

Traditional sex roles challenged

by Azad Majeed

Ridley Scott's *Thelma and Louise* represents a political marriage between left-wing sentiments and right-wing Hollywood power. While this may seem to some an unholy union, the result is a film of enormous significance.

Thelma and Louise is a big-budget road film, a genre usually reserved for male actors. This stereotyping does not apply here, as it is Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon who inhabit the 'heroic' roles.

Of course, there have been other films which have placed women in traditionally male roles; however, they've usually done so to the detriment of any rational concept of femininity (for example, *Blue Steel*). What differentiates *Thelma and Louise* is not the role reversals; it is the ability of the film not to sink into gender stereotypes, allowing the two female leads to redefine femininity to an audience raised on images of strong women as foul-mouthed, cold-hearted bitch queens.

The relationship between the two female 'outlaws' reveals the element missing from most male 'buddy' films: these two women actually seem to care for each other. In male buddy films, the two leads are usually in a state of latent homosexual denial, producing characters who balk at tenderness or compassion. The friendship in *Thelma and Louise* is the central driving force which allows the two characters to grow and, ultimately, find some truth in their otherwise mundane lives.



Thelma and Louise is in the same category as Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*: both deal with oppressed people living within a power structure which claims to protect them. The movement of this type of film to the mainstream

is a welcome change from the traditionally watered down liberal treatment of social and political issues concerning oppressed peoples.

by Jim Russell

I was mad as hell and sick to death when I walked out of the theatre after watching *Thelma and Louise*.

Mad as hell because Hollywood has belched up yet another cine-

matic experience bereft of black characters. Unless you count one drug abuser—naturally—and a waitress (neither of whom have spoken lines) as a fair representation of black America.

Sick to death of men portrayed as snivelling, lying, adulterous, leering, drooling, ignorant, moronic, stealing, obscene, hypocritical, brutal, self-centred and degenerate rapists.

Thelma and Louise, contrary to the promos, is not a women's *Smokey and the Bandit*, although there are parts that mimic the buddy film sub-genre. It is an intricate and well-mapped story of two average women, played by Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis, whose weekend fishing trip turns in to disaster, then tragedy.

The growing friendship between the two characters only serves as a vehicle for the writer's bitter observations of women's victimization in a society run by men. To her credit, first time screenwriter Callie Khouri has crafted *Thelma and Louise* into rich characters with good dialogue. Unfortunately, though the core of the story is solid, the packaging stinks.

The poor quality of *Thelma and Louise's* cinematography is perhaps the most surprising thing to me. Cinematographer Adrian Biddle is no novice. He was the Director of Photography for the original *Alien*, *The Princess Bride*, *Willow*, *The Dawning* and most recently *The Tall Guy*. Yet, halfway through *Thelma and Louise*, I stopped counting the distracting camera angles, head shots and scenes lit in "sunrise/sunset" orange.

The good guy/bad guy characterizations, the heavy-handed moral message, the distracting musical score and the amateurish cinematography all cloak the brilliant performances of Sarandon and Davis in "ho hum" polyester.



Susan Sarandon (left) and Geena Davis star in Ridley Scott's *Thelma and Louise*. The portrayal of women as strong, decisive and self-sufficient has gotten a defensive reaction from some male viewers.

Coach Arnott typically optimistic Youth being added to York's football Yeomen

by Josh Rubin

If nothing else can be said about this year's Yeomen squad, you can say they'll be young—very young.

Of the 81 players so far confirmed for the end of August training camp, 48 are newcomers to the York gridiron scene.

But the third year York football coach Tom Arnott says he's still confident 11 of the team's 48 rookies will crack the starting lineup this fall.

"Our goal was to have a dozen freshmen who could start for us this year, and we're pretty close to that," said Arnott.

While still pursuing additional high school talent, Arnott has landed some prize catches, including defensive backs Adrian Donald and Jody Rowley.

Last year, Rowley played for Halton Region's Milton Secondary while the multi-talented Donald took to the field for Mayfield.

In addition to his success on the gridiron, Donald is also an accomplished jazz trumpet player.

Donald, Rowley and the rest of their teammates will have some tough work ahead in the 1991 season.

Gone from the Yeomen's lineup this year will be no fewer than 15 of last year's players, including standout Jeff Masterston and fellow grads Brad Matwijec and Nat Silvera.

Two recruits Arnott expects to have little trouble adjusting to OUA play are Victoria Park's Peter Floro and Pocock's Jimmy Soutanidis, who Arnott says are



Peter Stathis

York football Yeomen coach Tom Arnott clearly has something serious on his mind. It could be the collapse of Communism and the emerging New World Order—but, it's probably how many freshmen are going to be on this year's team.

"in the top five or six high school linebackers in the province this year."

Although Arnott is fairly happy with his recruiting so far, he's still pursuing a number of other young players, something which has made it difficult to come up with a workable playbook.

"We've got three different offensive schemes we're looking at right now, depending on who else we get," said Arnott.

Arnott and co. will have a chance to show their off-season progress September 5th, when they take on the McMaster

Marauders in the season's first exhibition match.

In last year's preseason matchup, the Yeomen edged the Marauders 19-15 for their only victory of the year.

by Josh Rubin

It was strange indeed to hear the strains of the goodbye song at Esther Shiner stadium last week.

Finally, though, the North York Rockets had won a game, their first of this month-old Canadian Soccer League season.

The Rockets did the trick by shutting out the hapless Winnipeg Fury 2-0 last Wednesday.

Despite the win, the 1,100 fans in attendance saw the Rockets blow a number of scoring chances that could have made the final result even more lopsided.

Marek Grabowski sealed the Fury's fate late in the first half, converting teammate Joseph Majcher's cross to put North York up 1-0.

Grabowski's marker also tied him for the league lead in scoring with four goals, a feat also accomplished by Montreal's Grant Needham.

The Rockets' lack of scoring punch is something which concerns coach Fiorigi Pagliuso, who says the team is searching high and low for a striker to complement Grabowski and fellow forward Eddie Berdusco.

"We're looking all over the place right now," said the fiery Pagliuso, adding that the search

has so far concentrated within the CSL.

And despite the team's dismal 1-3-3 record, the Rockets' mentor says he's generally pleased with his squad's efforts this season.

"We're a much better team than our record indicates," said Pagliuso. "We always play well against the good teams. Look at our games against Toronto."

Pagliuso was referring to a season-opening 2-2 tie and a hard-fought 3-2 loss at the hands of their cross-town rivals.

The 3-2 setback also marked the Rockets' home opener, where a record crowd of 3,742 showed up to watch.

An ecstatic Anthony Totera, who is the club's sales and marketing director, said 500 fans were turned away at the gate.

For newcomer Totera, it was a nice welcome to CSL soccer.

"It was a helluva dream for me and Fausto [club president Di Bernardino]," said Totera.

Incidentally, York students hoping to catch the Rockets in action won't have to pay full fare, as the club has donated a number of coupons which cut general admission from \$9.00 down to \$3.00.

Anyone wishing to pick up a coupon can drop by the *Excalibur* office at 111 Central Square.

Rockets win first game of season

sports