See ‘Anne Frank’ --- A Superb Movie

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As the realization slowly dawns that Rice Institute has indeed opened its rusty iron gates for another school year and as the locked-in feeling settles over campus life, it seems likely that some students will be seeking a safer place to sit down and weep quietly.

For those who prefer to do their crying in the dark, it would be a good plan to attend the current cinema attraction at the Majestic — The Diary of Anne Frank.

In the blackened recesses of the theater, the noise of muffled sobs and snifflies, (arising from the female section of the audience) is so loud that one would never be noticed.

Diary, however, offers far more to the movie goer than the prospect of releasing pent-up emotions or pent-up what-have-you. It is a superb movie. Much credit no doubt goes to director George Stevens, who has controlled the production with a tightness that renders the suspenseful moments almost electric.

Newcomer Millie Perkins, who portrays Anne, has received much praise, though she is only one among an excellent cast. Miss Perkins creates a fresh sugary-spice impression on the screen, but she also gives Anne the sensitive and sensitive qualities that must have been a deep part of her character.

The story of the two Jewish families who tried to escape the excesses of the Nazis by hiding in the attic of a spice factory for two years will probably not be new to anyone. It loses none of its sympathetic appeal at the hands of the movie makers. The survival of the seven people trapped in the attic depended on their ability to forget the fear that constantly hung over their lives. Anne became a mature girl in this atmosphere—even while the "earth toppled about her ears."

When the end finally came and the Gestapo officers broke into the hiding place, they found seven people, who were glad to have prolonged their life for even a short period, and who had the strength to fade their future with hopeful and stoic acceptance.

The movie ended by recalling Anne's words: "I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are really good at heart." Such a statement seems bitterly ironic. Perhaps such faith is ridiculously naive. But, girls, somehow, reach for those handkerchiefs in spite of it all.