



At the movies



The first segment of "Tibet, a Buddhist Trilogy" tells the story of Tibetan spiritual leader Dali Lama's flight from the 1959 invasion of his country.

Trilogy will intrigue Asia fans



The Bijou Theatre is showing an exotic three-part documentary, "Tibet, a Buddhist Trilogy," at 2 p.m. Nov. 26 and 27. If turkey makes you hanker after storyline, breathless cinematography or special effects fireworks, the four-hour presentation probably will be nothing short of slow and inaccessible.

But for anyone intrigued by Buddhist culture and Eastern spirituality, the three self-contained films provide unusual insights into the religious rituals and everyday movements of an exiled Tibetan culture which exists somewhat securely in a remote region of Northern India.

The first film, "A Prophecy," describes the Dali Lama's (the Tibetan spiritual leader) flight from the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1959, and his establishment of a "contemporary" society based on the marriage of Gandian, democratic and Marxist politics. In spite of the political content, the film is more interesting for its sensitivity to the intensely ritualized practices of the Buddhist community.

The second of the trilogy, "The Fields of the Senses," focuses on the saffron-robed monks' personal preparation for death and the highly graphic burning of a corpse.

The final movie, "Radiating the Fruit of the Truth," is an intricately detailed two-hour documentation of an art ritual called "The Beautiful Ornament."

The filming, completed in 1978 by an independent British company headed up by director Graham Coleman, took close to four years to conclude. Although the \$125,000 budget is a drop in the bucket compared to Hollywood blockbuster costs, securing the Dali Lama's permission to film these never-before-shown ancient rituals was a stumbling block that most directors don't face.

Coleman says the Tibetan Buddhists considered their spiritual practices too important a subject to risk misinterpretation.

As a result, Coleman's interpretation deliberately leaves out explanation, and narration is sparse. Subtitles occasionally break the film up into digestible takes.

The material is beautifully but statically photographed, intentionally integrating the spirit of the culture with the films' intimate and somewhat monotonous tone. Still, don't take a bag of Western tricks along to the Bijou; empty your mind in the Buddhist way and you may come out enlightened.

Advanced tickets are on sale now at the Bijou for \$5. Call anytime this week after 7:30 p.m.

Angela Allen Morgan

Speech team takes third at tournament

The University Forensics team finished third in the overall sweepstakes at a Lewis and Clark College tournament last weekend.

The tournament was one of four "designated" tournaments held each year. Designated tournaments usually have more intense competition and are more prestigious, says Dave Sterns of the debate program.

Dave Long and Mike Sistrom, competing in junior debate, captured a first place award. Long was ranked as the top speaker, with Sistrom in second place.

In value debate, Karin Lum was

ranked as top speaker in the novice division.

In senior duo interpretive speaking, Rich Gray and Patty Martin received second place and Kevin Warr and Rich Gray got third place. Mike Lee and Angi Hummel were finalists.

Randa Farran and Lynn Walton received second place and John Dedo and Lillian Muff received third place in junior duo interpretation.

In novice interpretation, Farran, Dedo and Vicki Handy were finalists.

In speech to entertain, Molly

Maudlin received first place and David Giles got second place while Kristie Reid and Sistrom were finalists.

In prose competition, Carla Williams received third in the junior division and Hummel was a finalist in the senior division.

Rick Peacor received third place in senior expository speaking.

In the junior persuasive speaking, Stacy Shiver got third place and Brigitte Leach was a finalist.

Scott Weigel was a finalist in the novice extemporaneous speaking division.

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