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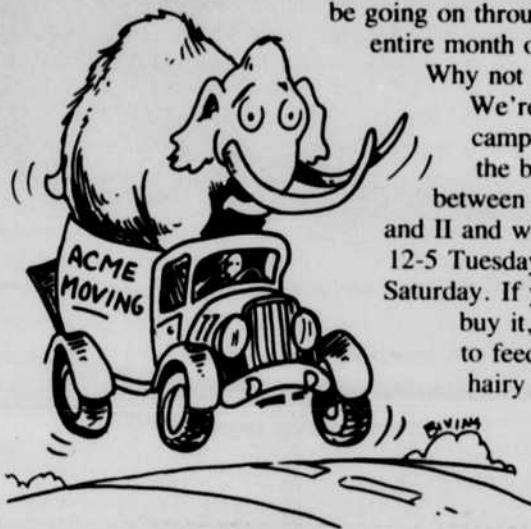
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# MAMMOTH MOVING SALE

The Museum of Natural History is moving, and everything must go (no, we're not selling our bones.).

But we are selling everything else in our Gift Shop. We simply don't have any more room on the truck (what with all the bones and pottery). This may be your last chance to pick up a rare gift item from around the world at 30-50% off regular prices. The sale will be going on throughout the entire month of March.



Why not come by. We're right on campus, under the breezeway between Science I and II and we're open 12-5 Tuesday through Saturday. If you don't buy it, we have to feed it to the hairy elephant.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## 'True Stories' void of substance in ridicule of fictional characters

By Sean Axmaker

Of the Emerald

"True Stories," the credits inform us. "A film about a bunch of people in Virgil, Texas."

Well, "True Stories" isn't really about much of anything. (That isn't totally true; actually it's about 90 minutes.)

Director/co-writer David Byrne, whose magnetism as a Talking Head doesn't materialize in his lackluster appearance as roving narrator/commentator, throws a bunch of vignettes into a nebulous plot that centers on the "Celebration of Specialness" in the mythical town of Virgil. The result is something akin to a long rock video.

The characters are more like caricatures, which Byrne half ridicules and half appreciates. Louis (John Goodman), a panda-shaped gentleman looking for a wife, is the most enjoyable of these characters, a nice guy and a sincere character but whose slightly offbeat fashion sense (olive green suits?) is constantly used for laughs.

Along with Louis are The Lazy Woman (Swoozie Kurtz), so rich she never has to leave her bed; Kay Culver (Annie McEnroe), a community organizer with a lacquered hairdo and "house beautiful" sheen; her businessman husband, Earl (Spalding Gray), who has dreams of turning Virgil into a small business mecca; and a host of other odd characters.

The narrative (as such) follows the activities leading up to the "Celebration" talent show, with side trips hosted by Byrne: a tour of a computer complex, dinner with the Culvers, a survey of tract housing, etc....

"True Stories" is a collection of odd, often silly bits of story, not consistently funny and not particularly perceptive, merely silly. Not that there aren't any good scenes, mind you. There are a number of wonderful moments in the film.

A preacher turns a sermon into a gospel number called "Puzzling Evidence," where he makes some interesting connections in the details of business and government.

Louis interviews a prospective wife in a subdued, slightly awkward meeting that finds the human qualities of the characters' idiosyncrasies, resulting in a genuinely tender scene. A night-club audience lip-syncs (in turn) to Talking Heads' "Wild, Wild Life."

It isn't enough, though, and it isn't consistent. In some respects "True Stories" resembles the offbeat documentaries, "Gates of Heaven" and "Vernon, Florida," deadpan works that discover the odd psyches of real people. These pictures do find the humor in these people, but they celebrate rather than ridicule them.

Byrne fluctuates, seemingly trying to enjoy these characters for what they are but not able to hold back his little digs.

This ambivalence toward his characters is accompanied by a greater ambivalence toward the film as a whole; he can't decide what this picture is — a loosely defined story, a collection of skits, a character study or what.

The final result is a spotty smorgasbord of vignettes, varying in quality and tone, but not adding up to much of a meal. "True Stories" is not without its merits, but as a whole it leaves much to be desired.

## State food drive collects one ton of food for poor

Bags distributed to University employees for a food drive last week netted 2,006 pounds of donated food to help feed hungry people in Lane County.

The food donation was an 11 percent increase over the amount of food donated a year ago for the annual State Employees Food Drive, sponsored by the governor's office. In addition, four employees made financial donations totaling \$55.

Grocery bags for the food drive were donated by three local companies: Safeway Stores Inc., Albertson's Food Centers and Fred Meyer One-Stop Shopping Centers.

Among the many county groups distributing the food is the Newman Emergency Center on campus.

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