

# 'Witches of Eastwick': fast-moving, full of stars

Question: Who do you get when three close friends with unusual powers get together and wish for their perfect man?

Answer: Jack Nicholson.

And a different sort of movie than one might expect.

In "The Witches of Eastwick," Cher, Susan Sarandon and Michelle Pfeiffer play three ladies down on men — but they find more than they bargained for in Darryl Van Horne (Nicholson). Van Horne is the perfect man they wish for, and he does a good job spreading himself around.

Van Horne comes to Eastwick because he felt drawn to the small town. Van Horne makes a big impression on the town when he buys the local castle, but still no one seems to remember his name.

Then it gets weird.

When the three friends start to think alike, strange things begin to happen. These happenings are big news in the Puritan-like community of Eastwick, a 20th century town that has its roots in the Witch burnings of the 17th century.

Van Horne, as the name implies, is a devilishly handsome guy, or, as he put it, "a horny little devil" who is a bit way out or off. Nicholson is perfect for the part because he actually looks like a devil, sans horns. Nicholson sports his trademark sunglasses and a chic wardrobe with long coats and a pink suit.

**Kim Orr**

**Cinema**

Cher, in her role as Alexandra, plays another seemingly tough person who can handle herself in all situations. When Van Horne frankly tells her what he wants to do to her — true to his character's libido — she returns in kind with a few not-so-nice words for him. Yet, her willpower melts away in Nicholson's capable arms.

Sarandon plays "plain" Jane, a cellist and music teacher at the local school. She is shy and timid; however, after a cello lesson with Van Horne, the wild side of Jane emerges. Her sudden transformation begins to alarm the parents of her students, and Jane begins to have second thoughts about her relationship with Darryl.

Michelle Pfeiffer plays Suki, a harassed mother of six daughters whose husband walked out on her because she gets pregnant at the drop of a hat. Van Horne takes it all in stride when she announces she gets pregnant almost by thinking about it.

The foursome cause quite a stir in the town, and no one is more affected than Angela Cartwright, who seems to know that Van Horne is evil. Cartwright's char-

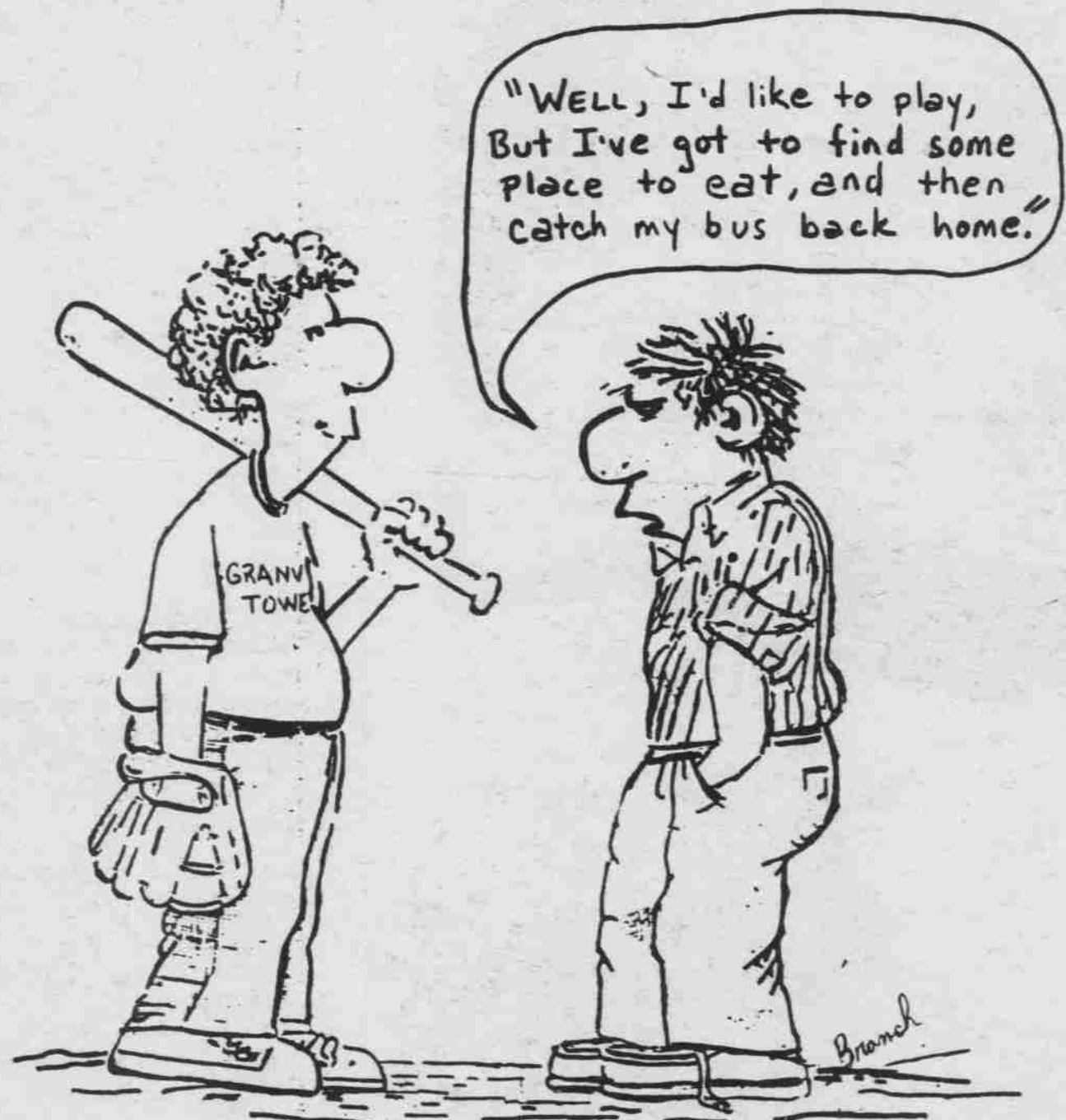
acter gets upset when Darryl buys the local castle, and throughout the movie she is possessed by evil spirits that no one in town understands. She also becomes the victim of the three witches when they bring about her demise. The death of Cartwright's character begins the unraveling of the movie's plot.

As the movie concludes, the downfall of Van Horne echoes elements from the previous parts of the movie. Director George Miller mixes well the elements of humor, special effects a la "The Exorcist," and just plain suspense.

"The Witches of Eastwick" travels pretty fast for a two-hour movie, and even the slow spots

have meaning. The range of different emotions the movie evokes is wide. "Witches" is well worth the admission price on its star power alone, but it may just surprise you just how different this movie really is. One short review cannot describe all the action, interaction and key elements between the witches of Eastwick.

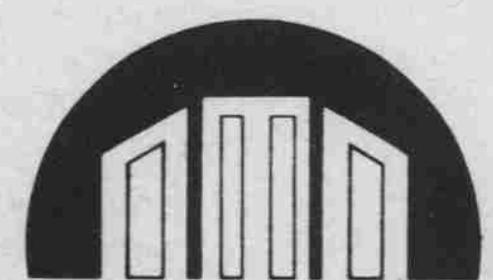
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