

## Hey, two new movies

by Gurn Blansen

Marked For Death

A startling change of pace for martial arts action star Steven Seagal. The left wing themes of his two previous films have been abandoned in favour of nauseatingly gratuitous violence and right wing

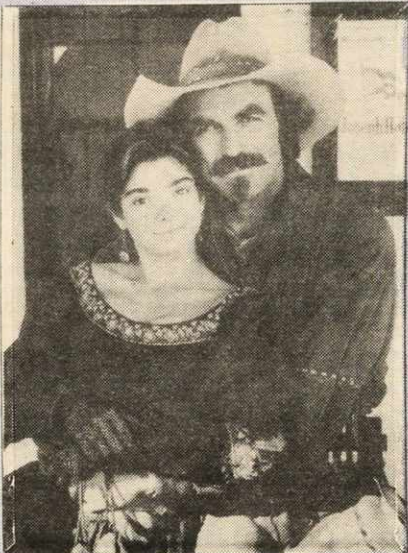
vigilantism. This time around, he comes up against a dangerous gang of Jamaican drug dealers led by a maniacal rastafarian who practices black magic.

Unfortunately, the film has so little plot to keep the audience interested that Seagal is made twice as ruthless to make up for it. This is a guy who doesn't carry spare am-

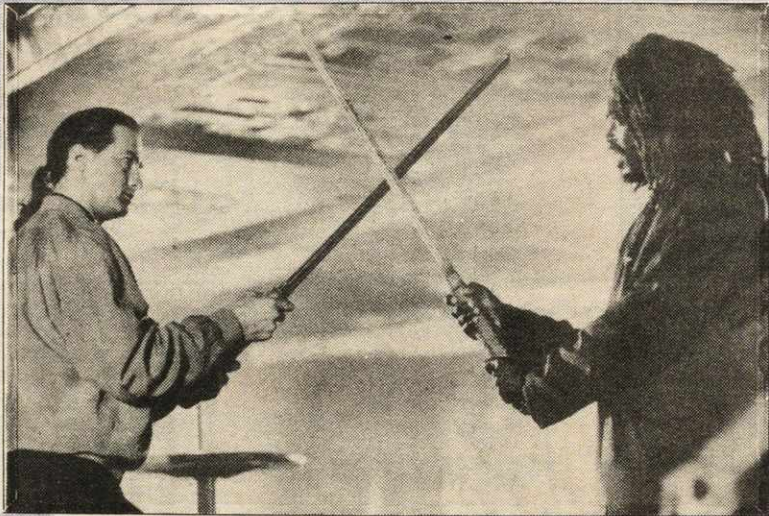
munition, he carries spare guns! In fact the only positive thing about this picture is that it presents the Jamaican drug problem as a problem, rather than an accepted social condition. For Seagal fans only, others beware!

Quigley Down Under

Tom Selleck stars in his best role so far, as an American cowboy in the Australian Outback. Directed by Simon Wincer (Lonesome Dove), this is an old-fashioned Western made with loving admiration for the genre. The big twist is that Selleck fights on behalf of the Aborigines against a ruthless English rancher played by Alan Rickman (virtually reprising his villain role from Die Hard). Laura San Giacomo (Sex, Lies and Videotapes) appears as the feisty love interest. The breathtaking scenery of Australia also plays a starring role and necessitates viewing on the big screen. An example of dependably entertaining filmmaking!



Tom Selleck and Laura San Giacomo



Steven Seagal and Basil Wallace square off

## Memphis Belle falls short

by Kevin Spencer

One thing about cliches is that they, by virtue of what they are, are true. Another thing about cliches is that if you are going to put them in your movie, you had somehow better make them fresh. This isn't easy, especially in a war movie where all the cliches have been used, and used again, thus making it especially difficult to make a war movie effective.

There have been some notable fairly recent exceptions to this rule, for example, *Full Metal Jacket* and *Platoon* worked because they failed to glamorize war and fall victim to resorting to the easy truisms in the way that many of their predecessors did. Unfortunately, despite some strong performances, *Memphis Belle* did not.

*Memphis Belle* is banal in the extreme which is sad because it had the potential to be a lot better. The film follows the true story of the WWII flight crew of the 'Belle' as they fly their final flight in an attempt to become the first allied crew to complete twenty-five bombing raids over enemy territory. Although the plot is pretty much set the movie still manages to create some very tense drama before all our boys come home again. Throughout the entire ordeal there is an army PR man (played somewhat subduedly by John Lithgow) who is more than ready to take what he hopes to be the young heroes home for a tour of the States to boost the country's waning moral.

Now men, I'm going to take role call and when you hear your name I want you to step forward, state

your name, and the cliché you represent.

- Modine!
- Sir! Captain Matthew Modine, the tough but fair Co. who will get his men through no matter what.
- Stolz!
- Sir! Private Eric Stolz, the Irish boy with a heart of gold who loves poetry and 'Danny Boy'.
- Sweeney!
- Sir! Lieutenant D.B. Sweeney, the man whose nerves are frayed and who can't take the pressure anymore.
- Zane!
- Sir! Lieutenant Billy Zane, the bombardier with the nerves of steel who brings everybody together.
- ... and so on.

All of these actors as well as the rest of the supporting cast give decent performances and it is not with them that the fault of this movie lies. It is with the director, who backlights every character to make them seem angelic and innocent and gives the film a glamorized anti-septic feel. This might be okay if he was making a film about cute little bunnies, but in the post-Vietnam era of moviemaking it just doesn't cut it. For all this, *Memphis Belle* isn't totally unentertaining. Somehow you manage to feel something for the characters and the tale, and with some decent action scenes thrown in you just manage to walk out feeling vaguely dissatisfied.

If you want to see a jigsaw movie, where at the end everything fits and everybody gets a girl then this is your baby. Otherwise don't bother.



## JACKETS

- \* LEATHER
- \* MELTON & LEATHER
- \* NYLON

We have a great variety of crests available to customize your jacket!



MARITIME CAMPUS STORE

6238 Quinpool Road, Halifax

Retail 423-6523 Wholesale 429-3391