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By TIMM DOOLEN

Special to THE BATTALION

"Candyman" Starring Virginia Madsen, Tony Todd and Vanessa Williams

Directed by Bernard Rose Rated R Playing at Schulman 6

Who can take a body? Cover it with blood?

Rip out the intestines and throw 'em in the

The Candyman, the Candyman can The Candyman can 'cause he mixes it with leg-end to make the film sound good.

OK, so Sammy Davis, Jr. is probably turning in his grave, along with half of the cast of

Candyman, Candyman, Candyman, Candyman. If you say his name five times while looking in a mirror, he'll appear behind you and disembowel you. Or so the

legend goes in the fictional "Candyman," based on the Clive Barker story, "The Forbid-

The main protagonist, Helen (Virginia Madsen), is doing a thesis on urban legends — those modern terror stories that are told around campfires and at all-night sleepovers.

The "Candyman," played by Tony Todd, was murdered 100 years ago by a lynch mob who cut off his right hand and then let a hive of bees sting him to death. Now he's supposed to inhabit a run-down ghetto tene-ment in downtown Chicago, bludgeoning residents every once in a while

Investigating the legend, Helen finds Candyman's living area in an abandoned apartment. She soon finds herself being followed by the Candyman, waking up covered in blood next to a decapitated dog, and being blamed for the disappearance of a baby in the "haunted" tenement.

For the rest of the movie, the Candyman kills other people and lets Helen take the blame for it, trying to turn her into a horror legend of her own.

As horror movies go, this isn't the worst,

Lambs." It stays away from the senseless gore that other slasher films promote, but on the other hand it falls short in explaining the causes for any of the murders.

In the end, it's difficult to figure out what the point of the movie is, or why the Candyman wants to make Helen into another legend.

The first half of the movie drags to the point of boredom (with intermittent shocks) and then the second half is a flurry of action, accusations and dead bodies. But in the hurry to get on with the action, the story radically shifts its storyline and leaves behind any sense of significance.

I'm not normally a big fan of horror films, especially shock-slasher movies that try to scare you by any means possible. And while this is not as bad as a "Friday the 13th" or a "Silent Night, Deadly Night," it is definitely not up to par with other better horror films.

Who can take a movie? Turn it out so bad?

Use ice picks on babies, make us feel real sad? The Candyman...

Country charts fall short in I Jpercentage of female artist

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — In the midst of country music's celebration of its recent prosperity comes a most telling statistic: Only about 15 percent of the records on the Billboard country singles and albums charts are by female artists.

Country has long been a maledominated genre, but that percentage is low compared to a decade ago.

The conventional wisdom has

long been that women make up three-quarters of country music buyers and are more likely to buy records by men, especially the ones who looked like they just stepped out of a cigarette com-mercial and into jeans that are four sizes too small.

But a recent Recording Industry Association of America survey indicates that only half of country records are bought by women. Fe-males are buying the hunks, but then so are males.

Pam Tillis, racing up the charts with the single "Shake the Sugar Tree," thinks thir gs are getting better for female artists in spite of

what the charts may say.
''I don't think women previously respected in Nashv like they are now," says the daughter of Mel Tillis. The were expected to stand there look pretty and not make a waves. But then Loretta Lymon out and sang 'The Pill' and he result and sang 'The pill' and parton wrote some of her work and the attitude free full copyers and the attitude free says and the attitude free full copyers and the attitude for the full copyers and the full copyers and the full copyers and the full copyers and the full copyers are full copyers and the full copyers are full copyers. Marycre should have lo researc ful songs, and the attitude (women) started changing."

Suzy Bogguss' recent Cour Music Association Horn Award as best new artist show that the Nashville establishme of you, day, to t time aw is willing to expand its expertions of female artists. At then this sim

tions of female artists. At them
of awards voting, Bogguss u
zooming up the charts with "a
ting Go," which is about a danter leaving home to go to color
not your usual country them
Bogguss says it's important
women artists to keep their wies strong and their vision"We have a chance to sing and
so many real feelings and enso many real feelings and e tions and sometimes giving other side of the story. It's an citing time to be in Nashville she says.

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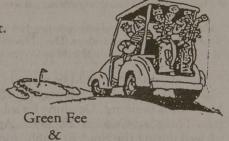
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