

Oh brother, Soggy Bottom Boys hit it big

BY JARROD BURDETTE

If you're looking for a great laugh, a movie with rustic, wacky humor, then *Oh Brother where art thou* is a highly recommended film, one of the funniest comedies of the year. The Coen Brothers, directors of *Fargo*, *Raising Arizona*, and *The Big Lebowski*, really put together a masterpiece with this one.

The movie takes place in southern Mississippi during the 1920's. George Clooney teams up with two fellow escaped-convicts in search

of lost treasure...and a good time. The three come together to bring you a really great movie. They venture out through burning buildings, bank robberies, and record deals, on their way to a stash of money, that must be recovered before the dam blows and they lose it all!

A must see movie if your looking for a good laugh. I sat through both *Road Trip* and *Scary Movie* and I can honestly say there were more laughs here. The guy next to

me laughed so much he cried, seriously.

Oh Brother where art thou, was a great leap for Clooney after his recent appearance in *The Perfect Storm* (which was a huge blockbuster smash,) but I must say the entire movie was very entertaining. It would be a mistake to miss this one.

Rating ++++

Rated PG-13

Running time 105min

Huxley offers grim vision of future

BY CASSIE SMITH

The new millennium has dawned and many of the old ideas of super technological advances have been left in the dark. Even though we can't experience those things we've often daydreamed about, we can read of them in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*.

Brave New World is Huxley's brilliantly detailed vision of our future as a world civilization. Any questions that the reader may develop, Huxley will answer. He pays attention to every detail, right down to the color of a person's belt, without boring the reader. His writing technique is very original and daring.

The book focuses on how the behavior of people can be controlled. Social classes are predestined during the development of a baby. Dividing people into the groups of Alphas, Betas, and Gammas, is one the most effective ways of controlling them.

Also, the book focuses on the repercussions of having such a controlled environment. Huxley draws a picture of the morality this civil-



ization possesses. Parenting is considered a thing of the past, since babies are grown in a lab. Shakespeare is thought of as total nonsense, and the few people left on the earth that were not raised in a factory are labeled as savages.

Brave New World describes the two extremes of the society. Lenina, classified as a Beta Plus, is the perfect model of what the lead-

ers of this world work to achieve. Being one of the few women given the privilege of giving birth, she is considered a threat and a gift. Trained from childhood, she knows her boundaries and the expectations others have for her. Never could she imagine opposing her authorities.

In a place that relies on perfection, people like Bernard Marx are very few and far between. Bernard was also a Beta, but an accident occurred during his development as a baby that left his physical stature that of a Delta. Though he was raised by the same training as the other children, he never felt like he belonged. His rebellious ways soon catch the eye of his leaders, and Lenina.

I recommend this book to anyone with interest in behavioral sciences and the future of our world. *Brave New World* will either totally thrill you or totally disgust you. Either way, you won't be able to put it down.

Mama's Gun loaded with a whole lot of soul

BY STEVEN WARD

"Oops, I did it again" is a platitude coined by Britney Spears, but would be more properly used to describe Erykah Badu.

She has built upon her last album's style and soul and given it a new flavor for old fans and new alike.

Mama's Gun starts its 14 track journey into the conglomerated

world of R&B and soul with the track "Penitentiary Philosophy."

Heavy percussion coupled with Badu's soulfully raspy voice and ultra-edgy lyrics make this standout track my personal favorite.

This is one of the more remark-

able tracks because she preaches about unity among people and confronting weaknesses, an important message in this day and age.

The lead single, "Bag Lady", is a smooth, guitar-sparkled confection of pure delight as Badu illustrates the life of a lonely woman who carries too much emotional baggage.

Her latest single, "On and On", has a techno vibe that distorts her lyrics through parts of the song and a style of 50's jazz, creating a laid back vibe, which can peak emotional reception, making you feel what the song is all about.

The song describes how different people in society can be and could be a message on what Badu thinks of her music juxtaposed with that of the typical pop world and

the body part emphasizing rap genre that today's rappers choose to employ.

She articulates this message in her lyrics, stating that she's an "analog girl in a digital world", a statement that I find rather bold in a world where sex sells and dance moves are all the rave.

Out of the 14 tracks on *Mama's Gun*, there were only two that I found to be a little lacking: "A.D. 2000" and "Green Eyes".

"A.D. 2000" shows Badu's weaker side on an album that seems to show how strong she is. The fact that she let her weak-

ness show was admirable, but not advised for including in such an empowering piece of work.

"Green Eyes" disheartened me for the simple fact that her lyrics, while charmingly simplified and easy to understand, really took away from jealousy's complicated emotions, and made it an easier sell.

Looking at the rest of the album and judging it by those exorbitant standards set by Badu herself, "Green Eyes" is sub-par.

As a whole, Badu's album is jam-packed full of clever hooks, titillating bridges, and verses of song that could drive anyone wild.

Any person, no matter what age, race, gender, or background could relate to at least one track on this album, which for such a musically diversified, but segregated musical dimension, is hard to attain.

Insurance...

For all your life.



AUTO • HOME • LIFE INSURANCE

Getting competitive rates is as simple as picking up the phone and calling your local Farm Bureau office. You'll find value, protection, and superior service for all your Auto, Home, and Life Insurance needs. If you haven't compared your present policies lately, call today!

Marlene Lawson ~ (606) 256-2050

Terri, Sherry, and Dicie wish you a Happy Valentine's Day from...

A Cut Above can help you look your best by finding the perfect cut and style. For hair you can flaunt anytime, anywhere, and anyway!!



A Cut Above

Tuesday-Saturday - Open at 9:30 - 256-5317