Thursday, July 14,1994



Courtesy of MGM Jeff Bridges (right) stars with Tommy Lee Jones in "Blown Movie doesn't meet its pre-opening hype Unfortunately, Dove's past comes

"Blown Away" sure looked suspenseful and cool in the commercials, but so did the opening of Al Capone's

"Blown Away" could have done rather well considering the starpower involved (Jeff Bridges, Tommy Lee Jones, Lloyd Bridges and Forest Whitaker), but the movie gets lost in a storyline that tries to be both suspenseful and dramatic at the same

Unfortunately, between the indeci-siveness that director Stephen Hopkins ("Judgment Night") had with what direction to take "Blown Away," and the sometimes-heavy Irish accents that abound throughout the film, it ends up being quite the mish-mash of crud.

most underrated actors, turns in a fine performance as Jimmy Dove, a man with bags and bags of guilt hanging over his head because of a terrorist bombing that he was a part of before he left Ireland. He has since come to America, made a new identity for himself, and is one of the best bomb squad members on the entire force.

back to haunt him when his former comrade Ryan Gaerity (Tommy Lee Jones) escapes from prison. He can "make bombs out of Bisquick," and comes to America to make Dove pay for his lengthy incarceration, even if it means killing Dove's wife (Suzy Amis), his mentor Max (Bridges Sr.), or his brash new partner on the bomb squad (Whitaker).

The film is too hit-and-miss in either the adrenaline category or the drama category to recommend it; it tries to do too much.

The gem of this movie is Tommy Lee Jones. The entire audience knows that his character is insane, demented, and just isn't a very nice person. However, he is positively hypnotic whenever he is on the screen, whether he is making a bomb with a coffee-maker or dancing to the tunes of U2. Jones is also apparently attempting to set a record for the number of film appearances in a one-year period of time. "The Client" will be opening up be-fore the month is out, with "Cobb" and "Natural Born Killers" following close behind.

For "Blown Away," wait for the video or the cheap seats.

-Gerry Beltz

