

## Videos for a weekend's viewing

By DIAHANN NADEAU  
Herald Special

This seemed a perfect weekend to indulge in a feast of videos; watching John Candy or Sylvester Stallone on the big screen just didn't have an irresistible appeal. So this week we review a comedy, a horror film, and a controversial drama. All are good and well worth viewing.

**Heathers** is a wicked and wickedly funny black comedy about high school angst. Veronica Sawyer (Winona Ryder) is a member of the most powerful clique in her high school in suburban Ohio. The other members are a trio of Heathers, led by a vicious and cold Heather No. 1. Veronica wants out of the clique, but not before Heather One threatens to ruin her reputation. Veronica has started seeing J.D. (Christian Slater), a cowboyish senior new to school. J.D. is not your everyday teenager.

Veronica wants to see Heather throw up; J.D. wants to see her dead. J.D. gets his way. So begins a murderous rampage, where it doesn't pay to be popular but mean in this school. Veronica enters it all in her diary: "I don't know if we're going to the prom or going to hell." Veronica has some hilariously acute observations on her Bonnie and Clyde career.

Heathers is sometimes brilliant, and always funny. There is a nasty take-off on teenage suicide and adult responses to it - this is not a movie to shy away from sensitive

issues, or to treat them sensitively. Ryder is superb, as is Slater, who sounds and looks like a young Jack Nicholson. Heathers is a very funny film, but not for the faint of heart.

The Lair of the White Worm is Ken Russell's version of the Bram Stoker novel about a bizarre serpent cult surviving in rural England. Made in 1988, this is a campy, kinky little movie starring Amanda Donohoe as the seductive snake lady, Catherine Oxenberg and Sammi Davis as orphaned teenage girls, beautiful virgins intended for human sacrifice, and Hugh Grant and Peter Capaldi as their heroes.

A funny film, very much tongue-in-cheek Gothic, Lair is reminiscent of Roman Polanski's horror satire, "The Vampire Killers." This would make a good video for a bunch of friends on a Saturday night.

The Last Temptation of Christ is Martin Scorsese's beautiful, controversial film that caused such a stir when it came out. If crossing picket lines wasn't your style, now is your opportunity to see what the fuss was all about.

Willem Dafoe stars as Christ, with Harvey Keitel as Judas and Barbara Hershey as Mary Magdalene. This is a lovely movie to look at, with some wonderful images and tones. The story is not based on the Gospels, but parallels them until the last thirty minutes or so, which is where the controversy arose.

This is a long movie, two hours and 43 minutes long to be precise. Yet it doesn't seem overly long,

and is gripping to the end. The last temptation is the twist to the story, and it is an interesting one, although it's easy to see why some groups objected. However, they are not blasphemous scenes viewed in context of the whole film. The Last Temptation offers excellent performances and very good direction. Too bad the fuss obscured all of that.

## OUR LANGUAGE

by Jeffrey McQuain

A lightweight umbrella that blocks the sun is a parasol. (You may consider any other definition of the noun parasol to be shady.)

Scour cleans or polishes by scrubbing roughly. Our Language offers clues for pronunciation, such as rhyming scour with our.

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Registration begins Sept. 28. Session - Oct. 4 - Nov. 8, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. This program is available only at the Georgetown branch library.

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