

# Entertainment Outlook

## 'Tremors' is hardly earth-shattering

### FILMETER



ROBERT DIMATTEO

#### In Movie Theaters

**TREMORS (R)** Fifties horror flicks like "The Thing" and "The Blob" often offered an irresistible blend of silliness and suggestiveness. As lcky, alien creatures took over small towns, these movies played on paranoia about the communist threat and other nuclear-age anxieties.

Out of this campy Eisenhower-era tradition comes "Tremors," a sci-fi horror comedy set in the virtually deserted town of Perfection, Nev., where two garbage collectors (Kevin Bacon and Fred Ward) discover a bunch of disgusting, foul-smelling creatures that move beneath the desert floor at rapid speed.

As the two men, a student seismologist (Finn Carter) and two rabid survivalists (Michael Gross of "Family Ties" and country singer Reba McEntire) take on these subterranean monsters, the movie mixes amusingly stilted dialogue, cheerily cheesy special effects and gross-out shots of orange gook (from the monsters' innards) spurting everywhere. There's a slightly hip, parodic edge, as if the Ron Underwood-directed movie were trying to mock, rather than just update, a '50s horror flick.

Yet the movie should be more fun than it is. A lot of the comedy doesn't play, and the horror isn't very scary. The picture seems designed for people who like their schlock without any substance whatsoever.

Of the actors, only Reba McEntire comes through with any real gusto. This viewer's favorite bit: When the humans discover how to pole-vault from boulder to boulder to avoid alerting their underground nemesis. Nifty. But the movie's not much. **GRADE: ★★**

**HEART CONDITION (R)** Three wonderful actors star in this comedy thriller about a racist L.A. vice cop who gets a heart transplant from his least favorite person — a slick black lawyer who has had an affair with the cop's former girlfriend. The top-notch actors are Bob Hoskins ("Who Framed Roger Rabbit?") as the bigoted, hard-living cop; Denzel Washington ("Glory") as the devious, well-

dressed lawyer; and Chloe Webb ("Sid and Nancy") as the girlfriend, who labors as a call girl. A trio of talent. And the movie gets off to a hot, hard-edged start, too.

However, after the heart transplant takes place, the film becomes downright whimsical, with the now-dead lawyer returning to the scene as a ghost that only the cop can see. Making his feature-film debut, writ-

humanist pictures, and you've got the gist of this portrait of marriage-the-second-time-around among New York's intellectual, moneyed set.

Jeff Bridges stars as a psychiatrist who divorces his glamorous wife (Farrah Fawcett) to marry a photographer (Alice Krige) — inheriting Krige's children (Drew Barrymore and Lukas Haas) along the way. The characters are too sensitive for words, and the words that they do use are overly articulate and screenwriterish. The only real reason to rent or buy this movie is to watch Alice Krige, who's lovely as always. **GRADE: ★★**



KEVIN BACON stars as Val McKee, a Nevada handyman whose life is endangered by horrifying underground monsters, in "Tremors."

er-director James D. Parriott juggles too many elements — racial humor, thrills, even a trace of supernatural fantasy. The tone grows uncertain, and the picture settles for a predictably violent climax. Even the first-rate cast and some clever, funky touches only make it borderline worth-seeing. **GRADE: ★★**

#### New Home Video

**SEE YOU IN THE MORNING (PG-13)** Warner. Imagine a slack cross between a Woody Allen Upper East Side comedy and one of Alan Alda's patly

(Film grading: ★★★★★ — excellent, ★★★★ — good, ★★★ — fair, ★ — poor)

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