

chuck dean's



Random Patterns

"Sun's coming up. Like a big bald head. Poking up over the grocery store..." — Laurie Anderson

HISTORY: This week in the past, Mahatma Gandhi was shot in '46; U.K. army troops shot 13 civilian marchers in Northern Ireland on "Bloody Sunday;" the Grateful Dead were arrested in New Orleans in 1970 for possession of LSD, barbiturates and narcotics. Drummer Phil Collins and author/filmmaker Norman Mailer have birthdays on Tuesday, Elvis' legitimate daughter Lisa Marie Presley on Wednesday, singers Graham Nash and Roberta Flack share a Thursday birthdate with author James Dickey, and finally, one of my favorite singers in the world, Melanie, was born in Long Island, N.Y., back in 1947.

A STREET: What a way to start a week — senseless violence, a drug bust and births!... and the weather! It's the soiree time of the year. It's a time when people walk the campus wearing shorts and T-shirts in the dead of winter. Defying the weather. You can witness such power with a simple walk down the hippest street in town — Greene Street. You'll see cool, skinny pale radicals breaking out the hacky sack and lounge chairs. Like robins, they're harbingers of spring. Maybe a little premature, but you can do those things when you live on Greene Street.

A JUNGLE: A long, long time ago, back in '84, I lived on Greene Street, and I was skinny. Recently I went back to my roots, but I kept my shirt on. I visited a friend, Crazy Rob, who lives on the end of Greene Street. I was recovering from a night of straying, so all the day, stinky, dirty and loud, me and Crazy Rob stood on his front porch and shook like worms and snakes. We sang "Welcome to the Jungle" to all the Greene Street cruisers, because we consider The USC to be one giant, ferocious jungle that will eat you if you don't eat it first.

HOGS: Speaking of jungles, Thursday is Ground Hog Day, one of

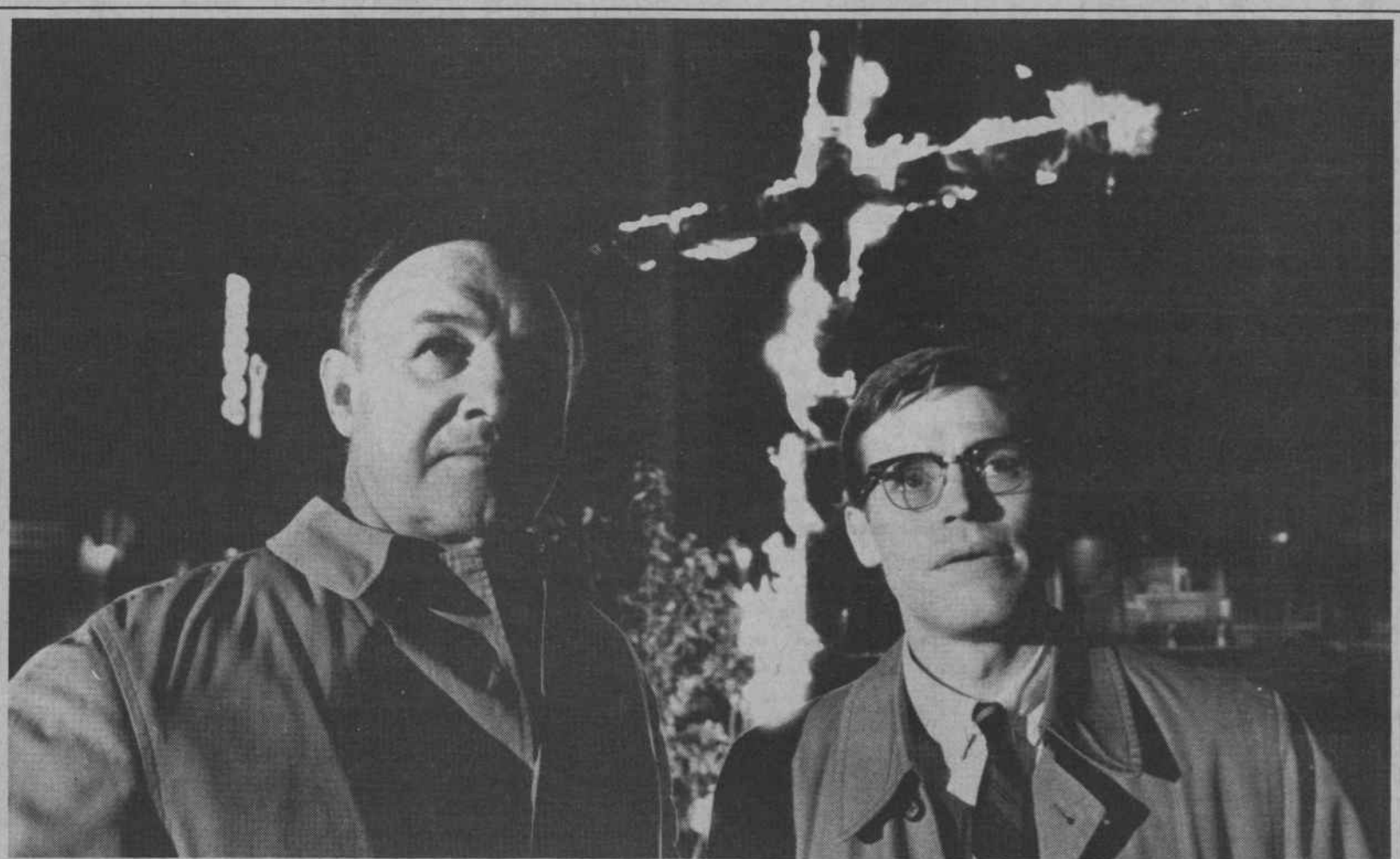
the most anticipated, respected and spiritual holidays in the South. I know that the bookstore has a good selection of Ground Hog cards and candies that you can send home to your ma or sweetheart. To be truthful, Ground Hog Day has never done anything but depress me. The idea of good weather resting on the shoulders of some insipid little ornery rodent, one that has a deep-rooted hang up about his shadow, really frightens me. His diet probably consists of bugs, and he predicts the weather. It sounds like an agent of the devil.

RITUALS: Do people go to Bell Camp? Not me — I hope they sell the place. I don't have anything but disappointing memories of that god-awful camp. During my freshman year, I went off to some mixer there where every human being was funneling beer and puking. It was a fated evening, and I didn't have fun. At any given time, someone would bounce up to you saying, "Hi! My name is Courtney..." and then spray you with venomous bile. It was like some animalistic, primitive mating ritual that I didn't want any part of.

DIRE PAIN: At this same mixer from Hell, a cubby dance-queen of a girl threw her back out doing some routine to AC/DC's "Back In Black." People just stood back and watched her go mad on the dance floor, like someone had put bees down her back. From the looks of her sloppy, drunken gyrations, I thought this wasn't her song; when she hit the floor screaming, I knew it wasn't her song. Everyone was so sloshed that it took a few crucial seconds for them to realize she wasn't showing off with a fancy floor step and that actually she was in dire pain. This girl was dirty dancing before dirty dancing was cool.

KARLA AT GROUP: Speaking of dance queens, I heard that Karla's sold-out performance at the Koger was pretty cool. I'd like for Karla to scurry down to Group Therapy one Friday night when it's so packed that you feel everyone's heat. I'd like for her to see the place go mad when the management spins "Paradise By The Dashboard Light." As you know, the whole place freaks out to this song. Even the most restrained person joins in on this psychotic release — an unofficial lament to Meatloaf, Ellen Foley and yes... to Karla.

ENDING: That's it. Enjoy your week. I've appreciated the past comments and gripes, which can always be sent to me, here at *The Gamecock*, Drawer A, Russell House.



Gene Hackman and Willem Dafoe play two FBI agents working on a missing persons case in Jessup County, Miss., in the early 1960s in *Mississippi Burning*.

Film is hot topic

'Mississippi' has timely message

By ANDY BECHTEL

Editor in chief

Message movies always face the trap of turning into shrill indictments of society, but *Mississippi Burning* gracefully avoids this pitfall to become one of the most important films of the past year.

Inspired by true events, *Mississippi Burning* graphically depicts the South of the early 1960s. It tells the story of the FBI investigation into the disappearance of three civil rights activists in Jessup County, Miss.

Director Alan Parker uses Mississippi as a figurative and literal vortex for racial hatred, the flat landscape providing the canvas for this well-crafted film. Rural Mississippi in the steamy summer of 1964 becomes the epitome of an era of

racial tension, and Parker pulls no punches in his portrayal of the times.

At the center of *Mississippi Burning* is the relationship between the two FBI agents sent to investigate the disappearance. Rupert Anderson (Gene Hackman) is the older, jaded agent, a native of Mississippi who grew up with racism, but refused to accept it. His counterpart is the idealistic Alan Ward (Willem Dafoe), a product of John F. Kennedy's Camelot. The two men have their own ways of getting to the bottom of the case; ultimately, Anderson's tougher methods prevail.

Parker, whose previous films include *Midnight Express*, *Pink Floyd — The Wall*, *Birdy* and *Angel Heart*, deftly handles the development of these two characters. He never allows *Mississippi Burning* to degenerate in-

to the all too familiar buddy film that is so prevalent nowadays. Instead, Parker keeps the focus on the investigation, gradually peeling away the mystery layer by layer.

Hackman and Dafoe give excellent performances as the two FBI agents. Hackman is especially convincing as the cynical, unscrupulous Anderson; he should receive an Academy Award nomination for what amounts to the performance of his long career.

The superb gospel music provides a subtle underpinning for the film's violent scenes. The juxtaposition produces a chilling, moving effect without being manipulative.

Parker has never been one for subtlety, but *Mississippi Burning* finds him relying less on cinematographic effects and more on plot development. He discards the

blatant symbolism of *The Wall* and *Angel Heart* for subtle nuances. Still, like any Parker film, *Mississippi Burning* pays attention to details and features outstanding camera work. He has tempered the flair of his earlier films, but retained his keen eye. *Mississippi Burning* may be his best film, a remarkable accomplishment considering the impressive list of movies to his credit.

The movie doesn't chronicle facts, and it doesn't intend to. Instead, it reflects and encapsulates the tone of an era.

Without Parker's discipline, *Mississippi Burning* could have been a kneejerk exercise in white guilt as so many films about racism end up doing. Instead, it's a vital, rich work that cannot be forgotten.

NEED TO SHIP A PACKAGE?
Bring it to "SHIP SAFE"
—we're only blocks away!
252-0616 "SHIP SAFE"
2700 ROSEWOOD DR.
5 POINTS AREA
Blossom Woodrow Rosewood
Harden St (1 mile)
\$1.00 OFF EACH PACKAGE WITH STUDENT ID!!!!

Sunshine CLEANERS
MARRIAGE PLANS IN THE NEAR FUTURE?
Sign up for the WLTX Bridal Fair at any of our stores.
Sunday, February 5th
GREAT PRIZES...FASHION SHOW...
PANEL DISCUSSION
Come by the Sunshine Booth and talk about preserving your wedding gown. Everything free to Bride and Groom.
425 Assembly Street
Tel. 799-2030
We're located just off campus — one block from the coliseum.
DON'T WAIT, TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

The University of South Carolina Campus Recreation FITNESS KICKOFF
Monday, January 30, 1989 5:15 Gym 307 P.E. Center
Free T-Shirts
TCBY Samples
Come Ready To Work Out
Aerobic Demonstrations
Refreshments

Get the maximum refund you're entitled to. *Henry Block*
The income tax laws are ever-changing. Put H&R Block's experienced preparers to work for you.
• 1720 Broad River Rd. River Center 772-4022
• 1505 Charleston Hwy. Granby Village 796-1400
• 1001 Harden St. In Ton's O' Toys 799-2803
• 1735 Decker Blvd. Decker Plaza 787-8682
• 647 St. Andrews Rd. Piggly Wiggly Shopping Ctr. 772-0455
• 6840 Garners Ferry Rd. Landmark Square 776-5747
• Hwy 378, Town Square Lexington 359-4297
• SEARS, Columbia Mall 788-2558
In Ton's O' Toys 1001 Harden St. during regular store hours
Also in most major SEARS during regular store hours.
MasterCard, VISA, and Discover Card accepted at most area locations.
H&R BLOCK DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS!

\$20 "Immediate Cash" \$20
\$20 With This Coupon.
New donors or any donors that haven't donated in 30 days can earn \$20.00 on first donation. No appointment necessary, but processing is faster with one.

Columbia Plasma Center
1916 Taylor Street
254-6683 or 254-6684
Automated Plasma Center - Faster and Safe!
\$20

FITNESS SCHEDULE
"Schedule For January 16, 1989 - April 28, 1989"
AEROBIC DANCE - Exercise your heart, mind, and body to your favorite music.
Aerobics Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Blatt P.E. Center, Gym 307
Low Impact Aerobics Tuesday, Thursday 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Blatt P.E. Center, Gym 307
Aerobics Monday - Friday 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Blatt P.E. Center, Gym 307
AQUA AEROBICS - Exercise using the water as resistance. You need not know how to swim
Aqua Aerobics Monday - Thursday 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Blatt P.E. Center, Pool
BODY CONDITIONING - Isolation exercise to tone the muscles.
Stretch and Tone Tuesday, Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Blatt P.E. Center, Combative Room
LIFECYCLES - Computerized stationary bikes.
Lifecycles Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 9:45 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.
Sunday 1:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
These programs are offered to students at no charge through the Office of Campus Recreation. For more information call 777-5261. We look forward to working out with you.
Refreshments and Door Prizes on Jan. 30th From Athletic Attic, Athletic Lady And T&T Sports