

Free comic book celebration at Demmer Memorial Library

On Saturday, May 7, starting at 9 a.m. the Demmer Library will give away free comic books as part of Free Comic Book Day. Comics are first come, first serve and there is a limited quantity.

Free Comic Book Day is held on the first Saturday in May and has been celebrated since 2002. Libraries and comic bookstores can sign up online and get promotional materials and free comic books to give away.

"I love comic books," states programming librarian April Lammert. "And what place better than a library to get free books. It's the ultimate match-up."

For more information call 715-546-3391 or visit demmer@demmerlibrary.org.

MOVIE REVIEW

'The Candidate' and the antics of political campaigns

By Trevor Greene
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

For as long as I can recall, teachers, professors or any given person, really, has said to me good art stands the test of time because it continues to reflect the truths and nuances of the world.

If that is the foremost principle in judging what makes an artful endeavor a success, then the 1972 film "The Candidate" makes the cut.

Robert Redford stars as a young liberal, Bill McKay, who is persuaded to run for the U.S. Senate against an aging and out of touch Crocker Jarmon, played by Don Porter.

The film takes place in California and starts with McKay working as a good faith lawyer trying to do right by the next man.

His father, played by Melvyn Douglas, was the governor at one point, and while McKay doesn't directly show any animosity towards his father, it is evident his father was never his hero — most notably when he explicitly rejects the hollow campaign tactics his father once used.

Peter Boyle is casted as McKay's campaign manager, Marvin Lucas. Lucas tells McKay from the start he is free to run true to

his colors and say what he wants in his campaign, but over the course of the plot, that promise seems to slowly compromise.

Early in the movie, McKay addresses the public with earnest intentions. He free-wheels his speech and gives genuine insight as to why he decided to run. In short; he counter-acts all the typical tropes of a "politician." He also pleads for the public to hear him out.

"Maybe people aren't ready to listen, but I'm gonna try, and I hope that you'll support that effort," he says. "At least give me the benefit of the doubt."

McKay's positive messages on change become watered-down as the plot progresses. His campaign slogan "Bill McKay: The better way" grows less sincere.

Jeremy Lerner won an academy award for the film's screenplay, but it's the muddled chaos and relentless anxiety in between the big speeches that makes the film hard to watch at times.

Lerner was a speechwriter for the presidential campaign of Sen. Eugene McCarthy in 1968, so the film's depiction of a campaign is authentic, but that could be the issue. It accomplishes its goal in revealing the American political campaign as a circus, but also leaves viewers with a pessimistic outlook on America's democracy.

When the race between McKay and Jarmon becomes tight, instead of resorting to the authenticity of his original intentions, the film's protagonist changes his tune and places highest priority on simply beating the incumbent.

He gets caught up in the campaign vacuum and is desperate to win just to win.

Though McKay shows signs he hasn't completely lost sight of who he is during a debate later in the film, it is ultimately to no avail. He is subse-

quently seen rambling on in the backseat of a car reciting condensed political mumbo-jumbo to the viewers' disappointment.

One of the film's most memorable moments, too, is when McKay looks as if he

saw a ghost when his father looks him in the eyes with a smile and tells him he's become a true politician. It's as if it were his worst nightmare.

"The Candidate" showcases an appealingly optimistic American who is steadily harassed by the political antics of tradition.

At the time, America's government didn't necessarily have the greatest reputation. The early 1970s was a contentious period in our history. It was the butt-end of the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal was coming to light. Citizens' faith in the system was lacking, and "The Candidate" tries to depict that by casting a mundane shadow over a high stakes senate race.

Come Nov. 8, Wisconsin voters will elect a member to the U.S. Senate. Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, Milwaukee Bucks executive Alex Lasery, state treasurer Sarah Godlewski and Outagamie County executive Tom Nelson will bid for a spot in the Aug. 9 primary to take on incumbent Sen. Ron Johnson.

The race for one of Wisconsin's U.S. Senate seats is expected to be one of the most significant in the country based on the implications it could have on the bigger picture.

But, regardless who reigns victorious at its conclusion, one thing I hope is that the winner answers the film's final question with honesty, integrity and pride, while keeping Americans' best interest close to their heart.

"What do we do now?" McKay asks. "What do we do now?" Trevor Greene may be reached via email at trevorgreene@lakelandtimes.com.

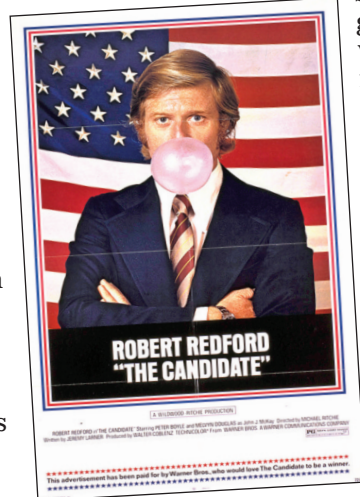


IMAGE COURTESY OF IMDB



LAKELAND PERFORMING ARTS ASSOCIATION
SPRING CONCERT SERIES
LPAA is back for 2022



Sons of the Pioneers

Saturday, May 14 at 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm)

The Sons of the Pioneers is known as the original "singing cowboy" band, and instrumental in creating the earliest sounds of western music.

Founded by Roy Rogers in 1934, the band has remained together continuously since then, rotating a total of 46 members over the years and currently featuring Roy's son Dusty.

This legendary band continues to gain fans young and old playing favorites like Cool Water, Cimarron, Tumbling Tumbleweeds and of course Happy Trails.

All Concerts Held at
Lakeland Union High School Theatre,
Hwy 70 W., Minocqua
See website for additional details
www.LakelandPerformingArts.org or
call 715-686-2668

TICKET INFORMATION
Tickets available at the door
for \$25 or cancelled concert
tickets will be honored.



This concert series is supported in part by grant funds received from the Northern Arts Council as well as St. Matthias Thrift Shop.

GO PLACES YOU'VE NEVER BEEN



RAMBO



6829 HWY. 51 • HAZELHURST, WI 54531
715-358-5349

GEAR & ACCESSORIES FOR ALL YOUR ADVENTURES

**HATS - HELMETS - GLOVES
BOOTS - JACKETS - GOGGLES**

Always wear a helmet and don't drink & drive.