

# 'Bottle Rocket' Soars Into Hilarious World of Post-College Life

"Bottle Rocket" is the kind of quirky little film that provokes young directors to want to make movies. Tarantino may be a serious influence on the basis that he was discovered while working at a videotape store, but Owen Wilson and Wes Anderson have crafted a work that rivals the promise of the Coens' "Blood Simple."

**TODD GILCHRIST**  
**Movie Review**  
**"Bottle Rocket"**  
**B+**

Didgman, a carefully plotting but entirely inept thief and criminal. In the opening scene, Didgman helps his best friend Anthony (Luke Wilson) escape from a mental institution. The only catch is that Anthony admitted himself to the facility, and is now leaving of his own free will. Still, he agrees to climb out the window rather than walk out the front door because, as Anthony tells his doctor, "(Didgman) gets so excited." Being a cynic, I expected this to all be some type of trick on the doctor. Instead, Didgman truly was getting worked

up because he engineered a plan to "free" his friend, and Anthony was simply along for the ride. By this point, so too is the viewer. They then plot to rob a bookstore in an attempt to capture the attention of Mr. Henry (James Caan), a "real" criminal whom Didgman idolizes. Enlisting the aid of Bob Mappelthorpe (Robert Musgrave), the "only one with a car," they put tape over their noses (Why? "Exactly!") and pull off the heist with little or no difficulty, save a little verbal resistance from the manager. Fugitives from the law, the three hide

out in a hotel where Bob deserts them to bail his bullying brother out of jail and Anthony meets Inez, one of the custodians, and falls in love, losing all interest in thievery. Didgman, however, has other intricate (if absurd) plans for the team. This film would be much less interesting if any of the characters weren't idiots. One early scene shows Didgman's plans for the future, as in his *entire* future, in which he divides his life into segments from the Next Two Weeks to The Next Twenty Years And Beyond, absurdly assuming

that his master plan will be successful despite the fact that he can't even keep a normal job, much less plan a major heist—perhaps he instead of Anthony should have been committed. Owen C. Wilson wrote the screenplay with director Wes Anderson after support was picked up by James L. Brooks, who saw a short of theirs at Sundance last year. Instead of taking another talkie criminal riff from pages of the "Pulp Fiction" screenplay, he created three fascinating characters that can barely function alone and

almost not at all with each other—but that's just the way we like them. "Bottle Rocket" is a hilariously bizarre look at the post-college years, when people with too little to do become so consumed by their fantasies that they attempt to act them out in the real world. A film like this as well as the black comedy "Cold Blooded" present more optimistic views of the future of independent film making; writers and directors who are willing to take chances with what doesn't already exist on film help the art of cinema to progress.

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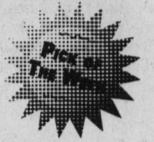
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**Presidents of the United States of America**  
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 A string of up-and-coming artists who lack the ability to fill an amphitheater but attract large crowds to small local clubs have recently been booking The Ritz in downtown Raleigh.

Artists such as Hole, Foo Fighters, Joan Osborne and Alanis Morissette have all performed at The Ritz recently and have had sold out performances.

Finding themselves in MTV's Buzz Bin, the Presidents of the United States of America are the next artists scheduled to appear at The Ritz, having recently broke into mainstream alternative rock with their new self-titled album.

Long on name and short on songs, the Presidents have acquired a steadily growing following who have helped to push their album into the top ten list for several weeks.

Their first hit "Lump" was a nice, catchy song which skyrocketed them into America's homes, proving they were not "last in line for brains."

"Peaches," their current release, has brought them back to the top with the aid of a well-marketed concert series at Mount Rushmore and a super-cheesy video.

Listen carefully to the lyrics of "Peaches": some people believe the song talks of nothing but sex. Personally I don't hear that.

What makes the Presidents of the United States of America such a unique and cutting edge group?

Well... nothing. They are not employing anything that a hundred different artists haven't done before, but their songs are catchy and get a lot of radio play.

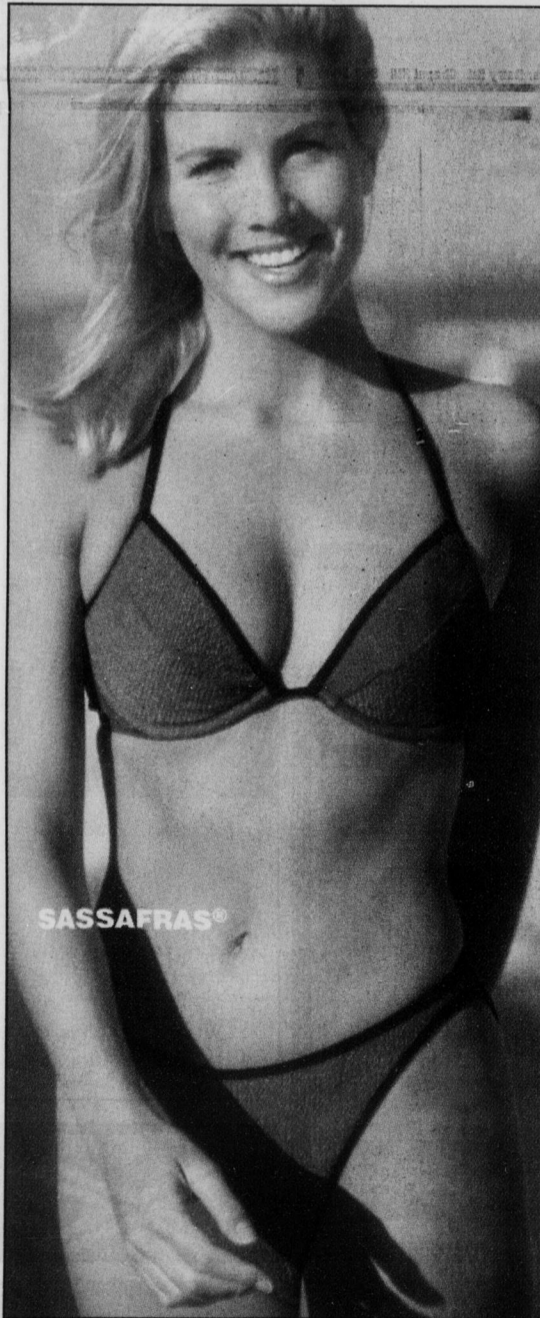
If you listen to contemporary music and have a G105 programmed into your car stereo, then don't miss this concert. The Presidents of the United States of America are destined to be at least as popular as reruns of "Oprah."

Opening for the Presidents will be Young Fresh Fellows and Super Deluxe.

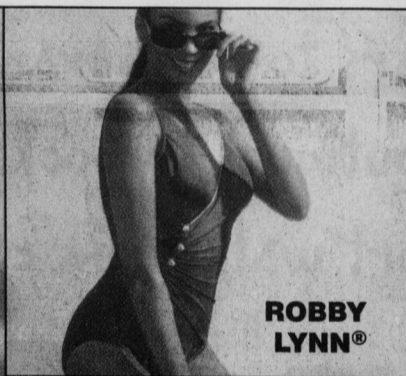
For ticket information call 919-834-4000. Tickets go on sale tomorrow morning.

—Dean Hair

# SWIMWEAR

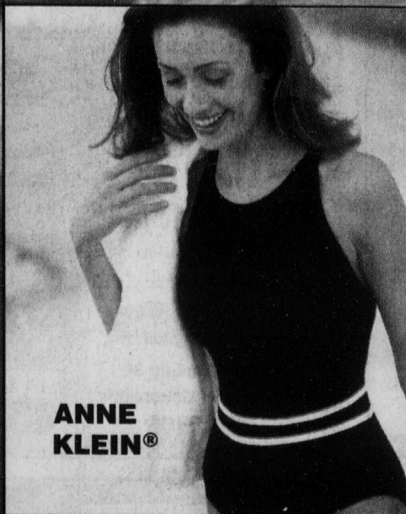


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