

Gangsters studied in new class

Scott Starnes
The Print

Out of the Prohibition years until the beginning of the second World War, a significant character evolved, namely the gangster. Hollywood has manifested this individual in a variety of guises which can be seen in a gangster-criminal film series at College this spring.

Fred DeWolfe, College history instructor, along with Ramsperger, College anthropology instructor, will combine their knowledge and skills in this three-credit class. Each of the films has been chosen for different reasons. They'll range from the psychological aspects to the gangster's positive identification

of the gangster type," DeWolfe said.

DeWolfe said that the gangster evolved from the tensions of the early 1920's. Prohibition caused many to resort to the illegal transportation and making of alcohol, thereby creating a breeding ground for the criminal. "As society became more sophisticated and complex, organized crime was able to be operated more efficiently, smoothly, and with finesse. Introduction of the automobile, telephone, and other areas of technical advancement encouraged increased smuggling of alcohol, enabling the gangsters more options to work with," DeWolfe said.

As prohibition was repealed, the gangsters looked for other

areas of interest or opportunity such as extortion, dope, labor disputes and bank robberies. Two of the films to be shown will deal in these areas, DeWolfe said.

As society becomes more complex so does organized crime which created the gangster front image or non-interference idea. "Al Capone was the only big gangster figure who was above the organization. Today, big gangster figure can stand on his own two feet because the organized crime system is more complex than that of Capone's era," DeWolfe said.

The various movies include "The Roaring Twenties" and "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" which will deal directly with the times of Prohibition. "Asphalt

Jungle" will deal with the ingeniousness and smooth operating of a jewel heist, "On the Waterfront" will concern the complex worlds of the docks, unions and the intrusion of them by the underworld,

DeWolfe said. "In Cold Blood" and "Woman in the Window" will deal with the psychological aspects of crime while "Bonnie and Clyde" and "Godfather II" will present the blood or death ballets, he added.

For more information about the film series, contact Fred DeWolfe at 656-2631, ext. 328.

Ghosts and killer birds prevelant in 'The Vision'

Leanne Lally
The Print

The Vision, a novel by Dean Koontz, is a book that will be out to outrate movies or TV as source of suspenseful entertainment.

The novel centers on Mary Morgan, a 30-year-old woman who is in the habit of helping police uncover body murders. In this particular episode, she is the one being pursued by the killer.

The killer is a ruthless character whom Mary never sees in her visions. This case intrigues Mary who, up until now, is able to know

everything about the killer.

Poltergeists (ghost responsible for mysterious, noisy disturbances), killer birds and glass dogs become weapons to keep Mary from knowing the truth. In the end bats take over the kill.

Koontz tries his best to show us the reality of clairvoyance, although parts of the book are hard to swallow. Floating guns and butcher knives make one think they are reading a child's scary Halloween story rather than an adult novel.

What does come across is a good definition of irony and a well plotted story. The novel

shifts very rapidly near the end. Koontz gets his readers to believe on the way, and then turns the whole thing around until the reader feels he has just taken a ride on a roller coaster.

The book is perfect for a weekend reader with the story being only 200 pages long. The suspense makes for fast, enjoyable reading on those nights when TV just doesn't sound appetizing.

ASG cuts book costs

The possibility of a central location being staked out for students wishing to cut costs by swapping books, or car pooling is in the planning stages through the college Associated Student Government office.

Divided into different specific areas, a large bulletin board will serve as the central location. Interested students will be free to register cards, through Students Activities, within the next couple of weeks.

Lovely Linda . . . new old songs just sound old

By Mike Koller
Of The Print

Linda Ronstadt's newest effort, "Living in the USA" really leaves the listener with an indifferent feeling. The main problem with this record is that it lacks any real emotion that is such a part of Ronstadt's early albums like "Prisoner in Disguise" and "Heart Like A Wheel."

Ronstadt has picked songs written by Smokey Robinson, Chuck Berry, Warren Zevon and Elvis Costello, each a great songwriter in their own field of rock music. But in choosing songs like Costello's "Alison" and Berry's "Living in the USA" Ronstadt has defeated herself before this record ever hits the turntables across America.

Ronstadt just can't match the anguish in Costello's voice during "Alison" because she probably doesn't have any idea why he wrote the song in the first

place. But it's a nice song, so why not record a female version of it? It will sell records, right?

"All That You Dream", a funky Little Feat favorite is another song Ronstadt has attempted to do a cover version of. The result is the same. Ronstadt can't come close to matching the original. In fact, she fails three more times on "Living in the USA", "Love Me Tender" and "Just One Look."

This record is beginning to sound more like "Wayne Newton Sings Your Favorite Rock Songs of the Decade" instead of a Linda Ronstadt album.

There really is no point to this album. Why listen to inferior versions of great songs when you can have the originals at the same cost? Obviously a few million people probably don't know there are better versions, but who cares anyway? It's the new Linda Ronstadt album, so it has to be great!

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Thursday, Jan. 31, 1979



Disco fantasy at MD dance

The Muscular Distrophy marathon dance, sponsored by Associated Student Government has had a couple of changes since last week's issue of The Print.

The dance will not be held in the gym, instead it will take place in the College's Community Center mall.

Lisa Thomas, dance coordinator, has been visiting the area high schools to get the students "psyched-up" for the disco-marathon. Craig Blair, from "Earthquake Ethel's Road Show," will not be performing, instead, "Disco Fantasy" is donating their 12 hours to the dance.

"We are asking for prize donations for the area high

schools," said Thomas, "prizes will be given out to the best couple and the best individuals."

Joe Woods, ASG senator, will donate his time as announcer for the dance, but a co-announcer is needed. "A person's voice can get pretty hoarse after 12 hours," Woods said.

The dance is open to the public. Registration for couples begin Feb. 12 with a pre-dance meeting for all couples Feb. 25. Thomas stressed the importance of this meeting as couples will be disqualified from the dance if at least one member doesn't show up for the meeting.

Anyone wishing to par-

ticipate in the dance, who is 18 or under, must have written permission from their parents. Thomas also said that the dance doesn't apply to just couples. "Singles are welcome to dance as much as couples," she said.

Thomas is getting help from MD person Trudy Merwin and Denise Kline, ASG. Thomas and Kline have traveled to area high schools such as Sandy, Estacada, Gladstone, Clackamas, Milwaukie, Rex Putnam, LaSalle, Oregon City, Canby, West Linn, Molalla high and Molalla Junior High.

Persons interested in helping with the dance can contact Thomas at 656-2631, ext. 247.

