

The Video Zone

Weekly video picks

BY TODD RODGERS
STAFF REPORTER

Welcome to yet another week of the Zone. It is drawing near the time that we break for summer. It's crunch time. Let's try to

take your mind off it with a couple of movies. I don't want you to get too excited though. It is still tough to get a hold of many good movies. Here we go.

The Shawshank Redemption: No problems finding a good one here. This is an exceptional film. It is a story about a man who is sent to prison for a crime he didn't commit. He uses his abilities to change the system and change people's lives. I won't get real heavy into the plot because it is better to fully experience this film. Superb acting by both Morgan Freeman and Tim Robbins and a riveting story make this one of the years best video releases to date. The running time is a little over two and a half hours but it is well worth it. This is an **A+**.

Hellbound: Not *Hellraiser* number whatever. It is the latest video offering from martial arts superstar Chuck Norris. The movie is horrible. Not quite as bad as *The Specialist*, but close. The story is bad and I won't punish you by recapping it. Avoid this. I am a fan of Chuck Norris and I don't think this was a good project for him to undertake. I guess this film proves that anyone with money can make a movie. It's an **F**.

Double Dragon: This is a theatrical release of the hit video game. Let me warn you right away that this a movie for kids. It centers around Jimmy and Billy Lee and their battle against evil. It is a very good movie for kids who like action movies, but can't go see any due to excessive violence. It really isn't bad. I've seen better but I have also seen a lot worse. I won't mention any names. It's a solid **C+**.

Real short this week. I promise something good next week. Possibly *Hoop Dreams*, *Quiz Show*, *Ed Wood*, *Forrest Gump* will be contenders so stayed tuned. As always thanks to Dave at Video Tyme for the movies.



Clive Owen makes his screen debut as a young, over-ambitious London doctor in *Century*.

Programs on UNLV-TV

UNLV-TV airs on Prime Cable Channel 4.

Thursday—Apr. 27
6:30-7 p.m.—NewsCenter 4
7-11 p.m.—Las Vegas City Council (April 19 Meeting)

Friday—Apr. 28
6:30-7 p.m.—Campus Connection
7-11 p.m.—Las Vegas City Council (April 27 Meeting)

Monday—May 1
7-7:30 p.m.—Las Vegas Town Hall
7:30-8 p.m.—The Western Tradition
8-8:30 p.m.—Against All Odds
8:30-9:30 p.m.—Voices and Visions
9:30-10 p.m.—Campus Connection
10-10:30 p.m.—New Music 95

Tuesday—May 2
7-7:30 p.m.—The Movie Show
7:30-8 p.m.—Healthquest
8-9 p.m.—Art of the Western World
9-10 p.m.—Growing Old in a New Age

Wednesday—May 3
7-11 p.m.—Clark County Commission (May 2 Meeting)

Take a Look into 'A Dog's Life'

BY JAMES KIM
STAFF REPORTER

Anyone who has ever endured a sleepless night or two wondering about the secret life of dogs can now rest a bit easier. The new book by Peter Mayle tells all.

A Dog's Life, a collection of memoirs taken from Mayle's dog, Boy, is a no holds barred look into the canine psyche that has, up until now, been hidden from the general public.

(This information should come as no surprise to the privileged few who have had the opportunity to become intimately acquainted with these creatures and who, therefore, have become privy to the inner workings of the dogs' world.)

The memoirs open with Boy's humble beginnings, told in his own words. He was just one pup-

py out of 13 that his mother had given birth to.

As if having to fight off his siblings for his share of mama's milk wasn't bad enough, Boy's mother mysteriously disappears one day, leaving her offspring to the care of a cold hearted owner.

The owner, whom Boy calls "Nimrod," decides that there are just too many mouths to feed and manages to sell all of Boy's brothers and sisters by referring to them as pure breed hunting dogs. Events then begin to proceed rather quickly after Nimrod and his friends take Boy on a hunting trip.

The sound of gunfire terrifies Boy, and he immediately hides under a van. This causes his owner to be more than a little embarrassed and angry. After a few failed attempts to train Boy, Nimrod decides to rid himself of

this cowardly dog by abandoning him in the forest.

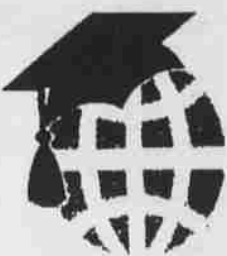
Boy's adventures in the French villages and countryside, as well as his many romantic encounters, are then hilariously retold from a decidedly canine perspective.

One especially amusing situation involves Boy's fight with the neighborhood cat. The action begins in a garage and ends with the cat's retreat up a tree.

The book then ends with the story of how he met his current owner, Mayle, and how Boy's rise to stardom was accomplished.

Mayle's new book will certainly give readers something to laugh about, especially those that have ever had the chance to own a dog. Mayle's other published works include *A Year in Provence*, *Toujours Provence*, and *Hotel Pastis*.

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