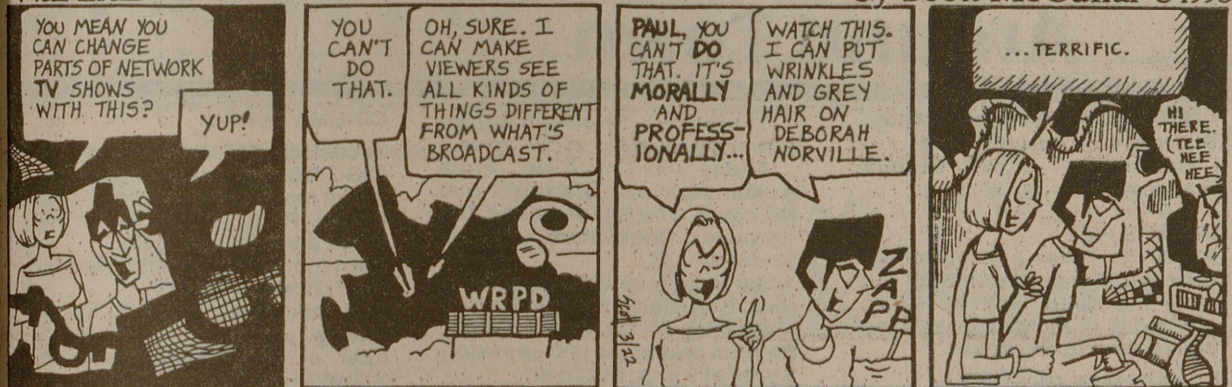
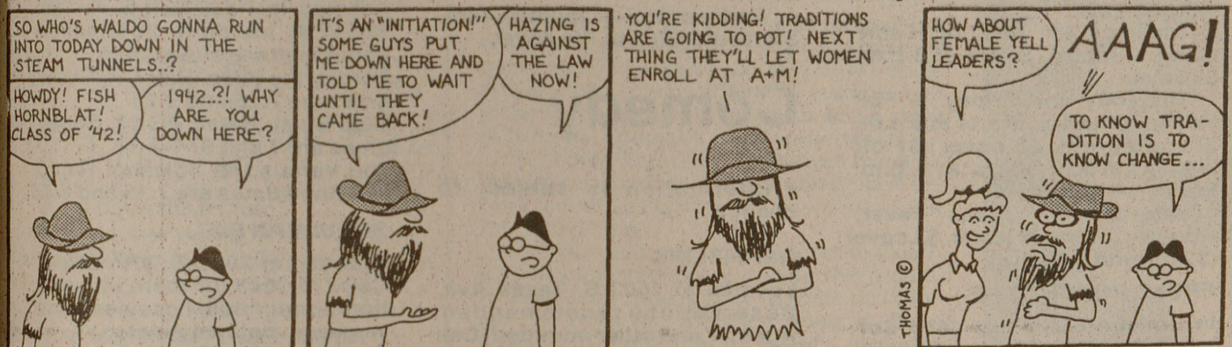


WRPD



WALDO



SPADE PHILLIPS, P.I.



Hanks, Ryan screen chemistry real, but 'Joe' doesn't live up to potential

By TODD STONE  
Of The Battalion Staff

The old cliché "almost only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades," applies well to the new Tom Hanks film, "Joe Versus the Volcano."

The recruitment of stars Hanks and Meg Ryan suggests the film is going to be a conventional romantic comedy. However, writer and director John Patrick Shanley attempts to be unusual, bizarre and abstract with his humor and themes.

As much as I appreciate the off-beat, "Joe" tends to meander more than entertain.

Hanks plays Banks, Joe Banks. He has a terrible job at a surgical supply company, and he is always sick. At the office, his world is a room with no windows and flickering fluorescent lights.

A demeaning and demanding boss and a shy, flaky secretary are his only companions.

Shanley puts Joe in a cleverly crafted world that is morbid and mundane, and in the beginning, it is all interesting.

However, as Joe wanders through his pathetic existence, so does the film. For every scene that gets a laugh, droughts of humor and ambiguity follow.

Joe discovers he has a "brain

cloud" and has only six months to live. Robert Stack begins a series of amusing cameo appearances as the cold and stoic doctor who warns Joe of his imminent death.

Lloyd Bridges makes an appearance as an eccentric industrialist who offers Joe three weeks of extravagant living if he will jump into a volcano.

Joe decides to enjoy the money, find himself and die like a man — he agrees to take the plunge.

Although Joe now has money, he still doesn't know what to do because he never considered what he wanted out of life. Ossie Davis appears and charms as a chauffeur who teaches Joe to dress with style.

In spite of the strong cameos by Davis, Stack and Bridges, the performances of Hanks and Ryan is what keeps this film from falling apart. The two stars share a strong screen chemistry as Joe meets three women during the film, all played by Ryan.

As a quirky secretary, Ryan displays a strong comedic touch with her subtle glances, movements and expressions. A few hilarious moments follow as Ryan plays a superficial artist, but as her final character, a yacht captain, she doesn't get much to do.

Still, Ryan proves she can be funny and inventive. I wonder how good Ryan and Hanks would have

**JOE VERSUS THE VOLCANO**  
Starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan  
Directed by John Patrick Shanley  
Rated PG

been together with a stronger script? Hanks fails to compensate for all of the boring moments in the film, but he continues to pull laughs out of nowhere.

If anyone else had played Joe, the film would have been a disaster. Unfortunately, Hanks too is held back by a script that follows too many boring tangents.

Of course, the climax of the film focuses on Joe's jump into the volcano. Will he? At that point, I didn't care. It was frustrating watching Ryan and Hanks struggle through a story and an a creative world that lacked "punch."

To his credit, Shanley had a vision, and he deserves a slap on the back for trying different ideas throughout the film. Unfortunately, the attempt at inventiveness failed.

If you enjoy Tom Hanks — and you have to like him a lot — then maybe this film will be entertaining. Otherwise, "Joe Versus the Volcano" is a potentially inventive film that goes nowhere.

May August & December  
**SENIORS!**  
The Class of '90 needs  
**CLASS AGENTS**

Qualifications & duties of persons to be elected to represent the Class of '90 for the next five years will be discussed at a meeting sponsored by . . .

**Association of Former Students**  
**TODAY March 22 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center**

Attendance is mandatory to seek election as a Class Agent



**COMMIT TO BE FIT!**

- Classes 7 am - 8 pm
- High & Low Impact Aerobics
- Hydra-fitness Equipment
- Tanning

**JOIN NOW FOR ONLY \$45.00\***  
**Thru May 31, 1990**



**846-1013**  
**1003 University Drive East**

\*Does not include tanning

**ENGINEERING WEEK**

March 26-31, 1990

- Monday**  
5:00 Zachry Lobby Paper Airplane Contest  
Sponsored by Andersen Consulting  
5:00 Sneakers Horseshoe Tournament  
Sponsored by Union Carbide
- Tuesday**  
12:00 Zachry Lobby Egg Drop Event  
Sponsored by Southwest Bell Corporation  
5:00 Sneakers Horseshoe Tournament Continued
- Wednesday**  
11:50 Zachry Lobby Dean's Forum  
Sponsored by College of Engineering and Student Engineers' Council  
5:00 CE Materials Lab Wooden Bridge Building Contest  
Sponsored by Houston Lighting and Power and Conoco  
7:00 Sneakers Sandcastle Building Contest  
Sponsored by E Systems
- Thursday**  
5:00 CVLB FORTRAN Programming  
Sponsored by Du Pont  
5:00 Zachry Paper Competition  
"How I as a—Engineer Can Improve Society"  
Sponsored by Frito Lay 42 Domino Tournament  
5:00 Sneakers  
Sponsored by Dow Chemical Company  
5:00 Sneakers Volleyball Tournament  
Sponsored by Advanced Micro Devices
- Friday**  
2:00 Sneakers  
2:00 Sneakers  
Volleyball Tournament continued  
42 Domino Tournament continued
- Saturday**  
10:00 am Sneakers  
10:00 am Sneakers  
5:00-7:00 Sneakers  
Sponsored by Mobil  
10:00 pm Sneakers  
Volleyball Tournament finals  
42 Domino Tournament finals  
Fajita Supper  
Joe King Carrasco

Participation prizes funded by Exxon  
Coordinated by Student Engineer's Council

**MSC VARIETY SHOW**

"A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS"

\*TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE\*

PARENTS' WEEKEND  
APRIL 6, 1990  
7:30 RUDDER  
FEATURING  
DAVID NASTER

MSC BOX-OFFICE  
845-1234



**AggieVision:**

Texas A&M's video yearbook. Order your copy today from Student Publications,  
230 Reed McDonald  
(Only \$32.50 includes taxes and delivery.)