

'Kids' a movie for young, young-at-heart

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Staff Writer

"Excuse me, sir," we asked the attendant. "Did they shrink the adults in this theater?"

"No," came the reply. "This is a kid's movie."

And so it was. Munchkins to the left of us, Fidgets to the right of us. We took our seats among the little people, wading through many a moppet and prepared ourselves for this fine feature film.

"Honey, I Shrank the Kids" was preceded by the cartoon short "Tummy Trouble," starring the whole gang from last year's smash hit "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?," and brought back the days of old when cartoons were shown before the feature film. Though this cartoon leaves much to be desired, Disney is to be commended for bringing back the added attraction.

For those who are fans of Roger

and Co. (or Bugs Bunny and the Road Runner), you will find much of Roger's routine unoriginal. The story line follows Baby Herman as he swallows a rattle, is taken to St. Nowhere hospital for some shenanigans, and Roger, in turn, is crushed, poked and exploded. The most notable scene has a guest appearance by Droopy the dog with some social commentary on violence in cartoons.

"Honey, I Shrank the Kids" is, as we have said before, a film for the tykes among us. Therefore, only those children at heart, those college students who never grew up, and those with younger brothers and sisters should go see this film.

Jeff's little brother called this one a four-bathroom movie. Now don't mistake the bathroom rating for the star rating those real movie guys (Siskel and Ebert, our heroes) give out. This means that your small ones will need four bathroom breaks during the hour and a half this feature

runs. You would prefer that the movie have a one-bathroom rating, but then you may end up with a wet child on your hands, and that's worse than missing part of the movie.

Plot summary: Mr. Szalinski (Rick Moranis, the film's most notable star) is an inventor who is working on a shrink ray so NASA can shrink satellites and stuff to get more junk into space. Unfortunately, he is so wrapped up in his work, that he has ignored his family and it is falling apart. If he can get the machine to work, he feels the family will be rich and things will be better. Unfortunately all the machine can do is take whole apples and create apple sauce — we're talking apple plasm.

Anyway, Moranis' family is considered the weird and nerdy family

by the next-door neighbor, who Moranis feels is a dumb jock. Talk about strained relations. Mr. Thompson is played convincingly by Matt Frewer (of "Max Headroom" fame), and he is planning to take the family on a fishing trip, but his son Russ, who is looking for his nook in life, doesn't want to go.

Russ Thompson's younger brother, Ron (Josh Baskin's buddy in "Big"), is the athletic one, and while he is in the backyard hitting the baseball, he knocks a grand slam into Szalinski's lab and starts the shrinking ray. Both Russ and Ron go next door (Russ has a hormonal crush on Amy, Szalinski's daughter), and it ends up Ron and Nick (Szalinski's nerdy son) go up to the room and get zapped by the ray gone mad. Russ and Amy go upstairs

to check on the missing siblings and they get smoked by the machine, too.

Ron Thompson sums it up well when he exclaims, "We've been shrunk to the size of boogers."

Szalinski comes home, dejected after being laughed out of his presentation of the shrinking ray, and smashes the machine. He sweeps up the scattered parts along with his children and takes them out with the trash. The kids cut their way out of the plastic bag and find they must cross the backyard, which to them is a jungle. Thus the story goes.

The special effects are great. The insects come alive. You really believe that Nick and Russ are trapped for a ride on a bee, and there are some touching moments with an ant.

Herzenberg

said. "I don't think there's any hanky-panky going on but, considering growth is a major issue, I think citizens should know what our personal real estate holdings are.

"People will say that some member of the council will vote a particular way because he or she is an employee of the University. Or, there's

a belief that developers give large campaign contributions to some candidates and that influences their votes.

"I have no evidence that's true, but I think we have a responsibility to provide citizens with evidence their government is good and clean and open."

Herzenberg first ran for the coun-

cil in 1979, when he was a graduate student at the University. "There are 15,000 students in Chapel Hill and those people are citizens of the town. My main regret is that they aren't more integrated in the community as a whole," he said. "Students are an enormous reserve of talent to this town."

Time will test how well the position of student liaison to the Chapel Hill Town Council works, Herzenberg said. The position gives students a way of serving the town and learning more about local government, he said. "Even though I had some initial reservations, I think (the position) is an excellent idea," he said.

The relationship between the town and the University is changing, Herzenberg said. "I grew up in a company town ... and certainly Chapel Hill has many of the ingredients," he said. "We're not terribly interested in having another major employer in the town — although we are interested in having more businesses that are compatible with the University."

The University's attitude has improved, Herzenberg said. "The University in the past has often run roughshod over the views of the citizens, particularly of people living in neighborhoods adjacent to the campus," Herzenberg said. But the outcry that followed the University's announcement of plans for new roads in 1987 has changed that, he said.

"I think the University, especially under the leadership of (Chancellor) Paul Hardin, realizes it may be the biggest player — but (that) there are other players," Herzenberg said.

from page 4

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