Coma will keep you awake

Coma, an MGM film released through United Artists, staring Geneviève Bujold, Michael Douglas, Elizabeth Ashley, Rip Torn, and Richard Widmark, produced by Martin Erlichman; written and directed by Michael Crichton; playing at the Sack Church; rated R.

By Bruce Nawrocki

Coma is an exciting thriller based on Robert Lewis' much-admired book. Miss Bujold does a terrific job as Dr. Susan Wheeler, the only doctor at Boston Memorial Hospital who believes that something strange is happening there. Her best friend is admitted to the hospital, goes into a coma during a routine operation, and later dies.

Susan starts her investigation into why a dozen young, healthy patients went into irreversible coma during surgery in the past year. She is at first helped in her search by her lover, Dr. Bellows (Michael Douglas). Later he hinders her, since he feels that his position is threatened.

The MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble finished out the show and departed from the earlier music styles with their selections. Several of the songs were recently written for the band and are progressive in style. The music was well rehearsed and the band ran through the challenging rhythms with apparent ease. The band had an excellent sound; each section was individually strong. The ensemble performance was very good and the progressive jazz band sound exciting.

Overall the program was good and an easy entrance into the jazz world. The concert was well attended by an interested audience.

Several jazz events are coming up soon and many merit. Lowell will be hosting a jazz weekend on April 7-8. Featured performances will be by the Ramsey Lewis Quartet and the Herb Pomeroy band. Also the Boston Globe Jazz Festival runs from March 14 through the 18 and packs several music concerts into these five days. Tuesday, drummers Roy Haynes and Tony Williams will be on the bill. Wednesday, Lionel Hampton and his All-Star Alumni Band mark Hampton's 50th year in music at Symphony Hall. The group will be accompanied by the American River Quartet will be performing on Thursdays at Emmanuel Church. Tenor sax giant Art Gitter will be at Berklee on Friday evening. Closing the weekend will be Count Basie and his Orchestra at the Music Hall.

A hero ain't nothin' but a turkey sandwich

A Hero Ain't Nothin' But A Sandwich, starring Cicely Tyson and Paul Winfield, coming soon to Boston theaters.

By Clark Bield

This past Friday MIT saw the return of the spring jazz festival in Kresge Auditorium. The four featured bands were the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, MIT Concert Jazz Band, Harvard University Jazz Band, and the University of Lowell Studio Orchestra. All of the bands were well received and attending the concert was a pleasant way to spend an evening.

The MIT Concert Jazz Band opened the program with a variety of big band songs from the past. The opener, "Big Swinging Face," a Buddy Rich piece, was quick and lively with accomplished dynamics, setting the tone for the evening. The band slowed down with a Basie number and then finished with an up-tempo piece, "Killer Joe."

The trumpets and rhythms sections in concert performances and seemed to run the band. The needs needed better balance and were unnatural on many of the technical passages in the pieces. The University of Lowell Studio Orchestra was the second group to perform. They played more contemporary big band pieces and their performance was excellent. The performance was cohesive, with the band sustaining a tight, balanced sound. Solos were excellent and provided fresh thoughts into the music with their improvisations. Teton sax Tom Oliveria was particularly outstanding on his several solos.

The Harvard Jazz Band was third on the program. Their performance was average but their audience impact was greatly reduced by following the Lowell lead. "Footprints," a Wayne Shorter sextet ensemble number, provided a welcome break from the main group.

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Geneviève Bujold as Dr. Susan Wheeler plays the scenes of a human organ black market ring in Coma. Actual people rather than dummies were hung from the ceiling in this scene in order to increase visual realism.