

C I N E M A

'Teachers' fails on real issues



Hey, the formula must have looked commercial if nothing else. Get a decent cast, an episodic script (largely comedy, with a few "dramatic" bits thrown in for prestige), an overbearing soundtrack of soon-to-be-on-AM-radio pop songs and a director with as much style as a jar of mayonnaise. Then, just to give a little dimension, pretend to tackle some real issues.

Ostensibly, *Teachers* is about a high school as bad as most. A kid who graduated years ago is suing because he is a functional illiterate; school discipline is so poor that a student can actually bite a teacher's hand, steal his desk and then his car; and a gym teacher gets numerous young students pregnant.

Sounds promising, I thought to myself: Let's see how they solve these problems. Do they explore the inadequacies of the system? Or dig into the bureaucratic jungle that sets the inane policies? Or even attempt to look into public apathy?

No.

Writer W.R. McKinney and director Arthur Hiller decide that the perseverance of a few good teachers will win over the students and inspire them to shape up. Right.

Not even Nick Nolte can convince me that this is the answer to our problems. Even when he risks his job to get a girl an abortion, all he affects is the symptom, not the disease.

Apart from that, the film is only moderately entertaining. Nolte is fun and Richard Mulligan pulls off a great characterization as a mental outpatient who mistakenly becomes a substitute teacher; but the rest of the cast is so-so. The humor is inconsistent and the direction uninspired. Worst of all, the pop soundtrack intrudes at the worst times.

Teachers belies its principles. What begins as a hard, liberal examination of the American education system becomes a slick, candy-coated placebo. And it doesn't even taste good.

Sean Axmaker

Calendar

Continued from Page 6B

Willamette Science and Technology Center: "Autumn Skies" planetarium show. 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, 10-27

Willamette Science and Technology Center: (See Saturday's listing)

Willamette Science and Technology Center's Halloween party. 2300 Centennial. 75 cents-\$2. Science-oriented, non-scary party for little kids, prizes for best science-technology costumes. Call 484-9027 for further info.

"Rainbows and Raindrops" (See Saturday's listing)

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Mushroom Show and Plant Sale. Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, off Seavey Loop Road. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 686-3033 or 345-6241 for further info.

MONDAY, 10-29

Community Center for the Performing Arts Open House. Call 687-2746 for further info.

Pacific Northwest Computer Graphics Conference. Silva Hall. Call 686-4231 for further info.

TUESDAY, 10-30

Pacific Northwest Computer Graphics Conference. (See Monday's listing)

THURSDAY, 11-1

"Potpourri of Solar Applications" talk by Tom Scott of Energia. 283 Lawrence Hall. 7:30 p.m. Free. Will cover domestic water systems, pool systems, sunspaces and complete structures in both the commercial and residential sectors with reflections on lessons learned. Call 686-3696 for further info.

CONTINUING

Gallery 141, Lawrence Hall: "Annual Graduate Student Exhibit" Through Oct. 26. Landscapes, portraits, and abstracted photos by members of the Society for Photographic Society. Oct. 29-Nov. 9. Opening reception Friday at 8:30 p.m.

Photography at Oregon Gallery, University Art Museum: "New Angular" photographs by J. Michael Lesko. Through Oct. 28.

University Art Museum: "New American Paperworks" an interna-

tional traveling exhibition of recent works in paper by 20 American artists. Through Nov. 4.

Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid: Oil Paintings by Betty Field-Haley. Through Oct. 31.

New Zone Gallery, 411 High St.: "Politics and Art - The Election" painting, sculpture, photography, and mixed media by over 50 Northwest artists. Through Nov. 8.

Allan Brothers Coffeeshop, 24th Ave. and Hilyard St.: "Night Walks" prints by Patricia Genack. Through Oct. 31.

Book and Tea, 1646 E. 19th Ave.: "Florals in Transparent Watercolors" by Ellen Gabehart. Through Nov. 2.

Taylor Gallery, EMU: "A Century of the Lively Arts" Oct. 14-Jan. 4.

Compiled by Bob Webb
686-INFO
Tape 651

The Calendar deadline for The Friday Edition is Monday at noon.

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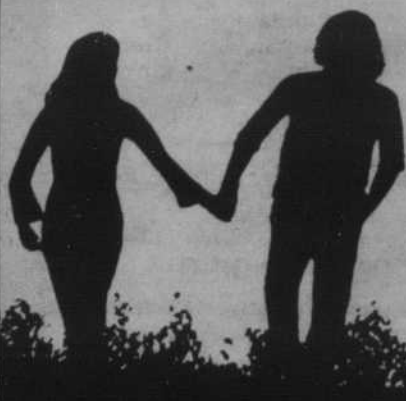


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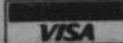
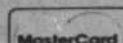
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