

MUERTOS

Continued from Page 9 A

Palma said. In Huanta, Peru, the celebration of "The Day of the Dead" as described by Carlos Castro, has many of the basic elements of the celebration in the other countries. They pay tribute by going to the cemetery, praying and leaving flowers. When they have finished, outside the cemetery a few blocks away they eat "guaguas de pan" and drink "chicha." Castro said the drink is prepared early and allowed to ferment. He compared it to a bitter tasting apple cider. People listen to traditional harp and flute music

played by musicians. The music has a sad quality to it.

In some countries, the "The Day of the Dead" is disappearing. Marcela Leal, who is from Bogota, Colombia, explained that the tradition was very common up until a few years ago. She says the disappearance is in large part due to the fact that it was realized that there were too many holidays. Leal believes the practice is more common in smaller towns which tend to be more religious.

There are definite similarities in the ways that "The Day of the Dead" is celebrated in each of the countries described above. The traditions that persist today are a mixture of

both indigenous and Spanish cultures. Susan Deerborn Jackson said there are several elements are common to both cultures.

"Both cultures contain strong cults of the dead, a transitory view of life, traditions of leaving offerings at graves, the making of special bread such as the pan de muertos and a strong fascination with the symbol of the skull," she said.

The fact that Halloween falls at approximately the same time as "The Day of the Dead" is not a complete coincidence. Jackson said such pagan rituals as the European "All Hallows Eve" and Celtic "Samhain" fall at the same time because they mark the harvest time.

MOVIES

Continued from Page 7 A

wife, Helen. There's no reason at all why she should be attracted to him and no indication that he would be a good catch. Is there a prerequisite that all Hollywood movies must feature a love interest for the main character? In this case, it's a big pimple on an already pock-marked movie.

The film is directed by Irwin Winkler. He's been a longtime producer and associate of both

Martin Scorsese and Robert DeNiro. His directorial debut was *Guilty By Suspicion*, a dry as melba toast depiction of red baiting and blacklisting in Hollywood in the 1950s. That also starred DeNiro in a fairly forgettable role.

Perhaps part of what makes DeNiro so good is the calibre of directors he gets to work with. Winkler tries his darndest to imitate Scorsese's style and feel, from the random insertion of 50s and 60s rock songs to an always fluid camera. But there's more to being Scorsese than sur-

face stylistic qualities.

There is an effort in *Night and the City* to achieve a feeling of vibrance and motion. It is successful on that level. The supporting performances are, for the most part, high quality, but often unnecessary. There is a bit of character pollution here.

Once again, Winkler has tried hard but mostly failed in his attempt to duplicate a film



Jessica Lange and Robert DeNiro star in the drama *Night and the City*.

Scorsese might have made. What could have been interesting and should have been fascinating is instead dull and uninteresting.

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AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD

On **SUNDAY, NOV. 8** (last name A-L) and **MONDAY, NOV. 9** (M-Z) in the Robinson Theatre, Villard Hall for three UO Productions.

ON THE VERGE by Eric Overmeyer

A surrealistic comedy about three Victorian women who journey through time and end up in the 1950's. By considering whether the women will move on or settle down, the play touches on such topics as finding a place where one fits in and exploring one's potential. Directed by Amy Sarno. Needed are 3 women and 1 man.

T BONE 'N WEASEL by Jon Klein

An extremely funny and poignant story of two ex-convicts, one of whom is black. They travel around the south in search of security, happiness and a sense of future, and are repeatedly confronted by prejudice. Directed by Dr. Grant McKernie. Needed are 3 men, genuine, with strong comic timing.

CHIMERE

A fusion theatre work inspired by the traditional theatre of Bali featuring music by Prof. Robert Kyr and The Pacific Rim Gamelan Orchestra. Lovers, demons, spirits, monkeys and other fantastic creatures participate in the ritual magic. Conceived and directed by Prof. Janet Descutner (Dance) and Prof. Jerry Williams (Theatre Arts). Needed are approximately 20 performers with strong movement skills.

For more information, call 346-4171

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