

Divide good, Belushi better

By Ken Burke

When most people hear it said, "Well, the movie was sort of a cliché, parts of it were too slow, and it was kinda predictable, but the actor, now HE was terrific!", the theatre can be avoided like your weird cousin who smells bad. Well, **CONTINENTAL DIVIDE** is such a movie, but (and this is a major but) the actor is John Belushi, giving a comic performance refreshingly different from his past roles (he's funny, too!). Michael Apted directs with fluid skill, but with support from co-star Blair Brown, Belushi is the main reason to see this film.

The plot itself is straight from the Hollywood textbook: overweight chain-smoking Chicago reporter is sent to interview a beautiful-but-tough conservationist who is secluded in the Rockies and hostile to reporters. When they are stranded together, she gives in first to the interview and then to the reporter. If the plot sounds a trifle cute and contrived, that is only because it is. It starts off slowly as well - the first 10-15 minutes are listless, watching the Chicago life of Ernie Souchak (Belushi). We know the story is setting itself up, but it's not going anywhere, as if writer Lawrence Kasdan was killing time until the real story would begin.

It does, as does the movie, when Souchak is sent to interview the eagle-loving conservationist, played by Blair Brown, high in the Rockies. The chemistry between Belushi and Brown eases the movie firmly into the right groove for Romantic Comedy. She looks like a condensation of all the Ivory girls throughout history into one wholesome whole, and someone who'd actually spend four years with bald eagles. Brown plays more than a straight woman to Belushi here - her toughness and independence don't cave in under a man's love, as happens with so many so-called "liberated" women in films these days.

The weight of the film (so to speak) lies with Belushi, though. In his earlier roles, he never did a lot of talking - a grunt or a scowl sufficed for the parts. But in **DIVIDE**, Belushi's Souchak speaks intelligently; is witty, weak, cynical, a romantic fool; in short, the kind of character Bill Murray might usually play. Belushi proves himself with a calm, understated performance that's a treat to see, and I'd like to see more of this Belushi. The one-liners, almost all hitting, are delivered easily - Belushi doesn't have to yell to get a laugh anymore. For example, when Brown returns from the eagles to find Belushi on the cabin floor, bloody and cut from a mountain lion attack, his calm "How was your day?" is damn near perfect.

As for significant theme or social comment, the film is void (the eagles mostly provide nice scenery), but then again, it never tries for meaningfulness.

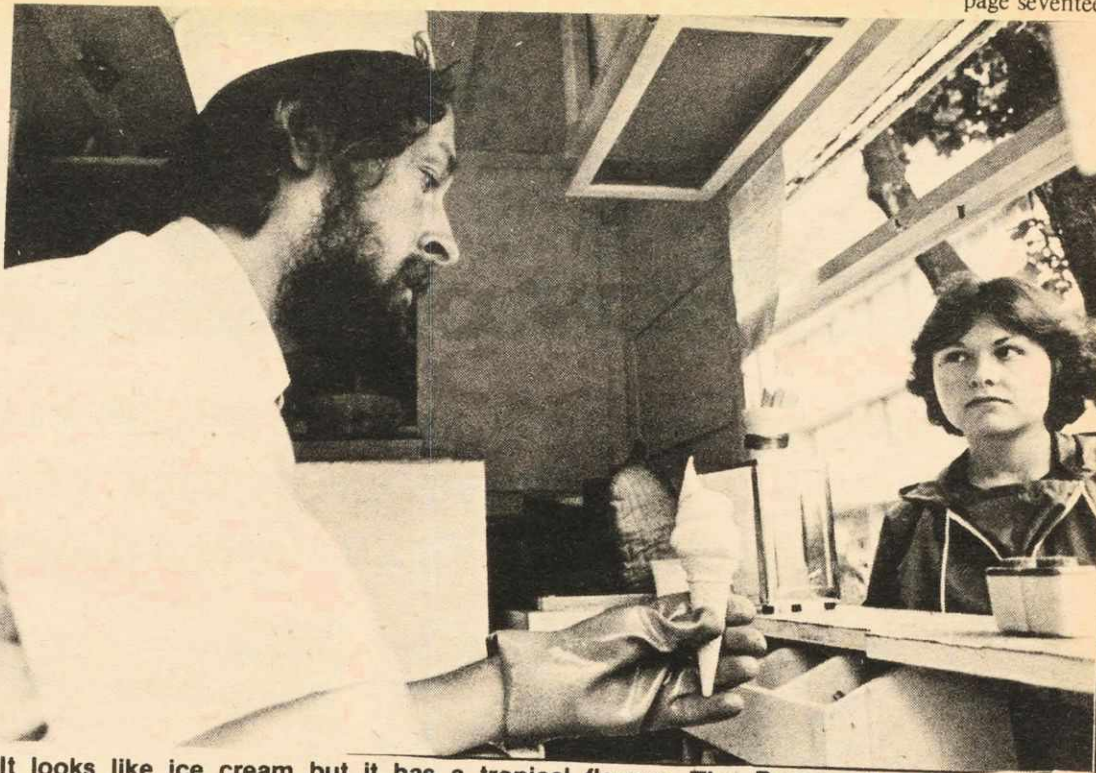
This is truly light entertainment - it's cute, but it's enjoyably cute. Hell, I even guessed wrong as to the ending. So if you're looking for a fun, if not earth-shaking, film, **CONTINENTAL DIVIDE** might prove to be better than you'd expect. Honest.

Two Poems

by Susan Matheson

i stare at the mirror
and it stares back at me
a red-eyed, bleary image,
stripped of all civility-
a fairly average specimen
of "morning-after" humility

myriad moths
on silvered screens
nervously slipping in the liquid light
in frenzied
crowds
around the overflow from the insufficient blind



Dal Photo/ Cheney

It looks like ice cream but it has a tropical flavour. The Banana Man will be oozing out banana cones in front of the SUB until colder weather sets in.

Food

by Janice Gaskell

Every newspaper needs a food reporter. "A what?" you ask. A food reporter is someone who likes to eat and likes to talk about it. Having accepted those facts, you now inquire, "Does the **Dalhousie Gazette** have a food reporter? Yes, it does!

Keep a look out. In the following weeks it will contain articles on food, restaurant reviews, and recipes. Suggestions for the column can be directed to the **Dalhousie Gazette** office in the SUB, or dropped off at the Enquiry Desk.

Next week's column will be about eating on campus.

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