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Applications must be postmarked by
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THE BATTALION
AGGIELIFE

MOVIE REVIEW

The Chamber

Starring: Chris O'Donnell and Gene Hackman
Directed by: James Foley
Rated: R
Playing at: Hollywood 16

First things first — why did Chris O'Donnell dye his hair for his role in the new movie *The Chamber*? It went from brown to dark brown. It will forever remain a mystery, but someone decided his hair needed tinting, and hair is everything to a movie. Anyway,

O'Donnell plays Adam Hall, a lawyer who goes to Mississippi to represent his long lost grandfather, Sam Cahall (Hackman), an inmate on death row.

Sam's sentence stemmed from a conviction relating to a Ku Klux Klan bombing that killed a lawyer's twin sons in 1967.

This is the fifth Grisham novel to be turned

into a movie, and one of the worst.

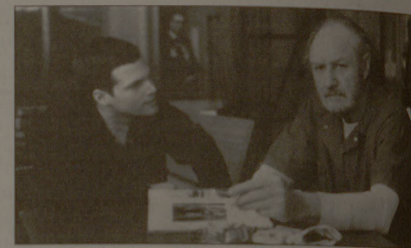
O'Donnell and Hackman turn in good performances in the movie. The scenes between the two are excellent, capturing the passion of both men.

But the writing for the movie follows in the footsteps of the poorly written movies this summer such as *Twister* and *Independence Day*.

Neither Adam nor Sam seem upset about the tragic events *The Chamber* depicts. O'Donnell and Hackman try to demonstrate the pain of the events, but the lines they deliver betray the emotions they show.

The Chamber cannot help being compared to *Dead Man Walking*, another movie that dealt with the death penalty. Capital punishment seems to be the issue of the year in the movie business, but it is better than last year's issue of prostitution, well-represented by Elizabeth Shue, Mira Sorvino and Sharon Stone.

The Chamber is yet another mutilated Grisham novel turned over to moviegoers. Maybe next time the makers of *The Chamber* should spend more time working on the movie's script and less time worrying about the actors' hair. **D+**
-By Aaron Meier



Gene Hackman and Chris O'Donnell star in *The Chamber*.

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AT THEATRES OCTOBER 16

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