

Movie Review

Naked Gun shoots blanks

By LISABETH JACKSON

It would be very easy - and very tempting - to say "Naked Gun 2½: The Smell of Fear" stinks, and leave it at that, but this sequel to "The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad" does have a brand of humor which may appeal to some movie-goers.

The ad for "Naked Gun 2½" reads "Frank Drebin is back. Just accept it." The stone-faced Lt. Drebin, played by Leslie Nielsen, has indeed returned to claim Jane, played by Priscilla Presley, who abandoned him at the altar a while before.

But first he must match wits with the treacherous Quenton, played by Robert Goulet, who not only has his eyes on Jane, but his heart on foiling President Bush himself. Quenton's desire for an America powered by nuclear energy, rather than the environmentally-safe solar energy, leads to a kidnapping, a double, and a fairly interesting storyline.

However, "Naked Gun 2½" is supposed to be about laughs. Leslie Nielsen has cheerfully admitted that the movie is dumb and stupid, but he forgot that it should be dumb, stupid and funny.

Director/co-writer David Zucker did have a difficult task providing entertainment to an audience which gets bored and restless if they're not laughing every second. I, for one, do not enjoy slapstick and humor which centers on someone getting weird objects stuck in his crotch, but the audience I was with seemed to enjoy these types of jokes. (This was the same audience

which liked the preview for "Problem Child 2"). Yet even they got weary waiting for the crotch-action, and I thought I heard a collective sigh of relief when the film ended. Only a few people stayed to read the 'amusing' end credits.

"Naked Gun 2½" has its moments, but they are chuckling moments rather than ones which garner a full-blown guffaw.

See the commercial, watch the preview; these entail the best scenes. The movie isn't very good. Just accept it.



State-of-the-art baseball

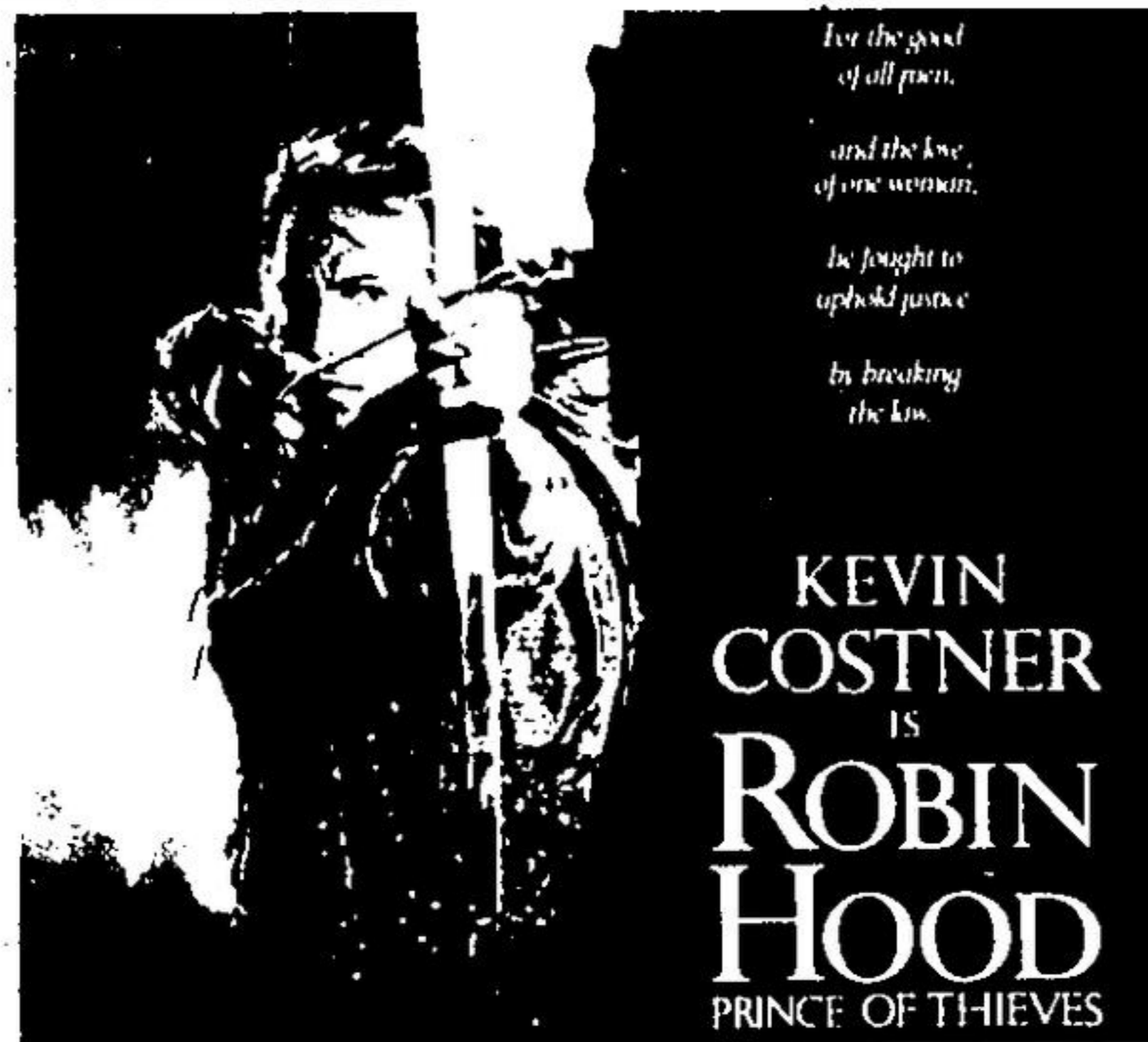
State-of-the-art technology helped keep interest levels high during Coca-Cola's All-Star Fanfest at the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto. Here, David Dempsey, publicist for Electronic Arts in San Mateo, California, displays Earl Weaver Baseball II: an exciting, challenging all-star computer game for IBM PCs and compatibles. The game was designed by former Baltimore Orioles manager Earl Weaver. (Herald photo)

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