

About 1,800 students predicted to graduate at next week's ceremony

Commencement ceremonies for students graduating this term will be held August 17 at 10 a.m. in the Memorial Quadrangle located between the Main Library and the Museum of Art. The ceremony will take place in MacArthur Court in the event of rain.

University officials are predicting a graduating class of approximately 1,800, but far fewer will actually attend commencement, says

Mary Hudzikiewicz, University director of community service.

State System of Higher Education Chancellor William Davis will speak at the ceremony, and a short reception for graduates and their friends and families will follow in the quadrangle area.

Bachelor's candidates can order their regalia from the University Bookstore.

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As a serious western movie, 'Silverado's' aim is way off

Lawrence Kasdan couldn't leave well enough alone. After his "The Big Chill" became a huge hit, he decided to switch genres on his crew and give them cowboy hats. But "Silverado" is little more than "The Big Chill Goes West," and it doesn't work.

The film is a contrived little tale of four loners who band together out of sheer decency to do good deeds. Emmett (Scott Glenn) is the first; he saves Paden (Kevin Kline) from dying of thirst in the desert. They both try to save black cowboy Mal (Danny Glover) from a racist bartender and then bust Paden's headstrong young brother Jake (Kevin Costner) out of jail. Mal then saves them from the harsh but pragmatic Sheriff Langston,

played in a marvelously wry fashion by John Cleese.

From there the cast gets too big to handle, and the good deeds become a little too hard to swallow. The four of them, out of the goodness of their souls, decide to save a bedraggled wagontrain whose entire fortune had been stolen by criminal scouts. Paden and Emmett sort of fall for the newly widowed Hannah (Rosanna Arquette), but Paden gives up the half-hearted romance after her horrible speech of independence.

"I want to build something, make things grow," she stoically recites as the music swells. "That takes a lot of hard work. That's not why a man is attracted to a pretty woman." Ob-

viously that wasn't what attracted Kasdan to her either, for she is practically dropped from the film as the consequence of her abysmal performance.

And if you think this is great, wait until they get to Silverado, the den of corruption, sin and downright nastiness that mother warned you about. Paden is hired on to run the gambling casino owned by the smug Sheriff Cobb (Brian Dennehy), an old partner-in-crime who hasn't reformed his ways.

Emmett and Jake turn to protecting the law-abiding farmers being forced off their lands by the evil cattle baron McKendrick, and soon after are hunted for their efforts.

At a little more than two hours, this is far too long, and with a cast that numbers more than 10 principle characters and numerous other smaller roles, there are just too many people walking about. To top it off, Kasdan doesn't understand a whiff about westerns. This isn't an old-fashioned anything, but merely a yuppie western that will please the masses flocking to "St. Elmo's Fire" (another "Big Chill" spin-off).

What "Silverado" boasts is a collection of fun performances, including not only the already mentioned cast (without Arquette) but Linda Hunt as Stella the bar proprietress and Jeff Goldblum as "Slick," the gambler. Good readings can't improve bad lines and poor plotting, however, and Kasdan has whipped up some pretty hokey doings.

One of his gravest sins occurs early on: when good guy Paden kills a couple of robbers for taking his horse and his hat. A real hero needs a little more motivation than that.

"Silverado" is the sorriest excuse for a western I've seen in quite a while. Strangely enough, many of the scenes reminded me of "Rhustler's Rhapsody." Only thing, however, is that was played for laughs and this one is serious.

By Sean Axmaker



Scott Glenn and Kevin Kline star in 'Silverado,' a new film now playing at Cinema World.

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