

Something stinks in the neighbourhood of Ghostbusters

If you like to watch television in the summer time, with its plethora of reruns, then *Ghostbusters II* is for you.

The movie, like so many sequels, is not much more than a reworking of the original, save that it is not very original. Slime, so popular in the first film, returns in a big way in the second. A river of evil slime flows under New York and it is fueling a supernatural being who resides in a painting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Who should work at the museum as an art restorer? None other than that poltergeist magnet, and leading lady, Sigourney Weaver. Seems the supernatural stuff always happens to her.

And where was the first evil manifestation of the slime in the whole city of New York? In Sigourney Weaver's apartment, of course. This serves to drive her back to Bill Murray and the Ghostbusters.

Half of the film is given to the return of the Ghostbusters. Variations on *We're back!* or *They're back!* consume precious minutes when the film might actually have used humor or action, the traditional pathways to cinematic success, to capture the audience.

I suspect the filmmaker, Ivan Reitman, realised that once you are in the theatre, seven dollars poorer, you are captured as an audience, so little things like quality weren't going to matter much.

The dialogue seemed ad-libbed. The humor was lame and poorly timed. From a plot standpoint there was nothing new. A giant Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man in the first film was transformed by the miracle of script reworking to the Statue of Liberty, propelled by positive vibrations by virtue of the evil slime

At the Movies

with
BRAD REAUME



turned to good purposes. Makes sense to me.

The movie has the obligatory one-dimensional bureaucrat who causes conflict, and hey, conflict is what stories are all about. The movie also has Bill Murray being put in all number of amusing situations, but he is less than amusing. The jokes are old,

tired and probably used by your brother-in-law, the one you don't like.

The only quality character is Mr. Poha, the museum co-ordinator for painting restoration. He sports an eastern European accent, a restrained manner and a less than masculine air. Of course this makes for the greatest comic possibilities, especially after he falls under the spell of the evil spirit in the picture.

Strange though it may seem, the kids in the theatre seemed to enjoy themselves. I guess they can overlook the faults in the film and follow the antics of the come-to-life cartoon characters they so often see on Saturday mornings.

Alcohol accidents are up with higher temperatures

Summer's here and the temperature's rising. So are the number of alcohol related automobile and boating accidents.

While public awareness about drinking and driving tends to be high around the Christmas holiday period, statistics show that drinking drivers are more likely to be involved in accidents in the summer. About one-third of alcohol related crashes occurred between June and August, whereas only 18 per cent took place December through February.

About six million Ontarians enjoy boating during the summer, says the Ministry of Natural Resources. And more than 20 per cent of boating deaths are linked to alcohol use. Ontario Provincial Police statistics show 64 people were killed last year in boating accidents, 14 of which were alcohol-related.

"Boating tends to be more closely associated with recreation and pleasure than driving a car," says Larry Hershfield, director of Prevention and Health Promotion programs at the Addiction Research Centre (ARC). "But boating requires many of the skills required of an automobile driver - alertness, judgement and quick decision making. All of these become impaired when the 'captain' of the boat has been drinking."

Over the course of the year, between one-quarter and one-third of fatal automobile accidents involve a driver who has been drinking. Forty per cent of drivers killed have been drinking. Weekends account for two-thirds of drinking driver's accidents.

Go casual in August, chamber tells us

The Milton Chamber of Commerce says go casual to work next month.

The town has proclaimed August as Casual Business Wear Month, sponsored by the local Chamber.

The Chamber, located at Unity Park, will promote the concept of removing ties and dressing casually at work during the hot month, says John Lawrence, general manager.

"It generally applies to men more than women," he adds. "Women usually dress casually in the summer months anyway."

Mr. Lawrence says he hopes the whole town will get involved.

BRITISH CLUB

We are in the process of establishing a British Club for those living in the Halton Region.

The club, located in Oakville, would have a regular 'pub night' and other social, sporting and travel events. It is also intended to promote business and professional affairs.

For further information:

- write to -

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