

## IN BRIEF

## 'Closer' claustrophobic; reality soars in 'Daggers'

In "Closer," Jude Law and Julia Roberts and Clive Owen and Natalie Portman fall giddily in love in London, but don't be fooled: This is the furthest thing possible from a date movie. These inordinately beautiful people end up doing extraordinarily ugly things to each other, which is both breathtaking and brutal to watch. The latest film from director Mike Nichols is reminiscent of his first, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" from 1966, for the intensity of its performances.

Owen is especially scorching as Roberts' cuckolded dermatologist husband. "Closer" often has the claustrophobic vibe of a play (which is, in fact, the basis for the film), and it closes in on melodrama toward the end, but not in a way that's unbelievable. If these people

didn't already have drama in their lives, they'd have to manufacture it.

"House of Flying Daggers" is the second film in theaters this year from Chinese director Zhang Yimou and provides an interesting companion piece to the first, the Oscar-nominated "Hero," if only because it's slightly more rooted in reality. The characters still soar through the air with gravity-defying balletic grace, showing off their eye-popping martial-arts skills, but the leaves on the trees aren't a radioactive shade of fuchsia when they do it.

Both feature love triangles, but "Flying Daggers" (starring Zhang Ziyi, Takeshi Kaneshiro and Andy Lau) is a romance wrapped around an action movie, while "Hero" was more of an action movie with a bit of romance tucked inside of it. Zhang's latest offering is a dazzling celebration of style over substance, cleverly staged and sumptuously photographed, but in the end little more than an art-house soap opera.

— The Associated Press



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Taylor's Bar and Grille is the historic hang-out spot for students, offering music, good food and cheap drinks.

## Taylor's gauges college partiers in Bacardi's Red Hot Road Trip

*The classic-style bar has been taken over by students but still retains its storied history and vintage look*

BY RYAN MURPHEY  
PULSE REPORTER

Taylor's Bar and Grille has been in operation since 1922, when Hersch Taylor and his father Fred started the business. In the past 80 years, the bar has changed hands, but the name has endured.

The inside of the bar looks like a classic neighborhood tavern taken over by college students. There is a lot of wood and a decorative theme featuring sports paraphernalia (both contemporary and vintage) and promotional material for alcoholic beverages. The open-air deck outside is the preferred hangout for smokers, while video poker machines just inside the front door indulge yet another unhealthy but entertaining vice. For sports fans, Taylor's features eight flat screen televisions and one 10-by-13-foot, high-definition projection screen with enough sports packages to make any jock salivate.

At night, the bar offers a variety of special events. On Mondays, Taylor's

has football specials such as \$1 beers and half-price food until the first point is scored. Tuesdays are Karaoke nights; Wednesdays the bar features \$1 microbrews and Thursdays are both '80s nights and ladies nights. DJ TekNeek, who spent much of his early musical career spinning at Taylor's, plays hip-hop and takes requests on Friday nights. Recently, Taylor's has been booking live music on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Local bands such as Savitri, Rhetoric Tuesday and Eight-Track Liberators can be enjoyed for a cover, usually about \$2.

Music has played a big part in the bar's history. Taylor's has been a venue for the likes of Stevie Ray Vaughn, Robert Cray, Blues Traveler and B.B. King. After playing on campus sometime in the mid-'90s, the band Wide-spread Panic performed an impromptu acoustic set at Taylor's.

By day, the restaurant takes on the persona of a bustling campus lunch spot. It's location on the corner of 13th and Kincaid, across

from the University Bookstore, makes it an ideal place to grab a meal or get a daily dose of vitamin beer between classes.

Taylor's also serves breakfast from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and offers items such as bacon sourdough french toast, breakfast pitas and scrambles for \$5 to \$8.

Tonight Taylor's will be hosting Bacardi's Red Hot Road Trip, a nationwide promotional event that pits colleges across the United States against each other in a competition to decide who parties the hardest. The event will feature games, prizes, tiny cars and, of course, scantily clad women. A decibel meter reading will be taken at a predetermined hour, and the college town with the highest reading will be featured in For Him Magazine.

Like the University, Taylor's has acquired its fair share of history over the years. During the filming of "Animal House," the bar was frequented by comedian John Belushi, who allegedly was inspired to create "The Blues Brothers" by a late-night Curtis Salgado performance.

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## Murphey: Tips should accompany take-out

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the doors about to close should either turn right back around or see if they can get food to go.

Speaking of "to go," a lot of people do not tip on take-out orders. Whether they are cheapskates, or under the false impression that to-go orders simply materialize out of thin air, it is wrong to think that a menu item that you would normally tip

20 percent for does not deserve any kind of gratuity. It still takes a person's time and effort to prepare, which is what tips compensate.

Finally, the most important part of a customer's job is tipping appropriately. Contrary to popular belief, \$5 is not the universal tipping amount for any bill over \$30. Fifteen to twenty percent is appropriate and anyone that leaves a \$10 tip on a \$120 tab

should be tarred and feathered.

The unifying theme of all of these recommendations is to respect the person who is in the business of serving you. They are providing you with a great convenience in exchange for your money and it's really hard work. So be classy and let them know they are appreciated.

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