Lifestyles

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## Spike Lee's film looks at interracial couples

By Timm Doolen

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Director Spike Lee contin-ues his analysis of racial atti-tudes in today's United States with his most recent entry,
"Jungle Fever," a look at interracial couples and the problems
surrounding those couples.

The movie takes its name

The movie takes its name from Lee's character whose best friend Flipper is having an affair with a white woman. "You got the jungle fever. The both of

Not only is she white, she's Italian – a temporary secretary in the architecture office Flipper (Wesley Snipes) works in. He's happily married with a child but easily gives into temp-tation when the opportunity presents itself.

to live with his parents until he and Angela (Anabella Sciorra) move in with each other.

Soon after the affair is uncovered, family members on both sides show their strong disapproval of the situation. Angela's father beats her, and Flipper's friends and family show their disapproval in their

After they begin living to-gether they realize how hard it is to be an interracial couple in New York (whether in Harlem, where he is from, or Bensonhurst, where she is

from). At one point Flipper is play-fighting with his girlfriend and is almost arrested for attacking her.

Possibly the most interesting and enlightening part of the movie is right after the breakup when several black women, including the estranged wife, start talking about relationships and talking about relationships and the decline of the "black male."

Also interesting are similar discussions among some young Italian men, one of which is Angela's old boyfriend, who, having lost his girlfriend to a black man asks a black girl out

The one quality I appreciate in Spike Lee's movies is his depth tation when the opportunity presents itself.

When his wife finds out, he is kicked out of his house, forced to live with his parents until he with an interracial love affair with an interracial love affair but could not bear the thought of having a child with mixed strains of blood. Although he is supposed to be one of the least prejudiced people in the movie, he still has his own prejudices.

Lee even makes something of the differences between lightskinned and dark-skinned blacks, which he also touched on in his previous "School

The acting was generally good, especially by veteran actors Anthony Quinn, Ruby Dee

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# Roberts portrays type-cast role in 'Dying Young'

By Julia E.S. Spencer

Julia Roberts, she of the wild mane and wide smile, has rocketed to stardom playing mostly unschooled, tough-but-vulnerable young women, from sexy waitress Daisy Araujo in "Mystic Pizza" to hopeful Hollywood hooker Vivian Ward in the phenomenally popular "Pretty Woman." In her latest film, "Dying Young," a three-hankie weeper, she portrays yet another variation on this character in the form of Hilary O'Neil, a street-smart working-class girl from Oakland, Ca., who is looking to escape from a life of failed relationships and meager resources.

Opposite her is the immensely talented stage and film actor Campbell Scott, (son of George C. Scott and Colleen Dewhurst), who was recently acclaimed for his portrayal of Willy in "Longtime Companion." Scott plays wealthy, privileged Victor Geddes, a reclusive, highly intelligent young man who highly intelligent young man who is sick with leukemia, and looking for a live-in caretaker to nurse him

while he goes through another course of chemotherapy.

Although not quite what his domineering father (David Selby) had in mind, he first more in Hiller when he hims more or the Hilary, whom he hires more on the basis of her short skirt than her admittedly short qualifications. Hilary moves into her quarters, wary of men in general after an unpleasant break-up with her latest boyfriend, and unaware of ex-

Surprised and horrified by Victor's violent reaction to the chemo, she tends him patiently while he vomits in his palatial bathroom, but isn't sure if she can stand north of San Francisco.



"Dying Young" stars Julia Roberts as Hilary O'Neil, an outgoing young woman hired to take care of Victor Geddes (Campbell Scott), a wealthy recluse suffering from leukemia.

to watch his pain and suffering. Ready to give up, she is convinced to stay when she realizes how much the lonely Victor needs friendship and understanding, not just nurs-

After a few weeks of treatment, actly how taxing and grueling her with Hilary preparing special job will be. with Hilary preparing special macrobiotic meals and Victor sharing his passion for classical music and the art of Klimt and Rossetti, he announces that his treatment is complete, and suggests that they take a vacation in the wine country

rian house, and befriend Gordon (Vincent D'Onofrio), a local worker, and Estelle Whittier, (Colleen Dewhurst) a thrice-widowed winery owner. Hilary and Victor also discover that despite their of black, white and silver. many differences, they are falling

Director Joel Schumacher (Flatliners) makes the most of the gorgeous Bay area and northern California locations in this film, and brilliantly uses light and color

There, they rent an old Victo-house, and befriend Gordon world and Victor's. The smoky clubs and bars Hilary frequents are lit with red and blue neon lights, while Victor's austere apartment is a study in monochrome shades

> The red-headed Hilary very literally brings color into Victor's life, and resembles the Titian-haired beauties of Klimt and Rossetti in the paintings he adores. Schumacher also has Victor

> > See DYING YOUNG/Page 4

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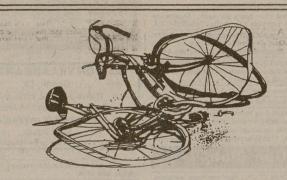
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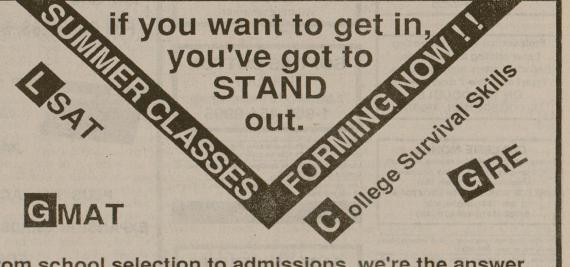


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