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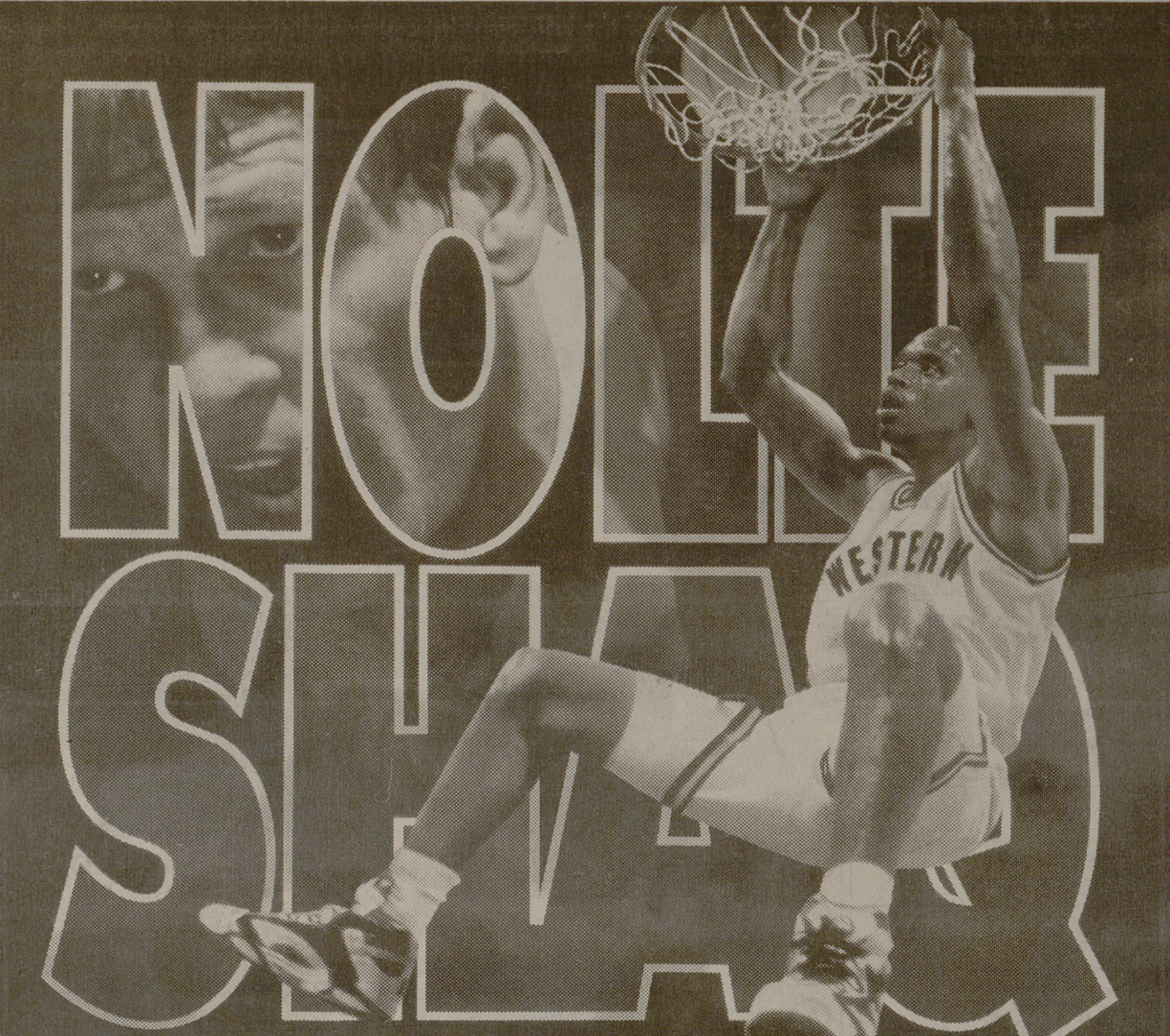
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FILM REVIEWS

'Getaway' — good advice

By Traci Travis
 THE BATTALION

"The Getaway"
 Starring Alec Baldwin, Kim Basinger, Michael Madsen and James Woods
 Directed by Roger Donaldson
 Rated R
 Playing at Post Oak III



Kim Basinger (left) and Alec Baldwin (right) play a criminal husband and wife who team up for one last heist in the action drama "The Getaway."

With all of the sex and violence in "The Getaway," the only thing missing is any sense of morality.

The producers of "The Getaway" seem to be driving full-speed down a one-way highway out of the land of reality.

Based on the 1972 box-office hit, which starred Steve McQueen and Ali McGraw, the film surrounds itself with deceit and dishonesty.

David Foster, the film's producer, said that for the past few years, he has been trying to find a good crime story.

"I started thinking about 'The Getaway' again because the story is exceptionally strong with a personal edge to it," Foster said. "It's timeless."

Exactly. Less time should have been spent remaking this film, and more time should have been spent on an original thriller.

The film is a cross between "Cape Fear" and "Indecent Proposal." It too has a stalking, fearless criminal and a morally questionable marriage.

Master thief Doc McCoy (Alec Baldwin) and his wife

Carol (Kim Basinger) have made a living by committing crime after crime.

In a world where dishonor is not unusual, Doc McCoy distinguishes himself by following his own code of honor and standing by his word.

Not long after its opening scene, Doc finds himself behind the bars of a hellish Mexican prison.

His wife and partner in crime is willing to do whatever it takes to free her husband from these grim surroundings.

This is where Jack Benyon (James Woods) comes into the story. Carol pays him a couple of visits (so to speak) that eventually result in the release of her husband.

Doc is released under one condition. He, along with Rudy Travis (Michael Madsen), is to pull off the ultimate crime.

Little did they know,

however, that the ultimate crime would be the easier part of the deal.

The remainder of the movie is filled with shoot-outs, fist fights, and sensual sex scenes — a perfect combination for your classic B-rated movie.

Credit should be given to the wonderful chemistry created on screen by Baldwin and Basinger. But then again, they've had extra practice being married on screen.

Let's hope, for their sake, that their relationship on screen is nothing like their true relationship off screen. This is definitely not a film about true love and romance.

More time should have been given to the development of essential characters. For example, Woods is only in the film for three scenes before he is killed off.

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Depardieu wastes talents in mundane 'My Father, the Hero'

By Margaret Claughton
 THE BATTALION

"My Father, the Hero"
 Starring Gérard Depardieu, Katherine Heigl, Dalton James
 Directed by Steve Miner
 Rated PG
 Playing at Cinema III

Pardón a moi, but who's bright idea was it to cast Gérard Depardieu, an exotic, one-of-a-kind, extremely talented actor, as the father in a film using one of the industry's latest mundane, copy-catter plots? Hmmm?

"My Father the Hero" is the classic overprotective-daddy-worries-about-young-voluptuous-daughter story. Granted, it carries along a few original twists. But the use of Depardieu as Andre, the worried father, is a downright waste of the man's incredible acting talent.

As the film begins, we are introduced to Nicole (Katherine Heigl) the beautiful, bitchy daughter of divorced couple Andre (Depardieu)

and Megan (Lauren Hutton). Andre has not been much of a father and vows to take his daughter on the vacation of her life to a beautiful tropical island.

The scenery in the film is one of its few strong points. Most of the film was shot at a paradise island resort in Nassau, Bahamas. The crystal blue waters, white sandy beaches and magnificent beach cottages create a scene close to that of paradise, definitely giving the audience that getting-away-from-it-all feeling. But you can't look at the scenery forever and this is when you are forced to face the reality that, in fact, Depardieu is playing opposite a 14-year-old girl who cannot act in one of the most ridiculously written films I've yet to suffer.

I must give him credit, however. Despite what he had to work with, Depardieu did his best and was actually a convincing father. He even pulled off a few haphazard, clumsy stunts. At times, I got a touch of the "warm fuzzies" from his willingness to do anything for Nicole. Although she seemingly didn't deserve it.

Nicole is the kind of bratty child character who is so cut-right rude to her parents it ticks you off. The kind of kid you want to smack a little respect into. In addition, she is also gifted with an incredible figure for a 14-year-old, great fashion sense, and an uncanny knack for lying.

After falling head-over-heels for a young island stud, she concocts a wicked plan convincing all of the resort guests, as well as her man that Andre is in fact her lover, not her dad. From there the lies build. Almost aggravatingly so. And to add insult to injury, Andre painfully goes along with her scheme in order to play out his I'll-do anything-for-my-daughter routine.

In short, the film was on the verge of pathetic. I looked at my watch fifteen minutes into it and prayed for a time warp.

I'd say, if it were necessary for this film to run, it should be on TV, on an obscure station, scheduled opposite an event such as the Super Bowl.

Oh, and maybe Alan Thicke or Tony Danza as the father, but not Depardieu.



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