

Let's go to the movies

Former Schulman Six Theater renovates, remodels and reopens

By TRAVIS IRBY
Staff writer

It was said Caesar found Rome a city of brick, and left it a city of gold. If Caesar were around today, he might be impressed with the changes in the theater formerly known as the Schulman Six Theater.

When the Schulman Six Theater closed at the beginning of May many students were dismayed at the loss of Bryan-College Station's only discount cinema.

Rudy Bendixen, a senior computer science major, said he was disappointed when the theater closed.

"It was a great deal — the selection of movies was always decent and it was the only one of its kind out here," he said.

However, the newly decorated and renamed College Park Six and the surrounding stores came from what was, until recently, a single theater and some trees.

The College Park Six has been totally remodeled as part of an effort to develop the area, which is located near the Blinn Junior College campus. The new development is called College Park Center and complements the movie theater with eateries and shops.

Hassan Moin, College Park Six general manager and a senior business major, said the development was a partnership between Morris Schulman and Dennis Rother.

"The two owned the land, which was nothing but trees," Moin said, they decided to build on it to help revitalize the area."

Along with the new Blinn campus, the area once thought of as being somewhat isolated has now become one of the busier areas in Bryan-College Station area. Moin said there has been a significant increase in business

since the theater reopened. "During weekends, it is always busy, but the crowds have been huge — even on weekdays we're getting a big turnout," Moin said.

Moin said the response has been beneficial to the additions around and in the theater. When the theater reopened, all the College Park merchants came together to throw a grand opening party.

Moin said the theater was completely gutted. New carpet, seats and sound systems were added, along with an expansion of the concession stand, arcade and box office.

"The changes have made this one of the better discount movie theaters in the state," Moin said. "The quality of the shows compares with full price cinemas."

Bradley Hurt, an employee of College Park Six, previously worked at Hollywood 16.

"There are some big differences between discount movie theaters and first run movie theaters, but the overall quality here compares favorably to any one I've been in," Hurt said.

More than a few students seem to agree with him. "On the weekends we've sold out all the major shows," Hurt said. "And people will comment on how they really like the new theaters."

Jeremy Peterson, a senior computer engineering major, said College Park Six is already one of his favorite theaters in town.

"I've been to the mall theater three times and this one twice," Peterson said. "The discount wins hands down in terms of sound and comfort."

Peterson said the movies for the low price is a great deal and a major attraction.

"For \$2, you see a good movie in comfort, you can't beat it," Peterson said.

Bendixen said the cheap movies are not the only attraction anymore.

"With the restaurants around, you get something to eat before or after the movie, which is kind of nice, since it used to be there was nothing around here," Bendixen said.

College Park Six is a welcome sight to many, being it is the only discount theater around.

"If you like to watch a lot of movies, this is the way to go," Hurt said. "Because it's still \$2 cheaper here than the matinee prices at a first-run movie theater."

Bendixen said there are other reasons for having lower priced movies in this area.

"College students just don't have money, so inexpensive enter-

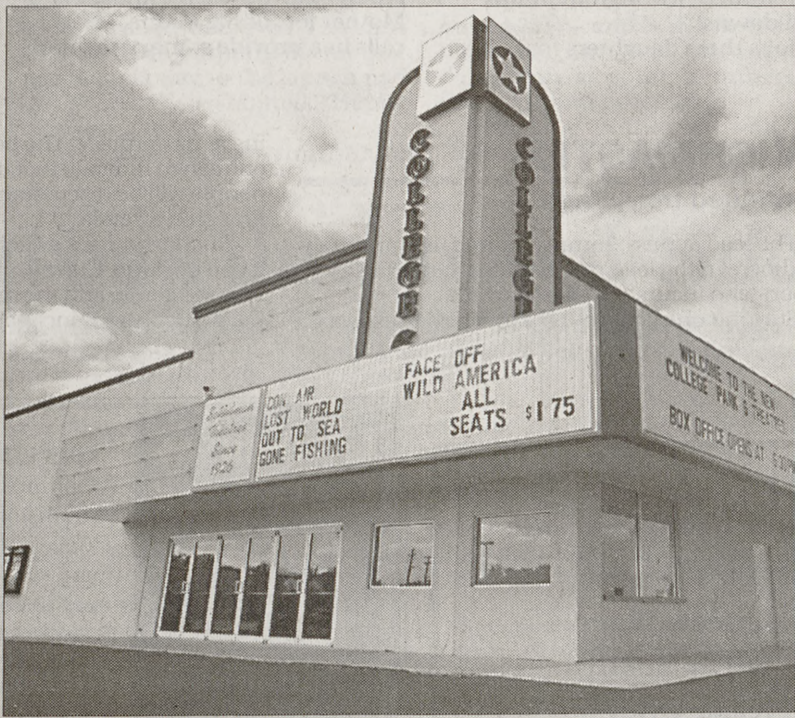
tainment is a necessity," Bendixen said.

Theater employees expect huge crowds in the coming months because of the coming of the summer blockbusters. Moin said people will think they are seeing them in a first-run theater.

"One of our houses was recently given a top rating by a theater ranking company," Moin said. "They graded us in movie quality and comfort."

Moin also said the theater might start showing movies on the weekdays.

Until then, local movie goers will have to wait for weeknights and weekends to see movies at a low cost.



RONY ANGKRIWAN/THE BATTALION

Wishing for more Wes Craven's follow up to *Scream* is a gruesome disappointment

Movie Review

Wishmaster
Starring Tammy Lauren and Andrew Divoff
Directed by Robert Kurtzman
Rated R
Playing at Hollywood 16
★ 1/2 (out of five)

By MICHAEL SCHAUB
Staff writer

In the first scene of *Wishmaster*, the new horror flick from executive producer Wes Craven, a man's skeleton pops out of his body and starts attacking everybody in the room, all the while hissing and making other menacing noises.

The skeleton, and the other poor souls who get violently dispatched, are bathed in red light and there is scary music in the background. The whole scene has the effect of a Grateful Dead video gone horribly awry.

It is trite and obvious and more than a little disgusting, and it is the high point of the movie. The best scenes of *Wishmaster* are the ones that require as little acting as possible, which means there is not much entertaining in this movie except the credits.

Wishmaster resuscitates a vaguely familiar plot. Like many straight-to-video horror standbys, it starts with a mystical jewel found in an ancient statue. This should teach all anthropology students a message: change majors immediately, unless you relish the

concept of psychotic genies doing unsavory things to you.

Anyway, the jewel somehow manages to release a race of evil creatures, called Djinn (pronounced like "gin," of which you may need plenty after seeing this movie), onto the indistinct urban area in which the film is set.

The Djinn have the power to grant wishes to anyone who asks. But unfortunately for their victims, they grant them in horribly ironic and unpleasant ways.

This movie would almost certainly go straight to video if it didn't have Wes Craven's lucrative name on it. Craven, who directed last year's surprisingly clever smash hit *Scream*, has an undeserved reputation as an original horror filmmaker.

Director Robert Kurtzman, formerly a special effects artist, shows little understanding of how to direct a film, or even how to operate a camera. He cuts between scenes abruptly, often in the middle of conversations, and seems to have little in his directorial repertoire besides liberal use of red lights and *Psycho*-style music.

Peter Atkins' screenplay contributes little. When a medical student manages to get his eyes sewn shut by a Djinn (Andrew Divoff), he screams, "Ahhh! My eyes! I can't see! Ahhh!" This is one of the more intelligent moments of dialogue in the film.

Give the casting director some credit, though, for some unusual casting choices. *Wishmaster* contains cameos by Kane Hodder (Jason Voorhees in *Friday the 13th*) and Robert Englund (Freddy in *A Nightmare on Elm Street*), both of whom gleefully overact their underwritten roles.

PLEASE SEE *WISHMASTER* ON PAGE 4.

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