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**Locations:**

		Buses	
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Veterinarian School	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Blocker	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Athletic Center	2 p.m.-8 p.m.		
Zachary	9 a.m.-4 p.m.		

\* You must be seventeen or older and minimum weight 110.  
\* A t-shirt will be given with every donation.



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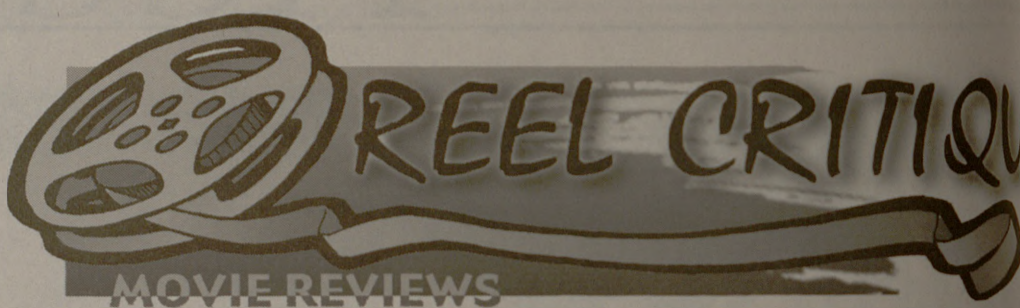
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**AGGIELIFE**



**Payback**

Starring **Mel Gibson** and **Maria Bello**  
Directed by **Brian Helgeland**  
Playing at Hollywood 16 and College Park 6  
Rated R

**P**ayback is one of those post-Tarrantino, Elmore Leonard-knockoff neo-noirs that film students churn out like a factory. Only Gibson could pull off the role of Porter, a professional thief and baddie.

He speaks in a gravelly voice, breaks peoples hands, sets mobsters on fire and rips out nose rings. Like all bad guys, Porter emits a painful scowl that seems like he is channeling Humphrey Bogart through a laxative commercial.

Porter comes across like a sadist version of Riggs, Gibson's *Lethal Weapon* character. Naturally, the audience loves him.

Val (Gregg Henry) shot Porter and took Porter's money so he could buy his way back into a shady organization known as the Syndicate or the Outfit.

However, Porter did not die and is back looking to settle the old score. Along the way he hooks back up with Rosie (Bello, of "ER" fame), a hooker he used to "drive," and says to her, "You're the only good thing in my life." The two then set out to get Porter's money.

Porter encounters a plethora of smoothly dressed mobsters and corrupt cops and somehow manages to take down all of them in a *Yojimbo*-sort of way.

The money is almost an excuse for Porter to kick in some skulls. The audience gets the feeling he does not really care about the money (on more than one occasion, he is offered \$130,000 and turns it down).

Porter just wants to inflict pain on anyone in his path, even the audience, as they are lulled into this sadomasochistic farce. *Payback* becomes an exercise in film violence. Based on Richard Stark's 1962 novel *The Hunter* — which also served as the template for John Boorman's 1967 film *Point Blank* — *Payback* has one of those typical Hollywood backstories.

Helgeland and his replacement use mostly grays in this film, desperately trying to capture the feel of the old noirs, but this film does not go anywhere, nor say anything. It is incredibly predictable and occasionally silly, but it does both with style. (Grade: C+)

— Jeff Schmidt

**Simply Irresistible**

Starring **Sarah Michelle Gellar** and **Sean Patrick Flannery**  
Directed by **Mark Tarlov**  
Showing at Hollywood 16  
Rated PG 13

**T**he crowd at Tinseltown seems to be getting younger everyday. With movies like *Varsity Blues* and *She's All That* scoring big at the box office, there was bound to be a teen-movie flop.

Unfortunately for Gellar, *Simply Irresistible* description perfectly. The Kung-Fu and movie slaying is left behind as Gellar, star of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," takes the role of Amanda Shattuck, a young, successful department store executive Tom Bartlett (Flannery) and love at first sight.

Mysterious magic begins to turn her world down as her cooking skills become phenomenal. A relationship between Tom and Amanda is predictable as the movie's ending.

This movie leaves audiences asking a million questions. No one knows where the magic came from, why she was even given the gift in the first place.

A few laughs are delivered, but all in all, Gellar for two hours should have been enough to enjoy this movie. It wasn't. (Grade: C-)

**Life is Beautiful**

Starring **Roberto Benigni** and **Nicoletta Braschi**  
Directed by **Roberto Benigni**  
Playing at Hollywood 16  
Rated PG-13

**A** few critics have distorted the meaning of the Italian film *Life is Beautiful*. They say the film trivializes the Holocaust, using humor to belittle this tragedy. They are wrong. *Life is Beautiful* is not about the Holocaust but about the power of love and imagination in the face of adversity.

Benigni, an Italian cross between Charlie Chaplin and Jim Carrey, wrote, directed and stars in this charming and beguiling movie that has been nominated for seven Oscars including Best Picture. Best Foreign Language Film, the first movie to pull off this double feat.

The film is a tale of two halves. The light-hearted first half is focused on the courtship of Dora (Braschi, Benigni's real-life wife). The film quickly fast forwards a few years and Dora and Dora married and with a child, Giosue.

The more somber second half is set in a concentration camp. The family is rounded up and sent to a camp. In order to protect his son from the horrors of the camp, Guido tells Giosue the camp is a big game, and that he will receive a real tank.

Benigni called the film a fable, and it is. There are moments of disbelief in needed to make the film as Benigni slightly alters history to provide a twist and a meaning.

He glides through the first half of the film with whimsy of silent film star Chaplin. The change of tone in the middle is jarring, but the explanation half foreshadows the coming storm. Benigni is slightly manic at times, has enough dramatic range to be convincing. His is the key role. (Grade: A-)

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\*MY FAVORITE MARTIAN (PG) 11:30 12:30  
\*LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG-13) 12:30 2:00  
\*PAYBACK (R) 11:30 12:30  
SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (R) 11:30 12:30  
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R) 11:30 12:30  
SHE'S ALL THAT (PG-13) 12:30 2:00  
SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE (PG-13) 11:30 12:30  
VARSITY BLUES (R) 11:30 1:00 4:30  
A SIMPLE PLAN (R) 12:45 3:15  
THE THIN RED LINE (R) 12:45 3:15  
PATCH ADAMS (PG-13) 11:30 2:00 4:30  
STEPMOM (PG-13) 11:30 12:30  
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