

ARTS

& Entertainment



Men In Black

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FOREIGN FILM REVIEW

BY DAVID MACDONALD

Certainly you've had experiences where you've unwittingly taken home a video in less than perfect condition: perhaps the sound is off, perhaps the picture is not clear, or perhaps the entire thing will get all snowy and scratchy and you're afraid that the tape will get eaten up by your hungry VCR. Now imagine this occurring at the end of the movie. This was the exact situation that occurred to me while watching *Claire's Knee*.

The last 30 seconds grew distorted until it became much like a TV station without a signal. Normally, most people would be pretty upset because they were just itching to see the dramatic/funny/sappy/etc. payoff of the last moment of the film. But, upon reflection, I figured that if you are in any way familiar with the director Eric Rohmer's work perhaps there's not much to miss in the space of 30 seconds.

Rohmer becomes tedious. If you happen to fall asleep while watching one of his films, it may mean nothing more than the fact that you didn't plan on spending two hours of your precious time watching a movie like this when you could have gone to the Pit and done the same thing. However, if you actually push yourself to watch one of his movies, you'll find that Rohmer is actually sort of good at this.

He populates his movie with somewhat interesting characters, who talk (and talk some more), usually about the complex entanglements of romantic relationships, and who act pretty civilized about it all (perhaps it is a French thing). *Claire's Knee*, in particular, is about a man who is about to get married, and who stays at a summer home next to one where his long-lost female friend is staying, along with other full-time occupants of the house. This woman is a writer wanting an ending to her story, which is of course about a man -- quite like the one in this movie -- who is about to get married, and who, in a last burst of freedom, decides to test his charms on some young women. And, of course, the writer happens to be staying with a woman and her two young daughters. The man is quite willing to be the writer's "guinea pig" for this experiment in art imitating life.

This film is filled with idle chat, so during these experiments we find out a lot about the two daughters, especially Laura, who speaks in great deal about what she desires in a relationship, including her reasons for why she doesn't prefer guys her own age, and so on. However, things get a bit rocky when Laura's sister Claire comes on to the scene, and for some reason the man is quite obsessed with Claire's knee. He will not rest until he touches that knee.

This is a good film, with interesting characters and views on relationships, but if you fall asleep during long conversations, remember that you were warned.

Rating: ***1/2

School administrators deal with budget cuts; fire everyone.

By Rob MacIsaac

In the aftermath of last Monday's important budget meeting, university officials revealed today that drastic cuts in spending would be necessary to keep the school from closing down. In order to achieve these cuts, administrators at the university have fired the entire teaching

faculty, a decision that could save the school millions of dollars in the future.

"Paying people to work costs a lot of money," explained department spokesperson, in justifying the board's decision to terminate close to three hundred full and part time positions. "And we knew that certain sacrifices had to be made to keep this university open."

Questions that the move might somehow affect the quality of education offered at the university were quickly suppressed by the optimistic spokesperson, who assured this reporter that the changes would hardly be noticed at all. "I really don't foresee any problems. I mean,

They come here to socialize, not to learn."

He pointed out that the money saved with the new policy could be used to improve other aspects of university life, namely the social lives of students. "Our theory is that students will want to enroll here if they think it will make them cool."

Looks like we found the perfect section for Rob's mysterious newshound story writs...the A&E section of The Cadre.

- M.H. ed under the chief

