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his block Charlie stops at a coffee shop with his partner and meets a wait-ress, (Bridget Fonda) who is sadly convinced that her luck in life and love has run out.

As in most anything that late director Frank Capra crafted, hu-man saints are rewarded in their direst hours of need, and Bergman follows Capra's lead.

Charlie finds himself short on a tip to give the waitress and promises to return tomorrow with double the tip. Or, if he wins the lottery, he

Frank Capra would have loved

"It Could Happen To You." If not, he certainly couldn't love many

other films released this summer. The film, an urban fairy tale,

begins as New York cop Charley

(Nicolas Cage) picks up a lottery ticket for his wife Muriel (Rosie

just wants to stick to his job, live a

charitable life, and is happy to

hang out in his neighborhood

playing stickball with the kids on

promises to split it with her.

Sure enough, Charlie wins, but conflict develops as Muriel can't stand to share the money with anyone. The screws tighten as the "cop and waitress" build a relationship that tabloid newspapers recount daily.

The story, spun around the two good characters versus the conniving rest of the world, plays a lot like Capra's "It's A Won-derful Life." Fresh, funny and

fraught with trial, the film steps into 1994 as a good change of pace from the rest of the movies conniving to snooker five dollars from movie patrons.

**By Traci Travis** Perez.) Muriel is a hairdresser THE BATTALION whose beady eyes target any-thing to get ahead in life. Charley

"North" Starring Elijah Wood, Jason Alexander, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Bruce Willis Directed by Rob Reiner

Rated PG Playing at Hollywood USA

For an above-average comedy about a far-from-average 11-year-old boy, pack up your favorite mode of transportation and head for "North.

North (Elijah Wood) is every parent's dream of the perfect son – every parent's except his own.

Feeling unappreciated by his career-obsessed parents (Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Jason Alexander), North seeks out a lawyer (John Lovitz), declares himself a "free agent" and embarks on a quest around the world for the ultimate parental figures.

After considerable persuasion by an evil-minded friend named Winchell (Mathew McCurley), North appears in court and is awarded an all expense paid trip

However, there is one stipulation to this dream vacation. North must choose between his true parents or the replacement sets of parents by the end of the summer, or North will be placed in an orphanage.

Bruce Willis acts as narrator and guardian angel of North; ap-pearing wherever he travels — Hawaii's tropical paradise, Alaska's permafrost playland and the Orient's regal dynasty. The strongest actors in

"North" are the youngest of the cast. Ten-year-old McCurley transforms into a boy with the mannerisms of a 40-year-old, ambitious businessman. Wood. a 13-year-old, portrays North in a

very humorous, mature manner. This film challenges its audience to think strongly about the consequences of poor family

And children are reminded to look beneath the scary demeanor of the parent to the child within.

## The Bad,

**By William Harrison** THE BATTALION

"Clear and Present Danger" Starring Harrison Ford, Anne Archer, James Earl Jones, Willem Dafoe and Donald Moffat Directed by Phillip Noyce Rated PG-13

Playing at Cinema III

If military intelligence is considered by some to be an oxymoron, then these people should stay away from "Clear and Present Danger." Then again, maybe this film could reaffirm them.

In a tale of deadly intrigue and deadlier politics, Jack Ryan (Harrison Ford) seems to be the only one with a clue in the U.S. intelligence community, fighting for truth, justice while he fights against American ways. And thus, the Ryan saga continues. The character appears in the third of the series of movies adapted from the Tom Clancy thrillers. This time the intelligence officer is

**By William Harrison** 

"The Mask" Starring Jim Carrey, Cameron Diaz, and Peter Riegert Directed by Charles Russell Rated PG-13 Playing at Hollywood USA and Schulman Six

Bending the bounds of physical expression and special ef-fects, Jim Carrey is only part of why "The Mask" is a superlative film.

Scripted and directed to appeal to anyone's MTV atten-tion span, this film simply brings out the best in Carrey's insipidly cheesy clowning. As a bank accountant with a

severe case of loseritis, Carrey plays Stanley Ipkiss, who becomes empowered with god-like abilities from an ancient Norse mask.

So what does lpkiss do with all this power? Anything he ever wanted to do.



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undercut by a vindictive Colombia military operation backed by a president with mannerisms suspice like George Bush, dealing in a situation even

A formula is developing for this series; no ma how detached Ryan may be from events, his at sense of "right and wrong" pulls him into a crisis, a he eventually takes matters into his own hands.

Ford makes the film, as usual - but, with films as the "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" trilogies, sumed Innocent" and "The Fugitive" to his credit, usual means a taut, suspenseful nerve-fraying pe mance. And a steady, reliable tale of intrigue is we worth seeing.

> He becomes Jack Nicholson's "Jo clinic as a di wearing canary yellow instead of pur becomes Michael Keeton's "Beetleju ett and his v survived, bot dancing to the rumba instead of the a so; becomes Steve Martin's "The Jen ients because acting as infantile as possible, while ke tecting access he man arre ing his pants on. ders, Paul H

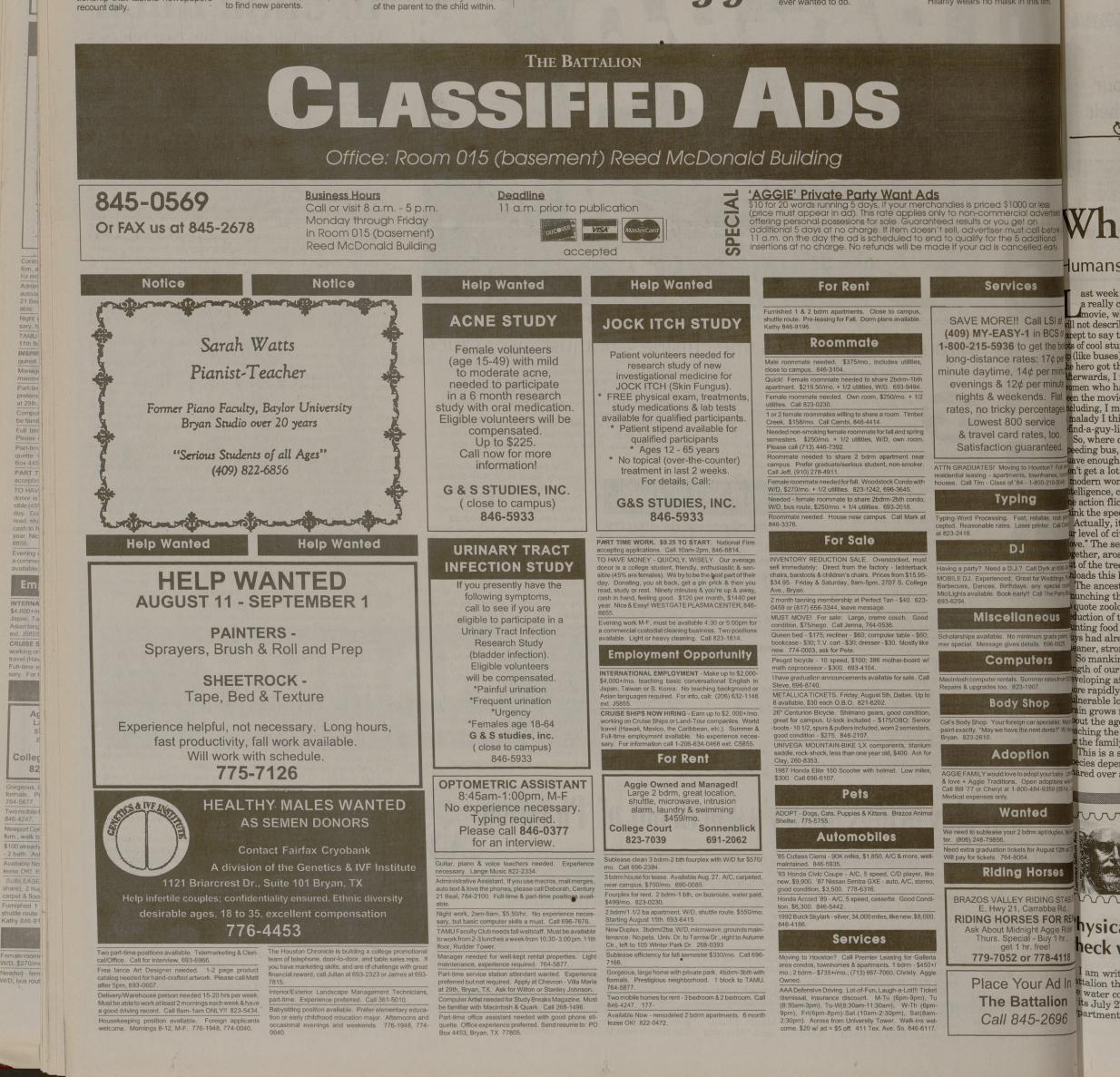
Fame, fortune and women come e to lpkiss in his guise as The Mask, but he really craves is the love of a club sin Tina Carlyle (Cameron Diaz.) To the sire, trouble will befall and befuddle h

The Mask becomes crossed up will vengeful gangster and a police lieute named Kellaway, (Peter Riegert – of mal House" fame) who is suspicious of kiss at first glance.

Those skeptical of Carrey's overwo goofiness should get over it and see film. Director Charles Russell backs (a up with an impressive ensemble of so play, direction, comedic accompaniand special effects.

And Carrey's performance is alm overpowered by Milo, Ipkiss' trusty tem There were genuine moments of uppo the theater by the routine of lpkiss and spastic dog.

Hilarity wears no mask in this film.



Movie reviews

Clockwise: Bridget Fonda and Nicolas Cage star in "It Could Hap-pen To You;" Harrison Ford stars in "Clear and Present Danger;" and tim Covers stars



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