

Dead

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ing, discussing how Tony, who has no job, was going to get a certain woman. Tony acknowledges this, but feels he wants to do something "different," like joining the Marines.

They laugh it off, anthologizing that getting your head blown off would certainly be different. Tony goes to meet his girl Juanita (Rose Jackson), and we are fast-forwarded to 1969. Here, editor David Brisbin and the visual effects team are to be commended for the imagery shown in the shot of the lighting of a cigarette.

One minute, the cigarette is in Tony's hand, who has entered Kirby's (Keith David) bar. In the next frame, the cherry (at the end of the cigarette) fills the screen, enhanced by the rumbling sound of a bomb exploding, each ember imploding, in slow motion, into a fiery red ball. In the next second, you are back in the bar, hearing the talk about going to Vietnam.

The real heart of the matter comes fully to bear in 1971, when Tony, Jose (Freddy Rodriguez), Cleon (Bokeem Woodbine), and Skippy (Chris Tucker) come back from the war. Tony goes to see Juanita, mother to his daughter Sarah, who he has not yet seen and Skippy, who, by sustaining a war injury to his hand, receives money for school, veterans pay and medical benefits.

A barbaric ritual unfolds in a dinner scene with his parents, played by Jenifer Lewis and Clifton Powell. While shoveling the home-cooking into his face with his hands, his mother casually asks if he picked up any bad habits—like drugs or something. Not missing a mouthful, Tony retorts, "No bad habits, just a little killin'—for my country, of course."

His situation deteriorates when he is unable to secure employment and is forced to take work in the local meat market. Between not making enough money and Juanita reminding him of it, things

get worse with the return of Cutty, the rich pimp-like man who "took care" of Juanita and the baby while Tony was away at war.

All these circumstances lead to the final act of the movie; plans to rob the Federal Reserve of "dead presidents," slang for cash, that will be transported to Washington to be destroyed by fire. After making a plan with Kirby, Tony recruits Cleon, right after he finishes preaching a Sunday morning sermon. Jose, Kirby and Delilah, Juanita's college-educated sister (N'Bushe Wright) to carry out the plan.

Many young men's lives got messed up by participating in the Vietnam conflict, due to the killing and drugs that were being supplied. This sad message was almost lost via the way the film was abruptly ended.

Presidents offers quality film entertainment. It has poignancy, violence and action woven into every scene. The political message is clear; too many lives were destroyed by the unnecessary war. The lucky ones may actually have been the "dead" ones.

Performing Arts Calendar

For ticket and performance information, please call the box office at 895-3801 (TDD) 895-4717.

Oct. 12

Joseph Zeccola's new play *Horizons* starts tonight at 8 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre. Tickets \$5.

Oct. 14

James Whitmore's one-man show recreating the humor of Will Rogers shows at 8 p.m. at Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. Tickets are \$16, \$22.50 and \$27.50.

Oct. 18

Peter Feranec directs the world-renowned Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra at 8 p.m. at Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. For this Charles Vanda Master Series event, tickets are \$20, \$25, \$32.50, \$40 and \$50.

Oct. 20-21

Playwriting Conference for the aspiring playwright.

UNLV orchestra opens fall season

Felix Viscuglia leads the orchestra in its season opener at 2 p.m. on Oct. 22 in Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.

Assisting him is Artist-in-Residence Takayoshi Suzuki, who directs Franz Schubert's *Rosamunde Overture* and *Unfinished Symphony*. Suzuki, here for the 1995-96 school year, is a well-known and respected conductor and clinician both in the U.S. and Japan.

Viscuglia directs the beautifully poetic *Les Pre'lude* by Hungarian composer Franz Liszt.

The conductor has received rave reviews for the performances the campus orchestra has turned out under his direction.

Featured panelists Jerry Crawford, Red Shuttleworth partake in a panel discussion on Friday at 4 p.m. in Room 124, Alta Ham Fine Arts Building, followed by a book-

signing reception for "Lucky 13," a compilation of short plays by UNLV authors, at 6:30 p.m. At 1 p.m. in the Paul C. Harris Theatre on Saturday, more discussion, including Richard Garmise from the Dramatist Guild. For more information, please call 895-3666.

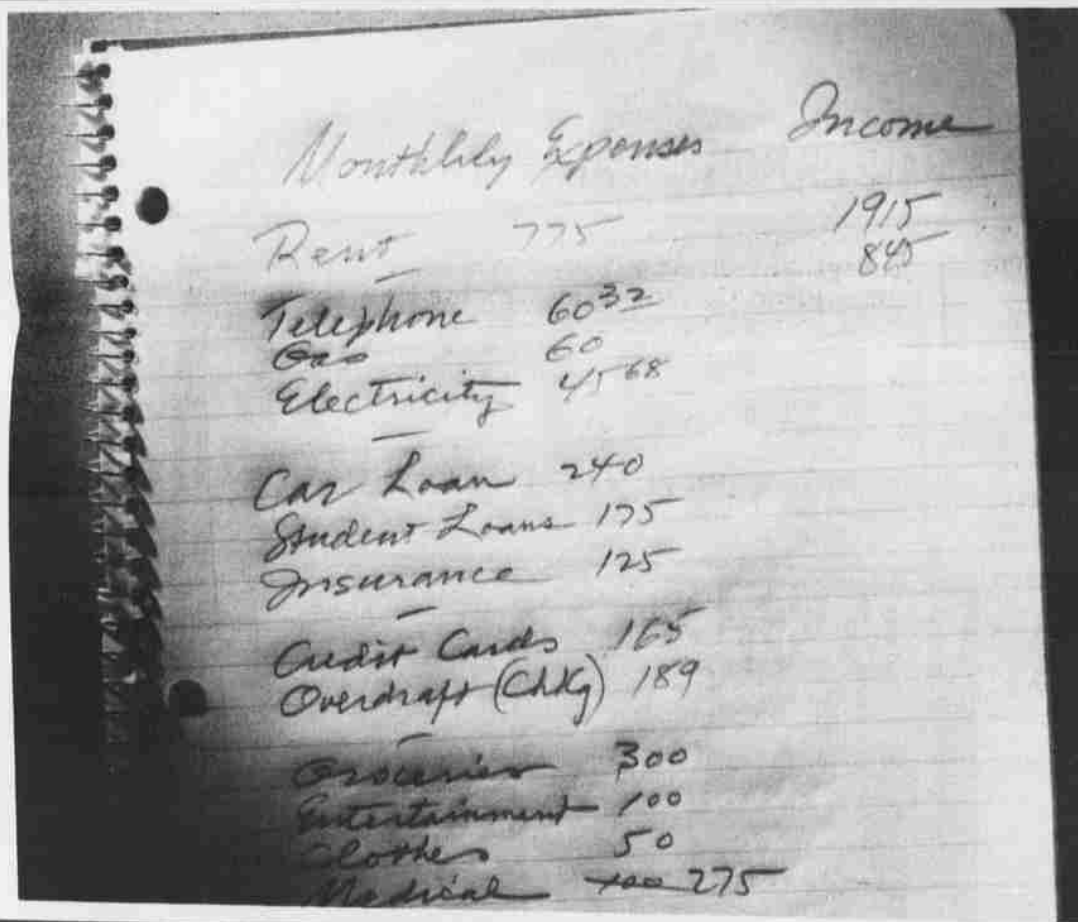
Oct. 22

The UNLV University Orchestra opens its season at 2 p.m. in Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. Admission is free.

Oct. 25-29

Department of Theatre Arts presents the Fall One-Act Play Festival, featuring Jennifer Laird's *Gravity*, Cheryldee Huddleston's *Behind the Lace Curtains* and Tony del Valle's *A Cry From Across the Country*. All performance are at 8 p.m. except on the 29th, which features a 2 p.m. matinee. Tickets are \$3.

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Jazz Playlist for week of Oct 3-10

1. John Fedchock
NY Big Band
2. The Michael Wolff Trio
Jump Start
3. Keith Jarrett
At the Blue Note
4. Sonny Fortune
A Better Understanding
5. Frank Morgan
Love Lost & Found
6. Joshua Redman Quartet
Spirit of the Moment
7. Don Braden
Organic
8. Lionel Hampton
For the Love of Music
9. The James Moody Quartet
Moody's Party
10. Tony Campise
Strange Beauty