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**Horror and hilarity: 'Tremors' terrifying but terribly amusing**

By ANDREW GARDNER Of The Battalion Staff

"Tremors" is not at all your standard horror flick. It's hilarious. Rudder Auditorium was filled to capacity for Aggie Cinema's sneak preview of the film last week. In fact, some moviegoers staked out places to sit in the aisles because no seats were left.

Although his performance is amusing, Kevin Bacon will win no critical acclaim for his starring role as a vagrant worker hard up for money and romance.

As the movie opens, he and co-star Fred Ward are working on a ranch where a young female college student (played by Finn Carter) is conducting seismological studies. She cannot explain some strange readings she has been measuring, but the explanation comes too soon for all of them.

"Tremors" contains all the standard elements of the classic horror/disaster movie: a small group of people cut off from any outside help is ravaged by a murderous force. The survivors try to stick together, but are separated from time to time as they try to save themselves from the seemingly inevitable evil.

Of course, the movie also contains the standard conflicts within the group at critical moments, as well as the requisite romantic interest. It also comes complete with plenty of slime and blood.

**TREMORS**

Starring Kevin Bacon Directed by Ron Underwood Rated PG-13

However, "Tremors" manages to use these clichéd devices to its advantage. Although predictable, they actually succeed in heightening the overall suspense of the film.

Michael Gross of the syndicated television show "Family Ties" and country singer Reba McEntire make an uproarious appearance as a gung-ho militant couple armed with just about every type of weapon known to the Armed Forces.

Throughout the film, the screenwriters effectively work such humor into the horror. The two blend increasingly well as the movie progresses, making up for a shaky beginning.

It wasn't always easy to shift between snickering and being shocked. Watching an old farmer being sucked into the ground is undeniably hysterical, although the scene clearly is meant to be terrifying.

The humor liberally sprinkled throughout "Tremors" is a comfort to those who have trouble dealing with ordinary horror movies. The laughs break up what would otherwise be long stretches of fear and face-hiding for the more easily scared.

*Aggie Cinema preview: Explicit 'Last Woman' sends shocking message*

By ANDREW GARDNER Of The Battalion Staff

Despite its X rating, "The Last Woman" never could be described as a "hot" movie. Instead, it has more of the effect of a cold shower.

Far from giving the viewer cheap thrills, the film is so disturbing it might even make celibacy seem momentarily appealing.

"The Last Woman," an Italian film produced in French with English subtitles, is the second movie in Aggie Cinema's International Series. It will show Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Tickets are \$2.50.

The story deals with Gerard, played by Gerard Depardieu, an unemployed engineer trying to support his baby boy, the product of his failed marriage.

While picking up his son at the day care center, Gerard is instantly attracted to Valerie, one of the teachers, played by Ornella Muti.

They come to live together in Gerard's apartment, where almost all of the action of the movie takes place.

The film opens on a side of France not seen by tourists. The bleak industrial wasteland is a fit-

ting backdrop for Gerard's sterile, self-defeating actions.

His woman-hating, macho attitude is apparent from the beginning of the film. Gerard is the extreme of the unfeeling male. Although physically a man, he still grasps for maturity.

Gerard makes it clear that to him, sexual prowess is the foundation of manhood. Before the end of the movie, he will be forced to face the shocking consequences of his belief.

The most significant result of his male-dominant view is that it makes him a slave. He comes to realize that he cannot base his manhood on his sexuality and still remain in control of himself. He ultimately makes a shocking rejection of the sexuality that controls him.

Be forewarned that this movie contains explicit nudity and sexual scenes. These scenes are especially disturbing because of their link with Gerard's brutal, animal-like nature.

The film also contains an equally disturbing violent scene at the end of the film.

You will be warned about the film's explicit nature several times before entering the theater. Do not take these warnings lightly.

**Crew's cuisine a cut above standard fare on cruise line**

MIAMI (AP) — One of the pleasures of taking a cruise is being wined and dined aboard ship, complete with white linen, fancy flatware, monogrammed china and stewards at your service.

You might even be invited to sit at the captain's table to partake of the culinary delights prepared by well-trained chefs in institution-sized kitchens.

But for a real treat, you probably should catch a few bites of what the crew cooks up for itself.

On board the SS Norway, they chow down on a variety of ethnic foods prepared in various galley-sand served in nine dining rooms. Although each dining room is designated for a particular segment of the ship's staff, some crossover is permitted.

"Some of the tastiest meals are prepared ... in the Chinese, Korean and Jamaican kitchens," says Barbara Birch, passenger services coordinator for Norwegian Cruise Line.

The primary reason for such varied fare is because the staff normally includes at least 40 nationalities, says Birch, a Brit who gave up a 17-year career at Barclay's bank in 1988 for a life at sea.

The Chinese kitchen is just off the laundry, where 16 Orientals clean and press clothing and maintain the ship's linens and towels for some 2,000 passengers and 800 crewmen during week-long Caribbean cruises

that depart from the Port of Miami.

There's no elaborate setting here; only a couple of tables next to some large presses.

Luichi Ma is head chef for the Chinese and prepares his meals in an apartment-size kitchen.

"I cook what I like or it depends on what we have available," says the Hong Kong native.

Steamed rice is always available, while main courses might include beef in plum sauce, chicken with oyster sauce and bean curd and marinated pork with sliced mushrooms.

Down the passageway is the Korean kitchen where Yoon Myung Won of Seoul is in charge.

"I'm making oxtail soup with boiled rice, fried fish, and I always have kim chee," he says. Kim chee is vegetables in a spicy sauce, a mainstay in his country.

Oliver Brown of Jamaica quit cooking in island hotels five years ago to run Norway's kitchen for crew members from the Caribbean and those whose taste buds favor spicy dishes.

"I'm preparing fricassee chicken, refried rice and red beans — that's spicy, of course — brown stew and red snapper," he says.

Brown doesn't want to cook for passengers. "For some, you can't spice it too much and one passenger wants a steak medium, another wants it rare. Here," he says, "everybody likes it hot."

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