

FILM REVIEW: When "Nature" Calls, Don't Listen

By Martin Levine

The Diamondback (U. Maryland)

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE PARK, Md. - While it isn't the fault of the production team from Dreamworks SKG when the projectors break down during the previews, it doesn't bode well for the screening — or the subsequent review.

I wasn't in the mood to see a film starring two of the most overhyped actors of the decade, and a 20-minute delay to fix the projectors didn't help. Anyway, my bad mood shouldn't affect my review, based on a code of journalistic integrity and objectivity. But it will.

Sandra Bullock, veteran of *Speed*, *Hope Floats* and other modern-day classics, teams up with Ben Affleck (*Good Will Hunting*, *Armageddon*, *Chasing Amy*) in

the Dreamworks release, *Forces of Nature*.

Ben Holmes (Affleck) is on his way to Savannah, Ga., for his upcoming wedding to Bridget Cahill (Maura Tierney). This is where the problem arises. Tierney (*Liar Liar*, *Primary Colors*, "Newsradio") is gorgeous and funny and she wants me. Oops, objectivity, remember? The perfect couple has a perfect life waiting for them, if Ben can make it through Hurricane Sandra.

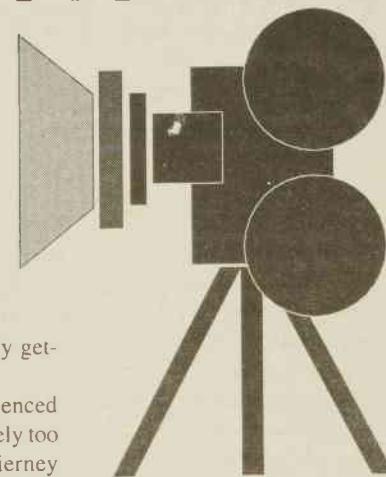
Ben boards the plane and promptly calls Bridget from the phone on the back of the seat in front of him. However, they are still on the tarmac. This guy needs to get a grip. Anyway, the plane never makes it off the ground and the adventure begins. Hurricanes, drug dealers, buses full of old people and Bullock's character, Sarah, do their

damndest to keep Ben from actually getting from New York to Georgia.

While Sarah is worldly, experienced and bitter, Ben is sheltered and entirely too optimistic (although the Maura Tierney thing would make me enthusiastic). Sarah takes out her bag of tricks along the way to show him that frailty, divorce, abuse, mother/child separation, and general dishonesty do exist. She has experienced them all and this experience gets the dynamic duo through its adventures.

Ben learns to question his devotion to Bridget, due to Sarah's irresistible charm. Okay, an "alternative" Sandra Bullock is believable, but dump Maura Tierney? Okay, go ahead, but have her call me.

The movie was enjoyable, but it stole most of the innovation from predecessors.



Planes, Trains and Automobiles did the "never-ending disaster" thing, without attractive females. The constant retrospective from married, divorced, and adulterating couples on marriage is right out of *When Harry Met Sally*.

Forces of Nature tries valiantly, but falls about a half-hour past believable. Maybe one less disaster-turned-life-lesson, and it's a fun film. But two hours of Sandra Bullock and Ben Affleck?

Copyright ©1999 *The Diamondback* via Uwire.



Horror Scopes

By Psychic Metz and
Psychic Bridges

Add these numbers together: how many classes you are taking + your shoe size (rounded up) + the year in which you were born. Example: 5 classes + 10 shoe size + 1975 year born. $5+10+1975=28$. Add the number until you get a single digit. Example $2+8=10$. $1+0=1$. This is your Horror Scope number, which is listed below. Expect the unexpected!

0 Today you will go to sleep with some unfinished business. This will give you nightmares. From now on—don't procrastinate!

1 Soon you will be rewarded for your employment. If you like your job, a bonus is forthcoming. If you don't like your job—quit! Why are you working there in the first place?

2 Be cautious, for the moon will appear before you realize it. The sun will too. Where does the time go? Invest in a watch.

3 You will find money in a couch. You may be able to afford a soda with it! You will also find many other items that won't be so useful, like stale potato chip crumbs, so be careful rummaging around for those pennies!

4 You will receive a phone call from somebody that you don't want to talk to. Tell them that they have got the wrong number, hang up and immediately disconnect

your phone. There—you have avoided that unpleasant experience!

5 One day you will fall asleep in class and the professor will make fun of you without your knowledge. You do not understand why your classmates have begun to call you "Bunky."

6 This week somebody will fall in love with you. You will never know who that person is. This is sad because you are a very lonely person and need a companion. Follow Ally McBeal's example—buy an inflatable doll! Although it is full of hot air—it will never leave you.

7 Don't sweat the small stuff, you have too much other stuff to worry about. Remember the thirty page term paper you were assigned nine weeks ago but haven't started on? Better get cracking!

8 You will see frogs in your dreams for the next week. What does this mean? Is Kermit sucking out your brain? Or are you going to marry the Frog Prince? Are you going to "croak?" Perhaps it means that you are green with envy. Who knows—they are your dreams—you figure it out or pay a psychiatrist a hundred bucks an hour to figure out these bizarre dreams for you!

9 You will run into an old friend. Too bad you broke his leg, two ribs, and his collarbone. Next time, don't run that red light!

Singles Reviews

By Michael C. Molter
Assistant Editor

R&B

"No Scrubs"

TLC

LaFace/Arista Records

TLC is back with their first new material since 1995—looking to duplicate their success that year when they had 2 of the top 3 R&B hits of the year. "No Scrubs" has a catchy hook which just might be repeated a tad too often by the record's end. The single has just shipped to stores, so look for the track—already in the Top 10 on the R&B and Pop Charts—to go all the way!

Pop

"The Animal Song"

Savage Garden

Hollywood Records

The Australian duo is back at it, following up their 3-hit debut album with this song featured in the movie *The Other Sister*. The harmonies that made "I Want You" and "Truly Madly Deeply" so sensational are still there, despite being used to sing such an inane song. Like their other hits, it's a very playable song which may even have you reminiscing a bit about the 80s.

Country

"Anyone Else"

Collin Raye

Epic Records

Collin Raye picks up the tempo a bit following up "Someone You Used to Know." This song is very playable, and maybe just a bit too safe. He will need to do better to prove that he did not peak with his outstanding "I Think About You" album. More profound material lurks on his current album—look for "The Eleventh Commandment" to be this album's "What if Jesus Comes Back Like That."

Rap

"What's It Gonna Be?!"

Busta Rhymes featuring Janet

FlipMode/Elektra Records

Busta Rhymes has "busted loose!" This single has been an explosive seller in just a couple weeks of release. It has already outdone the rapper's previous bests: "Dangerous" and "Turn it Up/Fire it Up." Janet Jackson lends her radio-accepted name to the project—perhaps enough to make it a multi-format success.