October 7, 1988

OPINION Wm. (ubiquity) Sykes

Excuse me; would someone ponenets of their lives and please bomb the Franklin livelihood. As an excuse, they Mint? I'm sorry, I don't know seize upon racism and bigotry exactly where it is nor and, beginning with simplistic whether it's all in just one place. I can't tell you how need but, when it comes to relieving humanity of a high explosive?

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How do you feel about understatement? As a narrative device, that is.

The movie **Betrayed** has met, to date, with what we call 'mixed reviews.' Why? One reason is an apparent inability or unwillingness by some to accept the film's subject matter and storyline as, in any way, resembling what is possible, likely or actual in the real world. Another reason may have to do with a kind of emotional insulation which you might notice between yourself and the movie on the screen. I noticed it: the events I saw and the dialogue I heard were remote. There was some distance between what the characters felt and my experience of their situations.

Regarding subject matter and storyline, Betrayed concerns itself with people (rural Americans) who are becoming bewildered and desperate in the midst of a world, a society from which they feel alienated; they sense a loss of control over certain basic com-

common attitudes then progressing to coordinated direct much TNT or dynamite you'll action, they resort to violence and anarchy (in the word's universally misunderstood cultural embarrassment, can. sense). Among the extreme you ever really have too much actions to which these people profess to be driven are: the assassination of outspoken advocates of tolerance and cooperation, the pretend sportsmanship of hunting an armed black person in the woods at night, the quasireligious independent schooling of their children in both ideology and weaponry, and the creation of martyrs to their own cause. The personal drama of the movie arises from the experience of a woman special investigator for the U.S. Department of Justice who infiltrates a community looking for evidence in a particular murder case in which a Chicago radio talk host was killed in terrorist style. The investigator (Debra Winger) becomes involved with a widowed farmer and his young family and forms a rather deep attachment before finding out that he is one of the main proponents of this white supremist organization. Her conflict, and thus the story's conflict, is very internal,

despite the very starkness of

the events portrayed.

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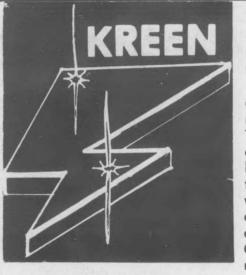
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But people are having problems with the premise of this story. A number of reviewers can't seem to swallow the idea need exit visas." If he were to order to appreciate this movie.

THE BRUNSWICKAN 11

chronic oversimplification to don't think it will be so easily which Americans are so often dismissed as it would probably victim then yes, he would be be if it had taken its message

a long and frequently crusading film (which usually respected tradition in the U.S. makes a movie ridiculous) but The active, violent oppression by somehow muting its action of visible minorities, especial- and dialogue, by using what I ly in times of economic uncer- call understatement, by being tainty, is nothing new in the almost gentle in the portrayal world. Anyone who's come of deranged fanaticism, across information about such perhaps the movie will inject organizations as the Posse Comitatus in its present-day manifestations whould have no difficulty appreciating the reality of what this movie suggests

The other problem with that a small cross-section of a Betrayed, I suspect, arises population might band from the general inability of together in the face of what the film idiom to treat comthey see as a social conspiracy plex, intricate situations and to cheat them out of a fair personal, internal difficulty as share in life and rebel violent- well as does good written ficly, forming their own rudimen- tion. Hence the 'barrier' bettary conspiracy. One critic ween the characters and the (David Elliot) said "If America audience; hence the need for is in this bad a shape, then we some basic grounding in don't need this movie, we history and real experience in go somewhere that offers a I'm willing to predict that this fuller perspective on the film will live for guite a while; I

SLASH - FEST! FREDDY KEEPS CHOP CHOP CHOPPIN' ALONG

By RAY & STEVE

Freddy's back (surprize, surprize!), and he's out for fresh souls. The fourth installment of the "Elm Street" series stars Rober Englund once again as the morbidly witty Fred Krueger. Freddy comes back to life when Jason, the dog does a hot number on his arave during Kincade's (Elm Street 3) final nightmare. Kristen and Joey, also from Part 3, make a brief appearance in the movie as well. Most notable is Joey's "wet

dream".

dream sequences. Freddy delivers more one-liners than Schwarzenegger and Stallone combined, and provides a humourous and grostesque ninety minutes. The special effects were the best yet for the series, but the story line was quite familiar and provided few surprizes. This was no doubt due to absence of Wes Craven's direction.

All in all, "Elm Street 4" is not a great movie, but it is certainly entertaining, and is a must-see for Freddy fans. It

better served by an exit visa. and browbeat us with it. The Ku Klux Klan does have Betrayed could have been a its ideas under our skin for a longer and more influential stay.

As I write, it's only been 24 hours since I say Betrayed; I feel it deserves at least a second viewing.

For what it's worth, the screenplay was written by Joe Eszterhas (he's also one of the Executive-Producers) and you may recall him as the author of 1985's Jagged Edge. You may not expect him to have been the co-author of the movie Flashdance in 1983, but he was, and I guess he's managing to live that down.

Otherwise, and it's maybe superfluous to say this, but as an actress, Debra Winger is really unique; she never comes across as alamorous in the way of movies, which suggests to me that somebody is exercising sound judgement because she could very easily be made-up and photographed in such a way as to negate the believability she conveys.

Did you notice my absense last week? Yes, well, it took a while to recover from being shot in reversal, rendered negative and having all my e's washed out two weeks ago What imaginative cruelty will my bastard editor contrive next?

JUS WEEK

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