipping his second glass of tea, Makkonen explained that he gets plenty of calcium in his diet without milk. "I take five horse pills every day." Each pill contains 1,000 milligrams of calcium.

With one elbow on the table and one eye sizing up a piece of apple pie topped with vanilla ice cream, Makkonen began the story of his move to the United States.

"I started to learn English nine years before I came here. I never really liked it, so I didn't try."

After his arrival in the United States, it took him one-and-a-half years to write English that anyone could understand. "English is pretty easy now. The grammar is so easy it's not funny. There are too many synonyms.

"I love it here. It doesn't feel like a different country."

Timo says he doesn't mind a lot of attention when he goes out in the public. He calls himself normal in that way.



Timo Makkonen is a motivating force on basketball team.

'The Personals' tackles reality on the big screen

By LISBETH LEVINE
Tar Heel Arts and Features Editor

In *The Personals*, writer-director Peter Markle has created a movie that is special for what it doesn't have — the glossy finish of a Hollywood production.

The Personals is about believable people dealing with a common situation in modern society — the pain of divorce and the struggle to gain the courage to love again.

Markle chose Minneapolis for the film's setting, which is much more palatable than Los Angeles or New York. He also cast the film with actors from the Minneapolis theater community, and all of them are at least adequate or better in their roles.

Review

The most down-to-earth quality about the film is that it was made on a \$375,000 budget, practically a miracle in today's film industry.

This first feature film by Markle won a gold award for "Best First Feature by a Director" at the Houston International Film Festival in April 1982.

Bill Schoppert portrays the newly-divorced Bill Hendrikson with a touching vulnerability. An average-looking man in his middle 30s, Bill finds himself drawn to the young athletic women he sees in the park while he jogs. He's very involved with his work as an editor of a magazine, and he never quite got the hang of the social swirl.

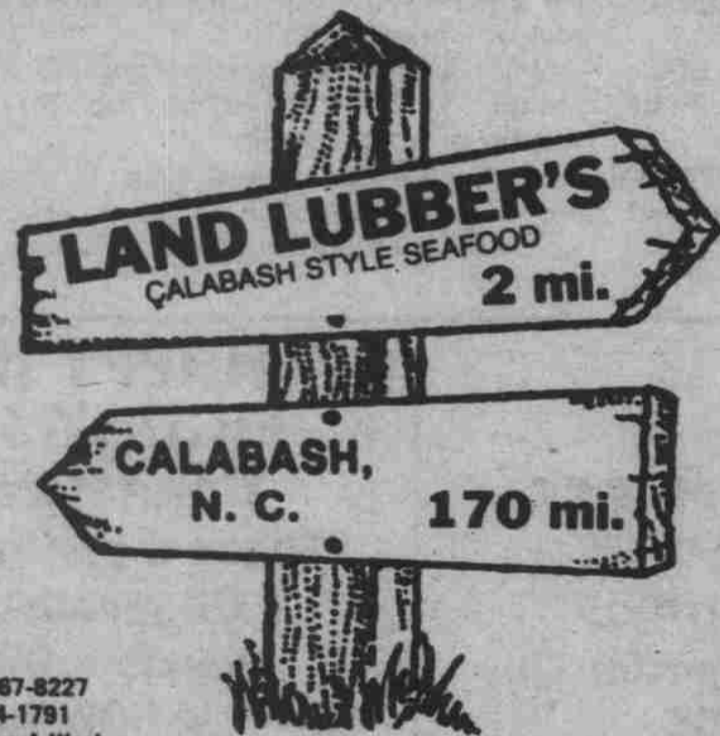
His best friend Paul (Paul Eiding), still a happily married man, tries to live out his own fantasies by encouraging Bill to try new ways of meeting women. He finally convinces him to put a personal ad in the local newspaper.

Advertising himself as a Chicken Kiev lover among other things, Bill is inundated with responses. Naturally, a few toads stand in the way of the fairy princess. He receives one response from Adrienne (Karen Landry) that totally fascinates him. The party they meet at sets the scene for some of the best humor in film. Markle has a gift for singling out certain social customs that make the viewers laugh, all the while realizing that it could just as well be them up on the screen.

The Minneapolis scenery is beautiful, but the park becomes repetitious after a while, as do the rollerskaters. Unless Minneapolis is some kind of unofficial rollerskating capital of America, there is a disproportionate number of scenes showing this sport.

The film carries its concept of reality throughout, so don't expect the typical Hollywood-formula happy ending.

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