

# REEL REVIEWS

## Carpenter's "Christine" tends to run out of gas

Christine is a 1957 custom built, candy-apple red Plymouth that maims and kills before she leaves the assembly line. She is, as George Thorogood's raunchy Bad To The Bone emphasizes, one mean machine.

Or are those two incidents simply coincidence? Motor city malfunctions?

If Carpenter had left that question unanswered at least until close to the end, his film adaptation of the Stephen King novel would have made a great parable-cum-spoof of American youth's obsessive romance with the automobile: the ultimate love relationship between man and machine; the steps a youth smitten with car love takes to protect the slant six of his eye.

Keeping the audience guessing would have sustained the tension Carpenter established. As it is, Christine tends to run out of gas. When the car begins to repair itself, you know she has a life of her own. From there it's just a matter of time before all the nasties are done in.

Christine has much in common with Carrie, another King novel brought to the screen. Both are stories of awkward, shy outsiders who revenge the cruelty of their peers through access to supernatural powers. Both films are saved from slipping from the sublime into the totally ridiculous by the talents of their director and star. In Carrie, it was relative newcomers Brian DePalma and Sissy Spacek; in Christine, it's Carpenter and Keith Gordon.

Although the Plymouth's unique form of revenge becomes monotonous in its predictability, the stage-trained Gordon is fascinating to watch as he charts the slow, progressive change from high school wimp to teenage psychopath.

Carpenter seems to have profited from his previous horror-gore experiments. He has toned down the flowing blood, cheap scare tactics and bargain-basement special effects (remember the Fog?) and has concentrated more on atmosphere.

Taking his cue from Hitchcock, Carpenter has become more subtle, coaxing his suspense out of the off-beat love story. Only one slightly bloody body jumps up unexpectedly. Well, it's a start.

One more question. Why do people being chased by cars on the silver screen always try to elude them by running down the middle of the road?

**FIRST BLOOD** -- Count Dracula is touring the province with Theatre New Brunswick. The visit of Transylvania's batty ambassador reminded me of a little game. Perhaps you might like to play.

The game is called: What's Dracula's favorite? For example: What is Dracula's favorite drink? Right, a bloody Mary. And my contribution: What is Dracula's favourite car? An anti-Chrysler!

I'll take the writer of the best answer to a movie. Drop your answers off at the Brunswickan office in the

box marked William Claire. W.C. reserves the right to edit, disregard or destroy entries. Let's try to be clever, not gross. Deadline is noon Friday, Feb. 10. Winner will be published Friday, Feb. 17.

**APOLOGY** -- The Nashwaaksis Twin Cinema is not offering a student discount for its Hitchcock series. The report in last week's column was incorrect. The error is the sole

responsibility of the reporter who apologizes for any inconvenience caused to theatre management and staff or UNB and St. Thomas students.



Photo: KAREN OSTLER



### SINGING VALENTINES

Is there someone out there whom you like very much? Is there some shmuck out there you'd like to have told off? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions we can accommodate you. We will personally sing some romantic verses and present a carnation to anyone on campus you so designate to us. Also, if someone has spurned your attentions, we will sing them some more "appropriate" verses and present the wretch with a dead carnation. (Yes, in public if you like! And we will accept any personalized verses if you so desire!)

Book now for Feb. 12, 13 or 14th. The charge is \$3.00, payable at the AISEC office to the left of the SUB grocery, phone number is 453-4968.

### Caribbean Circle Meeting

Saturday 4th February  
Rm. 103 - SUB  
at 12:45 p.m.

All West Indians and Canadians who are interested in assisting us in Caribbean Nite are welcomed.

**Caribbean Lunch Today** *Come and join us*  
Room 26 at the S.U.B.  
11:30-11:30 p.m.