

what's at the movies

AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON (R). Strange happenings in London and on the moors in this macabre spoof of horror flicks.

ARTHUR (PG). Dudley Moore is a playboy millionaire in love with Liza Minnelli in this contemporary comedy.

BLOWOUT (R). John Travolta and Nancy Allen star in Brian DePalma's murder mystery centering around the accidental recording of a murder and the cover-up attempts that follow.

CHU CHU AND THE PHILLY FLASH (PG). Most of the laughs are provoked by the costumes in this caper with Alan Arkin and Carol Burnett as two eccentric down-and-outers who find a briefcase with valuable documents.

COMIN' AT YA (R). A Western with a new-old twist — 3-D. Put on the specs and have flaming arrows, bats and rats comin' at ya.

ENDLESS LOVE (R). Brooke Shields and Martin Hewitt are two passionate teenagers who become so obsessed with one another that it drives them to acts beyond reason.

EYE OF THE NEEDLE (R). Adapted from the best-selling novel, this suspense thriller and love story stars Donald Sutherland as "the Needle," the code name for Hitler's top agent in England.

FIRST MONDAY IN OCTOBER (R). Jill Clayburgh is the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court and Walter Matthau is her most persistent adversary in this bright comedy-drama.

MOSCOW DOES NOT BELIEVE IN TEARS. Sentimental romance focuses on three Russian women and looks at their expectations in the 1950s and their lives 20 years later. Won the Academy Award as Best Foreign Film.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (PG). Produced by George Lucas and directed by Steven Spielberg, this action-packed adventure pits Americans against Nazi agents in a race to acquire a sacred artifact that gives its possessor invincible power.

STRIPES (R). "Private Benjamin" from a different perspective. Bill Murray is an Army recruit in this military comedy about the rigors of basic training and woman chasing.

SUPERMAN II (PG). The story continues as Superman struggles to save the earth from criminals who survived Krypton's extinction.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

- G General audiences admitted.
- PG Parental guidance suggested. All aged admitted.
- R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
- X No one under 18 admitted.



In his movie debut, Gary Coleman plays a spirited orphan who lives in a public locker.

the movies
Louise Snider

Coleman's showing is well engineered in 'On the Right Track'

Do precocious kids make you smug... or do you feel more inclined to bark? If they make you smile, you'll probably enjoy "On the Right Track" (PG). If they don't, well, the movie does have some mitigating factors.

One of them is Gary Coleman (of "Diff'rent Strokes"). He not only is a very huggable little guy, but fortunately he packs enough acting wallop-per-pound to neutralize the strong dose of cuteness he delivers.

Coleman plays Lester, a 10-year-old orphan who lives in a couple of rental lockers in a large urban train station (actually, Union Station in Chicago).

This underground world is his territory. He knows all its people and shops. He gets along by shining shoes for spending money. His independent operation, however, cuts into the patronage of an established shoeshine service whose owner doesn't welcome the small fry competition.

He reports Lester's unusual life style to the authorities who assign a juvenile services' officer (Michael Lembeck) to pick up Lester and place him in a foster home. The city figures that's a more suitable life than an independent existence in the railroad terminal.

LESTER IS SAVED from such a fate and allowed to remain in his preferred shelter when he strikes a deal with the mayor. The deal involves Lester's uncanny ability to pick triple winners in horse races all over the country. He offers to win \$1 million for the debt-ridden city — thinking the money will be used to make it a better place to live — if the mayor will let him set up a residence and office in a railroad car at the station.

Lester has other things going for him besides the horses. He is a budding entrepreneur who organizes a crew of youngsters to work as porters in return for a share of their tips.

Norman Fell is the mayor and, like most of the characters in this movie, he adds interest to the story by his characterization. The mayor makes promises easily and breaks them easily. He's deliberately deceitful, just an opportunist. He says and does whatever he thinks will win him votes. It doesn't seem to matter to him whether he fulfills his promises or makes contradictory ones. He's not evil, just political.

Maureen Stapleton make the most of a small, but colorful, part as Mary, the bag lady. She is one among an assortment of Damon Runyon-type characters. These include basketball star Bill Russell as a sympathetic locker room attendant, Herb Edelman as a pizza place owner, and Lisa Eilbacher as an aspiring singer who works as a coin changer in the station arcade.

As the officer from juvenile services, Michael Lembeck proves to be as much of an opportunist as the mayor. He's also more disarming because of his "admissions" about himself.

Unfortunately for the resolution of "On the Right Track," by the end, we still don't quite trust Lembeck. Since he and Eilbacher form a romantic duo who want to adopt Lester (social issues concerning a white couple adopting a non-white child are never even hinted at), this is a strange and ambiguous development. Instead of ending on a positive note, as intended, the movie leaves a nagging doubt about the integrity of an important character.



Their roomates

Kristy McNichol and Marsha Mason star as a mother and daughter team in Neil Simon's new film "Only When I Laugh." The two, strangers after 16 years of life together, finally get to know each other.

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Michael Lembeck, Gary Coleman and Lisa Eilbacher play in "On the Right Track," a comedy about an orphan who lives in a railroad station.