opinion

Deer Hunter worth discomfort

To the Editor:

Mr. Joel West complained (The Tech Tuesday March 6) that The Deer Hunter suffered from a lack of depth and insight, I must assert that this appears less more in Mr. West’s superficial interpretation than in the movie itself. Unfortunately, it seems that Mr. West went to the common blunder of mentally reviewing a movie while watching it, a crime whose punishment is constructed vision and loss of hindsight as one is handicapped by seeing each vignette as an end in itself, thus missing the broader meaning of the movie as seen in the sum of the parts.

Shortsightedness is particularly dammed in dealing with The Deer Hunter. For although after about two-thirds of the movie the audience is allowed to sympathize with the solitary frustration of the characters, the majority of the film the viewer is left without a character to identify with and thus must pass judgment on each scene as an inside observer rather than as a character with a purpose. In addition, a lot of the symbolism used by Cimino is unusually shocking as well as threatening. Because of the intense horror produced by many scenes, the viewer will often find comfort in removing himself from the scene by questioning its applicability to our own reality. This is especially true of such scenes as the prisoner-of-war scenes, where the graphic detail of cells filled with water and physical and mental torture necessitate that one dissociate oneself from the likelihood of such threats, if only to preserve one’s sanity.

One might plausibly argue that Cimino’s use of such harsh imagery is unnecessary as more subtle less traumatic symbolism might well have less gruesomely conveyed the same message without losing a major part of his audience. Unfortunately for the weak-stomached, Cimino has deemed it necessary to examine the motivation and foundation of the “typical” American character by observing where it breaks under conditions of severe stress.

One might claim that the conditions depicted by Cimino are un-documented and therefore invalid. However, I feel that few will argue that similar conditions of horror have not been and will be documented. What is important to Cimino is the way the glass breaks (or does not break) rather than the brand of hammer used to break it.

...it serves as a commentary on the designs of “typical” people searching for the power to carry on in a seemingly purposeless life.

Thus, the meaning of the movie is not obviously a documentary of the painlessness of war. Rather it serves as a commentary on the designs of “typical” people searching for the power to carry on in a seemingly purposeless life. In examining the effects of extreme stress on the lives and value systems of Nick, Steve, Mike, and Linda, Cimino makes a powerful statement on the fragility of human security. The flag, the church, lovers and friends, all are threatened as sources of security, and all are shattered to different degrees. Unlike Mr. West, I do not believe that The Deer Hunter represents a manifestation of the existential dilemma of the 70’s, but moreover, a presentation of the existential dilemma of the 70’s, I would strongly recommend this movie to all those who have questioned their motivation. Although the chances are good that the experience of watching the movie will not be pleasant, the insight offered by Mr. Cimino is certainly worth the discomfort.

James Zasinski ’80

Intramural track coverage was non-existent

To the Editor:

You are to be commended for your EXCELLENT coverage of intramural sports. Therefore, your negligence in covering the intramural track meet (indoor) of 1/12/79 was extremely unwarranted and impractical. The men’s and women’s teams of the Black Students Union each took first place. We expect to read about our exploits on the track shortly.

Sherryl Karen Strothers ’80

Rudolph Allen Bellingie ’79

Ed. note: A story on the intramural meet is on page 12 of this issue.

Competition not needed

To the Editor:

While I sympathize with Mr. Horvath’s attempt (The Tech, 3/2) to do peace with senile attitude toward women students, in so doing she exhibited another attitude which should have been buried long ago. As students, we are here for learning, the broadest sense of the word, not the “real competition” in which M. Horvath indicated she wished to engage. With faculty attempting to increase the pressure on students temporarily suppressed by last year’s rejection of the drop date proposal, the last thing we need is for the students themselves to encourage competition at the expense of learning. Instead, we should see ourselves as individuals with strengths that are not measured in terms of grades, money and prestige.

Darril J. Hartwick ’80

Icelandic’s

Big Bargain to Europe

Just Got Bigger.

Introducing Wide-Body DC-10 Service to the Heart of Europe.$299 Roundtrip.

And our great bargain price is still the same as before. Just $299 roundtrip from New York to London:

$149.50 one way. Price includes an excellent dinner, free wine and cognac. No restrictions. Tickets can be purchased anywhere in the U.S.A. and are good for a full year. DC-10 flights leave and return five times weekly.

Prices are subject to change after May 14, 1979. Add $12.50 surcharge each way on travel between April 5 and April 27.

For more information see your travel agent. Or write Dept. # Icelandair P.O. Box 105, West Haverstraw, NY 10993. In New York City, call: 718-640-9655 or call toll free in New York State (800) 442-5910; elsewhere, (800) 223-5080.

Name

Address

City State Zip

ICELANDIC

BARGAINS TO EUROPE

3/2/79

Sueda

For sale

CITY

STATE

ZIP

ENGINEERS

Let’s be candid...This is a pitch.

We’re looking for talent.

At MagnavoX Government & Industrial Electronics Co., we want to hire the best engineers and computer scientists we can find. If you qualify, and you’re interested in a career with the world’s leader in communications, then Magnavox may be for you.

That’s because, in our business, an outstanding technical staff is the key to success. Magnavox has been remarkably successful because we offer small company atmosphere with large company benefits and challenge!

Hence the pitch, and this ad. If you like what you see here, get in touch. Maybe both of us will be glad you did.

WE WILL BE ON CAMPUS:

Monday, April 30, 1979
Tuesday, May 20, 1979

Please contact your Placement Office or send your resume to:

PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT

MAGNAVOX

Advanced Products Division
(MagnavoX Research Laboratories)

2829 Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

3/19/79

THE TECH PAGE 5

AUTO INSURANCE

Students Welcome

Low down payment

Same day license plates

Time payments

868-8780

M. Finn Insurance Agency

428 Mass. Ave, Cambridge

Opposite Central Cinema

Servicing Cambridge and vicinity for over 14 years

Interested in corresponding about Utopia?

Write: COMO6

5033 Westmont Road

Whittier, CA 90601

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1979 THE TECH PAGE 5

JOIN THE BLOODLINE

TCA—RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH

TCA-RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 79, 12:16

CALL TCA AT x3-7911

This space donated by The Tech

Maricopa St. Torrance, CA 90603

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

12:16

PAGE 5

THE TECH