

Features

'Die Hard' intense; 'Pippi' terminally cheerful

By Judith Trojan  
NC News Service

Bruce Willis has finally found a film vehicle big enough to overshadow his swelled head. "Die Hard" (20th Century Fox) is this summer's most exciting cartoon action/adventure film, which will have even hard-boiled audiences cheering and screaming as Willis performs nail-biting feats that even amaze his character, New York cop John McClane.

It may be hard at first to accept Willis as a pumped-up, tattooed New York cop, but disbelief will fade fast since Willis needs all the brawn he can muster to outarm the band of cutthroat terrorists who have brilliantly stormed a Los Angeles high-rise on Christmas Eve.

Since their hostages — one of whom is McClane's estranged executive wife — are simply diversions used by the terrorists to cover a more sinister plot, McClane becomes a man alone who fights not only the villains but also struggles to survive the suffocating superstructure of the high-rise itself.

This is no simple-minded "Towering Inferno" clone. As directed by John McTiernan ("Predator") "Die Hard" has humor and characters that at least attempt to transcend stereotypes. McClane is as surprised as his audiences that he survives as long as he does. Willis' talent with in-jokes and comic banter is utilized to great effect here, adding just enough comic relief to lighten his heavy load.

Alan Rickman's Hans, the classy terrorist ringleader, has a complex charm all his own. Bonnie Bedelia as Holly Gennaro, McClane's estranged wife, is a high-powered executive who never loses her cool. And Reginald VelJohnson is wonderful as chubby Al, the Los Angeles cop who first makes street contact with high-rise bound McClane. The duo share some comical and sometimes touching radio pep talks.

There is no mistaking the incredible intensity of this scenario; the graphic, casual slaughter of two innocent hostages; and the brutal



NC News in: "The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking." The Clue Man, a disheveled character played by Dick Van Patten, tries to cheer up Pippi (Tami Erin). Reviewer Judith Trojan says the only good feature of this movie, classified for general patronage by the U.S. Catholic Conference's Department of Communications, is its peppy music, which could be better enjoyed on records and tapes played at home.

slaying of some cops, FBI agents and the terrorists — all with sophisticated weaponry. However, the comic elements, the squashing of minority stereotypes and use of film technology to parody the ridiculously complex and inhuman technology of our times do work to lighten the intensity of this film.

Unfortunately, due to its intense, graphic violence and a sense of menace, set within the context of a conscienceless terrorist take-over, some profanity and a brief flash of sexual impropriety, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Cloyingly cute

Adults may find themselves grinding their teeth during "The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking" (Columbia), but young children will no doubt overlook the cloying, cheesy parts.

An English-language adaptation of Astrid Lindgren's children's books, this film finds Pippi (Tami Erin), an effervescent, orphaned waif, adrift at sea with her beloved horse and monkey. A storm washed the threesome — as well as Pippi's father, Captain Efraim (John Schuck) — off the deck of the captain's ship. Fortunately, Pippi's father does not float ashore at the same point as Pippi and her

friends, bringing the audience respite from his good-natured bluster until he reappears safe and sound at the end of the film.

Terminally cheerful Pippi and her animal friends settle in a rotting old house, and she immediately begins enticing her new neighbors — Tommy (David Seaman Jr.) and Annika (Cory Crow) — to participate in all manner of playful antics. Although most games seem to end in food or pillow fights, Pippi loves to clean, so she doesn't let a splatter of food get her down.

Seemingly parentless, Pippi is targeted by her friends' stuffy father (Denis Dugan) and the local tight-lipped social worker (Eileen Brennan) for life in the orphanage. When she finally channels her free spirit into saving lives not disrupting them, Pippi becomes the town's heroine rather than its hoyden.

This is cutesy stuff made all the more so by the posturing of Erin, a freckle-faced redhead who looks old enough to know better. And Seaman and Crow as Pippi's neighbor pals are simply not actors at all. Brennan easily steals the show in a role copied from the Miss Hannigan character in "Annie."

Young kids, however, will no doubt love watching Pippi and her friends engaged in ice cream and pillow fights, as well as Pippi's unexplained ability to flip high in the air and effortlessly lift heavy objects. She has no manners, no respect for adults — especially teachers — and no concern for rules and regulations. Moreover, she refuses to go to school.

This may just feed into every child's fantasy of anarchy. But after a certain age — say 13 — audiences will find her behavior downright rude and bratty.

The best part of this film, written and directed in unimaginative fashion by Ken Annakin, is its peppy music, which would surely play better on records and tapes.

The USCC classification is A-I — general patronage. The MPAA rating is G — general audiences.

Taking action is best way to alleviate teenage worries

By Christopher Carstens  
NC News Service

A popular song on the radio says: "Don't worry, be happy."

That's easy for the singer to say. After all, he has a big record contract. But for most teens, fears and worry are common parts of life.

Teenagers are going through some of life's most difficult transitions, moving from childhood to adult life. Along the way they are searching out the sort of adult lives they will lead.

During the teen years decisions must be made that will affect one's life for years to come. With whom will you spend your time? Where will you go to school? Should you get a part-time job on weekends? What kind of profession would be best for you?

It is absolutely normal to worry about these issues. And if you know how to tune into these worries, they can be an important aid in developing self-knowledge.

Coming of Age

Normal fears and worries are signals. They remind people to think about what they're doing, almost like a voice saying, "Something significant is happening. An important decision may be coming up soon."

Any teen with no fears or worries probably isn't paying enough attention to the activities in his or her life.

It isn't surprising that a lot of people try to deal with fears or worries by avoiding them. Who wants to feel uncomfortable? When that worried sensation begins, it's easier to go get a soda or turn on the television instead of tun-

ing in to what you're feeling.

Worry, however, is like a ringing phone — you have to pick it up to get the message.

When you run away from fears, they seem to get bigger and bigger. The most important step is to stop running and look at the worry straight on. Then you can hear its message and start figuring out what decisions must be made.

Maybe you find yourself worried about grades for the third time today. Going down to the mall to try on some sweaters can chase the fear away for awhile, but you'll be worried again later.

Instead, when that worry sets in, tune in to it. Sit down with a piece of paper and write three words: Fear, Message and Decision.

Under the word fear, write whatever you're worried about or afraid of. "I'm worried that I'll fail English." "Sarah and I are drifting apart and I'm afraid I'll lose her."

Next, write down your decision. What changes are needed in response to the message from this fear? Maybe you need to go to the

library instead of the mall, or really find more time for Sarah.

If you worry about money all the time, the message might be that you need to find a job after school or spend less money on clothes and tapes. You might be worried about your parents because you aren't spending enough time with your family.

Like everyone else, teens worry because they haven't got everything in life figured out. Fears and worries can be your signals. Tune in and take over. Learn from your fears instead of letting them chase you around.

Nazareth Academy accepting applications for admissions

Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Ave., Rochester, is currently accepting applications for fall admissions. Those students entering the ninth grade in 1989 may take the entrance exam on Saturday, January 7, 1989.

Call (716)458-8583 for information.

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**HOUSE OF GUITARS**  
 Most New Album And Tape Releases Just \$5.98  
 CD's From \$8.98 - \$11.98 Each

We received 20 correct entries identifying Creedence Clearwater Revival as the band that had the 1969 hit "Bad Moon Rising."

The winner was Bridget Gordon of Rochester

**MUSIC TRIVIA**

**This week's question:**  
 Who wrote the theme song for the Johnny Carson "Tonight" show?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_

**Rules:**  
 Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn. If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Third Ave. All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal  
 Music Trivia  
 1150 Buffalo Rd.  
 Rochester, N.Y. 14624

**Zambito's**  
 Team Outfitters  
 Golf - Baseball - Softball - Hockey - Football - Basketball

We received 9 correct entries identifying the Lancers as the nickname of the Rochester, N.Y. entry in the North American Soccer League.

The winner was Ron Christopher of Canandaigua

**SPORTS TRIVIA**

**This week's question:**  
 What sports arena was Rocky Balboa's fight held in the movie "Rocky?"

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_

**Rules:**  
 Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with Zambito's Sport Shop will feature a Sports Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn. If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a certificate redeemable for \$10.00 OFF towards any purchase at Zambito's Sport Shop, 1350 Calver Rd. All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

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