

At the movies

Laughter is main secret in spoof of classic movies

Yes, East Germany is at it again. Those vile commies have a plan to reunite Germany while the world's eyes are on a cultural festival. But wait, who's that representing the United States? Elvis? No, even better, it's Nick Rivers, America's newest rock sensation with his own trend of music — skeet surf music!

Can Nick save the world from East Germany's dread plan? Will skeet surfing music be a hit with communist teenagers? Will Nick win the heart of the beautiful daughter of an imprisoned brilliant scientist, even though she still loves the young boy she was once long ago marooned with on a desert island? Should you take any of this seriously?

The answer, to the last question at least, is a most definite no. In "Top Secret!" the writer-director team of Jim Abrahams, David Zucker and Jerry Zucker, creators of the original "Airplane!" and the TV spoof "Police Squad," just want you to laugh, and in that they have succeeded.

The ZAZ team (as they refer to themselves) are lampooning three film types in "Top Secret!"— the modern espionage film, the World War II drama, and the Elvis rock and roll film. Val Kilmar portrays Elvis-type Nick Rivers, who sings a Jan and Dean flavor of music and likes to spontaneously burst into song. He

meets Hillary Flammond (Lucy Gutteridge), a beautiful young counteragent trying to rescue her father from the evil East German plotters, who look amazingly like classic movie Nazis.

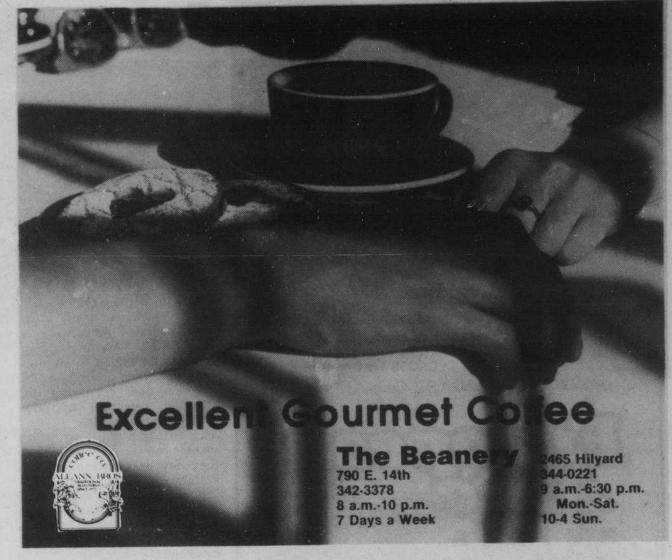
The ZAZ team put these two and the supporting cast through virtually every adventure-drama-romance cliche, with more than a few chuckles. The creators follow the machine gun theory of comedy: get as many shots off as possible and worry about accuracy later.

The heart of "Top Secret!" is the cliches, the bad puns, the visual gags, and the just plain silliness that abounds. A priest reads the bible, throwing in Latin phrases like "E Pluribus Unum" and "Veni, vidi, vici." The soldiers in a French revolutionary outfit have names like "Souffle," "Latrine," and "Chocolate Mousse." A cuisinart sits on a dingy shelf in Nick's jail cell. The little bits are as priceless as the big gags and sometimes even funnier.

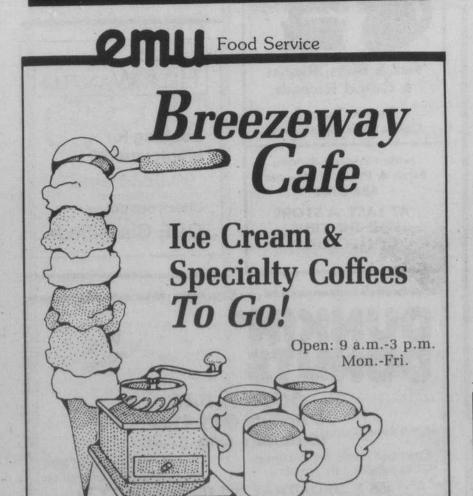
"Top Secret!" is loaded with inspired silliness. Although it is a little rough in spots and isn't as tight or quite as funny as the ZAZ team's previous "Airplane!" it is as funny a film as you'll find this summer.

"Top Secret!" plays at Valley River Twin.

By Sean Axmaker







Student Discount!

10% Off on all books to any student with current I.D. We're close to campus at 19th & Agate.

BOOK and TEA

1646 East 19th • 344-3422

