

'Christopher Columbus: The Discovery' fails to discover the talents of its crew

By ANAS BEN-MUSA

Staff Writer of THE BATTALION

"Christopher Columbus: The Discovery" Starring Marlon Brando, Tom Selleck, George Corraface, Rachel Ward
Directed by John Glen
Rated PG-13
Playing at Cinema III in Albertson's shopping center

If you are looking for a sweet, innocent, fairy-tale story, then "Christopher Columbus: The Discovery" is everything you would hope for in such a story. "Columbus" never deals with the political and economic implications of Columbus's proposition to travel to the Indies.

Throughout the film, the treachery and deceit inflicted by the various monarchs Columbus petitions for his voyage are never answered. During the first half of "Columbus," the audience is thrust into a surreal world where every adventure and predicament Columbus gets into ends in joyous laughter.

Director John Glen touches lightly on the political landscape that Columbus had to deal with in Spain. During the time Columbus was pleading with Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand for his commission, Spain was fighting the Muslim Empire in southern Spain and expelling the Jews. Yet, Glen only gives the audience a glimpse of these major historical events.

I was not expecting a detailed account of every battle, but more depth would have helped embellish the story. It would have answered many questions about why Columbus had to wait so long for his commission. Instead, Glen shows Columbus waiting around trying to convince people that his plan to sail around the world to the Far East is legitimate.

Of course, Glen overlooked the major religious events of that period, mainly the Spanish Inquisition. The Inquisition affected every single aspect of life,

including the reason it took Columbus several years to get his commission. However Glen blows by that aspect of Spain's history, like Carl Lewis in the 100-meter dash.

When Glen tried to embellish the film with some historical accuracy, he failed miserably. As Bugs Bunny would say, he forgot to take a left at Albuquerque.

In one scene, Columbus makes a deal with the crew that if land is not sighted within three days they can chop off his head. The history books never tell this event in Columbus's life. Nor does history presume Columbus is that confident or stupid to make such a proposition.

Yet, the lack of history can not compare to the lousy acting by some well established actors.

Tom Selleck, playing King Ferdinand, distracts the attention and focus of the story. Jessica Tandy would have been more appropriate to play Ferdinand than Selleck. Selleck moves in and out of his English accent like a yo-yo. My question is why Ferdinand, the Spanish King, would have an English accent?

Furthermore, Rachel Ward's portrayal of Queen Isabella compares with Julie Andrews' portrayal of Mary Poppins. Her character is so sweet and proper, as Wayne would say, "It makes you wanna hurl." Isabella at the time was fighting the Moors in southern Spain and had no problems kicking out the Jews; yet, "Columbus" makes her out to be a spiritual, delicate flower.

However, the most disappointing aspect of the film is Marlon Brando's portrayal of the Spanish Inquisitor, Torquemada.

Brando's character was so dull and obsolete that I saw no purpose in having him around. Unlike the real person, "Columbus's" Torquemada is a slow, stupid man.

If you are looking for a film that deals with fantasy and little reality, then go see "Christopher Columbus: The Discovery." The film dealt with as much history as Walt Disney's "Beauty and The Beast."

WORK SMARTER. NOT HARDER.

Engineering student? Smart.
Math or science major? Also smart.

On tests, you probably run equations over again to make sure they're right. So you're working harder.

You don't have to do that anymore. Not when you use the TI-68 Advanced Scientific or TI-85 Graphics Calculator, with their last equation replay feature — and many other smart functions.

We've spent years with students like you

and educators like your professors to develop the TI-68 and the TI-85. That's why they're so highly recommended.

For engineering students, the TI-68 solves up to five simultaneous equations, has complex number functions and offers formula programming.

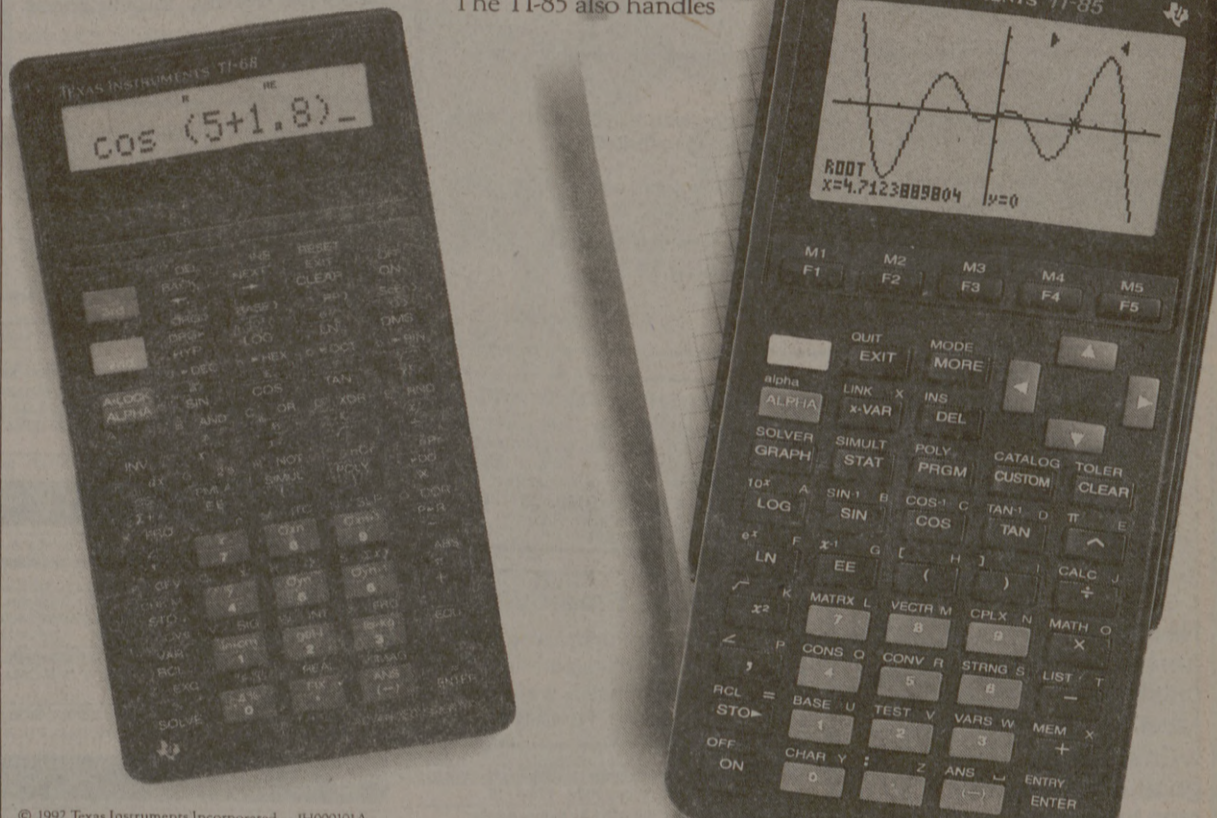
The TI-85 builds on the power of the TI-68 by adding a wide range of graphing capabilities. Math students can handle calculus problems more easily. And technical students can see the functions for a better understanding of problems.

The TI-85 also handles

complex numbers. Matrices. Vectors. Lists. Strings. Plus, it offers a powerful one-equation SOLVER.

Try a TI-68 or TI-85 at your local TI retailer today. And start working smarter. Instead of harder.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS



© 1992 Texas Instruments Incorporated IH000101A

'Material Issue' soars with Destination Universe

By TRICIA MARTINEZ

Reviewer of THE BATTALION

Material Issue
"Destination Universe"
Polygram Records

Chicago's Material Issue is known as one of the foremost practitioners of pop/rock and their latest project, "Destination Universe", enhances their reputation.

"Destination Universe" is a great LP which has already spawned a great lead track in "What Girls Want." This tune has a solid, steady, driving beat. It contains amazingly clever lyrics, and Jim Ellison, lead vocals/guitar, belts out strong vocals.

"What Girls Want" is gaining popularity on the record charts with lyrics such as "I want love,

I want drugs, I want sex and affection," sung throughout the tune.

Ellison wrote all the songs for "Destination Universe," and the three member group is able to pull off sounds that would make one think the band is chock-full of members by utilizing their guitar strengths and synthesizer sounds.

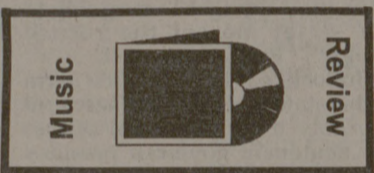
Ted Ansani, bass/vocals, and Mike Zelenko, drums, do a fantastic job in adding individuality to the LP. Ansani is a master at back-up vocals and his harmonizing is one of the best features of "Destination Universe," while Zelenko never misses on his rapid drum beats.

Most of the songs on "Destination Universe" are fast-paced. "Girl From Out Of This World" is a rocking little tune where El-

lison really shows his vocal range. When I first heard this one I thought it was a female on vocals because of Ellison's high range. He does, however, pull it off with class.

Material Issue really cranks all the way through "Destination Universe". The group possesses music versatility with crosses between pop, rock and some funk. The LP does contain a few ballads which are not really the band's strong point. "Everything" and "Don't You Think I Know," are good songs, they just aren't great.

Material Issue is known for its fun and crazy lyrics combined with grooving guitars and drums. "Destination Universe" exemplifies this along with a "get-to-the-point" rock and roll sound.



AN Aggie WITHOUT A 12TH Man Checking Account IS LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER

OPEN AN ACCOUNT AND GET A FREE PRINT OF THE TEXAS A&M CAMPUS!

If you're new to Texas A&M, you'll need to know about First American Bank's 12th Man Checking Account, the best and most inexpensive way to handle your money while in Aggieland!

GIG 'EM AGGIES!

- No Minimum Balance Required
- No Monthly Service Charge
- FREE MPACT Automated Teller Card
- 200 FREE Aggie Checks
- \$100 Opens Your Account

Your first 12 debits every month are free. After that, each debit is \$1. The only maintenance fee charged to your account is a \$12 annual fee.

FIRST American BANK
First American Bank Is Everywhere In Aggieland!

University Center 711 UNIVERSITY DR. ACROSS FROM TAMU 846-8751
Longmire Center 2302 LONGMIRE DRIVE OFF FM 2818, COLLEGE STATION 764-1170
Main Office 1111 BRIARCREST DRIVE BRYAN 268-7575
Convenience Center 1660 BRIARCREST DRIVE BRYAN 268-7575
Downtown Center 27TH ST. AT TEXAS AVENUE BRYAN 775-7575

Plus Seven Convenient MPACT Locations!
MEMBER FDIC

KTSR 92.1 MSC TOWN HALL CLUB & STUDENT PROGRAMS Aggie 96fm

present

MSC SHOWCASE

Thursday, September 3 7:30pm
Rudder Auditorium

FEATURING:

David Naster

1990 NACA CAMPUS COMEDIAN OF THE YEAR

ALSO PERFORMING:

GUITARIST Kyle Hutton 1992 Variety Show
VOCALIST Jill McClure 1992 Miss Texas A&M

David Garza
Champions of Texas music scene

Freshman tickets only \$2!
must present fee slip
All other students \$3
Non-student \$5

Tickets available at Rudder Box Office and immediately following the MSC Showcase...

AGGIE CINEMA
The Alternative Films Series ~ SEASON PREMIERE ~
\$2.00
9:30 p.m.
Rudder Theatre

Winona Ryder
Gena Rowlands
Giancarlo Esposito
Armin Mueller-Stahl
Rosie Perez
Matti Pellonpää
Isaach De Bankolé
Béatrice Dalle
Roberto Benigni

"Exc... onally funny."
—Vincent Canby, NEW YORK TIMES

"★★★★ Captivating."
—Jan Stuart, Newsday

A FILM BY JIM JARMUSCH
Night on Earth
FIVE TAXIS. FIVE CITIES. ONE NIGHT.

Music By Tom Waits