

Gorefest '02 featuring Matt Zak

Luke Mahan

Photo Editor

Blood, horror, cameras, computers and some former Clackamas students with some free time sounds like a deadly combination. Just such a one has taken shape in the form of a new film in the minds of a few individuals just crazy enough to make it work.

Over the last seven months, infamous Oregon City indie filmmaker Rob Taylor has been hard at work on his new horror movie "Evil Cult." With a cast of other young actors from the Oregon City area, the movie follows lead character Neil Striker

(played by Taylor) back in time on a military mission to stop the diabolical plot of a mad scientist. Since Striker is unable to return to his own time, he must live out the rest of his days in the past (our present). During this time, he meets a cult leader named Walter (Greg Gosser), who takes him back to his compound and tries to persuade Striker to join the cult. He does some investigation of the compound, however, and discovers a secret chamber where the brains of people who don't want to join the cult are melted.

Striker is befriended by a cult member named Nigel (Matt Zak) who also attempts to convert him by

offering the fairest of the cult's females, Sister Bethany (Brenna Smith). This also fails to work, and Striker actually gets Nigel to run away with him, but the two are caught. This paves the way for full throttle gore as Striker fights his way through barrages of zombies, cult members and cage-people for a decapitating good time. It all builds up to an ending, which should not be disclosed by this reporter, even if he did know what happens.

Production has taken longer than expected and the film is now scheduled to be out in late December. Blockbuster and Hollywood video will both carry

the movie in DVD form, which is distributed by "Splatter Rampage." The DVD title, whose first release will be "Evil Cult," was just started by Danny Draven who used to work for Full Moon Pictures. Taylor says regarding the company, "They're really all about the money, and we don't even have any."

The movie also has an original soundtrack by Chris Howcroft, who also has an acting part. Another actor, former CCC student Matt Zak, helped with blocking, lines, and "creative inspiration." He says the film is not meant to be entirely serious, admitting to overacting

and adding humor. "We didn't try to go for any Oscars or action awards for this one." Added Zak, "It really is like a spoof of horror movies in a way. It's got all the clichés."

"Evil Cult" promises to be a bloody gore fest, masterfully crafted by a filmmaker known for a twisted sense of humor that will leave one in stitches (as the author of this article has personally experienced). Zak calls the film "A kick-ass, in-your-face, bloody, shock-rock, gore-horror, local O.C. mixed with some Hollywood effects metal-mash." Guess we'll just have to wait for the release to judge for ourselves. . .

'Bowling for Columbine' tackles social issues

Isalah Creel

Staff Reporter

"Bowling for Columbine," Michael Moore's most recent documentary, forces viewers to think critically about the state of affairs both in and outside of the United States.

Soap Box:

"Bowling for Columbine" is not like the majority of the films that I am accustomed to seeing. The main difference between this and most other films isn't just that it's a documentary, it's that the subject matter is both timely and pertinent.

The issue analyzed within the film is not the Columbine tragedy, although that is discussed briefly, but rather the reasoning behind the outrageous amount of firearm related homicides within the United States (11,127 annually according to the film).

What conclusion did I draw from this?

America is full of paranoid red-necks.

Scope of the Screen:

Michael Moore, author of Stupid

White Men and director of "Roger and Me," begins his journey of enlightenment at the North Country Bank in northern Michigan. There he applies for a certificate of deposit bank account, and in doing so receives a free Weatherby hunting rifle on the spot.

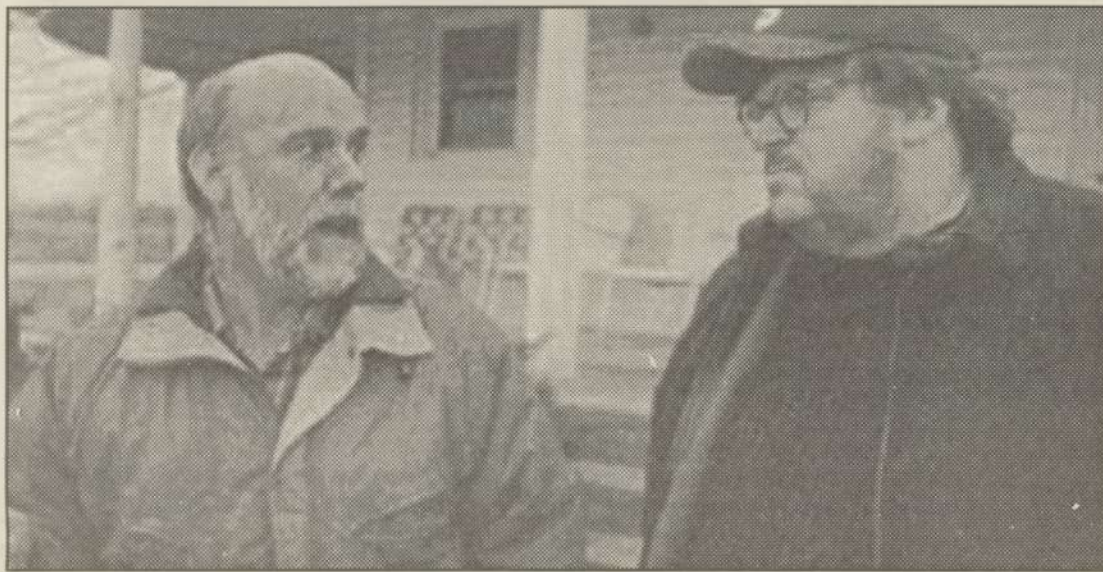
A bank that hands out guns?!

Yes, it's true. The bank is also a registered gun dealer, and therefore has the authorization to do a criminal background check instantly, so you can get on with the killing.

From there, our hero pays a visit to James Nichols, brother of Terry Nichols, accomplice of Timothy McVeigh (that guy who bombed the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.) This bean farmer relates his (uneducated backwoods) opinion on gun control and the rights of American citizens.

(A personal note: farmers are the background of our society. It just happens that this farmer had what amounts to a warped representation of the Bill of Rights.)

After his encounter with Nichols, which involved a loaded weapon being leveled at someone's head, Moore investigates Lockheed International, the leading maker of missiles...uh, I mean rockets, for



INTERNET PHOTO

Michael Moore (right) gets an earful from James Nichols, brother of Terry Nichols of Oklahoma City Bombing fame, (left) on who should have the rights to the plutonium

the United States Armed Forces.

Soap Box Continued:

The list of people and companies Moore targets is long and varied, from Wal-Mart to the Charlton Heston, and the film eventually sheds light on the disgusting amount

of ignorance exhibited by most of Moore's foes.

No real conclusion is reached, other than America being full of paranoid schizophrenics, which may be a turnoff for some viewers. However, I think Moore's intent was not to offer any kind of solution, but

to inform the general populous of their current situation.

Meeter Beeter:

"Bowling for Columbine" gets a 2-out-of-10 on the It's-in-the-constitution-so-you-can't-tell-me-what-to-do-o-meter.



ELISABETH MEYER Clackamas Print

English Instructor Jim Grabill reads a humorous poem about giving thanks before Thanksgiving dinner as a child. Colleague David Mount plays the violin. On Tuesday, Nov. 26 the two men joined other instructors to put on a reading for a small audience in the Gregory Forum. The "Day of Thanks" event was sponsored by the English department.

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