

Three Fugitives fail to steal very many laughs

By DIAHANN NADEAU
Herald Special

I didn't expect much from Three Fugitives and I was still disappointed.

Despite the presence of Nick Nolte, who is always a pleasure to watch, Three Fugitives is tiresome, disorganized, and boring. This movie aims to be funny yet moving and it is neither - it's just downright annoying.

Martin Short plays a desperate father, Ned Perry, pulling his first bank hold-up. Recently-released bank robber Daniel Lucas (Nolte) just happens to be opening an account in the same bank. Perry takes Lucas hostage and the police

AT THE MOVIES

think it's the other way around. I thought this was a promising start, especially with James Earl Jones playing a police detective on Lucas' case. Unfortunately the movie falls apart after the first 15 minutes and it never gets back on track.

Perry is supposed to be a likable criminal, forced into robbery by a series of personal problems. His five-year-old daughter Meg does

not talk. She is the third fugitive, the one who charms gruff Lucas into helping her father. I think this storyline says it all and says it badly.

There are several attempts to split up the trio, but it never happens. If it did the movie would be over. (Gee, we wouldn't want that to happen). This trio is so completely unconvincing that everything in this film is forced. I can't remember when I last saw a more implausible plot.

There are very few redeeming features in Three Fugitives. Sarah Rowland Doroff is a cute little girl,

but you don't need to go to the movies to see a pretty child here in Georgetown.

Martin Short is suffering from over-exposure these days. He just isn't funny anymore. He is annoying though, which isn't the same thing. Nick Nolte looks terrific and has that marvelously low, growling voice, but has nowhere to go

but down in this movie. A good bone structure isn't going to save a film as lost and unfocused as this one.

If you've seen the previews, you've seen the best parts of Three Fugitives. That situation is always irritating to a paying audience. This is not the worst film I've seen, but it is really annoying and a total waste of time, talent, and money.

Point of Focus

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The exhibition, "50/50: A Point of Focus" features 50 significant paintings, watercolors, drawings, and lithographs, and runs until March 5.

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