REEL REVIEWS

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
Brunswickan Staff

Power

Power, starring Richard Gere, Gene Hackman and other well-known actors, takes us behind the American election scenes. The idea for the film is good, but the end product is not at all inspiring. Director Sidney Lumet could have done far better.

Gere plays Pete St.John, a highly-paid election campaign organizer. At the opening St.John is in Central America with a client, but most of the film deals with several gubernatorial and senatorial campaigns in the States.

St.John is torn between his job (making candidates win) and his values, which sometimes conflict with his clients.

Power deals with the ways politicians gain power and what motivates them to run for office. We see the dedicated worker politician, the power-hungry corrupt politician, the 'back-to-the-basics' educator politician and various other types.

The movie tries to compare these politicians and emphasises the human side necessary in politics — note I say *tries*. The mixed-up, somewhat confusing way *Power* is put together does not allow all elements of the plot to consolidate in the mind. There are so many parts of the story that are introduced and then forgotten; a Middle-East connection, the Central America connection, the issue of conflict-of-interest by St.John's journalist wife, and other subplots are not satisfactorily dealt with.

The level of suspense is low and the ending is particularly atrocious—I would recommend leaving after the climax as the movie runs on with pointless junk for several minutes.

The Best of Times

The Best of Times takes a look at football fanaticism in the small town of Taft, California and how the fanaticism affects community and personal relationships.

Robin Williams plays Reno Hightower, a banking executive in Taft who has brooded for years over a catching fumble he made in a 1972 football game that cost the town the game. His obsession, which hurts his married life, is turned into a desire to replay the fated game.

Taft, by the admission of most residents, is a lethargic community. Rekindling the football fever evident in days gone by is difficult. By various devious tactics though, Hightower is able to arrange a game. We watch the preparations of the Taft team and the vastly superior rival team from Bakersfield which, coincidentally, is managed by Hightower's father-in-law.

The prospect of the impending game splits both Hightower and quarterback Jack Dundee (played convincingly by Kurt Russell) from their spouses. Both men want to reconcile with their wives and at the same time they are concerned for the outcome of the game—Hightower fears a repeat of his disastrous fumble; Dundee fears his legendary reputation will crumble.

The Best of Times tries to ridicule the way some people take football too seriously, but at the same time tries to tap the off-season football-fanatic market. I don't enjoy football, but this didn't reduce my enjoyment of the film because all the football shots were fast-paced and did not waste too much time.

Most of my criticism would be of the ending which was... well, I cannot say much lest I reveal what happens (I believe a reviewer should *never* spoil the ending.)

RATINGS OF RECENT FILMS

By Timothy C. Lethbridge

Film	*Cinema*	OVERALL	MATURITY	ACTING	CHARACTER	THE MESSAGE	FEELING	ACTION	PLOT	CREDIBILITY	PHOTOGRAPHY
The Color Purple	Plaza	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	A−	A+	A+	A+
Paris Texas	Plaza	A	A+	A−	A	A	B+	B	A	A+	A
The Best of Times	Na'sis	B+	B+	B	B	A	B	B+	B−	B−	B
Power	Plaza	B−	B−	B	B+	B+	B−	B+	C	B	B
King Solomon's Mines	Na'sis	D	C−	C	D	F	C	B	D	F−	B-

FREDERICTON N.B.
chsr fm
GENERAL MEETING
FEBUARY TWELFTH
7:30 pm
In room 103 of the S.U.B.
Executive elections will be held at this meeting.
New members are welcomed.

Arms Pub
Friday, Feb. 7
Student Special *Merv Burger Platter*
from 5pm -7pm $1.99
Saturday, Feb. 8
Steak 'n Eggs from 9am - 2pm $1.99
Talent Contest starts at 2 PM
cash prizes
Lip Sync III Feb.12, 13, & 15
-over $1,000 in prizes from Muntz Stereo
* *all bands entered are eligible to win a draw for a trip to Florida.*
Remember that your Good Times are at the Bottom of the Hill!!



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