

"CADDYSHACK"

BILL MURRAY VERSUS THE GOPHERS

Only a little the worse for war, Carl, assistant greenskeeper at the Bushwood Country Club knows how to rid the links of gophers, in the golf coarse (sic) comedy, "Caddyshack," an Orion Pictures release through Warner Bros.

Employing his Green Berets training, he's going to blast the "furry little suckers" out of their holes and into the sky. That he will simultaneously level the club's valuable real estate and maim its daffy duffers -- including Chevy Chase, Ted Knight, Rodney Dangerfield and Michael O'Keefe -- never occurs to Carl.

Why should it? He is portrayed by Bill Murray, ex-star of "Saturday Night Live," and the creator of nerds whose grasp on reality is seldom very strong.

Nearly always at his funniest pretending an expertise he doesn't even know he doesn't have, Murray created some marvels of misplaced suavity during his years with the satiric late night series.

His asinine Lounge entertainer, his high school Romeo, and his palsy-walsy movie critic had two traits in common. They thought they were incredibly smooth, and they were, at

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best, slightly nuts.

The same holds true of the hapless camp counselor he played in his film debut, "Meatballs," and stoned guru journalist Hunter Thompson in "Where the Buffalo Roam."

Like all of them, Carl in "Caddyshack" is certain he's the lone voice of sanity in a psycho world. When Chevy Chase visits the filthy squatter's shack in which he lives, he offers him a glass of cheap red wine, surveys his squalid surroundings and asks pleasantly, "Like the place? I decorated it myself."

And when he leers lecherously at the nubile wenches who came to the ladies' tee, he can't understand why they don't give up golf and join him in the rough.

The character is classic Murray.

And small wonder.

It was dreamed up by his brother, Brian Doyle-Murray, who co-authored "Caddyshack," with two of the co-writers of "Animal House," director Harold Ramis and producer Douglas Kenney.

At one point in their midwest boyhoods both Murray brothers worked for country clubs in the area. Brian was a caddy at Indian Hills, outside Chicago, and his kid brother was an assistant groundskeeper for the Evanston Country Club in Indiana.

First one, then the other, joined Chicago's famed Second City improvisational theatre group. Then, in the same order, they moved on to New York and the National Lampoon shows.

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"My brother, Brian, always looked out for me," says Murray, smiling vacantly as he lapses into nerd talk.

"In fact, Brian negotiated my deal on this picture. I'm not getting paid but they're letting me keep my wardrobe," he continues, alluding to the cruddy tee shirt, food-stained fatigues and battered old hat he wears throughout "Caddyshack." "And if I behave myself, I get a free TV set."

"So I've been lunching with the cast and crew, making nice, acting like a normal person. I don't want to blow that %&#*\$&*, TV set."

Someone asks Murray for a capsule description of his character?

"Carl? He's deranged. Anthing can set him off. He'd kill you soon as look at you. But he has his sweet side. I'd like to say I've known a lot of guys like Carl, but if I did, I wouldn't be here talking to you now."

"Caddyshack," a Jon Peters production for Orion Pictures release through Warner Bros., stars Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield, Ted Knight, Michael O'Keefe and Bill Murray as Carl. Produced by Douglas Kenney with Jon Peters serving as executive producer, the film was directed by Harold Ramis and written by Brian Doyle-Murray & Harold Ramis & Douglas Kenney. Original songs are by Kenny Loggins, with music composed by Johnny Mandel.

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