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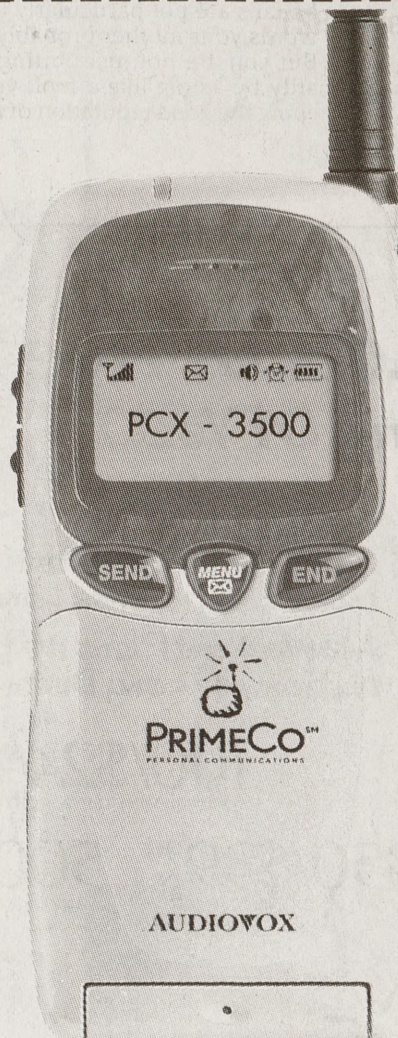
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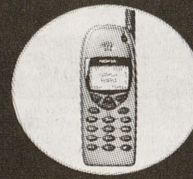
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REEL CRITIQUE

MOVIE REVIEWS

The Bone Collector

Starring Angelina Jolie and Denzel Washington
Directed by Phillip Noyce

The Bone Collector is one of the more surprisingly entertaining films of the fall. Despite having a familiar plot, this movie manages to bring an energy and style that make it totally engrossing.

Lincoln Rhyme (Washington) is an expert in forensics. Bedridden after an accident that left him paralyzed, Rhyme is asked to work on the case of a serial killer who enjoys daring the police to save his potential victims. Amelia Donaghy (Jolie) is the patrol cop who discovers the first body. Rhyme agrees to work the case if he can use Donaghy to collect the evidence, and the hunt for the killer begins.

Noyce (Clear and Present Danger, Patriot Games) sets a nice pace for the movie, paying homage to mysteries of years past with much of his camerawork. Noyce also manages to direct a movie that is suspenseful and appropriately jolting without overdoing the gore factor. Following in the tradition of Silence of the Lambs and Seven, Noyce chooses to let the viewer's imagination do most of the work.

The acting in this film is superb. Washington delivers another thoroughly entrancing performance, managing to remain charismatic in spite of being dressed in a warm-up suit and lying in a bed throughout most of the movie.

Jolie continues to prove that underneath those gorgeous looks lies the desire and the talent to become one of Hollywood's most talented actresses. In fact, it is the pairing of

these two that manages to elevate this film above the average thriller.

The Bone Collector does not revolutionize the genre in the ways that Silence of the Lambs did, and the film lacks the appropriate punch at the end to really shake the viewer in their boots.

However, thanks in part to Washington's and Jolie's performances, as well as the patient camerawork of Noyce, The Bone Collector is a well-crafted thriller. While not groundbreaking, this movie covers familiar territory with such sureness that fans of the genre will enjoy the sheer quality of it. (Grade: B-)

— Matt McCormick

House on Haunted Hill

Starring Geoffrey Rush and Famke Janssen
Directed by William Malone

One might expect that in order to watch a notable performance by Rush and still experience gore and ghosts, they would have to flip back and forth between Shine and Poltergeist. Actually, House on Haunted Hill manages to bring both of these elements together in a tidy package.

Steven Price (Rush), is a thrill seeking millionaire who takes pleasure in designing particularly scary amusement park rides. When his wife (Janssen) requests her birthday party be in an abandoned insane asylum with a tragic past, he decides to turn the party into a chance to have fun — offering to

pay any of the guests who see through the night one million dollars. He also decides to up the stakes by creating a few surprises of his own. However, it is not before the house begins to torment the guests, and the lure of money forgotten as the remaining guests fight to escape.

House on Haunted Hill is at moments. Malone, who has worked on TV's "Tales From Crypt," demonstrates the ability to stage unbelievably scary scenes, but obviously has trouble putting something together that does not require commercials. The movie is not bad. It just isn't as good as it could have been. The movie's great enthusiasm for making the viewer's skin crawl, but its faltering as the guests in the house fall to horror-movie clichés.

This movie's best part, and from the scene where a hand pencil is shoved through a neck, is Rush. The Oscar-winning actor continues to amaze audiences with his versatility. Even a used car-salesman charm. Rush takes to his over-the-top performance with vigor.

House on Haunted Hill is, in most part, a delightfully frightful movie. Those with weak stomachs should avoid the chili dogs. All people who expect every movie to be intelligent will probably be disappointed by the some of the reasoning. However, for every who loves a straight blood and horror movie, House on Haunted Hill does what the genre is known for — making viewers cover their eyes and squirm in their seats. (Grade: C)

— Matt McCormick

A = instant classic B = a cut above C = average
D = don't buy it F = burn in effigy

DENZEL WASHINGTON ANGELINA JOLIE



Two cops on the trail of a brutal killer. They must see as one, they must act as one, they must think as one, before the next victim falls.

the BONE COLLECTOR

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Is this

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