

REEL CRITIQUE

MOVIE REVIEWS

Cookie's Fortune

Starring Glenn Close and Chris O'Donnell
Directed by Robert Altman
Playing at Hollywood16

In this quirky star-studded drama by Robert Altman, dialogue and acting are definitely the backbone of the film.

A small, stereotypical Southern town is the setting for this mystery. The church is the center of society where Camille Dixon (Close) thrives on directing all of the church plays.

Camille is a woman who pleases people on the outside, but is a conniving spinster at heart. Close's snooty portrayal is classic. Her accent and tone can drive anyone crazy.

Upon borrowing a fruit bowl from her geriatric saint of a sister, Cookie, Dixon discovers her lying dead of an apparent suicidal gun shot wound. Ashamed of her sister's behavior and jealous of her estate, Camille stages the suicide as a murder. Camille's actions cause a chain reaction in which hidden truths are revealed.

The small town feel is rather humorous. Everyone knows everyone else's business, there is only one town lawyer and the sheriff's department makes Barney Fife look like James Bond. A cameo by Lyle Lovett helps add to the small town flavor.

The film's young stars (Liv Tyler and O'Donnell) don't seem to shine or exactly live the roles they are portraying. On the other hand, Close and Charles Dutton give some of their wittiest performances.

This film has no special effects and no giant score or soundtrack, but sometimes a movie with character and subtle humor can deliver a fair amount of entertainment. (Grade: B-)

— Jeff Kempf

Life

Starring Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence
Directed by Ted Demme
Playing at Hollywood 16

In this not so funny take on life in the slammer, Lawrence and Murphy play Claude and Ray, the bitter, foulmouthed entrepreneur stars of *Life*.

Life seemed to fall short of every one of Murphy's films (except *Holy Man*) short of Lawrence's former sitcom Martin. A scene with Lawrence as Shanaenae would have drastically raised the comedy level in this film.

The movie begins in 1932, when during the Depression Harlem nightlife look as fruitful as ever. Caught up in bad debts and bootlegging, Claude and Ray are thrown together as new partners in crime.

The movie takes a lot of time to even reach the point of life imprisonment for the duo, which leaves too much wasted space spent on meaningless and not funny dialogue.

The producers of *The Nutty Professor* and *Liar Liar* adopted one of the worst possible screenplays to showcase the talents of these two comedians.

A film must not be all that great when the audience is forced to wait for a supporting character to make a funny.

One of the good credits to this film are the makeup artists. As seen in many of Murphy's earlier movies, a metamorphosis into new characters is signature. This movie follows Ray and Claude sixty plus years in jail, and the magic of makeup molds their appearances along the way.

So many black comedies can be considered some of the most entertaining movies made (*Friday*, *Coming to America*), but it is sad when films are made simply to draw crowds by using the names on the marquee. Eddie and Martin can do better than this. (Grade: C-)

— Jeff Kempf

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Sens. McCain and Feingold awarded

BOSTON (AP) — Sens. John McCain and Russell Feingold, who crossed party lines to propose campaign finance reform legislation, were named Thursday as winners of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

McCain, a Republican from Arizona, and Feingold, a Wisconsin Democrat, were honored for addressing fund-raising excesses and trying to regulate the flow of special interest money to campaigns. The McCain-Feingold bill was ultimately defeated last year.

This is the 10th Profile in Courage Award and the first to be shared by two elected American politicians.

The award, which comes with a \$25,000 stipend, is presented to elected officials who fight for what

they believe is right, despite opposition from constituents, interest groups or others.

It is named for President Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Profiles in Courage."

Springer's Security Under Question

CHICAGO (AP) — When fists fly and hair is yanked on the set of "The Jerry Springer Show," guests should not just be separated — they should be arrested, a City Council member said.

Alderman Edward Burke, a former police officer, said the off-duty Chicago officers who provide security for the show should enforce the law. He wants to call those officers before the council's Police and Fire Committee.

"If they are committing batteries, assaults and other offenses, then why isn't the police department

taking appropriate action?" Burke asked Wednesday.

A spokesperson for the show had no comment.

Some critics contend the fights are staged. Springer has denied it.

Usher postpones shows due to injury

ATLANTA (AP) — Rhythm and blues singer Usher canceled three concerts after dislocating a shoulder while rehearsing dance steps.

The 20-year-old star was placed under the care of an orthopedic surgeon after injuring himself Wednesday, spokesperson Courtney Barnes said.

Usher, who lives in suburban Atlanta, had been scheduled to tour New Zealand and Australia later this month.



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Senior Week

APRIL 19-23, 1999

Monday - April 19th

Bowling at Wolf Pen 9 pm to 12 am

\$1.75 per game



New Officer Workshops

Thursday, April 29

for recognized student organizations

General Session

7 - 8:15 p.m.

Introduction to Officer Success:

What Student Activities can do for you:

featuring Dr. Ben Welch

Rudder 601

stuact.tamu.edu

Interest Sessions

8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Fundraising and Advertising

Rudder 601

Technology and Student Organizations

Rudder 302

Building Student Organizations

Rudder 308

Risk Management Issues

Rudder 410



ATTENTION Liberal Arts Majors

There are a limited number of summer internships available in Austin and Washington D.C. for Liberal Arts juniors.

Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and be active in leadership organizations.

For more information, access the Political Science website:
<http://www.polisci.tamu.edu>

Or call the Center for Public Leadership Studies: 845-4114

We're making history!!

AGGIELAND 2000

Applications are being accepted for the 2000 Aggieldand yearbook staff.

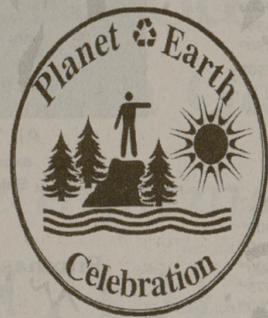
- Section Editor
- Designer
- Copy writer
- Photographer

Pick up applications outside the Aggieldand office, Room 004 Reed McDonald. Applications are due Friday, April 23, by 5:00 p.m.

PROFITABLE NUMBER! 845-0569

THE BATTALION CLASSIFIEDS

Join us for the 4th Annual

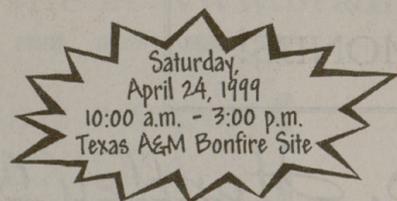


Games Music
Fun

Give Aways

Free Refreshments

This celebration is for families and students, young and old — Everyone who lives on PLANET EARTH



Saturday,
April 24, 1999
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Texas A&M Bonfire Site



Rain Date
May 1, 1999

This event will feature community wide education on:

- Water Conservation
- Water Quality
- Energy Conservation
- Recycling
- Waste Reduction
- Composting

Sponsored by the Cities of Bryan and College Station Energy, Solid Waste, and Water Services Departments, The Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency, and Texas A&M University Physical Plant.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Brush Collection Boom Demos	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Fire Hydrant Painting Contest	10:30 a.m. - 12:00 N
Backhoe Rodeo	12:00 N - 2:00 p.m.
Joy Jump	All Day
Exhibitors	All Day
Demonstrations	All Day
Games/Give Aways	All Day

The first 500 people receive
FREE Planet Earth mugs!
Please limit one per person.



Additional Participating Agencies include:

- Texas Forest Service
- Texas National Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC)
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Inland Fisheries - Touch Tank
- Texas Parks & Wildlife - Herpetology
- Texas Water Development Board

And many more ...

