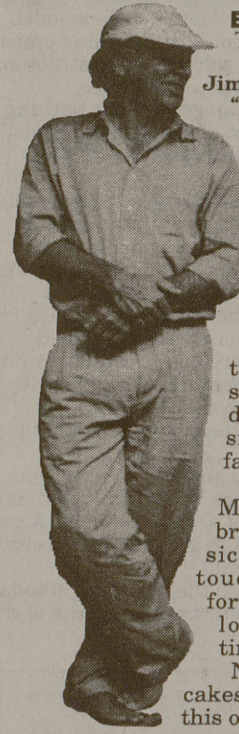




delusions sail on in 'Fruitcakes'

By William Harrison
THE BATTALION



Jimmy Buffett
"Fruitcakes"
Adult contemporary
MCA/Margaritaville Records

For a prescription for mid-summer doldrums take one part cold margarita, add in another part roasting sunshine, splash a dash of sand on the beach and veg out to Jimmy Buffett's latest album "Fruitcakes."
Buffett's music — a mixture of country and western sensibilities, with a sense of mellow irreverence and a steel drum band — may not fit anyone's musical genre, but to his "Parrothead" fans, Buffett stands alone.
Since "Margaritaville" and "Come Monday" have passed, Buffett hasn't broken too much ground with his music. But Buffett's feet don't like to touch ground too much. His music forges tales of life on the ocean, lost love and capers mirroring his, at times, ardent air-headedness.
Not surprisingly, the title song "Fruitcakes," is another Buffett theme song — this one lamenting the lack of crazy people

in the world. Almost rapping against a strong beat, Buffett pleads his case for listeners: "Stay in touch with my insanity / Really is the only way / It's a jungle out there kiddies / Have a very fruitful day."
The CD's opener "Everybody's got a Cousin in Miami" prefaces quite well Buffett's Crazy People Manifesto in "Fruitcakes." This mellow song talks about the instinctive chances people force themselves to take over the course of their lives. As Buffett says, "In one way or another we're all refugees."
Other tracks that stand out on the album include "Love In the Library," a song about a longing for a girl felt amid the books that make dreams and wishes come true, and "Uncle John's Band" a remarkably faithful — or as faithful as you can get in a steel drum band — cover of a standout Grateful Dead tune.
Buffett doesn't pull any new musical tricks in this latest edition, but he again proves that he is a master of the musical anecdote and flexible enough to touch, provoke and humor his listeners.
For Buffett fans, these things are an ongoing tradition, built since Buffett released his first album "Down to Earth" in 1970 and still going strong.
— If not sane.

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MOVIE REVIEWS

'I Love Trouble' — No problem

By Traci Travis
THE BATTALION

"I Love Trouble" Starring Nick Nolte, Julia Roberts, Saul Rubinek, Robert Loggia and James Rebhorn
Directed by Charles Shyer
Rated PG
Playing at Hollywood USA



"I know you think I'm trouble and you curse the day you met me, but off the record, I don't feel that way about you. At all."
Likewise, this summer's sexiest thriller is not what was expected — at all.
"I Love Trouble" surprises its audiences with a cup of originality that is filled to the rim with spirit and sparks.
Nolte plays Peter Brackett, an over-confident legend of the "Chicago Chronicle," who by default is assigned to cover a controversial train derailment. Not an unusual request of a journalist, but for a columnist/novelist such as Brackett, it's another story.
While covering the scene of

the derailment, Brackett discovers much more than burning wreckage. He discovers rookie reporter Sabrina Peterson (Roberts).
At first glance, Brackett sees Peterson as nothing more than an ignorant "cub" reporter. But Brackett's view soon changes after Peterson's version of the derailment story scoops his.
Nancy Meyers, the film's producer and writer, said, "We wanted this film to be an adventure where the characters were turned on to each other because they outwit each other. A constant sparring."
And a constant sparring is exactly what they got — the proof is in the package.
Early in the film, Brackett sends Peterson a gift that contains an adorable puppy and a copy of Peterson's front page scoop story. Unfortunately, the puppy mistakes the newspaper

as a temporary fire hydrant.
In return, Peterson laughingly informs her competitor that the puppy was named in honor of its generous gift-giver — "little Dick."
Such stinging remarks and sticky situations are bountiful in this film — a definite strength. Nolte and Roberts equal a male/female version of the legendary Laurel and Hardy comedy duo.
And as the summer dredges on to its blistering end, headlines nation-wide might read in big, bold letters — "I Love Trouble." Enough said.

'Blown away:' A big dud

By William Harrison
THE BATTALION

"Blown Away" Starring Jeff Bridges, Tommy Lee Jones, Lloyd Bridges, Forest Whitaker, Suzy Amis
Directed by Stephen Hopkins
Rated R
Playing at Carmike Cinema
Three and Schulman Six

mances of Jeff Bridges as Jimmy Dove, an Irish bomb squad specialist and Tommy Lee Jones as Gaerity, an Irish terrorist chasing after Dove to avenge a past Dove would like to stay buried.
The movie begins as Gaerity plots a ruthless escape from a prison off the coast of Northern Ireland. Gaerity reaches America where he sees Dove on television after one of his bomb squad runs. Dove has conveniently just decided to quit the squad and begin in earnest living with his family.
But Gaerity begins picking off Dove's bomb squad buddies one-by-one with an incredible knack for custom rigging bombs. By the end, Gaerity pulls off some stunts that put the children's game "Mousetrap" to shame.
Dove rejoins the squad as Gaerity sets his sights on taking him out (not to dinner, of course.)
There are genuine moments of tension surrounding the movie's

weak plot with occasional sightings of acting.
Bridges and Jones struggle about as much as Kevin Costner did in "Robin Hood" to find a consistent foreign accent. The best performance comes from Lloyd Bridges — Jeff's real life father, playing Dove's uncle Max, who Dove turns to for solace.
While some scenes are gripping, Stephen Hopkins' direction is uninspired, perhaps because the screenplay is equally half-baked.
What this movie is in the end is an excuse to watch Bridges stand up and play hero, while Tommy Lee Jones relies on his patented manic squirrellyness to pass for a villain.
Disposable characters are introduced and blown to bits, but it would have been a better stunt, actually, if this whole movie was blown away.

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No Blaze Of Glory For 'Wyatt Earp'

By Warren E. Mayberry
THE BATTALION

"Wyatt Earp" Starring Kevin Costner, Gene Hackman, Dennis Quaid and Catherine O'Hara
Directed by Lawrence Kasdan
Rated PG

Playing at Carmike Cinemas in Post Oak Mall
Movie-goers looking for a fast and rough, rootin' tootin' gunslinging western, should pass on "Wyatt Earp."
Warner Brothers has brought new meaning to the term "full-length." The three-hour film chronicling the life

and times of infamous lawman Wyatt Earp left more than a little to be desired.
The film opens with a scene from little Earp's past as he runs away from home to fight the "damn Yankees." From there a time warp thrusts Earp from a trusting, God-fearing boy to a rough and hardened gunman.
Wyatt Earp, portrayed by Kevin Costner, is the story of a man hardened by death and inspired by family as he brought law to the lawless Dodge City in the Old West.
In Dodge he meets the rival Clanton-McLauray gang, leading to the most celebrated gun fight in history at the O.K. Corral. Dodge City is also where the movie's bright spot appears — Doc Holiday played by Dennis Quaid.
Doc Holiday's suave and eloquent nature, coupled with sparse moments of comic relief, were the only saving graces to the film.
So for a western that chronicles the life of a legendary hero, try the Lone Ranger and leave Earp to the Old West.

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