

# Excalibur based on altered legend

If you spent a few precious hours of study time last semester viewing the film "Excalibur," you might not realize you were getting an education at the same time.

Stories about the movie's hero King Arthur date back to the sixth century, while references to the sought-after Holy Grail came along 600 years later, says a Texas A&M University history professor.

"Many people may not realize that the king's character is believed to have been based on a true Celtic king, Arthur, whose goal was to unite his own people

in battles against the Anglo-Saxons wanting to take Britain," said Dr. Z. J. Kosztołnyik. "Arthur lived in the early 500s, during the time the Celts were at war among themselves. He managed to unite them in victorious battles against the Saxons. After returning home, however, Arthur was killed in the lingering civil war."

The Arthurian legend has its roots in northern England as Celtic folklore. It was revived in a 12th century history of Britain's kings by Geoffrey of Monmouth.

The Holy Grail was mentioned first in

medieval French literature.

"The quest-for-the-Holy-Grail theme was carried on by 13th century French prose romances, which gave it Christian significance," Kosztołnyik said. "They linked it with the cup used by Christians at the Last Supper and with the story of Joseph of Arimathea, who used the chalice to catch the dripping blood of Christ on the cross."

St. Joseph reportedly took the chalice from Jerusalem to Rome and then to French soil, said the professor, and while legend reports it being in England, there are no documents showing that it was ever taken there.

In the 15th century, Sir Thomas Malory took the tales, mostly from French sources, and translated them into English. Malory accounts for the king winning the sword by pulling it from the stone. In the same work he also suggests the sword was given to Arthur by the Lady of the Lake, to whom it would eventually return.

In "Morte d'Arthur," by Malory, Sir Bedivere takes the sword and throws it back into the lake, while Arthur lies mortally wounded following his last battle.

So the tales of Arthur and Round Table of knights, while not entirely true, do have a basis in either fact or folklore.

## THIS WEEK

### Movies

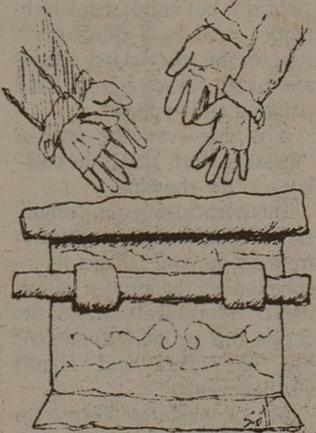
Check theatres for specific times and prices. Movies subject to change without notice. All listings are current through press time.

#### Campus Theater 846-6512

**Nighthawks:** Sylvester Stallone leaves his "Rocky" image behind to portray a tough New York detective who is after an imported German assassin. Billy Dee Williams stars as his partner, and together they race the clock to stop the terrorist. Persis Khambatta (who used to be bald in "Star Trek, The Motion Picture") also stars. Rated R.

**Inside Seeka:** Exactly how far inside this film actually goes, we would rather not know. You can find out for yourself Thursday, Friday and Saturday at midnight. Rated XXX.

#### Manor East 823-8300



**Raiders of the Lost Ark:** A collaboration of Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. A high-energy, 30s drama featuring Doc Savage and The Shadow type action. Harrison Ford stars as a mercenary-adventurer-archaeologist in competition with Nazis searching for the lost tablets from the ark of the covenant. Hitler is interested in the occult, Ford is the good guy. Rated PG.

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**Nice Dreams:** This movie is not as good as the first two Cheech and Chong movies. Which means that it is actually an extremely poor movie, although it might be o.k. if you like this sort of thing — and if you do, try your local drug rehabilitation center. Thomas Chong and Cheech Marin encounter more of their favorite things. See the movie yourself to find out what they are. Rated R.

**Outland:** 007 trades in his gun for a space laser. Sean Connery stars as the Law of Jupiter. Probably not as good as "Alien" or "Saturn V" but we tend to confuse all of those outer space epics anyway. In Dolby Stereo. Rated R.

*No midnight movies during the summer.*

#### The Grove 845-2916

*All movies start at 8:45 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.*

**Clockwork Orange:** A whole new concept of "Singing in the Rain." Malcolm McDowell stars as a darling British punk who takes violence a bit too far, but luckily the British government wants to save his little soul. The results shouldn't be hilarious, but they are. Brilliantly directed by Stanley Kubrick. Rated R. Thursday night.

**Foul Play:** Goldie Hawn and Chevy Chase star in this comedy of love and crime in the big city, San Francisco. Goldie Hawn plays Goldie Hawn, and Chevy Chase falls for her anyway. Features murder, chase scenes, snakes, devious plots and other exciting movie things. Rated PG. Friday night.

**The Warriors:** New York City will never be the same after these gangs finish their cross-town chase. They're after the Warriors, who don't plan on getting caught. A suspenseful movie, with a good dose of violence. Friday at midnight. Rated R.

**"10":** The film that shot cornrows, Ravel's "Bolero" and Bo Derek to instant stardom. Well two out of three fads aren't bad. Also stars Dudley Moore and Julie Andrews, although no one ever paid much attention to them. Well you should, though — they may not be sexy, but they're funny. Saturday night. Rated R.



**The China Syndrome:** Jane Fonda plays your typical pushy television reporter out to save the world from disaster. Unfortunately those who control the nuclear power plants would be rich than safe. Also stars Michael Douglas and Jack Lemmon. (Came out before Three Mile Island). Sunday night. Rated R.

**The Twelve Chairs:** A pre-Blazing Saddles Mel Brooks movie, also starring Frank Langella, better known as Dracula. Monday night.

**The Graduate:** Dustin Hoffman and Ann Bancroft star in this classic film which made no sense to most of us when it came out. But now, we are more experienced in the ways of the world... Features the beautiful expressive music of Simon and Garfunkel. August graduates get in free with obvious proof of

graduation (more than class ring). Tuesday night. Rated R.

**The Way We Were:** Redford and Streisand — together. What more can we say? A real tearjerker. He is a Hollywood writer; she is a perennial activist. They make a perfect couple — almost. The latest news says no sequel is in the making, so better see the first one again. Wednesday night.

#### Plitt Cinema I&II 846-6714

**Bustin' Loose:** The new and improved Richard Pryor, along with Cicely Tyson, star in this comedy about a parolee and a busload of orphans who encounter the law, the Ku Klux Klan and other All-America institutions while traveling through the South. Rated R.

**The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia:** Kristy McNichol and Mark Hamill star in a tale of singing other stuff in the South. Based on a song by Vicki Lawrence, better known as Carol Burnett's sidekick. McNichol's singing sounds like Tanya Tucker, and, for some odd reason, Hamill looks like the actor who played Luke Skywalker of "Star Wars" fame, but he wouldn't star in a film this corny, would he? Rated PG.

**Silver Streak:** Gene Wilder, a quiet handbook editor, decides to take the train to Chicago from Los Angeles, instead of flying so he can rest and relax. Unfortunately he encounters murder, horror and organized meanies. Fortunately he gets to romance Jill Clayburgh. He's so desperate, Wilder needs Richard Pryor help to escape death. Speak of your terror train. Friday and Saturday at midnight.

### Music

**Backstage:** Guests may eat dinner, or simply enjoy happy hour when draft beer is 35 cents,

bar drinks are 75 cents and all call drinks are half price.

**Grins:** Grin's presents Michael Marcoulier Friday and Saturday. Cover is \$2.50. Happy hour is 4-7 p.m. weekdays.

**Lakeview:** Tradition continues with Dennis Ivey and The Waymen playing country hits until midnight Thursday. Cover is \$1 for women and \$3 for men, with Lone Star draught beer 5¢ a cup. Friday is Rock 'n Roll night, with music by two bands, Albatross and Reflex. Cover is \$3. Saturday night, Bill Busby and the Lone Star Express perform. Advance tickets for John Conlee are now on sale for \$9 at Music Express, and will be \$10 at the door.

**Rebels:** Rebel's presents the Bill Watkins Band, playing a little bit of everything, with emphasis on country. Music starts at 8 on Friday and 9 on Saturday. No cover. Happy hour features half-price drinks Friday and Saturday.

**Rosewood Junction:** Bill Irving brings his folk music to Rosewood this weekend. Two-for-one happy hour until 7 p.m., no cover.

**Texas Hall of Fame:** Show off those cowboy boots Thursday night while kicking along with the Debonaires from Taylor until midnight. \$2 cover charge. Friday's band is Johnny Lyon and the Country Nu-Notes, from 9 to 1, for a \$2 cover. Saturday night, Gary Nail and the Armadillo Express play for a \$3 cover.

### Etc.

**Art Exhibit:** The art collection of Dr. Lloyd Taylor, former history professor at Texas A&M University, is on display at the Memorial Student Center Gallery. The exhibit features works of female artists.