

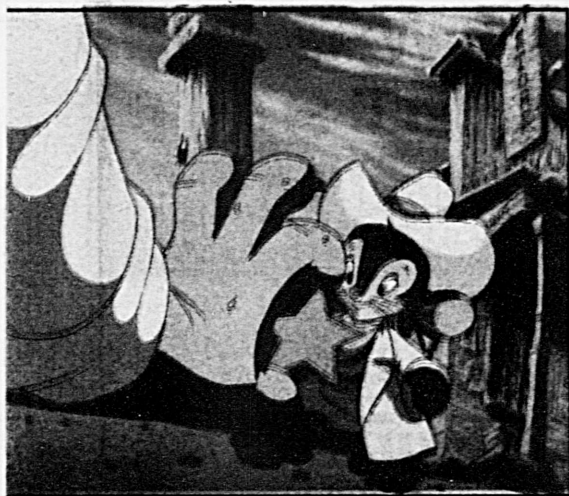
V i d e o f i l e

FIEVEL TAMES
THE WILD WEST*Hey, varmints, there's a new mouse in town*

BY ERIC KOHANIK

When last we saw our tiny pal, Fievel Mousekewitz, in Steven Spielberg's *An American Tail*, he and his immigrant family had settled nicely in America (where "streets are paved with cheese").

Well, lo and behold, life isn't so grand on the streets of New York after all. And so, inspired by young Fievel's dreams, the Mousekewitzes are on the road again



FIEVEL: HERO WITH A TIN BADGE

in *An American Tale: Fievel Goes West*, from MCA Universal Home Video.

Like its 1986 forerunner, the sequel is a sparkling bundle of animated energy filled with new songs and adventures. However, parents should exercise a bit of caution: when the film played in theatres, some of the action proved too harrowing for very young kids.

Meanwhile, for the adults in the crowd, there's *The Doctor*, a damning look at the medical system. William Hurt plays a

San Francisco heart surgeon whose nonchalant attitude toward his patients takes a dramatic turn when he discovers that he has a tumor on his larynx. It is then that he learns of life on the other side of the uncaring scalpel.

Hurt turns in another subtle yet stunning performance, and Elizabeth Perkins is simply terrific as a terminal cancer patient whom he befriends. It's available from Touchstone Home Video.

The mood is considerably lighter in *Other People's Money*, Norman Jewison's adaptation of the long-running off-Broadway play. Danny DeVito stars as a ruthless Wall Street raider who takes particular delight in the fine art of corporate takeovers. The target is a company run by kindly old Gregory Peck, and DeVito's take-no-survivors campaign turns into a wily cat-and-mouse game. How times change! When it premiered in the late '80s, the play was a timely smash hit — it accurately reflected the attitudes of the gimme generation. Last year, the movie flopped. In just a few short years, our economic woes had made the aggressive takeover mentality seem badly dated. Still, the Warner Home Video release has some funny moments and it certainly serves as a time capsule.

Sarah, Plain and Tall, from Republic Pictures Home Video, is a gentle made-for-TV yarn with Glenn Close as a strong-willed turn-of-the-century woman who answers a widowed farmer's ad for help in raising his children. Switching from his usual psycho roles, Christopher Walken is a charming romantic lead. A sequel for TV is in the works. ♦



CHUCKY: LOOK WHO'S STALKING

The top rentals
on home video

Boyz *N the Hood* (Columbia Tri-Star Home Video): Director John Singleton's Oscar-nominated feature film debut is a searing drama about young black men in South Central L.A.

■ *Child's Play 3: Look Who's Stalking* (MCA Universal Home Video): Chucky's back. The carnage is much the same, but the story is fresher this time around.

■ *Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare* (Alliance Releasing Home Video): Freddy Krueger is back, too, for a final, we hope, dreamstalking adventure. Robert Englund stars.

■ *Dead Again* (Paramount Home Video): Kenneth Branagh directs and stars in an eerie story of love, murder and reincarnation.

■ *Fatal Attraction* (Paramount Home Video): This is the special "Directors Series" edition with the never-before-seen original ending.



Fast forward: Fittingly, Touchstone Home Video has pegged April 1 for Dustin Hoffman's gangster stint in *Billy Bathgate*.

■ Touchstone has also set April 1 to showcase *Deceived*, Goldie Hawn's failed attempt at thrills and chills.

■ Walt Disney Home Video brings the animated fun of *101 Dalmatians* to video stores on April 7.

■ Alliance Releasing Home Video sends Bruce Beresford's mesmerizing *Black Robe* to video on April 9. ♦