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Videos: Independent stores fill niche

Continued from Page 5A

cause they appeal to a different audience," Kawders said, "but there's no doubt mom-and-pop places are put out of business every day by Blockbuster and Hollywood."

When Blockbuster first came to town, Kawder's store lost about 15 percent of its business. After a few months, his business returned to normal and even increased 15 percent. He said it was due to a different philosophy between local stores and

chains.

"People that go into Blockbuster want the hot, new release, and they want to see an entire wall filled with the movie. It feels big, but there may not be a lot to choose from," Kawders said. "We do more stuff like consultations, reservations and answering questions."

Independents can also benefit from the constant advertising the chains do because it increases the overall market for

rentals, he added.

Despite customer loyalty, Lund said he is thinking about lowering his prices to be more competitive.

"They're definitely putting some pressure on. People may start going to the big places because it's cheaper," Lund said. Kawders said despite his edge in personal service and specialty films, video rentals are a competitive marketplace.

"It's a tough industry," he said.

Tumbler: Film had \$12,000 budget

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rector James Cameron, and create a titanic production in his directorial debut. The \$12,000 budget would allow only two and a half weeks of filming and no pay for the crew.

Needless to say, Lawler turned cheerleader to keep the troops from revolting during the 16 to 18 hour, sun-soaked August days. "I tried to be thanking people as much as possible," Lawler said.

Kreiger's love interest in the film, University senior Jennifer Wettstein, said a lot of the crew got testy in the heat, but she said she stuck with it because she believed in Lawler's abilities. Wettstein took two weeks off an internship to participate in the film. "Rent still needed to get paid that month, but it was worth it," she said.

But often caught up in the action of the moment, Lawler said he occasionally put his crew's needs second. During a two-day shoot at an abandoned house outside of Corvallis with no electricity, dust clinging to everyone and everything and the crew smashed together inside, Lawler, concentrating on a shot, looked up from his work and saw that someone had written "these people need air" in the dust.

Lawler gave them a break. "If this was a union shoot in Hollywood, there's no way they would have stayed,"

he said. "They came into it with a good work ethic."

With filming completed, the lengthy editing process began. Using University editing equipment from the Instructional Media Center, Lawler cut three and a half hours of raw footage into the current hour-length film.

The lead actor, Hans Hlawaty, who played the streetwise detective Kreiger, played a dual role in acting and originally composing the film's soundtrack. The University music major and saxophone player envisioned a "jazzy, bluesy sounding score" and recruited a 22-piece University orchestra to record it in a weekend.

Unlike Lawler, Hlawaty didn't take advantage of earning college credit for his composition. Finishing "Tumbler" in March, Lawler submitted it to the honors college, which passed him with highest honors.

With his first film in the bag, Lawler said he will stay in the Eugene area and concentrate on a new script. He said he hopes he won't have to fall back on his computer science degree to survive, but he at least has the option.

"I'm going to stick with this until I'm starving in a gutter some where," Lawler said.

More information about the film can be found at gladstone.uoregon.edu/~lawler.

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