

# 'Honeymoon' paints stereotypical picture of Vegas

by Hollywood Rob

After seeing *The Freshman*, Andrew Bergman's send-up of the mob, I had hoped his latest effort, *Honeymoon in Vegas* would satirize this city's unique dealings in the same manner. Unfortunately it appears while filming his honeymoon, Bergman was divorced from his satiric wit and came down with a case of chronic O.E.—that's right kids, Over Elvis.

What's the deal with this Elvis thing anyway? He's not the only thing that ever happened in Las Vegas, you know. Outside of Elvis we're a regular Sodom and Gomorrah. Where were all the prostitutes that run rampant on our streets nightly when they were making this one?

My real problem with this movie is anyone who lives in Las Vegas will find no novelty in the tired re-treaded Vegas jokes we've all heard a million times. Instead of lampooning the lifestyles of the locals and tourists of sin city, we get Vegas stereotyping and silly gag-oriented comedy. Don't get me wrong, it's still an enjoyable flick, but check your brain at the door. Come on Andrew,

you're more intelligent than this half-hearted tome. Don't bow to please the masses, there's enough of that goin' around already.

WARNING: If you've seen the previews, don't waste your money—you've seen most of the funny parts.

Nick Cage is service-

the central location in our fair city, James Caan's aging playboy character is introduced. He's supposed to be the bad guy, but they make him out to be a likeable schmo, derailing what little motivation there is to root for Cage's one-note character. You get the feeling that with a little thera-



## *Honeymoon in Vegas*

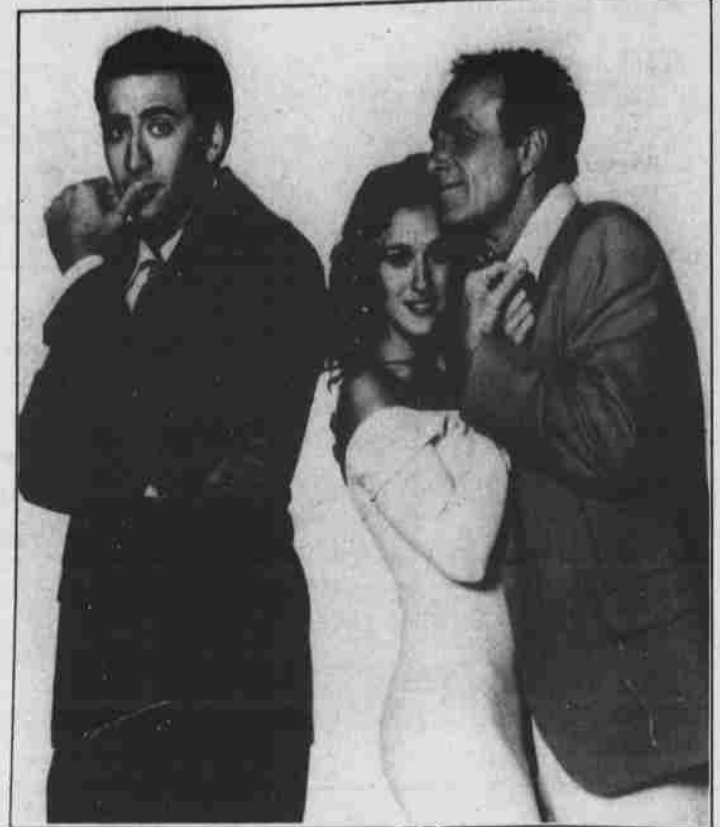
Starring James Caan, Nicholas Cage and Sarah Jessica Parker  
Directed by Andrew Bergman

able as the lead character boyfriend who can't commit to marry his girlfriend, Sarah Jessica Parker. This is due to his employment as a private investigator who deals mainly with cases of adultery and the fact that he promises his mother he will never marry when she is on her death-bed. Ho-Hum. Eventually his relationship sours because he won't take what she believes is the next natural step: marriage. But in a moment of inspiration, or maybe desperation, he decides to take a trip to Vegas and do the wedding thing. (Shotgun that is.)

Upon arrival at Bally's,

py, Caan's character could be a really wonderful guy.

After the couple settle into their hotel room, Cage gets involved in a card game and loses miserably to Caan. Jerry Tarkanian appears in this scene as a player in the card game. Maybe he should have been the bad guy, I'm sure there are some people on campus who believe he would fit that part perfectly. Anyway, Caan agrees to cover Cage's debt on one condition: if he can spend a weekend with Parker. This is the point where you're supposed to feel sorry for Nick because he lost all his money, but all I saw was a



Nicholas Cage (sans snakeskin jacket), Sarah Jessica Parker and James Caan star in 'Honeymoon in Vegas.'

valuable contribution to the economy in which I live.

Parker's character is a school teacher, which suggests she should have some intelligence, but once the weekend takes off, so does every ounce of gray matter in her pretty little head. She might as well be wearing a hotel vacancy sign on her forehead. Caan takes her to Hawaii where Parker gets starry eyed. At this point the audience should get sick.

The movie then sends

Cage on a pursuit of the new couple which results in too few, too predictable disasters that are too boring to mention. The pacing is clunky, and the plot nonexistent, but it keeps moving. The disappointment is it seems as if there was something under the surface that never came out because Bergman was trying to reach a wider audience. The honeymoon is over before it begins and we don't even get to taste the icing on the cake.

# 'Buffy' slays itself with low-mentality humor

by Daniel W. Duffy

While *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* may not be the worst film to come out this summer, it represents a downward trend in the film and television industry, the dilemma of division of viewers by ages.

Most films or TV shows geared at a younger audience can't be stomached by anyone over the age of 18. The money people behind films and TV are so obsessed with target audiences, they've forgotten how to make programs or films for all audiences. The sad thing is, most films and television aimed at younger folks usually talk down to and patronize them in a no-wit situation.

Whatever happened to Bugs Bunny or Rocky and Bullwinkle humor that was enjoyed by kids and adults alike? Kids didn't always get all the jokes in these shows, but they enjoyed

the slapstick elements while the adults enjoyed the cheeky humor.

The only modern example of this type of humor is "The Simpsons," and people in our oversensitized PC times harshly criticize this show as being a bad role model for children. What does Bart

that criticize "The Simpsons" had their way, we'd see reruns of "Little House on the Prairie" 24 hours a day.

Today kids are mentally challenged by the highly intellectual humor of TV beauties like "Charles In Charge" or "Saved By The Bell," which may provide



## *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*

Starring Kristy Swanson, Donald Sutherland and Luke Perry  
Directed by Fran Rubel Kuzui

Simpson do that is so bad? Is he not a young kid and do many of the same things kids do when they're young? Yes he's sarcastic, yes he sometimes makes trouble, and most importantly he questions authority and the ways adults do things. Parents are threatened by that. I think if the parents and groups

real teenage-like scenarios, but talk down to young people like they are total morons. *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* is the equivalent of these TV shows on the big screen.

After viewing *Buffy*, one questioned plagued my mind. Why was this film ever made? With an asinine title like *Buffy The*

*Vampire Slayer*, one would expect a farce or parody on the vampire genre, maybe something along the lines of a John Waters horror film. But no, *Buffy* almost seems to think of itself as a seriously funny movie rather than making fun of sappy horror flicks. It reminded me of a really bad Afterschool Special.

Buffy (Kristy Swanson—not to be confused with the Kristie Swanson who works at Telemedia in the Humanities Building—Warm it up Kris, I'm about to!) is your average Southern California teenage airhead, cheerleader type—who by some twist of fate, is the "chosen one" to fight vampires throughout the ages. She aligns herself with drunk punk Luke Perry (doing his best Shaggy impersonation) and this unlikely tandem hook up to do battle with the undead including Rutger Hauer and Paul "Pee-Wee Her-

man" Reubens. I half expected that knucklehead-vampire geek Count Cool Rider from TV 33 to come out of the woodwork somewhere in this lame flick.

The humor in *Buffy* is not intelligent, nor the slightest bit witty. Buffy just OD's on trying to use catch phrases in a humorous manner, not unlike sitcom humor. When Buffy tells one of the vampires he's having a bad hair day, and that was one of the best jokes from the entire film, you know it's a sorry movie.

The cast of *Buffy* is impressive and most of the actors put in admirable performances, but all that talent drowns in the cesspool of a really stupid story. Like most entertainment today *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* isn't offensive, it's just plain dumb.