

Child's perspective of faith seen in relationship with neighbor boy

If you're looking for God, see "The Boy Who Could Fly", playing at the McDonald Theater at 1010 Willamette St.

You'll feel uplifted by this vision of faith from a child's perspective. Don't let that perspective fool you into not taking the film seriously though, because it deals with an issue fundamentalists believe marks the coming of the Antichrist.

Review by
Shawn Wirtz

The story involves a recently widowed mother, her adolescent daughter Millie and her small son Herman, a trusted commando leader to his G.I. Joes. This lack of a patriarch opens the family up to initial chaos, but as a result a deeper understanding of themselves, much as it did for the family in "E.T."

The main plot involves Millie and her developing relationship

with neighbor Eric Gibb. Eric's parents died in a plane crash when he was four years old, and the neighborhood gossip informs Millie that at that moment he began trying to fly. Nameless institutional authorities consider him autistic and persistently try to take him away from his alcoholic uncle.

Millie watches Eric's attempts at flying from her bedroom window. His belief that he can fly echoes Richard Bach's theme in "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" and "Illusions" that humans have the potential to do anything they believe in. As Eric tries to realize his potential, Millie's faith in him allows her to develop the same faith in herself and get a glimpse of the divine.

The lack of spoken communication contributes to the mystery surrounding Eric. Millie writes in her journal, "All he sees is me." Eric sees the real Millie, the self she hadn't noticed. At the same time he acts as a mirror for

Millie, showing up twice in her looking glass.

Millie encourages Eric to copy her in the hopes that he will begin learning. "He won't do anything without me," Millie laments. She soon comes to the conclusion, however, that Eric's potential is unlimited, only her disbelief inhibits his abilities.

Millie suffers from her connection with Eric, and is ostracized accordingly. Her friend tells her, "You can't fall in love with a retard; it's just not done." When she acts on her growing faith, Louise Fletcher as a psychiatrist tries to convince her she was dreaming.

Soon, Millie says, "I don't know if I'm becoming more like him or he's becoming more like me." Later, she says, "We're all a little like Eric, somewhere deep inside."

According to Dave Hunt, author of "Peace, Prosperity and the Coming Holocaust", "There seems little doubt that the declaration of one's own godhood is central to the philosophy underlying the New Age Movement. It would therefore not be overstating our case to say that the spirit of the New Age is the spirit of Antichrist, and that it is gathering awesome power and influence in today's world."

A statement issued by the Berkeley Christian Coalition claimed the idea of God within "is not a fad. It will not go away, and it is fundamentally hostile to Biblical Christianity."

This doesn't stop Millie and Eric, and it shouldn't stop you from seeing the movie. The synchronized head movements of Herman's classmates may be too contrived when he shouts, "My name is Herman Weisman, and if this is the third grade I got to be here so where do I sit," but the delivery is worth it.

The film stars Lucy Deakins as Millie, Jay Underwood as Eric, Bonnie Bedeliah as Millie's mom and Fred Savage as Herman.

Students supportive of registration limits

By Sarah Kitchen

Of the Emerald

The new 17-credit-hour limit on registration for undergraduate students at McArthur Court has proved to be a successful change, said Randy MacDonald, Student Senate chairman.

"As soon as the students understood the 17-credit-hour limit, they were amazingly understanding and receptive," MacDonald said.



Randy MacDonald

"Less than .5 percent of the undergraduates even tried to petition the restriction," he said.

The limit was first imposed fall term of this year. The decision to enforce a 17-hour limit was reached last year after the Student Senate studied a series of policy recommendations.

MacDonald said the limit was enforced so students who register on the second day of registration would have greater class availability.

"The faculty was upset about students who would shop around for classes and then later decide to drop them," MacDonald said. "Since the drop deadline was longer than the add deadline students who may have been able to get into a class had less of a chance to do so," he said.

"The faculty, and for a good reason, did not want to extend the add deadline because after 10 days, a good portion of the term has passed," MacDonald said.

University President Paul Olum established a committee consisting of students, faculty and administrators winter term 1985 to try to find a solution to the add/drop deadline.

MacDonald and Donna Lawrence, the former chairwoman of the Student Senate, were committee members.

"The committee came up with the idea of limiting the Mac Court registration for undergraduates to 17 hours. It was intended to try and stop those people who were getting six and seven courses and later dropping them to take four or five courses," MacDonald said.

The committee decided also to allow students to add courses for up to 10 days without a charge. In the past students had been charged \$3 per course added after the fifth day of classes.

The cost of dropping a class was raised to \$8 after the sixth day of classes because the committee wanted students who were considering dropping a course to do so before the 10-day add deadline, MacDonald said.

"This gives everyone a chance to have at least two class periods to decide if they want to drop a course," MacDonald said.

"Students have four days to add courses that other people would have dropped, hopefully because of the increased sanction of \$8 to drop a course over the \$3 it cost in the past," MacDonald said.

Joseph Wade, director of academic advising and student services, believes also that the new policy was successful.

"We wanted to make it so that more students would have a program they would be happy with earlier in the term, which would eliminate the need to do so much adding and dropping," he said.

The Office of Academic Advising has a table at registration that is usually crowded by students who are having a problem getting into classes on the second day of registration. However, this term there was a notable drop in the number of students going to the table about scheduling problems, Wade said.

Academic Advising was responsible for monitoring exceptions to the 17-hour limit. Wade said 75 students petitioned the limit, and 35 had their petition granted. Students who were going to graduate at the end of this term, and those who needed to take a specific lab with one of their courses were the general exceptions to the limit.

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