

Clowns

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certainly slipped off his cracker. In October's *Movieline* magazine, he voices his opinion about choosing *Showgirls* for his next project.

"I love nudity," Verhoven claimed, "especially female nudity. I love to look at naked girls." Spoken like a true artist. Thirty-five million dollars, however, is a hefty price to pay to look at naked women. His direction is shallow and shows no creative style. Hey, look at what he had to work with.

Which brings me to the man who is really to blame for this garbage, screenwriter Joe Eszterhas. Joe, what happened? You did a great job on *Basic Instinct* and *Jagged Edge*, what went wrong? Did the \$2 million they promised for *Showgirls* cloud your writing skills?

You have easily written dialogue that has less depth than *Last Action Hero*. I didn't think that was possible. The story had no meaning, no substance and your characters were so bored with themselves, that thank God for the musical numbers. Which, by the way, I've seen better shows at the *Space Stage* at Disneyland's Tomorrowland.

And the rape scene you wrote? What the hell did that have to do with anything? I think the air went out of your balloon. Let's hope that your next script, *Jade*, is a lot better than this.

Now let's get to the real reason that this film deserves to be burned at the stake: It's an unrealistic view of Las Vegas. I was born here and am very proud of our jewel in the desert.

I know we have had image problems in the past, but Verhoven has chosen to make a cinematic lie that will convince anyone seeing *Showgirls* that Vegas is truly *Sin City*. Again in this month's *Movieline*, Verhoven claims, "If there is a problem with *Showgirls*, it's really the reality of Las Vegas that's the problem. Why do people accept Vegas for what it is and yet have a problem with a movie that shows a slice of Vegas life? It's hypocritical."

Slice of life? Is he kidding?

Paul, you really don't know anything about our great city at all. *Showgirls* doesn't represent Las Vegas any more than the movie *Colors* accurately portrays Los Angeles.

You choose to look at our faults and portray them like it's a way of life. Sure we have nude bars, but so does LA, New York, Seattle, Atlanta

and many other major cities in America. Strippers are not allowed any contact with their customers at all. That's the law.

But in this film, characters do things that would make a sailor blush. Sell them tickets, Paul! This film is a slap in the face to every citizen of Las Vegas. You have taken a ste-

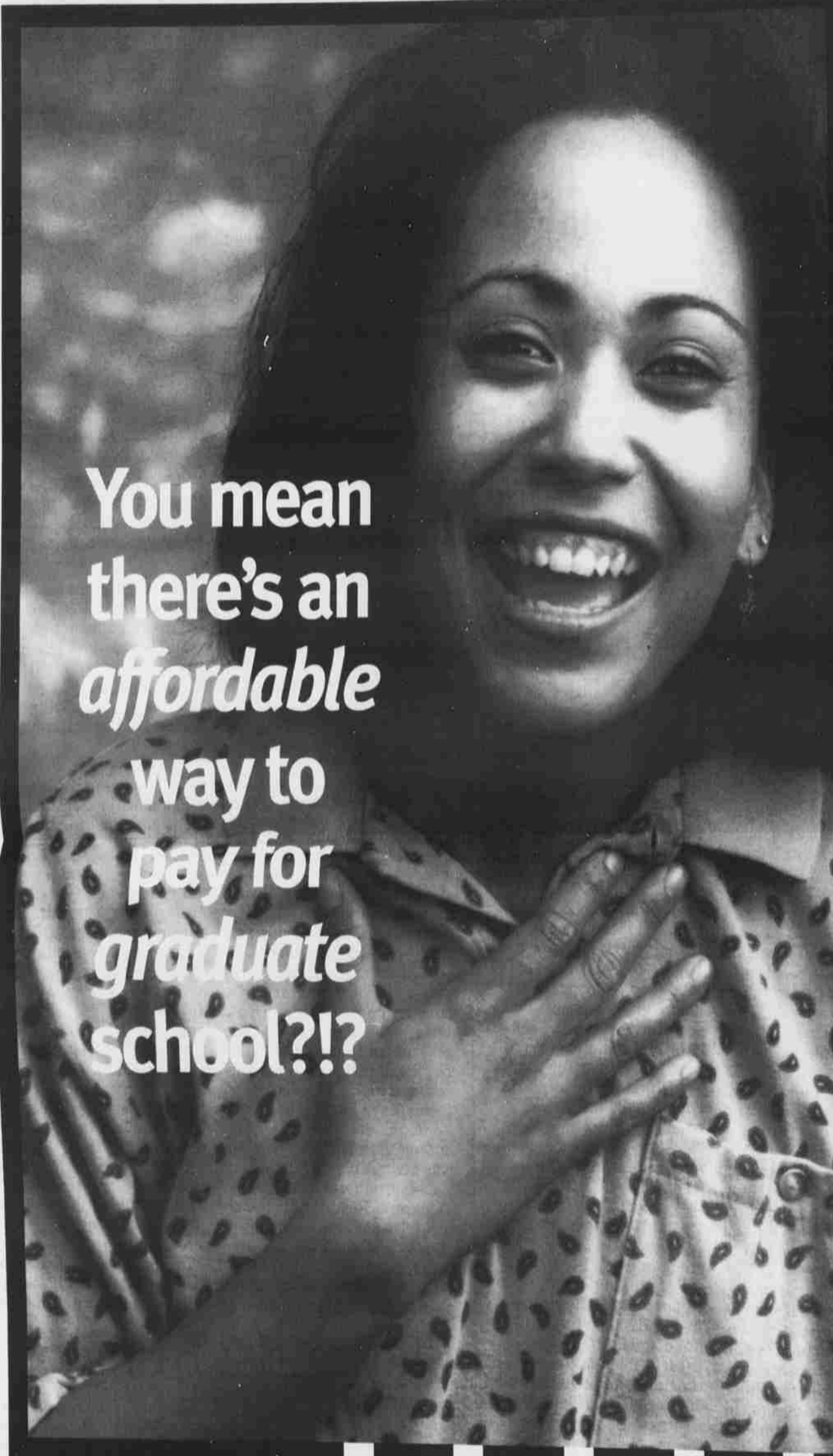
reotype and blown it way out of proportion.

Verhoven is from Holland, so that means he ate chocolate, lived in a windmill and wore wooden shoes to school. I see how this works. Is that a correct assumption, Paul?

The reality is, Las Vegas is the second most popular family destination after Orlando,

Fla. We have the 10th largest school district in America and a population of one million people and another million on its way. So, Paul, we don't all live in hotels and we don't all gamble; we just try to live the best we can. No thanks to you!

So avoid *Showgirls* at all costs. Check out *Nick At Night* instead. You'll be glad you did.



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