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**FILM REVIEWS**

**A 'Fearless' portrayal by Bridges**



By Joe Leih

THE BATTALION

"Fearless"  
Starring Jeff Bridges, Isabella Rossellini and Rosie Perez  
Directed by Peter Weir  
Rated R  
Playing at Cinema III

Director Peter Weir can claim a cinematic resume that includes a long list of such admirable films as "Green Card," "Witness" and "Dead Poets Society." But he has far surpassed his previous ventures with his latest release "Fearless."

By employing incredible skill and finesse, Weir's awe-inspiring film will easily be hailed as his masterpiece.

The story (written by Rafael Yglesias and based on his book) revolves around Max Klein (Jeff Bridges), an architect who survives a heinous plane crash but isn't hurt, saddened, or in any way distressed about the event. In fact, Klein develops a god complex, believing he is invincible.

To test this divinity, Klein constantly tempts death in a variety of ways and ends up alienating himself from his wife (Isabella Rossellini). Klein then turns to fellow passenger Carla Rodrigo (Rosie Perez) to help her with her guilt about the crash, but Klein seems intent on a path of self destruction.

Bridges brilliantly plays the part of Klein. With subtle, sophisticated mannerisms, Bridges magically brings out Klein's inner struggle with mortality. Plus, Rossellini and Perez are incredible as the two polar women pulling at Klein's turbulent life.

But Weir's camera direction is the jewel of the film. His array of extreme close-ups skillfully points out Klein's attempt to piece together the life of a crash victim, and Weir's random, jolting shots of the plunging plane richly show the stark terror of the passengers.

Weir definitely deserves an Academy Award nomination for this effort. But with the directors of such films as "The Remains of the Day," "In the Line of Fire" and "The Age of Innocence" crowding the ballot, he might be overlooked.

That would be a tragedy.



"With subtle, sophisticated mannerisms, Jeff Bridges magically brings out his character's inner struggle with mortality."

**'Flesh and Bone ...' stretched and dry**

By Jacqueline Ayotte

THE BATTALION

"Flesh and Bone"  
Starring Meg Ryan and Dennis Quaid  
Directed by Steve Kloves  
Rated R  
Playing at Schulman VI

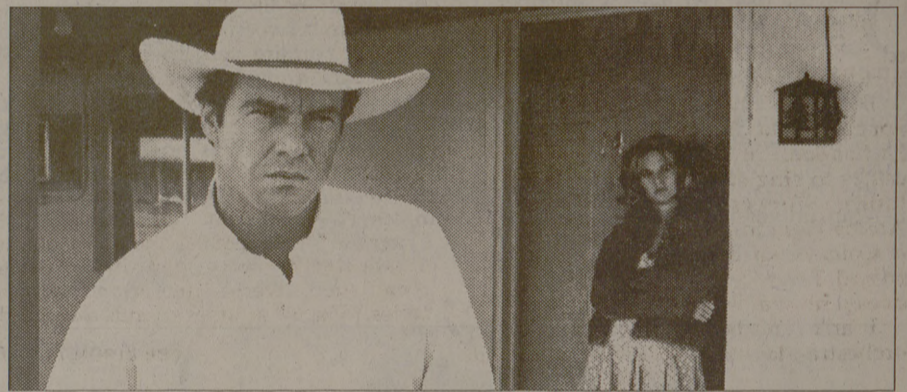
If only the long version of "Flesh and Bone" were edited down to a brief, hour-long film, it could pass as award winning.

It's too bad because the long version is the real version, and it's downright disappointing.

Yes, it has Meg Ryan, Dennis Quaid, James Caan, murder, sex and even mystery.

What more could you ask for? Try a bottle of vivarin.

Each scene captures in full detail the dry, vast plains of West Texas. But the story drags on and on along with the bland atmosphere. It loses the viewer's interest by the time the plot should be well on its way to thickening.



Dennis Quaid and Meg Ryan star in the overdrawn film "Flesh and Bone."

The story opens with a West Texas farm family taking in a lost little boy, Arlis Sweeney (Quaid), for the night. While they're sleeping, the boy begins to rob their house and lets in his shot-gun wielding father, Roy Sweeney (Caan). When a member of the family wakes up, Sweeney scolds the boy and shoots the

family except for a baby girl who's left alone, screaming in the night.

The film immediately cuts to 30 years later, when Arlis has grown up, never to forget that haunting night. His life is drab and relies mostly upon

See 'Flesh and Bone'/Page 6

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**NOVEMBER 12**