

The Big Lebowski

Starring Jeff Bridges, John Goodman and Julianne Moore

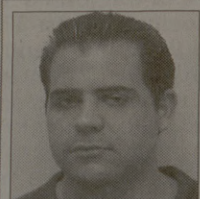
Directed by: Joel and Ethan Coen

Rated R

Playing at Hollywood 16

Critique: A

Reel CRITIQUE



TRAVIS IRBY
staff writer

The Coen brothers roll a perfect 10 with the oddball comedy *The Big Lebowski*. The quirk-filled film is not for everyone as it spins a tale about bowling and betrayal.

The film starts out with a look at the life of Jeff Lebowski, a.k.a. The Dude (Jeff Bridges), a pot-smoking, white Russian-swilling, counter-culture reject.

The only thing that The Dude lives for is his bowling with buddies: the psychotic vet Walter (John Goodman) and the lovable, but dumb Donnie (Steve Buscemi).

The Dude comes home one day and finds a couple of thugs ready to trash him.

The goons are looking for a large amount of cash owed by a Mr. Jeff Lebowski. They have the right name, but the wrong dude.

The Dude is so poor that the roaches in his apartment think they are slumming.

The Jeff Lebowski the bad guys are looking for is an elderly, wheelchair-bound millionaire.

When The Dude visits The Big Lebowski to straighten out the whole situation, he is sucked into a kidnapping plot involving Lebowski's sex bomb wife, his avant garde artist daughter, German Nihilists and pornographers.

The movie is as strange as they come with dream sequences, incontinent

toughs, a marmot and lots of bowling. Discussing the plot anymore would give away the movie's surprises.

The Big Lebowski is more in tune with the Coen's classic *Raising Arizona* than their recent *Fargo*.

The comedy is subtle, yet over the top. A great example is a scene in which The Dude's bowling rival Jesus, played hilariously by John Turturro, is introduced accompanied by a Spanish language version of The Eagle's "Hotel California."

This moment is pure Coen, bizarre but never boring.

Bridges plays The Dude with dead head, dead-pan gusto. His hippie dialect is peppered with the phrase "hey man." He cares about nothing more than toking doobies and bowling strikes.

Goodman, however, steals the show as the nutso Walter.

Walter, a practitioner of orthodox Judaism, is ready to send people to a world of pain if they cheat in bowling.

And even so, he thinks he is the most level-headed individual on the planet.

Julianne Moore plays The Big Lebowski's bohemian daughter. She likes to wear as little as possible, while talking in a clipped eastern accent.

Sam Elliot, Turturro and even Flea of Red Hot Chili Peppers' fame all provide laughs in the small but notable roles.

The beauty of *The Big Lebowski* is that some people will love it or hate it, there is no in between.

After all, it is the Coen brothers way.

U.S. Marshals

Starring Tommy Lee Jones, Wesley Snipes and Robert Downey, Jr.

Directed by: Stuart Baird

Rated R

Playing at Hollywood 16

Critique: D+

Reel CRITIQUE



JAMES FRANCIS
aggiefLife editor

The one factor that made *The Fugitive* so popular was Harrison Ford, a man celebrated for his cinematic works. It

was even a plus to see him work with Tommy Lee Jones, another actor people usually keep up with. But in the case of *U.S. Marshals*, there is no Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones seems tired.

At the start of the film, Mark Sheridan (Wesley Snipes) becomes involved in a traffic accident, but Chicago police take fingerprints from his truck and find that he is wanted for murdering two men in New York City. Sheridan, under the name of Mark Roberts, tells his girlfriend not to worry and that it is just a case of mistaken identity.

Somebody smell conspiracy here? No matter the attempt, it is a weak and clichéd use of the "wrong man" syndrome.

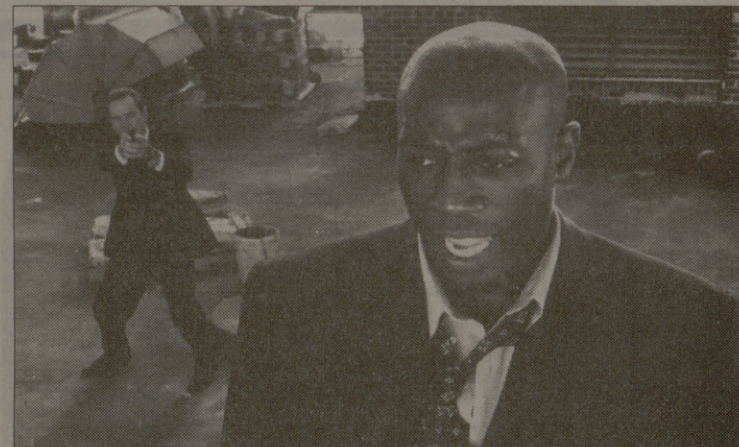
Soon Roberts ... well, Sheridan (oh what does it matter?) is convicted of murdering two government officials, but as he is being flown from Chicago to New York on a prisoner transport plane (*Con Air* anyone?), another prisoner attempts to shoot him, which misses, shatters a window and causes people to be sucked out into the high-altitude air.

If that sounds confusing, it's only the beginning of a film that throws in Robert Downey, Jr. as a government agent assigned to the team tracking

Snipes' character, adds a bit of intrigue concerning a Chinese spy ring and glosses all of that over with a heaping spoonful of the United Nations.

But, the action scenes are pretty cool, and that is what action films are all about, right? Wrong.

With an invisible storyline, *U.S. Marshals* does not measure up to its predecessor, *The Fugitive*. The acting is acceptable, but somebody please find Harrison Ford and tell him not to waste his time watching the sequel.



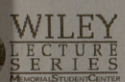
Lt. Samuel Gerard (Tommy Lee Jones) holds Mark Sheridan (Wesley Snipes) at gunpoint during one of the chase scenes in *U.S. Marshals*.

Global Peace Prize Recipient & Former South African President
Chief Economist of Africa for the World Bank
Former Deputy Commander-in-Chief U.S. European Command
Former Public Prosecutor Zambia Government and Human Rights Expert

The Road To Stability:

Africa in the Next Millennium

March 27, 1998 at Rudder Auditorium



Tickets Available at the MSC Box Office: 845-1234.



Computing Toolbox

Computing News at Texas A&M by Computing & Information Services

Hey Ags! Here's a little multiple choice quiz for y'all ...

Question: It's okay to share a computer account with a friend...

- A. Only if the friend is a student here too.
- B. Anytime, since it's my account.
- C. Only during the semester that my friend and I are taking the same class.
- D. If the friend is a trustworthy relative
- E. Never.

Answer: E. ----- Surprised?!

Check http://www.tamu.edu/cis/qapcm/policy_info.html for common computing violations to avoid.

Awareness through education is your first line of defense in maintaining the confidentiality, reliability, availability, and integrity of Texas A&M University Computing Resources. Users must respect the rights of other users and comply with local, state, federal and international laws, and university rules. Texas A&M University reserves the right to limit, restrict or deny computing privileges to anyone violating university rules and/or laws.

The No Electronic Theft Act, signed by President Clinton on December 16th, 1997, takes a harsh approach to copyright violations. It provides for a fine of at least \$1,000 for anyone who infringes on a copyright, even if they don't profit. Depending on the nature and extent of the infringement, violators could face a fine of up to \$250,000 and five years in prison. To view the text of the Act, enter the bill number H.R.2265 at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/c105query.html>

At the top 25 U.S. law schools, 3 out of 4 students who prepped for the LSAT chose Kaplan.

—1997 Bruskin-Goldring Research Study of Students at the Top 50 Law Schools

Call today and find out why 3 million students have chosen Kaplan to help them score higher.

Classes starting for the June exam!

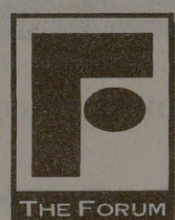
expert teachers superior materials smart technology proven results

KAPLAN
1-800-KAP-TEST
www.kaplan.com

*LSAT is a registered trademark of the Law School Admission Council.

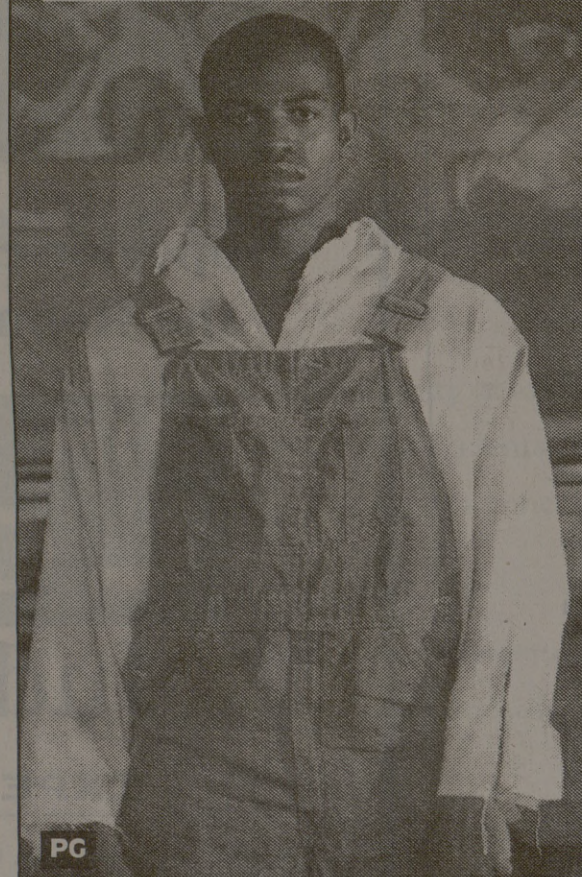
APPLY YOURSELF!

Bryan/College Station's first and finest private dormitories are looking for motivated individuals to be a part of the 1998-1999 Resident Advisor Staff. All applicants must have at least one year of college. Applications can be picked-up at the front desk of University Tower in the lobby and are due Friday, April 3 by 5:00 p.m.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 846-4242

The classic novel comes to life.



To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize winning literary classic, comes to life on March 10 and 11 in Rudder Auditorium. Set in a Depression-era southern town, Atticus Finch, attorney and widowed father of two young children, stands against fellow townspeople by defending a young black man falsely accused of raping a white woman. Featuring unforgettable characters like Scout, Jem and Boo Radley, *To Kill a Mockingbird* tells a story that will live in the hearts and minds of everyone forever.

To Kill a Mockingbird
March 10 & 11 at 8 PM, Rudder Auditorium

Call 845-1234 for tickets.



PG