

Forget bars — head to the movies

By Christopher Duca
for the Emerald

Why do we indulge in cheap beer and mysterious three-syllable concoctions when we know full well that headaches and empty pockets await us in the morning?

Heed my words: Spare some of those precious part-time peanuts you have diligently worked for and try an old standby — the movies.

Whether you're looking for an art-house film to ruminate over, a male testosterone flick to pump up your adrenaline or maybe just a little love in your life, the area's six movie theaters offer all that and more.

Let us begin our journey with what I consider to be a testimony to what happens when you morph a Las Vegas casino with a typical movie theater.

If obnoxious lighting, embarrassing uniforms and a possible flashback because of nauseating color schemes is what you're looking for, then Cinemark Movies 12 is the place to spend your dollars.

The theater features most current films and state-of-the-art surround sound for your viewing pleasure. Movies 12 can be found at the Gateway Mall, 2850 Gateway St. in Springfield.

A brief sojourn to the city's pride and joy — Springfield Cinemas — may be worth it. It's as good as Movies 12 but less obnoxious. Find the time to check out Act III's Springfield Cinemas, 2005 Olympic St.

The McDonald Theatre manages to combat the disastrous decor of Movies 12. This Act III theater is located in the heart of downtown Eugene at 1010 Willamette St. It features a single screen, but because of its beautiful craftsmanship and balcony seating, the McDonald gets my approval.

And if you're worried about missing a film that's playing there, don't be — they tend to stick around for a while.

Movieland is in the section of Eugene least traveled by University students. Tucked behind Fred Meyer on West 11th Av-

enue, it's all too often overlooked.

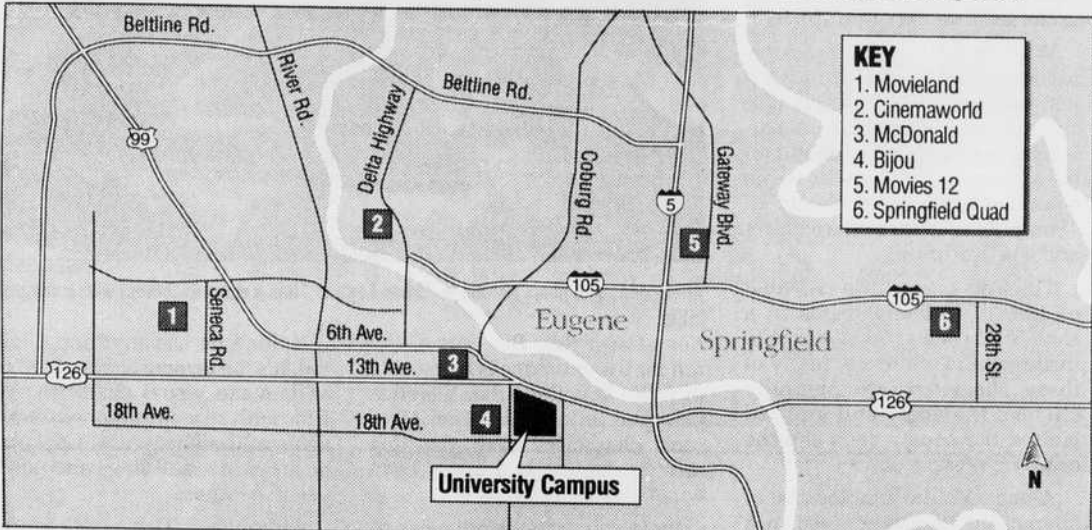
But like other Act III theaters, Movieland features all the latest releases in stereo surround sound.

If you're seeking cinematic genius, then Cinema World across from Valley River Center is the place to go. It's not the largest theater in the Eugene area, but Cinema World offers the best sound and cleanest environment.

My final stop on the tour is a stealthy little place in Eugene known as the Bijou. Since its conversion from a mortuary into a theater, Bijou Art Cinemas, 492 E. 13th Ave., has been home to many of today's and yesterday's finest avant-garde films.

If you've finished your homework and can't sleep, the Bijou also offers late-night showings at discount prices. But if you do decide to attend a late movie, bring a friend — 13th Avenue isn't kind after dark.

So remember, the next time you are looking for something to do, go to the movies and come home with change in your pocket.



Matt Garton/Emerald

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