

THE ARTS

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

★★★★: Excellent
 ★★★: Good
 ★★: Mediocre
 ★: Poor

★★★ **Benny & Joon**

Aidan Quinn and Mary Stuart-Masterson star as Benny and Joon in this offbeat romantic comedy. Joon is mentally ill and spends most of her days painting and eating peanut butter. Benny is her guardian and only family. Sam (Johnny Depp) is their new housekeeper, whom Joon "won" in a poker game. Quinn and Stuart-Masterson hold their own and provide a dramatic side to the story as we watch their relationship grows apart throughout the movie. But it is Depp's performance that steals the shows with his outrageous antics and expressions. Depp's completely unpre-

dictable actions will make you laugh and provides a humorous look at the often-ignored subject of mental illness. —Patrick Mahoney. *LSC Saturday*

★★★ **The Firm**

Director Sydney Pollack has assembled a fine ensemble cast in this screen adaptation of John Grisham's *The Firm*. Mitch McDeere (Tom Cruise) graduates from Harvard Law School and accepts a huge salary from a small Memphis, Tenn. firm. He discovers the firm works for the mob and develops a risky plan to expose the firm without going to jail or getting killed (with a little prodding from the FBI). The plot is fast paced — a two-and-a-half hour movie feels like only two hours — and the cast is outstanding. Cruise acts relatively well, but his co-stars sparkle. Gene

Hackman gives a performance that virtually guarantees him another Oscar nomination as Avery Tolar, a lawyer who has been corrupted by years at the firm, but still recognizes the idealism he once had; Holly Hunter is devastatingly funny as the secretary who helps Mitch pull off his scheme. Ed Harris, as the FBI agent working to expose the firm, and Wilfred Brimley, as the sinister security chief for the firm, are also noteworthy. —Jeremy Hylton. *Loews Copley Plaza*

★★★½ **The Fugitive**

The ultimate chase movie begins with the ultimate special effect — a train and bus wreck staged not with miniatures, but with the real thing. The wreck frees Dr. Richard Kimble (Harrison Ford), wrongfully convicted of murder, from the bus transporting him to

prison, setting up a two-hour chase between Ford and his pursuer, the dedicated federal marshal Sam Gerard (Tommy Lee Jones). Ford is the big name star, and though he gives a great performance, Jones gets all the good lines. His single-minded devotion to upholding the law makes him, in a strange way, a more interesting character than intelligent nice guy Kimble. "I didn't kill my wife," insists Kimble, trapped in a drainage pipe; "I don't care," replies Gerard, and attempts to bring in his suspect. *The Fugitive* is an exciting movie, and a well-paced one, too, as Kimble's escapes grow ever more narrow and improbable, eventually leading up to a taut climax and a satisfying ending. For once, the hype was worth the wait. —Deborah A. Levinson. *Loews Cheri*

★★★½ **In the Line of Fire**

Clint Eastwood follows up *Unforgiven* with this gripping thriller about a Secret Service agent tracking a psycho stalking the president. Eastwood, crusty as ever, plays Frank Horrigan, ostensibly the last active agent present at the Kennedy assassination. John Malkovich brings incredible creepiness to the character of Mitch Leary, an ex-CIA killer obsessed with presidential assassins. Leary torments Horrigan with phone calls mocking Horrigan's inability — or unwillingness — to sacrifice himself for Kennedy, and leads the Secret Service on a cross-country chase, always several steps ahead of the game. The script is impressively tight for one not based on a book, and Eastwood and Malkovich both give over-the-top performances. If only Rene Russo's Secret Service agent had more to do than be a foil for Horrigan's sexist remarks and later, be his love interest. —DAL. *Loews Copley Place*

★★★ **Jurassic Park**

Michael Crichton's dinosaur epic translates well to the big screen (not surprising given that the book read like a screenplay), and Steven Spielberg does a good job in metamorphizing the dinosaurs from harmless cuties to malevolent predators. Despite fine acting from Sam Neill and Laura Dern as an



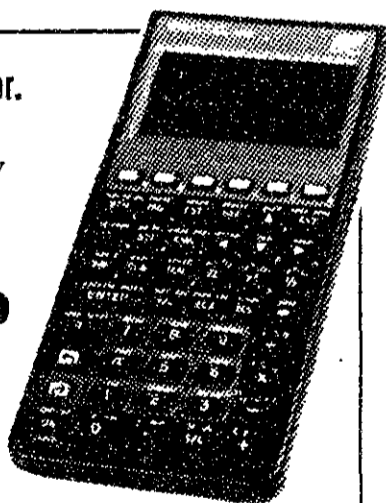
Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt and Tom Skerritt star in *A River Runs Through It*, a drama about the American family.

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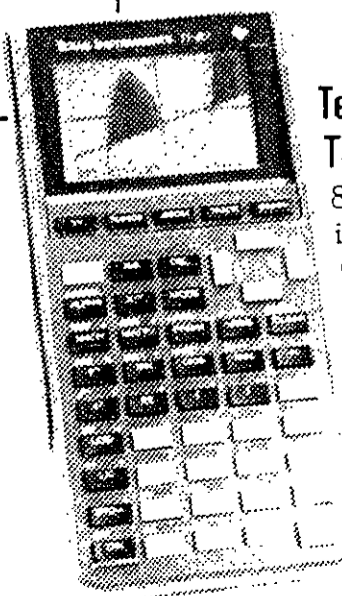
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