

Leatherheads' Kick-off flies high

timey football
a moment in the
light in George
Clooney's new quirky
comic comedy

Ken Conley

Clackamas Print

George Clooney's first
in directing a comedy,
"Leatherheads" will appeal to
fans of all breeds. A strong
with a good chemistry and
he makes up for what
be considered a weak
and although sometimes
it is unique enough to
the audience captivated.

in 1925, the film docu-
the rise and legitimiza-
of the professional football
John Krasinski plays
from George Clooney as
veet, if moderately clue-
Carter Rutherford, the
typical American golden
and war hero. Clooney por-
the older and far more
but obviously charming,
"Dodge" Connolly, the
ss and underhanded lead-
the Duluth Bulldogs. His
ter is loosely based on
all Hall of Famer Johnny
"P" McNally.

times, the athletic aspect
film takes somewhat of
seat to the plotline of
and Dodge vying for
mantic attention of Ms.
Littleton, a fast-talking,
stic journalist played by
Zellweger.

cinematography is an
tching, but slightly corny,
back to the photogenic
que of the 1920s. The
l costume design is well-
and what it sometimes
n realism it makes up for
ne sense of nostalgia it
's, bringing to mind the
easies and underground
ubs of the period.

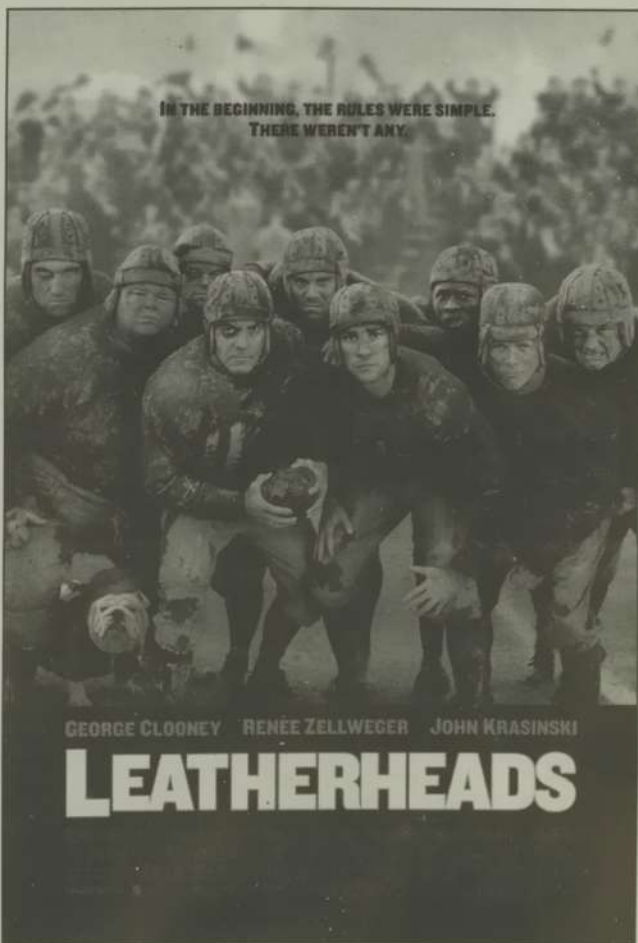
The actual sports scenes are
reminiscent of the days before
Astroturf, Ashley Simpson
half-time shows and wardrobe
malfunctions, when men were
men, mud was mud and a high-
class playing field meant there
wasn't a cow wandering along
the edges.

The fast-paced and sardonic
repartee between Zellweger
and Clooney, and slapstick-
style comedy, keeps the viewer
amused even when nothing else
does.

Although the movie is set in
the era of prohibition, the char-
acters still manage to remain at

least partially drunk throughout
most of the scenes, so much so
in fact that it almost becomes a
crutch, as if the writers decided
that when there were no more
witty lines to be said, eye-
lashes to be batted or punches
to be thrown, the best solution
would be to put a bottle – or
occasionally, in classic prohibi-
tion style, a preserves jar – to
one's lips.

Clooney's second attempt
at directing and starring in a
film is a skilled and somewhat
quirky take on the sports and
romance genre, and is, overall,
a commendable success.



Children's author J.K. Rowling testifies in packed NY court- room, says Potter encyclopedia is 'theft' of her work

Larry Neumeister

The Associated Press

J.K. Rowling testified before a packed courtroom in a lawsuit to block publication of a Harry Potter lexicon, telling a judge that the book amounts to a "wholesale theft" of nearly 20 years of her hard work.

"We all know I've made enough money. That's absolutely not why I'm here," Rowling told the judge in U.S. District Court.

The British author sued Michigan-based RDR Books last year to stop publication of Steven Vander Ark's "Harry Potter Lexicon," claiming copyright infringement. Vander Ark runs the popular Harry Potter Lexicon Web site, and RDR wants to publish a print version of the site and charge \$24.95.

Rowling claims the book is nothing more than a rearrangement of her own material and told the judge it copied so much of her work that it amounted to plagiarism.

"I think it's atrocious. I think it's sloppy. I think there's very little research," she testified Monday. "This book constitutes wholesale theft of 17 years of my hard work."

She also said she has recently started work on her own encyclopedia and plans to donate the resulting profits to charity — adding that she does not expect to complete it for two to three years because she wants to do it right. If Vander Ark's lexicon is published, "I'm not at all convinced that I would have the will or the heart to continue with my encyclopedia," she said.

RDR's lawyer, Anthony Falzone, in an opening statement defended the lexicon as a reference guide, calling it a legitimate effort "to organize and discuss the complicated and very elaborate world of Harry Potter." The small publisher is not contesting that the lexicon infringes upon Rowling's copyright but argues that it is a fair use allowable by law for reference books.

Rowling said she believed that a victory by Vander Ark could damage the Harry Potter name and embolden imitators.

Rowling choked up when her lawyer, Dale Cendali, asked what Harry Potter meant to her.

"I really don't want to cry because I'm British you know," the mother of three said. Then she added, "These characters continue to mean so much to me over a long period of time. It's very difficult for someone who is not a writer to understand what it means to the creator. The closest you could come is to say, 'How do you feel about your children?' These books, they saved me."

Coming This Week To Theaters...

4/18 – "Forgotten Kingdom," rated PG-13, starring Jackie Chan and Jet Li. An American teen is transported back in time to ancient China, where he joins a crew of warriors to help free the king.

4/18 – "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," rated R, starring Jason Segal and Mila Kunis. After a break-up with his girlfriend, TV sitcom star Sarah Marshall, a depressed Peter heads to Hawaii to try his best to forget every detail of his relationship.

