

## REEL CRITIQUE

MOVIE REVIEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Pushing Tin stars, Cate Blanchett, Billy Bob Thornton and Angelina Jolie perform an impromptu song and dance, while John Cusack looks on.

### Pushing Tin

Starring John Cusack and Billy Bob Thornton  
Directed by Mike Newell  
Playing at Hollywood 16

Does anyone know what an air traffic controller does? Has anyone ever cared?

Well, in the new comedy/drama *Pushing Tin*, the lives of some of the busiest air traffic controllers are put on display.

The finite air space, which is shared by three of the world's most highly-trafficked airports—Guardia, JFK and Newark—is controlled by a group of frat-house-like, middle-aged alcoholics. Caution: people afraid of flying should watch this movie as if it were *Psycho*.

Nick (Cusack) is the ace controller and is recognized as the g man on campus, and he doesn't have any problems telling people. As well as having one of the most stressful jobs, Nick has a beautiful wife, Connie (Cate Blanchett) and two kids at home. Apparently still infatuated with each other since high school, the couple seems happy.

Unfortunately, there is trouble in paradise for Nick when the new ace controller Russell (Thornton) comes to town, upstaging Nick.

The humor of the film is subtle. The on-going rivalry between Nick and Russell is very reminiscent of "brotherly love." Neither can stand to lose or be out-nerved. Sure, there are many intentional jokes and sarcastic remarks, but that is to be expected from the screenwriters of the television hit "Cheers." Even some of the dramatic moments in the film are crafted to be funny.

Fresh off her Academy Award nomination and Golden Globe win, Blanchette continues to do excellent work. Ditching the accent and toning down her striking features, Blanchette proves she

can mold herself into any role. As the star of the movie, Cusack seems to merely be present. Viewers simply enjoy the supporting role which is fascinatingly original and works on many levels. Who knows, someone may even get a great moral lesson out of this film.

All in all, freezer box weather, expensive food, long lines and sticky floors aside, this movie was well worth the hassle. (Grade: A)

— Jeff Kempf

### Lost and Found

Starring David Spade and Sophie Marceau  
Directed by Jeff Pollack  
Playing at Hollywood 16

Over the years, David Spade became known as the smooth-talking, wise-cracking sidekick of Chris Farley.

The two were always thought of in the same breath. But with Farley gone, Spade is now forced to try to make a name of his own.

In *Lost and Found*, Spade tries, but seems lost without Farley. Spade plays a restaurant owner who is struggling to keep his new business afloat.

When a beautiful French cellist (Marceau) moves into his apartment building, Spade does the only thing he can think of to win his way into her heart—kidnap her dog.

Throw in Marceau's ex-boyfriend (Patrick Bruel) and a Farley wanna-be (Artie Lang), the plot becomes watered down and predictable.

There are some bright spots to *Lost and Found*, but all in all, it lacks the fall-down laughter appeal of *Tommy Boy* and *Black Sheep*.

Definitely wait for the video on this one. (Grade: C-)

—Doug Shilling

## First PEZ convention starts this weekend in Connecticut

ORANGE, Conn. (AP) — Like some sci-fi movie in which the aliens rendezvous with the mother ship, hundreds of people with a fondness for tart rectangular candies in colorful flip-top dispensers are flocking here from as far away as Austria and Japan.

The mother ship, in this case, is PEZ Candy Inc. and the occasion is this weekend's first-ever gathering of PEZ aficionados in the town where the treats are manufactured.

The convention site is so close to the factory that PEZ lovers can smell the sugar in the air.

"This is like Mecca for them. They'll be all over the lawn with telephoto lenses. They'll be with their noses up against the back window," Scott McWhinnie, the "Pezident" of PEZ Candy, said. "They'll be picking through the garbage looking for old dispensers."

Convention organizer Richard Belyski said PEZ-heads are mostly baby boomers trying to relive their childhood.

"Everybody remembers them as a kid. We're people from all walks of life, doctors, lawyers," Belyski, 41, a police officer in Glen Cove, N.Y., said.

PEZ lovers will tell you their fa-

vorite treat is not just a hard, fruit-flavored candy. It is an American icon that spans generations.

Most of the mystique focuses on the different character dispensers, from Mickey Mouse to Fred Flintstone and Spiderman to Kermit the Frog.

Like many of his brethren, Johann Patek, 42, who flew in from Austria for the convention, has so many dispensers he has lost count.

John Laspina, of Middletown, N.J., admits he has spent \$850 or more for a single dispenser—the "psychedelic eye" created in the '60s. He has five of them.

David Welch, 37, of Murphysboro, Ill., also had his first experience with PEZ as a child and has since become an authority, having written two books, *Pictorial Guide to Plastic Candy Dispensers* and the seminal work *Collecting PEZ*.

He specializes in historical dispensers. The originals look like cigarette lighters, which is fitting, since Austrian Eduard Haas invented PEZ in 1927 as a mint for smokers. The name was derived from the German word for peppermint, pfefferminz.

PEZ did not arrive in America until 1952. About 3 billion are consumed annually in the United States.

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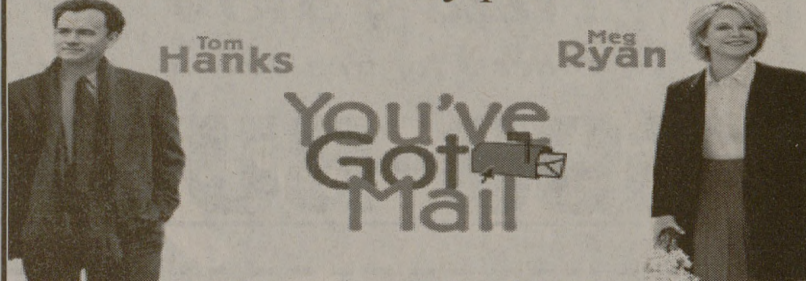
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Tickets: \$3.00 at the door or \$2.50 in advance at the MSC Box Office (845-1234) Or Avoid long lines and buy a season pass for \$15. All films shown in the Rudder Theatre Complex.

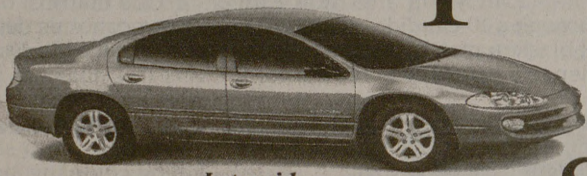
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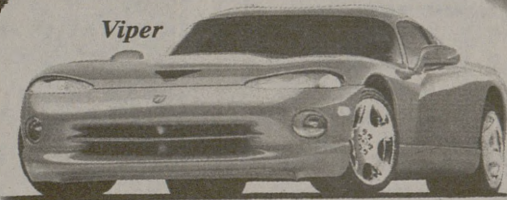
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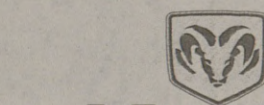
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## AGGIE RING ORDERS

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS  
CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER

ATTENTION: UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENTS

Grades for May '99 undergraduate degree candidates will be posted on May 14. If you graduate with 60 A&M credit hours, a 2.0 cumulative GPR, and are in good standing with the university, your Aggie Ring order will be accepted beginning May 14 after 9:00 a.m., providing that you have completed an audit application at the Aggie Ring Office by May 12.

Orders for May '99 undergraduate degree candidates who graduate without 60 A&M credit hours, or less than a 2.0 cumulative GPR, will be taken after the degrees are posted. These orders, as well as those for graduate students graduating in May '99, will be taken between May 24-28.

If you are an August '99 degree candidate, you may place your ring order between May 24-28, providing you have completed all of the following ring requirements as of the Spring 1999 final grades:

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

1. Apply for your degree at Heaton Hall between May 19-24.
2. Pay your diploma fee to the Fiscal Dept. in the Pavilion.
3. Have 60 A&M credit hours with a 2.0 cumulative GPR posted on your transcript by May 24.
4. Be in good standing with the university.

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

1. Complete all degree requirements by May 26, 1999.
2. Apply for your degree at the Office of Graduate Studies.
3. Pay your diploma fee to the Fiscal Dept. in the Pavilion.
4. Present a "letter of completion" to the Aggie Ring Office from the Office of Graduate Studies no later than May 27, 1999. (The letter of completion takes approximately one week. Please request one no later than May 21.)
5. Be in good standing with the university.

Rings ordered and paid for between May 24-28 will be delivered on August 12 (instead of in September), providing that you do graduate in May or August.

All undergraduate students who are not May or August degree candidates and who will complete all of the ring requirements after the Spring '99 semester final grades are posted, may order their rings beginning approximately June 1, 1999 and no later than July 1 for September delivery. The requirements are:

### Undergraduate Student Requirements:

1. You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of 95 undergraduate credit hours reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated and passed, cannot count as additional credit hours.)
2. 60 undergraduate credit hours must be completed in residence (classroom hours only) at Texas A&M University if your first semester at Texas A&M University was January 1994 or thereafter, or if you do not qualify under the successful semester requirement described in the following paragraph. Should your degree be conferred with less than 60 undergraduate resident credits, this requirement will be waived after you graduate and your degree is posted on the Student Information Management System.
3. 30 undergraduate credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University, providing that prior to January 1, 1994, you were registered at Texas A&M University and successfully completed either a full/spring semester or summer term (I and II or 10 weeks) as a full-time student in good standing (as defined in the University catalog).
4. 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
5. You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

All students either ordering on May 14-28, or June 1 through July 1, will need to visit the Aggie Ring Office in the Clayton Williams Alumni Center, Second Floor, beginning May 3 and preferably no later than May 18, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., to fill out an audit form, receive ring prices, and other order information. If you will not be in the College Station area between the above dates to place your order in person, you may request a mail order form which you can mail in. PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR AUDIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. This will facilitate faster processing of your ring order.