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Dave Lowe, 17, our own answer to Steven Spielberg, recruits town's top talent for \$2,000 sci-fi movie



Writer-director-producer-cameraman Dave Lowe consults with one of his stars, Ron Hill, before shooting a scene in his science fiction opus, ."The Europa Principle". The movie will also feature Andy Wodhams, Melissa Bell

and James Alian in the major roles. While it may seem like a one-man show. Dave said he has had a lot of help from family and friends in making his first By LORI TAYLOR Herald Staff Writer

Georgetown has been chosen as the location for the filming of yet another movie, but this one's a little different from the three big-budget films shot here during the past few years.

Not only are the actors local,

so are the writer, director, producer and production crew. The budget for this film is considerably smaller than that alloted to "Equus", "Running" and "Never Trust an Honest Thief", but that's understandable-the creative coming from a 17-year-old who will be a grade 13 student at Georgetown District High School this fall.

Dave Lowe is filming a science fiction movie entitled "The Europa Principle", his first try at movie-making, but not, he hopes, his last. Dave hopes to study photographic arts when he graduates from high school.

Dave says he has always been interested in things visual but the idea of making his own movie didn't occur to him until he read about a magazinesponsored film contest.

He and a friend wrote a preliminary script and made some set drawings, but it wasn't until Dave read a story about the possibility of life on Europa, one of Jupiter's moons, that he found an idea he thought would be good enough for a movie.

"I approached another friend, Brian Grady, to help write the script, and it took us about three and a half months," Dave said. "During" that period, Bob Gelaznikas did the drawings for the costumes and the spaceships."

TWO SCIENTISTS The plot deals with the problems of the first Canadian space expedition, which sends two scientists to Europa. For six months, the expedition proceeds according to plan.

but something goes wrong and the reports stop coming back from Europa. The govern-ment decides to send someone out to investigate, and to bring back the space ship, if not the crew. But the mission runs into some snags when it is discovered that one of the scientists has gone mad and

doesn't want to go back. The actors are all volunteers. The featured roles are played by Ron Hill and Melissa Bell, known to fans of the Georgetown Little Theatre, and Andy Wodhams and impetus behind this film is James Allan, both novices in

Other actors in the film are Joe Delguldice, George Lunys, Pat Turnbull, Paul Butrimas, Rocco Jaboni, Bob Gelaznikas, Neil Williams and Andrew MacDonald.

The actual filming began two weeks ago, at a location which is being kept secret to avoid problems with equipment being stolen or damaged. Dave rented a camera and lights for a two-week shooting schedule, but problems have caused delays in the schedule.

"Filming scenes, getting the sets ready and getting actors when, you need them has caused some delays,"Dave said. "With the actors being volunteers, and most of them working during the day, we're shooting at night, and sometimes it's not possible to get

Coming soon?

everyone together." Once the script was com-

pleted, it remained to get the sets built and the costumes made. There was a delay with the building of the sets because of a problem in finding a suitable location to do the filming. Connie Taylor and Marcia Lowin were drafted to help make the more futuristiclooking costumes, because one of the problems with making a science fiction movie is not being able to go out and buy costumes in a department

The set crew, composed of James Bongard, Andy Wodhams, Neil Williams, Bob Gelaznikas, Bob Turner, Steven Rye, Kevin Greene, Peter Weish, Ken Kuhl, Eric Elson and Brock Henderson, are still making additions to the set

store, Dave said.

while filming is going on. "It was really disorganized once we found the location and started carting everything in and setting it up," Dave said.

Dave has taken two courses in communications media at school and has experience with operating a movie camera and with editing. But it's still a learn-as-you-go process, and there are some things he would .do differently if he were doing

MAKE SIMPLER "If I were doing it again, I' make it simpler. Also, wouldn't use my own money.

Dave Lowe told The Herald that he hasn't made any

plans for a public screening of "The Europa Principle"

when it's completed, beyond showing it to those who took

part in the production. At the urging of The Herald,

however, he said if he's satisfied with the movie when it's

finished, he would be willing to arrange a special screening

screenings and review the film, which Dave calculates will

Dave does intend to include the film in his portfolio

In any case, The Herald plans to attend one of the

for any interested members of the public.

be finished in about two months.

when he applies to university or college next year.

wouldn't start filming until I had some sponsorship."

"I'd leave a lot more time for preparation, too. The problem was getting a place to film. I'd work out a shooting schedule ahead of time as well so we'd know what was going to be done and when it would

Once filming is completed, there are a few more touches which have to be added. Dale Wood, musical director of the Georgefown Choral Society, had agreed to write some music for the film, to avoid copyright problems which would be involved with using

music already written. There are also special effects shots which will have to be filmed of the spaceships blasting off, and models to be made for these shots.

When asked about other ideas he might have for future movies, Dave said he is too preoccupied with filming this one to think about the future

LOT OF TIME "This occupies my mind 100 per cent right now. This is

costing a lot of time and money and effort and I don't know if I want to think about it. "I'm a perfectionist, and since we've had to compromise, I'm not enjoying myself as

much here, but I'd certainly do this again. "I think I'd approach all the same people who helped me this time, and if they enjoyed it, maybe they'd help again if I decided to make another

movie," Dave sald. "One

aspiration I have, if I ever get

a chance to make a big film, would be to call them back and ask them if they would like to do it for money. "These people I'm working with are really terrific-they're doing it for absolutely nothing, and I'd like to get a chance to

pay them back for their ef-

Thai beaches, Thai boxing

Tourism thrives amid Chiang Mai's hunger, poverty

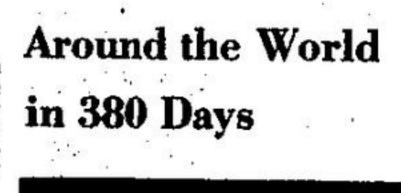
By STEPHEN FROST

Herald Special Chiang Mai, in northern Thailand, was at one time the capital of a country formerly colled Siam. Now it is a quieter, slower-paced centre which is becoming a favorite of

The older, central part of the city is surrounded by a moat, and despite the noise of traffic during the day, it is a lovely place to recuperate after the hectic pace of Bangkok.

John Pladdy, my travelling companion; and I took an overnight bus trip to get there and arranged lodgings in guest house for the time we were going to stay there. The cost per night was 40 bahts, or

about \$2.50 U.S. The bus itself was something vintage and the seats were the sights. comfortable. Since it was a night trip, everyone was pillow. We needed them, especially the blanket, since Thai bus systems tend to overdo it with the air conditioning. Also provided by a steward-



Thirteenth in a series

ess were free soft drinks and a small meal before the lights were shut off. Seems we really got our money's worth for a

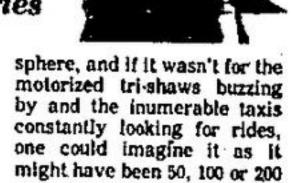
Unfortunately, I came down with what was to be the first of a series of sinus troubles, colds and hacking coughs. The first two days in Chlang Mai, I was unable to do much but lie in else. It was of fairly new bed while J.P. went out to see

MYSTERIOUS EAST On the second day there, I provided with a blanket and a did manage to get up and go for a walk with an Australian we had met on the bus, Paul. The old part of Chiang Mai retains much of its old "mysterious East" atmo-

Once off the main highway, the reads back into the hill tribe villages become little more

than mud tracks, necessitating the use of chains on the rear wheels of trucks. The ride itself is

worth the cost of the entire trip; it really belongs in Disneyland.



years ago. To spoil the walk, however, Paul and I came across a dog lying on its side on the sidewalk. The dog was severely injured, its back leg ripped off, There was very little blood; that's why we didn't notice the

state it was in right away. It didn't have much longer to live, and I'm sure that no one would make any attempt to move it until after it died. It happened right outside the market where everyone eats.



These hill tribe children posed for a picture for the author in a village above the city of Chaing-Mal. The one young lad has a few rhinoceros beetles tied to his stick;

No one seemed to care. It is a fact of life in Third countries unproductive animals such as dogs and cats are very rarely looked after. After all, it's a chore during lean years for a man to feed his family, let alone a dog or cat. It is no wonder that the death of the

dog elicited no response. Later, I got outside the city for a tour around the countryside and up into the hills to see what was billed as an authentic hill tribe village.

We went down a road I wouldn't tackle with a fourwheel drive in a Datsun pickup truck. The driver had chains for the return journey. The village itself was a trifle too commercial for my liking. but everyone on the truck agreed that the view of the hills from the village was spectacular.

There was a noticeable absence of men from the village; one only saw the women behind the merchandise stalls in front of every hut. The goods ranged from cheap

and tawdry items to very fine That clothing woven by the women on their ancient looms. CHILDREN POSE

The children of the village were everywhere, constantly on the lookout for tourists to take their picture. As soon as I did, I was besieged by the youngsters for one baht each. They learn quickly the value of money in this part of the world.

On the way back, the driver of the truck put the chains on the back tires of the truck and started the long laborious climb back to the highway. On the first rise out of the village, the mystery as to why there were no men in the village was solved. Most of the hillsides were planted in a very healthy copium crop, which the men were attending or smoking.

About halfway up, the truck lost one of its chains, which the driver stopped to retreive. Despite myself and a German chap volunteering to help him put it back, our driver felt it would be too much effort for him the was getting a little long in the tooth) and he

assured us we would make it to the top with one chain. Sure enough, we made it.

Clutch burning, engine roaring and the valves floating, we spur and slipped our way up the muddy grade with everyone hanging on for dear life and hoping we wouldn't go over the side.

Later still, we visited a large That temple that I'm afraid wouldn't convert too many people to Buddhism. Unfortunately, it was far too "touristic".

HARD TO IMAGINE

On the long dragon stairway up to the temple, sat all the beggars . with assorted limbs missing, twisted hands and feet, blind, deaf, dumb.

From my journal: "Curious how one can just walk on by them after awhile; unseeing, not hearing, ignoring, no longer feeling much for such commonplace occurances. Don't even wonder how their misfortunes came to pass. Napalm, birth defect, machinery accident. Doesn't seem to matter to people. Much like the dog really."

Back in Georgetown, it is hard to imagine that places like that really exist, unchanging through the years.

Afterwards, we headed out of the hills back down into the villages where all the handicrasts were made. They were all very nice, and

the proprietors of the individual handicraft shops were more than pleased to show everyone how their umbrellas, lacquer ware and teak goods are made. The goods were always wellmade and very inexpensive. I

did a lot of my Christmas shopping on this trip. J.P. and I caught a bus down to Bangkok the next evening and the following evening we went to see an exhibition of

Thai boxing.

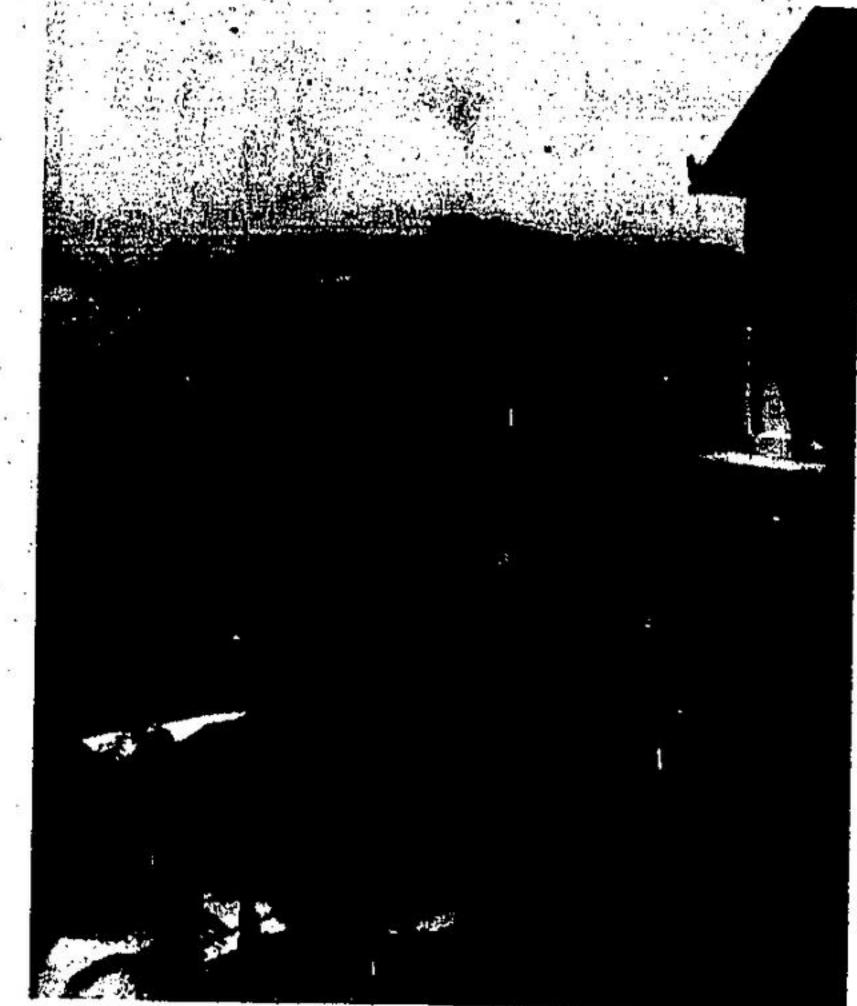
fighting close in, the elbows Now this type of boxing has often come in handy." to be one of the most particu-I don't think there was a scene in the film The Deer larly viscious in the world. It appeared to me that any type wasn't carried from the ring at of blow was acceptable and the end. It was also notable could be delivered to and with that there were no heavyany part of the body. That weight classes of any descriptleaves quite a lot of leeway. ion, only light and flyweight

From the journal: "Thai classes. Boxing - poor boxing tech-PATPONG ROAD nique, combined with round-One other highlight, if it can house and crescent kicks to the be called that, was a very side, kidneys, and head, etc. quick visit to the infamous Knees to the stomach, kidneys Palpong Road. The street is

and, if possible, the head. Low

kicks to the legs and groin are

eminently acceptable. When



This view from one of the mountain temples shows the city of Chaing-Mai and the surrounding flat plains. Not all the land is flat, although most of it is rather mountainous, making It ideal for defence when the city was the former capital.

note that on one of its few side

streets, in plain view for all to

see, is a clinic which treats

We left Bangkok with no pain

of remorse and headed for the

southwest That coast and an

island known as Phuket. We

took a bus to get there.

in the city.

social diseases.

(Herald photos by Steve Frost)

only about a 150 yards long, but Unfortunately, it wasn't as is one of the most visited areas good as some of the bus

services here; but it got us It was seen in a brief where we were going. sequence in the bar-brothel Phuket itself is quite Hunter. The entire street is emarkable. It is an ialand far like that, sleazy and Imprudent. It is also interesting to

bigger than Penang and in many respects it is far cleaner. From my journal: "The northwestern beaches of the island are the best I've seen outside Australia and the water is second to none. So clean and clear you can see down.20 feet with case. After

the noise and pollution of Continued on page B2