

E.T. phones home, no one answers

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In 1982, as the space shuttle Columbia launched into outer space, a movie was released. A movie so great it would be admired and cherished for years to come. Millions of people gathered to their local movie theater to check out Steven Spielberg's latest creation. With hits such as "Jaws" and "Raiders of the Lost Arc" coming from the man, this next film was sure to be just as great. And "E.T." was.

For those of you who have been living in a box for the past 20 years, let me give you a quick summary of Steven Spielberg's "E.T. the Extra Terrestrial."

The story begins with Elliott (Henry Thomas) finding an alien in his backyard. Elliott is in an awkward stage of childhood and has no friends, so he takes this opportunity to make acquaintances with the extraterrestrial. He hides the creature from outer space in his room, only letting his siblings in on his secret.

Through their many different adventures together, E.T. learns about the basics of life on Earth,

and Elliott discovers the meaning behind true friendship.

Now a mere 20 years later, "E.T." has been re-released in theaters across the country. But people aren't flocking to the movies as they did only two decades earlier. Has popular culture really matured so much that we can no longer appreciate a simple movie about a growing friendship between a young boy and an alien? A film about a 10-year-old wizard fighting gnomes and dragons breaks box office records left and right. But the re-releasing of a childhood classic containing aliens and spaceships just isn't cool anymore.

In the past few months there has been a great deal of hype going around about the re-releasing of "E.T." — toys in cereal boxes, new commercials showing flying bicycles, etc. But it seems that all of this buildup has been for nothing. Box office sales for the movie have been extremely low. When I attended the very first showing of the movie on March 22, I had bought my ticket earlier in the afternoon for fear that the showing would sell out fairly quickly. I mean it's a classic for good-

ness sake. But this proved to be a silly notion when I walked into the theater to see only a handful of people. And the later showing that evening did not look very hopeful for a larger crowd.

New trailers for the movie exclaim about "Extra footage!" and "Digitally remastered scenes!" but after watching the "new and improved" version, I noticed only a few changes. There are two added scenes, and while they do not take away from the original greatness of the film, it does seem as though they are simply thrown in to make it a "new" version. Also, the flying bicycle scenes have been touched up, and are now a bit more realistic. E.T.'s facial expressions have been computerized as well, so there is a wider range of emotion shown with his face.

These aspects aside, the greatest thrill of the entire movie was simply being able to see it on the big screen. The visuals are very aged, and some of the acting is pretty bad. But isn't that what makes "E.T. the Extra Terrestrial" a classic?

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INTERNET PHOTO

Two decades and new computer effects haven't helped E.T. fit into modern tastes.

Horoscopes

by Maggie Jirasek

Aries (March 21 – April 19):

You will find yourself attracted to unusual activities and foreign cultures this week. It's not the best time to take risks. Avoid gambling and spending money or otherwise your wallet will be very unhappy pretty soon. Don't trust other people. Your magic word of the week: piggy bank

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20):

The truth will always come to the surface no matter how hard you try to keep it for yourself. It's time to get your car checked out if it makes strange noises and you can't even have a conversation in there anymore. Your magic word of the week: Pinocchio.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20):

Stick to what you know instead of trying to be inventive. You want to get someone's attention. However, you might not attract the kind of interest you had in mind. Your magic word of the week: clown.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20):

Take a closer look at an impor-

tant issue before making a decision. Your generous nature could be taken advantage of. Be careful with whom you shake hands. You never know. Your magic word of the week: glove.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22):

Looks are not everything. Rather than judging people by their appearances, you should look at inner values. It's time for a little bit of meditation. This will help you get through the week. Your magic word of the week: vinegar.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22):

Secret enemies will be eager to spread rumors about you. Stay calm and try to take it as a learning experience. It's time to clean out your room. A lot of junk has been collecting over the years. Your magic word of the week: vacuum.

Virgo (August 23– Sept. 22):

Do you feel like you have a problem with time management? Well, maybe you do. You should plan your spare time more wisely. Some things just have to be done. A

neighbor is driving you up the wall. Don't despair! Your magic word of the week: clock.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22):

Just when you think you get it all figured out, something unexpected happens. Don't give up: it will resolve itself. A loved one will surprise you with a gift. Your magic word of the week: surprise.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21):

A little bit of exercising would do you good. Get ready for the summer and start getting back in shape. You should try to practice some yoga. Your magic word of the week: incense.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22– Dec. 21):

Everything happens for a reason. Sometimes you just need to figure out what the reason is. It's time to make a decision. Don't hesitate! Someone is spying on you. Be careful! Your magic word of the week: binoculars.

Capricorn (Dec. 22– Jan. 19):

Stand up for what you believe.

There will be a time when you have to speak up if you want to be taken seriously. It's time to buy a new car. No guts, no glory. Your magic word of the week: work.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18):

An old mistake finally catches up with you. But remember, you cannot hide from yourself. Try to deal with your problems. Your magic word of the week: mailbox.

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