

Red Dawn bloody stereotype

by Bob Lothian

Sometimes a movie is worth seeing not because it's good, but because it's so bad. "Red Dawn" is one of these movies.

It depicts the invasion of America by combined Russian, Cuban and Nicaraguan troops at the beginning of a fictional World War III, and the patriotic response of a group of high school students. The action takes place in a small Colorado town which is taken over by the invaders, who "behave toward the town's population in a way Hitler would have approved," in the words of one reviewer.

There is so much bloodletting in "Red Dawn" that the National Coalition on Television Violence called the movie the most violent on record and said its depiction of invading communist troops is "rapidly preparing America for World War III." Demonstrators have picketed the movie in several cities.

The movie opens with a Black high school teacher lecturing his students on the invasions and atrocities of Genghis Khan and his Mongol hordes. As he talks, Spanish-speaking paratroopers float into the school yard. Going out to investigate, the teacher is immediately mowed down by the foreigners, who proceed to shoot up the school leaving one student, presumably dead, hanging from a shattered window.

The four teen-age heroes escape with an arsenal of guns to become guerillas in the hills. "It's World War III down there," says Jed, the star quarterback who assumes leadership of the guerilla band.

Although we are never given a reason for the invasion, we are told that the Europmissiles weren't deployed, the Soviets invaded Poland to quell food riots, Honduras and El Salvador had successful revolutions and Mexico appeared to be next.

The stereotyped invaders are shown riding around the town in the mayor's convertible with American girls in the back seat. Shops are festooned with red banners. People are beaten and shot on streets filled with Soviet tanks.

In particularly offensive scenes, the bloodthirsty invaders execute groups of townspeople as their children watch, in retribution for attacks against them. When Jed and his brother seek out their father, they find him at the drive-in theatre which has been turned into a macabre reeducation camp. "America is a whorehouse where the revolutionary ideals of your forefathers have been corrupted," screams a voice from the screen now used for propaganda. Inhabitants living in old cars moan and scream, presumably from the tortures inflicted upon them by their captors. When the boys ask about their mother, dad responds with a steely glare, leaving us to imagine further atrocities committed.

In another scene, one of the

young guerillas shoots a wounded Russian soldier point blank in the head, killing him. "What was it like?" ask his comrades. "It was good," replies the young assassin.

The scene is revealing. For in movies of the past, the American "good guys" of cowboy westerns and World War II movies often had a place in their hearts for vanquished enemies. But for "Red Dawn" director John Milius, there is no mercy for the dirty commies.

Milius says his latest picture is really an anti-war movie about heroism in the face of an extreme test. But Milius, who describes himself as a "frustrated fighter pilot" who wanted to fly in Vietnam, says his depiction of the invasion is similar to what the Russians did in Afghanistan. And he has revealed that MGM timed the opening of the film to coincide with the flag-waving anti-Russian Olympics.

While "Red Dawn" would have to stretch to attain B-movie status, it has played in Portland for several months.

"Red Dawn" is a melange of violent anti-Russian, anti-Cuban, anti-Nicaraguan hysteria and a festival of macho killing perpetrated by all-American 17 and 18 year-olds — the Reagan/Falwell program all the way.



The Albina Branch Library held an open house on Saturday, October 20th, to celebrate its new expanded hours. The library is now open Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Albina branch is

located at 3605 NE 15th in the Tradewell Store complex.

Enjoying the new hours are: (l-r) Roosevelt Ross, age 12; Jamar Williams, age 5; Bobbi Myrick; Sylvia Hanson, age 9 and Michael Williams, age 9.

(Photo by Richard J. Brown)



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Each

King tumbling needs your help

The ARFF Ensemble, along with the King Tumbling Team, performs throughout the year as a cultural exchange and enrichment program for the community's young people.

Kathy Giffert is the music specialist and has been working with the King students for five years and feels that this is one of her major contributions to King School.

The music department is raising funds for uniforms and instruments for this performing group by having a paper drive to help offset the cost to the students.

Please show your support by bringing newspapers to the drop box at King School parking lot on October 22 - November 2. Please show King kids that you care.

Childcare center offers free meal

St. Johns Child Care, Inc., would like to announce that the St. Johns Day Care Center, located at 2408 N. Farragut, is a participant in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child Care Food and Nutrition program.

This United Way Agency presently has openings for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age. Fees are based on a sliding scale. For more information contact St. Johns Child Care, Inc., at 283-6719.