

Entertainment

Postman, Return to Sender

By Jenna Montgomery
Assistant Editor

1 star (out of 4)

"Message In a Bottle" (PG-13), despite its top billing as a great Valentine's Day/date movie, is a slow and depressing romance film. The enchanting Robin Wright Penn stars opposite the unappealing action/dramatic actor Kevin Costner. He doesn't have the charm to pull off a leading role in a romance film.

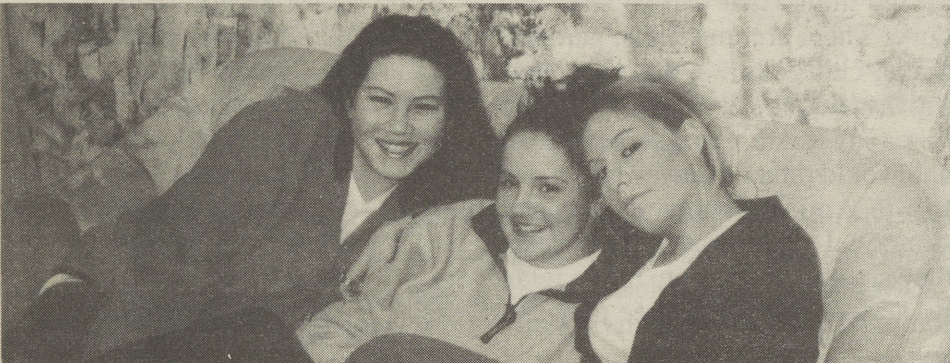
While vacationing, Theresa Osborne discovers a glass bottle on the beach. She is deeply touched by the moving letter filled with romantic longing and poetic passion. By using her resources as a researcher for the Chicago Tribune, she finds who wrote the letter, one Garret Blake, a sailboat builder who lives

in the Outer Banks. Theresa and he are both dealing with the pain of lost loves and involved with hectic careers, which, of course, complicate matters. Ultimately they fall for one another.

However, their love is unconvincing. The director uses far too many shots of churning surf and lovers nestled in beach blankets to try to convey their affection for one another.

The movie sharply contrasts the novel of the same title, beautifully written by Nicholas Sparks. The formulated script disastrously alters the sweeping romance story. They should have left well enough alone.

This bottle contains the note "Return to Sender." Better follow the message's instructions explicitly.



Friends catchin' up on quality time by the SGA Office.

Payback: Root for the Bad Guy

By Jenna Montgomery
Assistant Editor

3 stars (out of 4)

Mel Gibson. A bad guy. It's hard to believe the lovable actor portrays Porter, a gruff-voiced, chain-smoking protagonist.

Porter is plugged full of holes, betrayed and ripped off by his wife, Lynn, and best friend, Val Resnick (Gregg Henry) and left for dead. Val makes off with the stolen cash, using it to pay off his mob debts. Porter plots revenge; a vendetta to recover his cut of the \$140,000 they cleanly heisted from a Chinese gang. He is determined to get what is owed him no matter what, and he'll kill as many people as it takes.

This thug has his principles.

"Payback" has remarkable twists in a creative and well-formulated plot. It also includes a remarkable cast including William Devane,

who gives an excellent performance as Carter, a high-ranking member of the crime syndicate. Despite his reputation, he still gently applies Blistex and wipes his fingers clean. And Kris Kristofferson has a cool acting presence as "Head Honcho" in this dark crime thriller.

"Payback" is suspenseful and excessively violent. There are countless bloody scenes, glorifying torture and agonizing beatings. However, some of the most brutal scenes are played partially for laughs. As is the case with Pearl (Lucy Liu), the Asian dominatrix who viciously plays out S&M to perfection. With a bit of "This Little Piggy" worked into the mix, the tone is kept light-hearted and fun. And Gibson, with his share of great one-liners, has impeccable comic delivery.

Gibson offers a compelling performance as the murderous anti-hero in this brilliant action-thriller.

Celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans Style

By Dave Robbins
Lion's Eye Staff Writer

Where were you on February 16th? In the library, at home sleeping, or possibly entertaining the family dog? You should have been celebrating one of the world's greatest holidays, Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday."

All over the world, people celebrate the carnival. This is a time to be crazy and let all worries go.

During the beginning first couple centuries and on through the Middle Ages, people would give themselves up to what would be con-

sidered unconstrained madness. I know that this theme must sound euphoric to almost all college students. However, few know the true details behind the holiday, and therefore, do not attend this awesome celebration.

The Carnival was created in Rome and began on the 12th day of Christmas. This day began with people dressing in costumes and masks, and allowing all pleasures to be experienced. In other words, this time began as a period of absolute chaos. Many strange things occurred, often involving various sexual activities.

Concert Review ...

Black Sabbath Reunited

By Brian Harris
Special to the Lion's Eye

Black Sabbath
Feb. 18, 1999 F.U. Spectrum,
Philadelphia

I first saw Black Sabbath in 1978, the last tour with Ozzy. I don't remember too much about it, but it was pretty plodding. I do remember the excellent guitar work by Tony Iommi. Ozzy was probably on one of his low rungs, and was about to be kicked out of the band.

Twenty years later, Ozzy is as sober as he'll get, and the original band was back together for a hard rocking sold-out night at the Spectrum. I'm not a major metal head or Sabbath fan, but I've always admired their lyrics, Ozzy's vocals, and the subtlety they bring to heavy metal. They are one of the originals and in concert last month, they showed why.

While Pantera, the opening act, was happy providing a machine gun drum attack over three-cord hair-swinging, guitar churning, Sabbath did the same, but provided extra riffs, runs, and a change of pace.

The show was a basic greatest hits package, but for casual fans like myself, that was fine. Ozzy was more animated now than he was 20 years ago, jumping around, clapping his hands, exhorting everyone to "go

****-ing crazy."

Some of the highlights were "Snowblind" featuring Tony Iommi's guitar work, and the epic "Black Sabbath," with flames rising out the stage and 20,000 lighters lighting up around the Spectrum. The place was sold out, even behind the stage. Everyone stood all night, and the place rocked.

"Iron Man" and "Children of the Grave" ended the 1 hour, 30 minute show, and a final encore of "Paranoid" brought the house down.

After telling everyone to "go ****-ing crazy" Ozzy did remind everyone to drive home safely.

(This show was postponed from Jan. 18 due to Ozzy's throat problems. Subsequent shows have also been canceled or postponed. This may have been a once in a lifetime opportunity).

Set List: I may have missed one here or there.

War Pigs
Basically/NIB
Fairies Wear Boots
After Forever
Electric Funeral
Sweet Leaf
Into the Void
Snowblind
Dirty Women
Black Sabbath
Iron Man
Children of the Grave
Paranoid

Rushmore: Comedy in Stone

By Amy M.M.P.Hurley
Lion's Eye Staff Writer

Rushmore starring Jason Schwartzman and Bill Murray is the most original, hilarious and well-made comedy I have seen in a very long while. The film brought to mind at times a Beastie Boys music video and, at others, a hand-held video recording. The varied camera techniques made finishing touches on a comedy that already had cast, script and timing covered.

Bill Murray, in a large supporting role, shows his breadth of comic ability in the role of a multi-millionaire with self-esteem issues. His character, however, is merely the

pathetic sidekick to the real star of the show: Jason Schwartzman in the role of Max Fischer is simply amazing. The whole film follows the exploits of his teenage character over the course of a couple of months.

Some of the hilarious happenings include: a schoolboy crush that leads to the construction of a multi-million dollar marine observatory, Murray's character seducing Max's love interest and a school play complete with live explosives.

This movie should not be missed. It brings together Woody Allen wit with MTV-esque camera techniques and Three Stooges physical humor. If that's not a near-perfect comedy, I don't know what is.

where should be participating in Fat Tuesday. The greatest party to ever take place is citywide and occurs every year in New Orleans and various cities worldwide. Even Philadelphia had its own Mardi Gras celebration this year.

People who enjoy drinking and pure insanity should consider going to Fat Tuesday next year. Since the date of Mardi Gras Day is always 47 days before Easter, it will occur on March 7 in the year 2000.

For those people who can't afford to go down to New Orleans, Philadelphia has the next best thing.