

1-31-2008

Cedars, January 31, 2008

Cedarville University

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Chasing Oscar
Find out who's
been nominated
for the major
Academy Awards

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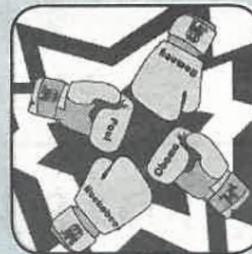
Familiar Face
Why Heath
Ledger's death
was far from
ordinary

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We weigh the
pros and cons of
four heavyweight
candidates

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CEDARS

The Student Newspaper of Cedarville University

January 31, 2008

Volume 57/Issue 6

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Recycling Our Way to Better Stewardship

-- Kate Klein --
Staff Writer

Cedarville University students know they should recycle. According to an informal survey, most students here think they should recycle more often and do recycle at least sometimes.

However, students who participated in the poll said that their on-campus recycling tends to be limited for a variety of reasons such as a lack of convenient recycling bins, no provision for recycling glass items on campus and even personal lack of interest in recycling.

Kathy Edlund, custodial services supervisor, said, "I think we could definitely do a better job of recycling stuff."

"I don't think we're where we should be, but I wouldn't judge that based on what we're doing but on how we're thinking about it," John Silvius, senior professor of biological science, said.

Silvius said that he thinks of recycling in light of the Christians in 2 Corinthians.

"They first gave themselves to prayer, to God. They got their hearts right first and the sacrificial giving came from that," he said. "The biblical progression begins with reverence for God. If God says we ought to be

stewards, we ought to be stewards."

It is probably impossible to expand campus recycling without a full-time person to manage it, Silvius said.

Silvius said the university needs a full-time recycling coordinator who can promote recycling on campus, educate the student body about recycling and find new ways to reuse or better dispose of resources.

In 2005 the university hired a part-time recycling coordinator named Beth Dillon who helped establish many of the current recycling opportunities on campus. C.U. has never had a full-time recycling coordinator.

"Some recyclable things are not recyclable here. We're pretty well taking care of the basics," said Paul Ware. Cedarville's landscape planner and unofficial recycling coordinator. Ware is maintaining the programs currently in place, but new programs are not in the works.

C.U. provides collection bins in all the academic and office buildings as well as the large dormitories. Students and university employees can use these bins to recycle paper, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and card-

SEE RECYCLE page 4

Claiborne Visit Canceled

-- Nathan Washatka --
Managing Editor

Shane Claiborne, author of "The Irresistible Revolution" and founding member of The Simple Way, a new monastic community in Philadelphia, will not be visiting Cedarville University. Claiborne was scheduled to visit campus on Feb. 11, but Vice President for Student Life Carl Ruby announced Wednesday that the event had been cancelled.

"I made the difficult decision to cancel this event because there was no time for us to respond thoughtfully to all of the charges being generated by several blogs," Ruby said.

Ruby said a lot of people criticized his decision to bring Claiborne to campus because, in their opinion, Claiborne's personal views diverge too much from the university's stance on doctrinal issues.

"I want Cedarville to be a place that provides real, biblical leadership for the church on important social issues. I had hoped that Shane's presence on campus would prompt a healthy discussion, but I underestimated the intensity of the negative reaction," he said.

Ruby hosted a meeting Wednesday evening for students interested in learning his rationale for canceling Claiborne's visit. He read a prepared statement to more than 75 students and faculty before fielding questions from the group.

Claiborne has gained

visibility in many Christian circles over the last few years due largely to the publication of his memoir "The Irresistible Revolution." In the book he relates lessons he learned through such experiences as working alongside Mother Theresa in Calcutta and living as a member of The Simple Way.

Canceling Claiborne's visit "doesn't send a good message about our university," said senior comprehensive Bible major Chris Malmstrom, who attended the meeting on Wednesday. "It shows we're not willing to engage certain movements within Christianity."

While some Christians believe that Claiborne's lifestyle and theological views represent a departure from traditional evangelical Christianity, he is well respected by many Cedarville faculty, staff and students.

"Worst-case scenario is that people perceive that Cedarville University has no interest in a stratus of society that Jesus cared a lot about," said Dr. Jeff Cook, who included Claiborne's book in the course schedule of his Advanced Urban Ministries class. "God's concern for the poor leaks out of every sentence of the Bible. Claiborne champions that message."

"I don't agree with all of Shane's conclusions but I must admit that I haven't taken enough time to let God's word and Christ's example shape my opinions," Ruby said.

High (Schoolers) Flying at Track Meet



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J. McCallitroup

Cedarville Loses Police Officer to Car Accident



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Submitted

Fleet for the Elite: CU's Strict Vehicle Policy



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Crystal Flippin

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The Quote:

"[Some Americans] have said they would personally be happy to pay higher taxes. I welcome their enthusiasm. I'm pleased to report that the IRS accepts both checks and money orders." -- President Bush, during the 2008 State of Union Address



Photo Credit: Crystal Flippin

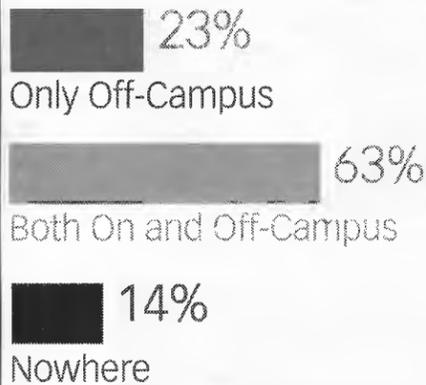
The Photo:

Vice President of Student Life Carl Ruby reads from Martin Luther King Jr's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in the upper level of the SSC on Jan. 21. Several faculty and staff members took turns reading the letter as part of the University's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr Day.

The Comic:



The Poll:



Where should Cedarville students be allowed to watch R-rated movies?

The List:

The five most expensive paintings of all time, according to a Wikipedia article. The prices are listed in millions of dollars and have been adjusted for inflation according to the 2007 consumer price index.

1. *No. 5, 1948*
Jackson Pollock \$142.7
2. *Woman III*
Willem de Kooning \$140.2
3. *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I*
Gustav Klimt \$137.6
4. *Portrait of Dr. Gachet*
Vincent van Gogh \$129.7
5. *Bal au Moulin de la Galette, Montmartre*
Auguste Renoir \$122.8

The Market:

On Wednesday the Federal Reserve lowered short-term interest loan rates by half a point. The cut came only eight days after the Fed reduced rates by 0.75 points. The interest rate now stands at a paltry 3 percent, but even with basement-level loan rates, the U.S. economy remains in trouble.

In case you've missed it, 2008 has proved to be anything but a happy new year after the collapse of the sub-prime mortgage loan industry last summer. The Department of Commerce reported on Wednesday that the economy grew by only 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2007. To put that in perspective, consider that

the economy grew by 4.9 percent in the third quarter of the 2007 fiscal calendar and by 2.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006.

Poor earnings reports from big companies like McDonald's, American Express and Apple have sparked fears that the U.S. economy is entering a recession. The Dow Jones Industrial Average hit an all-time high of 14,279 last July, but just last week it tumbled to less than 12,000.

Markets throughout Europe and Asia have also struggled to a slow start in 2008. Although the Fed's drastic rate cuts have helped stimulate trading - the market closed on Wednesday

at 12,442 - market gains haven't assuaged fears about deeper problems.

President Bush hopes to offer some relief to cash-strapped consumers with a fiscal stimulus bill. The bill, which has already made it through the House of Representatives, would offer \$160 billion in tax rebates for individuals and businesses. Bush's bill may or may not be signed into law, as a slightly modified and pricier version has surfaced in the Senate.

The daily roller coaster ride on Wall Street should continue for some time as investors continue to sort out earnings reports and look ahead to the rest of 2008.

The Writers Have Struck

-- Rebecca High --
Staff Writer

Girls, don't buy your Gucci gowns yet. Boys, stow the black ties. The results are in—and the Oscar award nominations have once again sparked blog debates and dorm room cackle over unfair snubs and ridiculous nominees. But this year, to add to the flurry, comes the writers' strike complications, which could mean no glamorous red carpet on February 24.

The Writers Guild of America strike started November 5 and as a result, the annually alluring Golden Globes award show on January 7 turned out to be a virtual ghost town. Screen Actors Guild members (all movie actors) refused to cross picket lines to attend the ceremony and, without celebrities in attendance, the event was limited to a mere news conference.

Even the Grammys, music's biggest award show, dreaded a hit. This week, however, the WGA announced that the awards could carry on picket-free. Its move allows Justin Timberlake and Beyoncé, both SAG members, to attend the awards, but does not clarify whether or not the WGA will actually participate in the show. Without writers to write their scripts, the presenters could be left, well, speechless.

Many fear that the same thing could happen to the Academy Awards. If the WGA and the studios cannot come to terms on a new contract, an army of little Oscars might be left naked and owner-less on awards night. Becca Berry, a recent college graduate and a post-production assistant in Hollywood, said, "What would people do if the Super Bowl was cancelled? They would freak out. Well, the Oscars are my Super Bowl!"

It all started when the contract between the WGA and Hollywood studios expired. WGA writers and the studios needed to renew their contract, so the writers began negotiating for new terms: higher percentages on DVD residuals (profit cuts),



and many top shows such as "Grey's Anatomy" and "The Office" were forced to run old shows after their scanty stock of new episodes was depleted.

The negotiation process is sluggish, however, because the studios and corporations are not feeling hits from the strike. Sony Corporation even admits that it loses money making films, but maintains revenue through electronics such as PlayStation. Sony is not the only one. Warner Brothers owns Six Flags Theme Parks all across the country. FOX and ABC haven't quite felt the blow because their heavy hitters are primarily reality and animation programming.

Michael Miller is a Hollywood film editor with many features under his belt including "Raising Arizona" and "Anaconda." He is currently working on "The Six Wives of Henry LeFay" starring Tim Allen, and says that although the writers' strike has primarily hurt television, the film industry is also feeling some of the effects. "We threw a lot into pre-production before the strike deadline in order to prevent massive unemployment," said Miller. "Once the writing and filming is finished, we can begin editing the material during post-production.

Production writers, however, are left without jobs." The only problem for editors is if the script needs a few extra lines or amendments. "It is unusual for a film to shoot without the ability to re-write," said Miller. "Lines can be tailor-made to fit a particular actor, but that can't happen without a writer. For example, Johnny Depp had a film in the works but doesn't want to do it now without being able to re-write it."

Miller describes his daily walk down Third Street, home of the WGA, and admires the unity that many in Los Angeles display

residuals for online airing, and the unionization of animation and reality television writers ("King of the Hill," "Dancing with the Stars"). The studios refused to continue negotiations, leaving writers with no contract and no choice but to strike.

Studios are owned by huge corporations that make millions of dollars from advertising in online viewing. When the writers argued that they were not getting their fair share, studios tried to pass the revenues off as "promotional" (therefore, studios claimed, there was no profit). The writers went on strike,

and many top shows such as "Grey's Anatomy" and "The Office" were forced to run old shows after their scanty stock of new episodes was depleted.

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Miller describes his daily walk down Third Street, home of the WGA, and admires the unity that many in Los Angeles display

Students Debate University Policy at Campus Congress Forum

-- Kelly Miller --
Staff Writer

Students dramatically disagree about Cedarville's rules and dress code, but participants in last Thursday's Campus Congress forum on dress code and discipline did reach consensus on a few points.

A majority of the approximately 15 people in the room agreed that they disliked curfew and wanted to be able to dance.

They also agreed that C.U. should not make new rules if the ones it has are vague and impossible to enforce. "If they're going to make the rule, they should enforce it," argued Phillip Morrison, a sophomore electrical engineering major.

Campus Congress functions as an avenue for students to communicate opinions to the administration, said Andy Vitaliti,



Students debate the dress code at last Thursday's Campus Congress forum. Casual Fridays began as a Campus Congress initiative.

Campus Congress chairman and a junior international studies major.

"Basically, we serve as a way students can tell administrators about what they want to see changed," he said.

Committees within Campus Congress will hold two more forums this semester: one on dorm life and commuters; the other on chapel, church, food and organizations. The three forums will provide the committees ideas for bills.

Toward the end of the semester the entire congress will meet for one day. The committees will propose bills on which the congress will vote.

Sometimes, bills with strong student support result in university policy changes. For example, students were first allowed to wear jeans on Fridays in spring 2006 due largely to the work of Campus Congress.

Dress code was a controversial subject at Thursday's forum. Some students argued for allowing jeans all the time, some for getting rid of the dress code and others for maintaining the status quo.

The students at the meeting overwhelmingly favored more relaxed rules on dancing. Beth Hays, SGA Student Life director and a senior nursing major, suggested allowing dancing on campus but not in bars.

One student commented that as much as she wanted change, she understood that "sometimes, if you give someone an inch, they're going to take a mile." Another student similarly argued that "Change is not always better."

Another student commented on the inconsistency of allowing dancing at Elliv. Kirsten Gibbs, the dean of students, later explained that the distinction is in whether or not the dancing is choreographed. "The dance issue at CU is a unique issue," she said.

The discussion took a serious turn on the subject of facial piercings as students disagreed on what direction the university should take.

Kirsten Gibbs, Dean of Students, explains that CU's leadership has "wrestled" with the issue of whether the dress code

alienates people. "We've worked over the past years to not be defined by a dress code," she says.

Personally, she believes that the dress code is about students learning how to present themselves well in their community, more than preparing for the workforce.

She also thinks CU students would probably not be happy if rules were enforced more strictly.

"We've come from an environment that was very black and white... [there was] no room for understanding the context of the situation." Now Student Life aims to "balance grace and truth...and it gets a little messy."

Sophomore Geneva Wilgus argued that if C.U.'s constituency of potential students and donors won't accept diversity and individuality in students, the school should change its target audience. Another student responded, "If your entire identity is wrapped around a nose-piercing... I think there's a problem with that."

When the meeting was over, the discussion spilled into the hallway. Students who have thoughts that they would like to share regarding these issues should email congress@cedarville.edu.

Required Internships Prompt Questions About Vehicle Fleet Policy

-- Kristen Recupero --
Staff Writer

Jennifer Alfieri did not make it to the first day of her internship.

Alfieri is a sophomore psychology major required to complete a weekly internship in order to graduate. Having no car of her own, Alfieri borrowed a friend's. The car broke down on her way there.

But this wasn't the beginning of her frustrations.

"I needed transportation for my internship, which had to be this semester. I looked into university vehicles, started the process of requesting one and was told they can't charge a student for the gas. They can only

charge a faculty member or staff," said Alfieri.

It seemed settled: she would petition her department to requisition gas purchases.

But then Alfieri was informed that the psychology department did not have authorization to let students use the vehicles.

"It put me in a bind," Alfieri admitted. After consulting her parents about buying a vehicle, only to find that she cannot currently af-



The university's fleet vehicles were driven almost 443,000 miles and cost the university nearly \$195,000 in fiscal year '06-'07.

ford to buy one, Alfieri has little choice but to rely on borrowed vehicles. This practice is sometimes risky because insurance policies often do not cover damages to persons or property in borrowed vehicles.

Jennifer Mukes, a sophomore social work major, also has a required internship. "I have no car, and I don't really have money for a car," said Mukes. "I need this internship to graduate, and if I can't graduate because I don't have a car, I think Cedarville needs to do something about that." Mukes must also borrow friends' cars because the university fleet is generally off-limits to students for internships — even required ones.

Though the fleet is used most by Chris-

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see VEHICLES page 5

Vecino's: Comrades for a Cause

-- Brandon Smith --
-- Katie Bliss --
Staff Writers

If you want to work one of the most high-pressure, minimum-wage jobs on campus, apply at Café Vecino's. Just about everyone else did.

The job may be demanding — we have all seen the breakneck speed at which baristas move during peak hours — but the workers are in the limelight. Teresa Keller, a senior Christian education major and the scheduling manager at Vecino's, says that the attention probably attracts the massive influx of applicants who contact Vecino's every hiring period.

"We're definitely one of the most wanted jobs on campus," said Keller.

So many people apply each semester that a referral from a current employee is almost required. Keller described a word-of-mouth process for selecting new baristas; being good friends with a few of the 15 current employees helps.

"It sounds kind of shady, I know," Keller conceded. "But it has a purpose."

Having worked at the coffee vendor since her freshman year, Keller knows a lot about group dynamics. She attests to the functional success of Vecino's hiring method.

She says that baristas who have no emotional stock in their relationships with co-workers tend to get angry trying to handle a fast-paced work environment in close

quarters.

"As you can see, we bump a lot of shoulders," Keller said. "Sometimes, we're just so busy that it's important to have that familiarity."

While most students will recognize the evident challenges the café poses for employees, many are unaware of how Vecino's operates financially.

What little profit the café makes goes directly into the general fund of the Stevens Student Center (SSC), which helps pay for updates to the building, the occasional SSC concert and even some student scholarships.

While Vecino's seems to steward its local profit in a worthy enough manner, what about the rest of the \$3.50 you spent on a coffee drink?

Vecino's purchases virtually all its coffee supplies from Alliance World Coffees (AWC), based in Muncie, Ind. The supplier is a "specialty coffee micro-roaster," but its main goal is to provide its employees with education in Bible knowledge and Biblical living. Its workers enter a two-year internship program for which they roast coffee and attend instruction of a Bible college or seminary level at little or no personal cost.

The concept is the brainchild of AWC. Before working with CU to establish Vecino's in the summer of 2004, the supplier tried numerous other locations for the model they called "Café Vecino's." According to Keller, only the one at Cedarville survived.

Eldund credits Lynsey Fabian, the Maddox resident director, with getting the students to recycle actively.

"It really starts with the students," Fabian said. "I think it's important to take care of the environment and use what God has given us."

Silvius said that coordinating a growing recycling program is only part of what needs to happen to improve the way the campus stewards resources.

"Christians are called to recycle as part of the larger context of caring for creation," Silvius said. "Being sure that we have coordination of the program is nuts and bolts of making it possible. But ultimately, it's an individual responsibility."

Ware said that he is open to suggestions about how C.U.'s recycling program can expand, but said that the university must consider what is most cost effective.

Recycling or composting will often "cost more than how you're already doing things," Ware said. "We have real philosophical grounds for doing it, but the school has a ton of things that need to be funded and I suspect that there are issues of greater importance."



Terrell Brought Enthusiasm, Dedication to Cedarville

-- Anna Cummings --
Staff Writer

Casey D. Terrell, 24, an officer at the Cedarville Police Department, lost his life on Dec. 31, 2007 while driving to work. He had swerved to avoid hitting a deer on U.S. 42.

Mayor James Phipps expressed his desire for Cedarville students "to know some of the great policemen we have as more than the people who pull them over for a ticket." Terrell's father, Terry Terrell, a high school basketball coach at Waynesville High School, shared some of his memories of his son with Cedars.

Terrell enjoyed playing with trucks as a child and dreamed of becoming a firefighter or policeman. He was independent and self-sufficient from an early age (he started working a paper route when he was six so he could earn his own money) and naturally fit the role of a police officer.

He also demonstrated a deep concern for others. Terrell's father said it was normal for his young son to shovel the snow for their next-door neighbor because he didn't want her to fall; "he was that kind of kid."

When Terrell graduated from high school, he was not very fit physically. He could not run around the track once or do one sit-up or push-up. But he was determined to realize his dream, so he

quit smoking and started exercising in order to pass the physical examination for police academy. At 5 feet 6 inches, he even shed 100 of his former almost-300 pounds.

Though the academy officials informed Terrell they had doubts he would pass, he never gave up, spending the entire weekend before the physical examination training with his father in order to be able to run 1.5 miles in 11 minutes, 40 seconds or less. Terrell graduated and was even the most-approved in his class. "I'm so proud of him," said coach Terrell.

Terrell's uncle and great-grandfather were also police officers. The uncle died nine days prior to Terrell's death, and the younger man had been thrilled to inherit some of his uncle's police equipment.

Terrell had been with the Cedarville Police Department for two years when he died. He loved his job so much that sometimes he came in on his days off and worked for free. Terrell excelled at his job, such that, even at age 24, he was being considered for the position of police chief after Chief Gillaugh's retirement.

Terrell always held two jobs, working as a policeman in Jamestown as well as working for the Cedarville Police Department. Mayor Phipps says that he is not planning to replace Terrell in the next couple of weeks: "We haven't rushed to replace him, because we

need to find someone of the same quality, and they are hard to find."

Terrell, an outgoing person, became a Christian as a young boy and grew up in the church. He always carried his Bible in his patrol car.

Cornerstone Baptist Temple in Dayton held a memorial service for Terrell on Saturday, Jan. 5. The building can normally seat 1,400 people, but the aisles had to be filled with chairs to accommodate the mourners, who included former U.S. Senator Mike DeWine and Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann. At the viewing two lines of people flowed past for six hours.

"Casey never met a stranger," Terrell's father said.

Terrell's father, a strong Christian, has remained positive following his son's death. Father and son were able to talk on the phone for half an hour the day before the accident.

"The last thing we said to each other was 'I love ya' ... Beyond all this the Lord has blessings," he affirmed, and said that every day he writes down the blessing he sees.

"I do not feel cheated," he said. "I got a wonderful son for almost 25 years, and the Lord has his reasons; I'd never be angry at the Lord. If the Lord came to me today and said, 'I'm going to bring Casey back,' I'd say, 'No, Lord; he's better off with You.'"

Philosophy Organization Discusses Postmodernism

-- Josh Saunders --
Staff Writer

Postmodernism was, for the second time, the topic of the discussion at the Jan. 24 meeting of Alpha Sigma, the Cedarville philosophy organization. Participants in the dialogue, which continued last semester's Postmodernism 101 discussion, included faculty (Dr. David Mills and Mr. Ryan Peterson) and approximately 25 students and lasted almost two hours.

Mills is associate professor of philosophy, and Peterson is assistant professor of theology.

Alpha Sigma President Jenna Marcum said, "After hosting Postmodernism 101 last semester we realized that people still had some residual questions, especially about reconciling Christianity with postmodernism and understanding the relationship between the two."

Both Petersen and Mills answered many intelligent questions about the nature of postmodernism while keeping a lively sense of humor and a firm grasp on the subject matter. Senior members of Alpha Sigma also offered some of their thoughts.

One of the first student questions cut to the heart of the matter. The student said, "Do you think that postmodernism allows us to live out our faith in a better way?"

"Yes, I do," Mills said. "You can run the risk of treating all forms of faith as equal, but I think it does

open up the possibility of being able to live out our faith unapologetically, because we don't have to prove it. That game that we lived during the first half of the century is no longer necessary."

Along the same line of thought Dr. Peterson said, "Postmodernism can be individualistic and communal. I think the better forms of postmodernism are coming back to a community that is seeking the truth, but we realize that we have limitations and we keep doing it together. And, ultimately, that is the goal of the church — seeking truth as a community."

Both Mills and Peterson readily admitted that, just like the modern era, postmodernism is not perfect. "The danger of postmodernism is picking up a new idol. Our fear of closure can move us into a destructive type of tolerance," Mills said. "I want to acknowledge the complexity of this. And I have been disappointed in writers who say that we should hold our convictions so loosely as to say that Jesus doesn't have to be the only way."

The relatively low number of students in attendance seemed to help promote a positive and enjoyable learning atmosphere. Last semester's postmodernism meeting had about 75 people who all tried to pack into SSC 248. The tight quarters for the first meeting, together with the wider range in student opinions, personalities and

education levels, led to some more abrasive questions and comments that seemed to demonstrate a lower willingness to learn.

Last semester's meeting "was generally civil, but every once in a while there was some inflammation," said sophomore Peter Brandt.

This time, Marcum said, "The smaller group was nice because people felt more comfortable speaking. Everybody was attentive and respectful."

The good-natured and more casual atmosphere pervaded Marcum's answers as well. In response to one question, "How does postmodernism affect Biblical interpretation?" Marcum said, "You know Wikipedia? Just check that." The students at the discussion also reflected the relaxed atmosphere in a few quips poking fun at the philosophy of approaches such as Thomas Kinkadee's.

For students interested in better understanding postmodernism and its diversity, Marcum recommends reading "Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?" by James K.A. Smith.

Alpha Sigma's next event will be an informal meeting allowing students to get to know some of the newer Bible faculty members. It will be held on Thursday, Feb. 21. Professors Graves, Sprinkle, James and Petersen will attend.

from RECYCLE page 1

board. Custodial Services empties these weekly to compact the recyclables, which the company Waste Management picks up two or three times per month.

"We need to have someone who can sit at a desk and think of new things to do. Resource conservation is really a larger concept," Silvius said.

However, there are students who take stewardship seriously and participate in the programs already in place on campus.

A Goodwill truck is available for students to donate used furniture, clothing and other reusable items during the final week of spring semester every year. C.U. also collects Christian books and media to donate to an organization called Love Packages. The cafeteria recycles cardboard and used cooking oil.

Eldund, the custodial supervisor, said that Maddox is the residence hall that does the best job of separating recyclable items from the rest of their trash.

"They really do an excellent job there," she said. "I just really think it's getting the individual people involved. The girls take the effort to take the paper out of their regular trash."

Hollywood Fights for... Theism?

-- Kristen Recupero --
Staff Writer

What does it take to be expelled from Biology 101?

Teaching Intelligent Design will do it, says columnist, law professor, actor and former presidential speechwriter Ben Stein. Stein is currently producing the controversial movie "Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed." The documentary exposes the opposition many scientists and teachers encounter when they say that a higher being may be responsible for the world's existence.

"In my experience, people who are confident are not afraid of criticism," Stein says in the movie trailer, which features neo-Darwinists candidly elaborating on their scientific insecurity. "So that tells me that Darwinists are afraid. They're hiding something."

Chris Trump, the movie's publicist, disagrees with those who called the movie "extremist." "It's about the controversy between Intelligent Design ... and ... Neo-Darwinism, but really the underlying

theme is freedom of speech and thought."

The trailer suggests that the movie will feature secular scientists who have found evidence for Intelligent Design and against Darwinism. The movie also includes interviews with scientists and teachers; both groups have experienced animosity from staunchly Darwinist superiors as well as from

"Creationist" front, they would not have participated.

"I haven't heard anything about the movie," said Dr. Carl Ruby, vice president of Student Life. "Based on what I saw in the trailer, this looks like a film that all thoughtful Christian students should see, particularly those interested in the sciences or interested in academic careers."

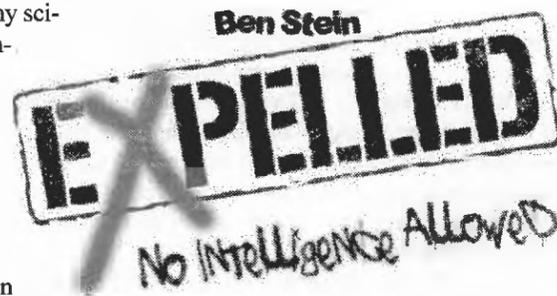
Ruby feels that Christians "have a tendency to be pretty reactive, overestimating both the dangers and opportunities associated with movies. This one looks like a great opportunity for thoughtful Christians and nonbelievers alike.

I can't wait to see it."

Trump, suggests that college students visit the movie's website, www.expelledthemovie.com, in order to decide for themselves whether they would like to see it.

"I would say at this point that it's for any person with an open mind — not just Christians," Trump said.

The movie is planned for release in April of this year.



opinion leaders in the scientific community.

In September 2007 the New York Times published an article revealing responses to Stein's work from atheistic scientists who had been interviewed for "Expelled." These scientists felt that Stein wasn't honest about the documentary before he interviewed them and said that, had they known about its

from VEHICLES page 3

tian ministry teams, fleet administrators sometimes make, like in Jennifer Lester's case. Her education major requires student teaching; normally, a group of student teachers leaves campus in a fleet van at scheduled times.

"I had to get extra hours in, so I couldn't leave when everyone else did," Lester said. Lester didn't have a vehicle and was told to borrow one from a friend. After she failed to find a friend who was willing, the department worked out an agreement with Christian Ministries. Lester now borrows a fleet car to travel to student teaching.

John Wambold, director of community ministries, said, "There are certain days and times we are maxed out, for example Wednesdays and Sundays." Wambold is more or less manager of the fleet. "The biggest challenge for internships is that there are not that many cars — only two."

Wambold also said that specialized fleet software would help optimize the fleet.

While the education department is able to use the fleet for their education blocks, students of other departments who do not have their own source of transportation are without options.

"There should be the alternative for people with required internships to use these cars, even if they have to pay for gas. I think there should be exceptions made and a way made," Lester said.

"I would like to have more vehicles, though it's hard to say if we need them," said Wambold, the fleet manager.

As of December 2007, approximately 2,052 students had registered vehicles on campus. With the student population fluctuating around 3,100, that leaves an estimate of 1,048 students without vehicles.

from WRITERS page 3

out of respect for the strike. "As you walk, you can see signs saying 'We Support the Writers Strike' on all the businesses. The film industry is a big part of the economy out here," said Miller. "Every business in LA is affected. But these signs are as if the businesses are saying, 'We accept the fact that we're going to lose a little business, but we are all in this together. If we want extra money in our pockets, you have to have money in yours.'"

Recently, the WGA dropped the negotiations for the unionization of animation and reality TV and is currently pursuing informal discussions with television producers.

The Directors Guild of America recently finished temporary negotiations with studios as well, although its contract will not expire until June. They hope to come to an agreement soon regarding online advertising residuals, but as Miller says, "It's not a slam dunk that the

strike will end before the Academy Awards."

Meanwhile, the WGA has signed with several independent film studios such as United Artists, Spyglass Entertainment and Lionsgate. Through these smaller venues, WGA writers will be able to receive what Lionsgate calls "fair compensation" while working on independent films.

So keep the date circled and your formal wear on reserve: February 24 is still scheduled for the 80th Academy Awards. Oscar is already in mass reproduction.

But many groan to think of the possibilities if writers do not start working soon. The last Hollywood writers strike in 1988 lasted eight months and resulted in the grassroots of reality television. For those who love "American Idol," this could be a glorious day. For those who hate "Survivor," this could be the beginning of the end of your television viewing.

According to University Controller Phil Grafton, those who manage the University's money are more concerned with maintaining and replacing the current vehicles than purchasing new ones.

Wambold, the fleet manager, said that fleet vehicles traveled 442,933 miles during the last fiscal year, which ended on June 30. In that period of time, the university spent approximately \$195,000 maintaining the vehicles or replacing older ones.

According to the university Web site, the purpose of the fleet vehicles is to "support and serve departmental program needs that represent appropriate institutional use. The fleet vehicles are not available for personal use or for rental by outside groups or individuals."

In response to this policy, Alfieri, Mukes and others in similar situations may want to know in what cases required off-campus internships qualify as "personal use."

Students to Discuss Candidates

On Monday, Feb. 4, in the DMC Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m., three Cedarville students will represent their favorite presidential candidates in a moderated debate.

The debate will include Bobby Moon representing Mike Huckabee, Josh Saunders representing Barack Obama and Keith Rice representing Ron Paul. Each debater will be given up to 25 minutes of speaking time: approximately 13 minutes for introduction, four minutes for response to the other introductions, five minutes for cross examination and three minutes for concluding thoughts.

A Q&A session between the debaters and the audience will follow the debate.

The debate is sponsored by the communications department.

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Presidential Perceptions

Who Will Win and Why

Ron Paul: Join the R(εVOI)ution

-- Josh Moody --
Staff Writer

Ron Paul really has nothing new to say.

While every other candidate is trying to sell their brand new plan of government to the American people, Ron Paul is championing a literal return to the Constitution for wisdom in modern times. A Libertarian at heart, Paul honestly believes that all we need to run our country is in the Constitution, and listening to his arguments, I've begun to believe him. There is no denying that America in the 21st century has strayed quite far from its foundational roots. Our federal government wields far more power than our state and local governments. Our military is thinly spread over the world, and we are engaged in a conflict in Iraq that can benefit us very little. The middle class is overtaxed to support such unconstitutional federal organizations as the CIA, which remains virtually unaccountable to anyone for its actions, and a welfare system that routinely provides aid to illegal immigrants. Ron Paul's proposals for solving these problems sound quite radical in our modern ears, but they are merely the result of a zealous belief in the vision of the Founding Fathers: an America governed from the ground up, minding its own business internationally, and staying accountable to its citizens.

Senator Paul's endorsement of the FairTax initiative — also endorsed by Huckabee — is probably his biggest selling point. The obvious concern with the FairTax plan is that without collecting income taxes, the federal government will not have the money

it needs to run itself. Paul's solution for this is simple: revamp the federal government to the bare minimum, giving massive amounts of authority and money back the states and local governments.

Despite breaking fundraising records and maintaining the most extensive Internet presence of any candidate, Senator Paul remains in the background of this presidential race. Romney and McCain are currently the biggest hitters on the GOP ticket. Realistically, Paul doesn't stand a chance to win the primaries. So why support him? Wouldn't it make more sense to make my vote "count" for another candidate? Perhaps. However, I have a feeling that Paul's GOP campaign is just a warm-up. He has already hinted that he might later run as an Independent. If he does, America could be looking at another Ross Perot situation, one that draws in both Democrats and Republicans. Don't count Senator Ron Paul out just yet.

In fact, I encourage you to Google Ron Paul. Or YouTube him. Wikipedia. <I can't stop shuddering at this horrendous use of language. Can we just scrap it and say "research" the man?> See what the man has to say. Look at his voting record; it's actually spotless, and John McCain has called him "the most honest man in Congress." Look at his positions. You don't have to take my word for it.

America's Favorite Mormon

-- John Cooper --
Guest Writer

It has become pretty clear for those looking for a conservative candidate that only one man with the big "R" after his name has a legitimate shot at collecting the party nomination outright. His name is Mitt Romney.

The current leader in party delegates with primary wins in Wyoming, Nevada, and Michigan, Romney is in a strong position to get the Republican ticket to this year's Big Dance. Romney's candidacy carries the most substance, while he has the experience and determination to get things done for the American people. In this election, the American people are primarily looking for a leader who will stand strong in the War on Terror and provide sound economic leadership.

Romney has several unique propositions for enhancing national security, including increasing the size of the U.S. military for increased protection and readiness and launching programs that would bring modernization, healthcare, the rule of law, and previously unrecognized human rights to Muslims living under a seventh-century dictatorial

mindset. He supports revamping the intelligence community to make it more reliable and capable. Romney is uniquely dedicated to focusing on the specific problems of terrorism.

Romney's strongest platform is the economy. As a successful businessman, he knows what policies are necessary to promote a strong, vibrant economy that provides excellent quality of life to Americans and enables us to compete with the growing economies of China and India. These include making permanent the immensely successful Bush tax cuts, eliminating the death tax, and cutting corporate tax rates to increase corporate profits, profits which translate into more production of goods and creation of new jobs. Romney is unrivaled by the other candidates on this issue.

Illegal immigration, healthcare, and energy independence are also highly important to voters, but unfortunately, here I am a victim of word limits. This I can say — it takes a lot to get my vote. Romney's substance and experience have done it. Check out mittromney.com. You'll be impressed. I was.

I ♥ Huckabee

-- Dresden Soules --
Staff Writer

As the primaries are taking place there is talk everywhere about who to vote for. Personally, I believe that every candidate has things working for and against them. However, the candidate that I support is Mike Huckabee. Huckabee supports the FairTax, which I believe is one of the best positions that he has going for him. The FairTax is a proposal to completely change the federal tax structure to a national retail sales tax by doing away with the complicated income tax. Of the many presidential candidates, Huckabee is one of the few who actually has a definite plan to handle taxes. The other candidates have a few general answers, but nothing concrete.

Huckabee is in the process of forming a border patrol plan. For many people in America, the issue of immigration is very important. There are many propositions as to how to handle it, ranging from total legalization to deportation of everyone who is illegal. Personally, I think that both of those particular positions are highly improbable

and unlikely to happen. Huckabee's position on immigration, one that he held as the governor of Arkansas, is to not punish children for being here illegally when it was their parents who brought them. He believes in and fought for the idea in Arkansas that those children deserve opportunity, a chance to go college, and a chance at earning more money in life. Huckabee said that he would rather have good citizens that give to the country and can provide for themselves than make those same people poor and dependent on the country. According to Huckabee, "We punish people who break the law. We don't punish the children of those who break the law."

One thing that I would like to mention is that I am not supporting Huckabee just because he is a Christian. I know quite a few people who are going to vote for him for that reason. It's really important that when looking for a candidate to support, you look at everything. And if the candidates do have a faith, their views and what they say should be in line with that faith. Plus, he is Chuck Norris approved. How much better can it get?

Over forty-seven million Americans are uninsured. As Mr. Obama explains, the problem is not that these Americans don't want healthcare, it's that they cannot afford it. Although it may be difficult to comprehend, impoverished Americans are dying because they are unable to receive quality healthcare. As Christians, we have a moral imperative to defend those in poverty. While I agree the burden should first fall on the church, none can deny that the church has failed this burden.

"I am absolutely determined," says Senator Obama, "that by the end of the first term of the next president, we should have universal health care in this country."

By eliminating tax cuts for the wealthy, Obama desires to extend the opportunity for healthcare to those who cannot otherwise afford it.

But that's not all Obama has to offer.

Obama's stance on foreign policy, for example, strikes a healthy balance between national security and diplomatic prudence.

Barack the Vote

-- Michael Shirzadian --
Staff Writer

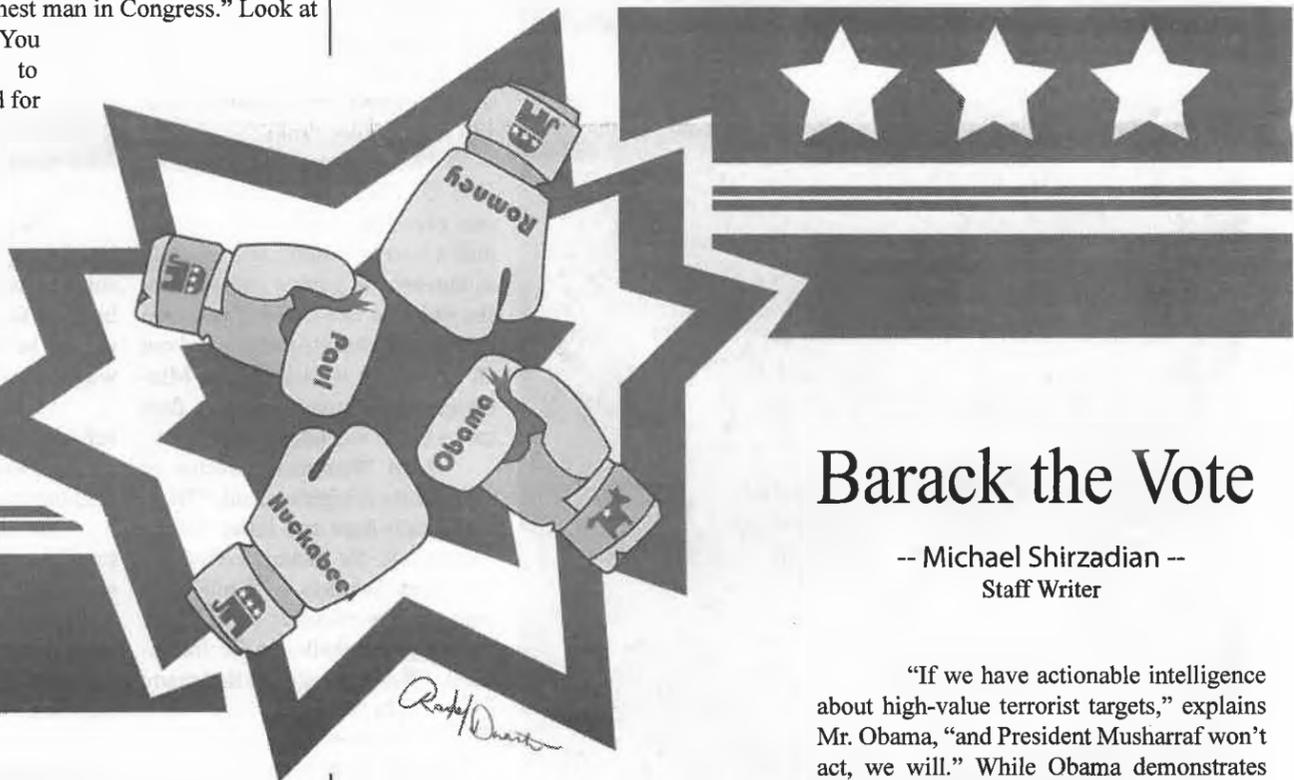
"If we have actionable intelligence about high-value terrorist targets," explains Mr. Obama, "and President Musharraf won't act, we will." While Obama demonstrates his willingness to use military action when needed, he also indicates his willingness to dialogue with those traditionally seen as U.S. enemies.

"We are willing to talk about certain assurances in the context of them showing some good faith," Obama says. "It is important for us to send a signal that we are not hell-bent on regime change just for the sake of regime change, but expect changes in behavior."

While critics — including Hillary Clinton — attack Mr. Obama for his willingness to engage Iran in diplomatic negotiation, I find Obama's approach refreshing. The international community views America as arrogant, imperious, and jingoistic. Nothing, I contend, better deconstructs this image than direct diplomatic discussion with Iran.

So, students of Cedarville, while Mike Huckabee may play his religious trump card, I implore you to consider Barack Obama. Take a stand for the poor. Reestablish our international image. Vote. But go one step further. Own the vote. Be the vote.

Barack the vote.



Being President Means More than Having Experience

-- Kevin Cole --
Staff Writer

The race for the Democratic presidential nomination has essentially narrowed to two candidates: Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. The latter has — recent, bizarre attacks notwithstanding — focused almost exclusively on Obama's lack of experience. Behind "change" (Does Bush-Clinton-Bush-Clinton suggest "change" to you?), "experience" is the most over-used word of this political season so far. Obama is right, in response, to reverse the charge and question how much experience Clinton has herself. Does eight years as First Lady really prepare one to be commander in chief?

In an influential article from the New York Times in December, Patrick Healy noted that during those eight years, "Mrs. Clinton did not hold a security clearance. She did not attend National Security Council meetings. She was not given a copy of the president's daily intelligence briefing." Her biggest project, healthcare reform, was an unmitigated disaster. What, then, is Clinton banking on exactly? Healy mockingly suggests it's presidential training by "osmosis."

There seems little doubt that Clinton has a much better idea of life in the White House than, say, you or me. But it's difficult to see how writing "Dear Socks, Dear Buddy" better enables her to lead our country than Obama's years of working the streets of Chicago, defending the poor, and standing up for the marginalized, not to mention his seven years in the Illinois state legislature. It is, the Clinton campaign seems to assert, experience in a federal office (preferably elected) that really counts — which still only gives Clinton a mere four-year advantage over Obama.

Of course, what fewer people seem to question, especially not in the mainstream media, is whether or not experience is really what we want after all. Periodically, various surveys of historians have attempted to rank our past presidents in terms of "greatness." The ranking is sometimes vague, sometimes overly biased, but use-

ful nonetheless. An aggregate of those results is even better, and certain names inevitably crop up as our greatest presidents. And no, G. W. Bush registers as neither one of the best nor worst.

If we compare the top ten best presidents with the ten worst, excluding the two who died within a year of taking office, in terms of federal experience, we arrive at a curious statistic. The worst, led by Warren G. Harding, have a median average of 7.5 years of experience. The best, led by Abraham Lincoln, have a median average of 2 years experience. This isn't, of course, to suggest an inverse relationship between experience and greatness, but it's a factor to consider. It might suggest, for example, that preparedness, if it's even truly possible for our highest office, does not really have a whole lot to do with prior political experience. James Buchanan, our second worst president, had a stunning 27 years experience spread across four distinct and distinguished roles. Three of our greatest — George Washington (No. 3), Woodrow Wilson (No. 6), and Dwight D. Eisenhower (No. 9) — had absolutely zero prior experience, at least in the sense we're using "experience" here.

Senator Obama's three years in the U.S. Senate don't look so insignificant anymore. He's been there longer, for example, than another eloquent lawyer from Illinois known as a visionary leader and gifted orator: Abraham Lincoln. Comparisons to Lincoln, naturally, should be heavily qualified. It is simply worth noting, however, that after eight years of one of the most highly "qualified" (one that contained Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell, and Dick Cheney) and yet disastrous administrations, it just might be time to see what the Junior Senator from Illinois can bring to the table. It may just be his ability to lead effectively, to cast and communicate vision, to delegate and deliberate, and to creatively rethink the status quo that best qualifies Senator Barack Obama as the far-and-away greatest choice for Democratic candidate for President of the United States of America.

Obama's Foreign Policy Too Reliant on Emotions

-- Christen Price --
Staff Writer

Because he is a major contender in the 2008 presidential race, Senator Barack Obama's foreign policy experience and positions warrant scrutiny. Senator Obama's foreign policy is comprehensive and well-articulated, particularly when compared to the statements of the other candidates on the subject. He has developed a team of over 150 foreign policy advisors to assist him in producing foreign policy statements.

Senator Obama, who has been criticized for his lack of foreign policy experience, claims that his strongest foreign relations experience comes from living in Indonesia for four years as a child. He also cites his consistent opposition to the War in Iraq as evidence of his good judgment.

Obama's early experience in a foreign country provides him with a unique perspective which is doubtless helpful, but not sufficient. A childhood residence in Indonesia is hardly a substitute for the practical knowledge of all that working successfully with world leaders entails. Nor does such an experience qualify one to command a military.

Obama tries to compensate for his lack of experience with a platform that emphasizes a fresh approach, a change from usual Washington politics. However, his foreign policy positions are not particularly unique. There are several similarities between Obama's positions and those of Hillary Clinton, for example. Clinton also advocates phased troop withdrawal from Iraq, without permanent bases. She also considers Iraq to be a distraction from the War on Terror and opposes military action in

Iran. Clinton wants to strengthen the military, rebuild the trust of other nations, encourage non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and improve diplomatic relations.

Additionally, Obama's rhetoric towards Pakistan does not seem consistent with his view of the U.S. invading a sovereign Iraq. Obama has indicated that he would give Pakistan an ultimatum: combat al-Qaeda in your country or the U.S. military will. As the moderator of the New Hampshire debate pointed out, Obama is basically espousing the Bush doctrine.

Few of us, as students, have extensive knowledge of or experience with foreign policy. However, we can, at least, choose to examine the credentials, experience, and internal consistency of a candidate's positions, instead of resorting to novelty or a party-line voting.

Image isn't Everything

-- Devin Babcock --
Staff Writer

The county prosecutor for Detroit recently opened an investigation into the personal life of Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. Two years into his second term as mayor of America's eleventh largest city, Kilpatrick strikes an imposing figure on the political landscape.

Kilpatrick is a major player in the Democratic Party, a 37 year-old, African American, native son of Detroit with a law degree. He began his political career with extreme popularity with the new generation of voters in Detroit, a popularity which helped him to barely beat fellow Democrat Gil Hill.

After a few years in office, questions began to arise about America's "Hip-hop mayor." A 2005 issue of Time magazine named Kilpatrick one of the three worst "big-city" mayors in America. That same year the Detroit Free Press revealed that Kilpatrick had spent \$210,000 of city money in his first term. In the primary for the 2005 election, he finished second in his own party to Freman Hendrix. Kilpatrick was forgotten by the press, his career over due to his shortcomings.

Somehow, in the actual election, Kilpatrick found 53% of the

voters on his side. The people of Detroit looked past his shortcomings as a mayor and a man, re-electing the incompetent incumbent.

The current investigation stems from a whistleblower trial involving Kilpatrick's firing of two bodyguards who were investigating his personal actions. It took the jury three hours to find in favor of

relationship.

Under oath in the whistleblower trial, Kilpatrick and Christine Beatty, the mayor's chief of staff, both denied that they were involved in a romantic relationship in 2002 and 2003. The AP released some of the texts, including a few professions of love and a number of rendezvous and explicit conversations.

The whole issue only manages to raise questions for me. How did Kilpatrick get reelected in the first place? What kind of world do we live in that produces popular politicians with no morals? Kilpatrick spent more money than I've ever made from a bankrupt city budget. He touts his efforts to rebuild the city while spending his time canoodling with a woman who is not his wife.

Through the whole thing, I just wonder who actually votes. What drives a person to vote for a convicted criminal?

Does Kilpatrick have some appealing quality — besides his reputation for bribes and favors — that would drive a voter to punch his name in on Election Day? If so, maybe conservatives, with their morals and family values, have been doing it wrong this whole time. If an affair can get Kilpatrick reelected, who's to say it won't make Bill Clinton our First Lady?

Through everything, Kilpatrick has retained support and floated above the law. Maybe now is finally the time that the armor protecting a favorite politician falters. The Detroit Free Press released a report about text messages between the mayor and his female chief of staff detailing a romantic



Jody Ames D.D.S and Theresa McKinney D.D.S



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"How to Interact with the Missions Conference": Cedars Staff Writer Alyssa Weaver brings a new perspective to the spring semester tradition

Additional letters to the editor written by various students and faculty, responding to such issues as FairTax and abortion.

Letters to the Editor

Sufficient Grace

A Cedarville University student shares his story of seeking support in his struggle against homosexuality. He has asked to remain anonymous.

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor the adulterers, nor idolaters, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of Our God."

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

My intent of writing this article is first to glorify Christ, and second to share my testimony as one who struggled with homosexuality. In my process of restoration, the greatest growth and healing has taken place as I have relinquished my pride, desired God, and searched His word for the intent of true biblical masculinity. However, I cannot say that the road has been gentle and smooth, especially within Christ's body.

In my freshman year of college at another university, I sought out the counsel of my mentor in dealing with my struggle. Instead of the gains I expected in sharing with a trusted Christian brother, I was left feeling rejected by his ambivalent reaction. The lack of love and grace in this experience caused me to question the love of God and drove me further into the guilt of my sin.

God quickly mended my heart and attitude and about a year later, I was ready to share my story again. This time, I consulted someone I expected to be receptive—my pastor. Initially, I witnessed compassion and mercy, but it seemed that eventually his heart grew callous. Once again, I was left stranded and alone in my struggle. I felt the body of Christ had failed me. I was distraught, angry, rejected, and unloved. I was a leper with no community, a vagabond without a home, simply because my sin looked different on the outside. I remembered 1 Corinthians 6:10—that I have been washed, I have been cleansed, and I have been sanctified.

I turned to God and allowed him to serve his role as the Great Counselor. By this time, I had transferred to Cedarville. The official

I was left stranded and alone in my struggle. I felt the body of Christ had failed me. I was distraught, angry, rejected, and unloved. I was a leper with no community, a vagabond without a home, simply because my sin looked different on the outside."

response of Cedarville to SoulForce was perhaps the most encouraging affirmation I had experienced from the body of Christ. Shortly prior to the SoulForce visit, I shared my experiences and struggles with a close friend, receiving my first positive affirmation. For the first time, I felt affirmed and encouraged. To be accepted by this friend, to be supported continually and faithfully, this served as a powerful image of God's grace and relentless pursuit of me as His child. I began to realize the responsibility that I held over my attitude, thoughts, and behavior.

While at Cedarville, my journey has not been painless or unhindered. The demeaning language used in the dorms, the escalated use of "That's gay" or "You're gay," or even people downplaying the seriousness of this sin profoundly discouraged me. This attitude and these actions mirrored those who had left me hurt and rejected. It also stirred up a righteous anger in my heart. As members of the body of Christ, we each have the opportunity, I daresay the privilege and expectation, to actively carry our burdens and the burdens of one another.

Since last spring, God has blessed me to share my story with those closest to me. Through His grace and sovereignty, they willingly carry this burden with me, remind me of his grace, and hold me accountable to live as his child redeemed and sanctified. God has brought me a long way as this struggle is being conquered in my life, and I write to encourage those who are in the middle of the battle and whose hope seems very dim. Hold fast—the good work that He has started in us will surely be accomplished. His grace is more than sufficient to sustain us and keep us from sin.

If you are involved in this struggle, I challenge you to become open with someone and let them partner and journey with you—this is the biggest step you will make in recovery. Seek God's grace and forgiveness through a repentant lifestyle, not looking back on your sin, but continuing to fix your eyes on Jesus, yearning to know him as Savior, friend and God. For all of us, may we emulate Christ—striving to live as humble servants and standing strong as messengers of truth and love. Be conscious of how words and actions can lead to either destruction or to edification to our brothers and sisters in Christ. No matter the sin, no matter the person, God is capable of restoration and purification. Remember this daily and watch how God transforms you.

CU Resources for Dealing with Same Sex Attraction

-- John Potter --

Director of Counseling Services

All of us need help from others. But sometimes we don't want to face the risks that come with asking for that help, or we don't know where to find what we need. For those struggling with feelings they have for the same sex, this task can be particularly daunting in a Christian culture that has shown it can be both prejudicial and critical.

Recognizing this need for a safe, supportive environment, Counseling Services offers multiple resources for those wrestling with homosexual feelings. We employ four full-time licensed counselors (two males and two females) who have years of experience helping students successfully deal with this issue in their lives.

Our goal is to meet students where they are in life and offer care and support as we help them find God's path for experiencing victory in what is sometimes a daily battle. Students can make individual, confidential appointments by e-mail (counsel@cedarville.edu), by phone (7855) or by stopping in at the Counseling Services office located downstairs in the SSC across from the Financial Aid Office.

For some people, coming in for counseling is too intimidating or they just want to connect with someone who cares. In order to address this need, a number faculty and staff have volunteered to talk to and/or pray with students who are struggling. These people are listed at <http://www.cedarville.edu/speakingtruth/campus/talk.cfm>.

For those who are looking for a Christian counselor in another part of the country, Exodus International (exodus-international.org), the largest Christian ministry addressing homosexual issues, offers referrals in almost all 50 states and Canada.

Students might also consider joining New Pathways, a support group that meets regularly for the purpose of receiving both counsel and encouragement. This group meets off-campus and is directed by a licensed Christian counselor who has many years experience helping others overcome homosexuality. Please contact Counseling Services for further information about New Pathways.

Because there is often misunderstanding or a lack of knowledge about same sex attraction, students can benefit from online resources that are both informative and educational. Numerous books and articles written from a Christian perspective answer many common questions. The topics that are addressed range from how to understand and help someone who is struggling with homosexual feelings, to thorough explanations of God's perspective and the hope He offers. These resources, including ministry websites, seminars and chapel sessions are located on the CU website at <http://www.cedarville.edu/speakingtruth/resources.cfm>.

A final CU resource is a vital one: your friends. In ten years of counseling CU students and encouraging them to share their struggle with a friend, I can think of only one occasion when a student's response to this news was not encouraging. That doesn't prove anything, but I believe it suggests that the vast majority of CU students really do care about their friends, even if they don't entirely understand their pain. So please consider that one of your best resources might be your best friend. And if you don't wrestle with same sex attraction, remember that God might want you to learn, now, how to care for someone who does.

necessities of life. As a matter of fact, I lived very comfortably. This is not to deny that there are people who are truly poor in this country or that such people would be hurt by a 30% tax, but to say that the statistics are greatly skewed. I realize that it takes money for government services, but charging a 30% tax on what I purchase when much is wasted on frivolous and non-essential "services" is "flat immorality." But then, without better accountability, it will continue. To me the 30% tax is immoral, not because it exploits the poor, but because it takes from those who have without their consent and gives it to those who do not have.

Jeff Gates
Reference Librarian

Dear Editor,

Murray Vassar compares the tragedy of Darfur to the practice of abortion. In order to prove his point, he asserts that a fetus is no less self-aware than a human infant. Therefore, if one believes that infanticide is wrong, then it follows that one must also condemn abortion. Unfortunately for Mr. Vassar, there are several flaws in his argument.

First of all, he provides no evidence to prove that fetuses really are so self-aware. Without that evidence, his statement is simply an assertion and should not be taken seriously. Vassar then quotes Kevin Cole's original article: "...we don't know when or how a person becomes a person." Vassar uses this quote as a springboard into a rather bizarre leap of logic. According to Mr. Vassar, Cole's statement indicates an attitude of ambiguity concerning the personhood of a human being. Vassar takes the quote out of context and applies it to the victims of genocides like the Holocaust and the civil war of Rwanda. Cole's statement concerned fetuses; unborn human beings. The victims of those genocides were not fetuses. They were mature human beings.

This brings me to my next point. Fetuses and mature human beings are not the same creature. A fetus relies on its mother for sustenance. It has never breathed air or interacted with another human being. It is not equal to a mature human being; it is merely a potential human being. As such, it does not possess the same rights we ascribe to human beings. It is ridiculous to label abortion as infanticide. Fetuses are not infants. Individuals who acknowledge this fact are not being 'postmodern.'

To accuse Mr. Cole of postmodernism simply because he recognizes the moral ambiguity of abortion shows a distinct lack of understanding concerning postmodernism.

Postmodernism as defined by its 'father,' Jean-Francois Lyotard, is a state of incredulity toward metanarratives. It is not moral relativism. Postmodernism in its strictest sense is not evil, and to use it in such an accusatory tone shows the user's ignorance. To equate postmodernism with agnosticism is equally ridiculous.

Vassar's reaction to Kevin Cole's article is full of logical fallacies and emotional pleas. As an individual who considers herself to be pro-life, I am saddened to see that the president of Students for Life considers such poor arguments effective. I am also disturbed that while Mr. Vassar quite rightly condemns the genocides in Darfur, Rwanda and Nazi Germany, he makes no mention of the insensible tragedy that is war. Human beings should be valued equally, no matter what color their skin is, what religion they practice or what area of the world they inhabit. There are more pressing concerns than the elimination of fetuses, and we are doing the world a disservice by focusing so completely on one issue.

Sarah Jones

High Cost Prevents a Cedarville Swimming Pool

-- Rebecca High --
Staff Writer

According to Athletic Director Pete Reese, cost is the only reason Cedarville does not have a swimming pool.

"Pools are an expensive investment and require a lot of upkeep," he said.

Several years ago, when the athletic department was researching program adjustments, the minimum initial cost for a pool was \$1 million. This figure does not include costs related to hiring additional personnel to maintain the pool.

Instead of a pool, the athletic department added the Recreation Center and the Doden Field House, which not only help people stay active but also allow Cedarville to host track meets and other sporting events.

"The idea was to serve as many students as possible," Reese said. "I think the proper decisions were made with the money we had."

Others are not so sure that cost is the only reason.

Libby Shearer, a swimming instructor, has to pack up her stu-

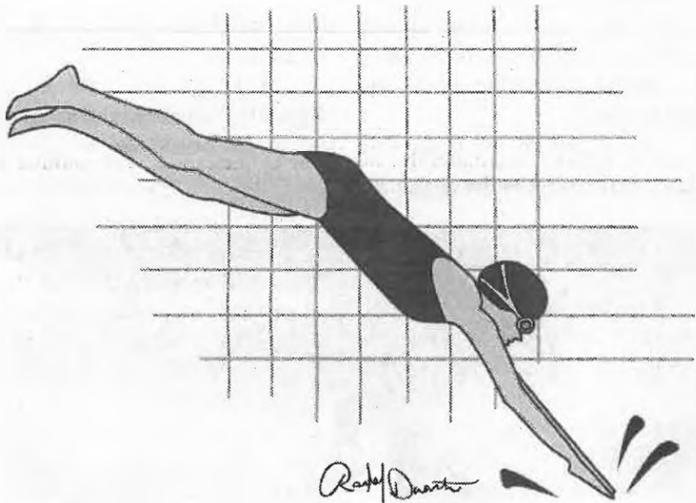
tion for injured athletes.

Hellwig said, "We have 3000 students on campus, and a percentage of them at any given time is injured and limited in the weight they are able to sustain. They need to maintain cardiovascular fitness, and aquatic training would be more efficient than using a bike."

Hellwig noted that they would not need a costly full-sized pool. "A therapy pool is essentially a tank," Hellwig said. "We would not have to deal with [high] cost, mixed bathing, and whether or not to put in diving boards."

Priscilla David, a junior from Hawaii, came to school last fall with neck, upper-back and chest injuries she sustained over the summer. Since swimming has been essential to her recovery, she feels personally the effects of having no convenient pool to access.

David said, "Without the swimming this past semester, I can only imagine the medication, numbness, pain and permanent injury that I would still have. However, because of God's grace, provision of the best therapy ... a swimming course ... and open pool access by one of my professors and his family, I am practically healed."



dents and travel to other schools for weekly swimming lessons.

She believes a lack of faculty interest is one reason Cedarville has no pool.

"Some don't realize how important it could be for us. We encourage students to be active. Fitness relieves stress, which can improve academics, and many kids will swim even if they won't run," Shearer said. "We could use a pool for rehabilitation, water polo, a swim team and even just for fun! I think the versatility of a pool more than pays for itself."

Athletic Training Director Dr. Evan Hellwig has been considering the idea of adding a therapeutic pool to the facilities, which would greatly enhance rehabilita-

tion for injured athletes. It was not always easy, though. David said it took a lot of effort to find pools to use, operating hours that fit her schedule and transportation to get there.

Overall, the university may consider the fitness center and field house a fair trade-off, but a pool is certainly a sought-after addition.

"If someone would step up and say, 'Here's a million dollars,' we would have a pool," Reese said.

David gives testimony to what a pool did for her and what it could do for others. "Hopefully it will be sooner than later that C.U. gets a swimming pool for all to enjoy God's medicine and gift of swimming right here on our campus," she said.

CU Welcomes Alumni, Inducts Class of 2008 Hall of Famers

-- Andrea Walker --
Staff Writer

While most Cedarville students were probably still asleep, the Callan Athletic Center was abuzz with activity Saturday morning, Jan. 19. Alumni Weekend brought in graduates of all ages, some carrying new babies and some followed by nearly grown children. Many of the alumni who returned shared a common love for athletics, particularly basketball.

The Hall of Fame banquet on Friday night, Jan. 18 opened the weekend. The athletic department welcomed four new members into the C.U. Athletic Hall of Fame. The inductees included Karen DeMars '73, David Cox '82, Dino Tsiouris '90 and Chad Eder '96.

Karen DeMars graduated in 1973 after four years of outstanding achievement on both the basketball and volleyball courts. She was also a part of Cedarville's women's tennis program for its first two seasons in 1972 and 1973. DeMars is now retired in Columbus after teaching in public schools for 31 years.

David Cox dominated on the soccer field from 1978 to 1981. In 1980, Cox was named conference Player of the Year, becoming the second of only three Cedarville men's soccer team players in history to receive the award. Cox currently resides in Brazil, serving as a missionary with Word of Life Bible Seminary.

Dino Tsiouris was a key component in a 57-0 men's tennis home-court winning streak from 1986 to 1990. Each of the four

years he played, Tsiouris was named to the All-NAIA District 22 and All-Mid-Ohio Conference teams. He ended his tennis career with an impressive 105-25 singles record and 103-21 doubles record. He now lives in Columbus where

ball teams ran a 90-minute clinic for children of alumni. During the clinic, aspiring basketball stars between the ages of seven and 12 practiced everything from dribbling and passing to defensive movement and jump stops.



Past and Present Lady Jacket Basketball players prayed together before the start of the women's alumni game.

he owns his own law practice, Tsiouris & Associates.

Chad Eder graduated in 1996 as a three-time All-American race walker. He won the Collegiate Nationals in 1995. His school records in both the indoor 3K and the outdoor 5K race walk remain unbroken. After graduating from Cedarville, Eder continued to compete by participating in multiple triathlons and marathons. He currently owns Eder Investment Services and works as an investment advisor in Richland, Wash.

On Saturday morning of Alumni Weekend, several players from the Jackets' varsity basket-

Former Cedarville basketball standouts had the opportunity to find out if they still had their old moves during the alumni games Saturday afternoon. Alumni split into Team Blue and Team Yellow to compete with and against former teammates. In the women's game, Team Blue dominated from the start, while the men's teams battled back and forth until Team Blue finally edged out a two-point win.

After a day full of basketball, balloon animals and cotton candy, alumni and their families were able to sit back and watch the current Yellow Jacket basketball teams contend with Walsh in the evening.

Player Profile: Courtney Reid

-- Sarah Hoffman --
Staff Writer



Cedarville senior Courtney Reid, once a little girl with Olympic aspirations, was destined for a successful college career. The track star discovered her love for running at a young age. Her dad, Larry Reid — one of Cedarville's favorite staff members — encouraged Reid to join her school's track team when she was in eighth grade.

Once she began running competitively, Reid knew she wanted to run in college as well. After four successful seasons of track and cross country at her high school, she entered Cedarville University and made a name for herself in the track program immediately as a freshman.

Now serving as one of four captains for the women's team, Reid notes that the team has plenty

of potential this year. Although young, the team hopes to build upon the successes of previous seasons.

To do so the women will have to defend several titles, including an NCCAA National Championship (2007), two NCCAA National Indoor Championships (2006, 2007) and an AMC Championship (2007). They also need to finish better than their previous standing as NAIA National outdoor runner-up.

Reid credits much of the team's success in the past two seasons to excellent coaches. The combination of their knowledge, encouragement and accessibility has been vital to producing a spirit of "healthy competitiveness" on the team. Reid explains that this competitiveness has helped her teammates "lovingly push" each other to improve their team.

The Lady Jackets will make a concerted effort to use track as a ministry this year by holding devotions at large meets and spending time with other teams outside of meets. Reid particularly wants to be bold and intentional in sharing her faith this season. She said that she will be looking "for specific ways to share the love of Christ and the Gospel."

Already holding the school records for the 100-meter hurdles,

the 400 hurdles, and the 4 x 400 relay, Reid has set other personal goals for her final season. She hopes to run the 400 hurdles in 58 seconds, which would break her tie for the school record by three seconds.

Reid finds her favorite event, the 4 x 400 relay, both challenging and rewarding. When referring to a 400 event, Reid aspires "to run a 400 hard enough that I can't walk afterward. That way I know I gave my best."

In addition to the 100 and 400 hurdles and the relay, Reid also runs the 55/60 hurdles indoor and various outdoor sprints and relays.

Although Reid will miss the competition after she graduates, she said she will miss the companionship of her teammates more. Referring to her team as a family, Reid said that her track experience has definitely enhanced her time at Cedarville.

With only one semester left of her college career, Reid plans to make the most of it in both track and her academics. After graduation, the psychology major plans to attend graduate school. She eventually hopes to work with an inner-city ministry. Undoubtedly, Cedarville and its track program are grateful for the contributions Reid has made and will certainly miss her next year.

The Cove

Experience the thrill of academic success!
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Player Profile: Neil Henning

-- Grant Goodman --
Staff Writer



Jonathan Moultrou

During his senior year of high school, Neil Henning, at the request of the school's track coach, decided to give throwing a try for the first time. He placed fifth in the state track meet that year for the shot put. Besides his natural strength and skill, Henning says that three years of soccer and one of wrestling helped him accomplish such rapid success.

At first Henning found it difficult to adjust to the new events and heavier weights of college-level track and field.

Four years later, entering his senior season, Henning holds the record for second-best indoor shot put throw in Cedarville University history, and the third-best weight throw. In outdoor track competition he holds third place for the hammer throw and fifth place for the shot put among Cedarville track and field records.

As a part of the Cedarville track and field team, Henning com-

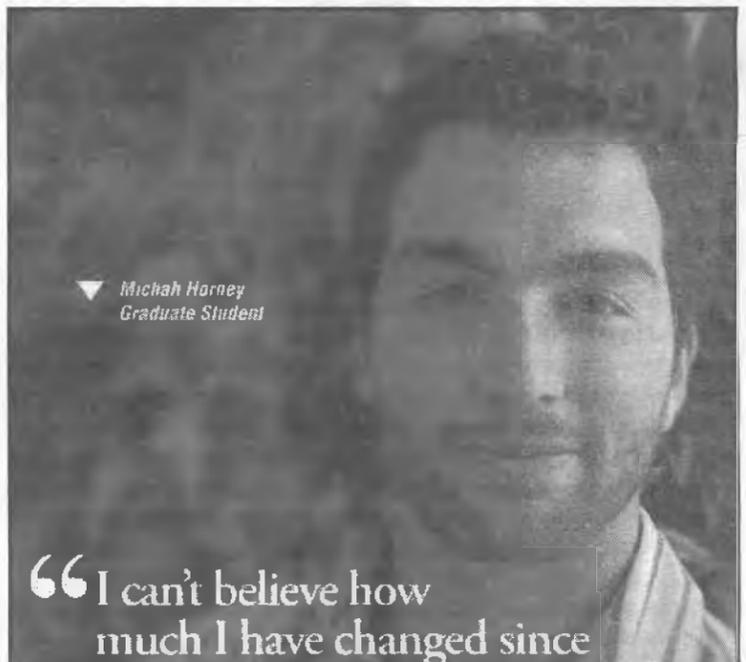
petes in both the outdoor and indoor track seasons that run from January through May. The biggest difference between the two seasons, according to Henning, is weather.

"I've thrown in two inches of snow and in pouring, cold rain," Henning said.

While those conditions may hurt his raw numbers, every athlete has to deal with similar challenges. For Henning, desire to win makes the difference in outdoor competi-

This year, Henning hopes to make it to nationals in both the indoor and outdoor seasons and compete for a championship. His current best shot put distance is 56-7 1/2, while his best weight throw is 52-10 3/4. Henning's top hammer throw stands at 165-4. In the discus he has thrown 151-3.

After he has used up his eligibility, Henning, a graphic design major, would love to continue throwing.



Michah Horney
Graduate Student

"I can't believe how much I have changed since

I began the Counseling Skills course. We are dared to ask the questions we don't want to ask about ourselves. I have been pushed to learn so much more about who I am and to develop this deep-seated desire to care about and help others in need."

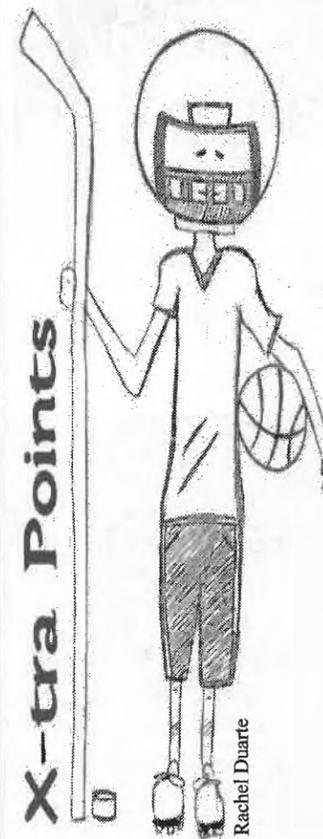
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Rachel Duarte

• Ryan Short, a senior guard for the Yellow Jacket basketball team, was presented with the American Midwest Conference's Ron Holmes Memorial Award before the team's Jan. 8 game at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. The award is given to a player who shows outstanding basketball skill along with strong character and academic achievements.

Concerning the award, Short said, "To be honored with this award is a great encouragement. It helps show that there is more to life than basketball and a focus in sport that is deeper than winning games."

• Super Bowl XLII will feature the undefeated New England Patriots and the New York Giants on Feb. 3 in Glendale, Ariz. The Patriots will be staking their 17-0 record on this game in attempt to win their fourth championship in the last seven seasons. The Giants, who lost six games during the regular season, hope to spoil the Patriots' season and cause one of the biggest upsets in the history of the NFL.

• In the first major tennis tournament of the year, the Australian Open, Novak Djokovic ended Roger Federer's streak of reaching 10 straight grand slam finals. Djokovic, the No. 3 player in the world, defeated Federer, the world's No. 1, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (5) in a semifinal match.

In the other semifinal match, the No. 2 seed, Rafael Nadal, fell to unseeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 to set up the unlikely final matchup of Djokovic and Tsonga.

On the women's side, Maria Sharapova finds herself in the final match of the Australian Open after taking down the No. 1 women's player, Justine Henin and third-seeded Jelena Jankovic. Sharapova will face fourth-seeded Ana Ivanovic for the title.

SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball			
Dec. 7	Columbia	L	54-65
Dec. 8	Ohio State-Marion	W	104-83
Dec. 19	San Diego Christian	W	89-60
Dec. 20	at Master's	W	73-63
Jan. 4	Point Park	W	103-74
Jan. 8	at Mount Vernon Nazarene	L	54-83
Jan. 12	Ohio Dominican	W	82-70
Jan. 15	at Urbana	W	74-48
Jan. 19	Walsh	L	55-77
Jan. 22	at Shawnee State	L	63-65
Jan. 26	at Wilberforce	W	88-73
Jan. 29	Rio Grande	W	73-67
Feb. 2	at Ohio Dominican	Columbus, OH	4:00 p.m.
Feb. 5	Mount Vernon Nazarene	Cedarville	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	at Walsh	North Canton, OH	4:00 p.m.
Feb. 12	Urbana	Cedarville	7:30 p.m.
Women's Basketball			
Dec. 7	Georgetown	L	66-76
Dec. 8	Northwestern Ohio	W	83-58
Dec. 27	Nyack	W	62-39
Dec. 28	Lindsey Wilson	L	68-84
Dec. 29	Madonna	L	46-53
Jan. 5	Ursuline	W	87-81
Jan. 8	at Mount Vernon Nazarene	W	61-59
Jan. 12	Ohio Dominican	L	53-64
Jan. 15	at Urbana	W	72-71 (OT)
Jan. 19	Walsh	W	79-74
Jan. 22	at Shawnee State	L	62-89
Jan. 26	at Wilberforce	L	68-71
Jan. 29	Rio Grande	W	78-68
Feb. 2	at Ohio Dominican	Columbus, OH	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 5	Mount Vernon Nazarene	Cedarville	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	at Walsh	North Canton, OH	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 12	Urbana	Cedarville	5:30 p.m.
Men's Track and Field			
Jan. 18	Cedarville Invitational	Cedarville	1st of 9
Jan. 25	at Capital Invitational	Bexley, OH	1st of 8
Feb. 1	at Indiana Relays	Bloomington, IN	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 2	at Indiana Relays	Bloomington, IN	12:00 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Ohio Northern	Ada, OH	6:00 p.m.
Women's Track and Field			
Jan. 18	Cedarville Invitational	Cedarville	1st of 11
Jan. 25	at Capital Invitational	Bexley, OH	2nd of 9
Feb. 1	at Indiana Relays	Bloomington, IN	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 2	at Indiana Relays	Bloomington, IN	12:00 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Ohio Northern	Ada, OH	6:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball Struggles through Season

-- Devin Babcock --
Staff Writer

Despite starting the season ranked 4th in the country, Cedarville's men's basketball team has struggled to maintain a place in the top 25. Expected to compete for the AMC South title, the Jackets are currently 3-3 in conference play.

Head Coach Ray Slagle notes that "no team plays the same every night." The Jackets have demonstrated that perfectly, turning the ball over only twice to Walsh and then following up with 18 turnovers against Shawnee State.

Slagle attributes the mass of turnovers to decisions made on the court. "Every team has ups and downs. You can hardly avoid it...it's not just physical factors," he said.

Asked to decipher the team's streak of poor play, Slagle points immediately to the loss of leadership from last year's team. Although this year's Jackets have incredible amounts of talent and athleticism, they lack the senior leadership that guided them to the Elite Eight last year.

The coach also points to the recent individual struggles of star player Ryan Short.

Short, an All-American last season, has seen his 3-point percentage drop from 36 percent last season to 23 percent this season. His free throw percentage dropped from 67 percent to a paltry 49 percent. Short has not been helped by the recent struggles of the rest of the Jackets, who have been averaging 14 turnovers per game.

The team's struggles do not stop at shooting and decision making, however. The Jackets were upset by Shawnee State thanks in part to a lack of rebounding.

Our post players "believe they can jump over everyone," Slagle said. He indicated that fundamental basketball problems, repeated failures to box out and go for rebounds, are based on individual decisions. Slagle also said that his players are responsible for the choices that they make.

Before the recent game against Wilberforce, Slagle said, "this season's not over. We have to decide to play one game at a time."

His team responded to the perspective, using a great game from Short and timely three-point shooting to defeat Wilberforce last Saturday, Jan. 26. Taking charge of the game in the second half, Short poured in shot after shot, matching his career-high of 33 points, while also playing good pressure defense. His play sparked role-players Matt Harner and Ricardo Alliman to step up their play, quieting the usually raucous Wilber-

force crowd.

After seeing a shift toward fundamentals in the Wilberforce game, it is possible to see the Jackets regaining the form everyone expected from them. If they are going to do so, it will require better decisions with the ball, smarter shooting, and continued strong play and leadership from Short.



Jonathan Moultrou

Sophomore Chris Beals is the second leading scorer for the Jackets, averaging 12.6 points per game.



Jonathan Moultrou

Junior Daniel Rose leads the team in blocks this season with 45.

Lady Jackets Display Young Talent and Composure

-- Devin Babcock --
Staff Writer

Guided by a veteran coaching staff and led by emerging underclassmen, Cedarville's Lady Jackets have surprised many by continuing to win despite their youth. Coming into the season, the team was in transition mode, after four starters graduated last year. Starting three freshmen and a sophomore, the Lady Jackets were projected to battle for position in the American Midwest Conference.

Although their record currently stands at 11-9, the Lady Jackets have impressed many with their poise and their ability to win neck-and-neck games.

"Our last three wins have been close games," head coach Kirk Martin said. "That says a lot for our composure."

Although Martin acknowledges the team's struggles with executing a defensive game plan and maintaining composure on the road, he sees a bright future ahead.

Freshmen Aubrey Siemon, Lydia Miller and Rachel Hurley have emerged as vital contributors for the Jackets. Part of Martin's most talented recruiting class, the trio starts most nights and counts for 40 percent of the team's scoring.

The new additions serve as the perfect complement to sophomore scoring leader Alison Lemon. A rising offensive threat, Lemon has rounded off her game, averaging 17 points, 6 rebounds, and 4 assists per game.

Leading the way for the talented underclassmen is a pair of seniors, starting center Mary Stockdale and guard Kristine Rucker. The two have stepped into their leadership roles well, helping to direct a team that had 15 starts under its belt coming into this year.

"They have a huge responsibility to lead," Martin said. Martin is quick to acknowledge that the team could not be winning the way it is without them.

As injuries begin to pile up, point guard Stefanie Rodgers is out for the rest of the season, and the team looks forward to getting healthy. Martin has watched this season as his team has grown together and learned from its setbacks.

These setbacks were never clearer than on the trip to Florida over Christmas.

"We saw record high temperatures... and had one day to practice," Martin said. "What do you expect?"

The team went 1-2 on the trip, but came out of the experience with a sense of "togetherness" and enjoying the "refocusing" that the trip provided.

"We have an atmosphere of fixing problems," Martin said.

As the women enter the last third of the season, Martin believes a tournament berth is a realistic goal. "We want to go to the national tournament," he said. "The future is bright, but the present is also bright."

With such a talented roster and coaching staff, it is hard not to agree with him.



Jonathan Moultrou

Freshman guard Lydia Miller is one of the Lady Jackets' top three scorers.



Jonathan Moultrou

Miller plays defense against Ohio Dominican. The Jackets fell to the Panthers 53-64.

High School Meet Brings in Potential CU Recruits and Funds

-- Joshua Saunders --
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Jan. 19, hundreds of high school track and field athletes filled up the Callan Athletic Center to compete in one of the earliest indoor track and field meets of the year.

Alexa Winik, a senior sprinter from Canada and a Cedarville recruit, started off the day with an easy win in the 55-meter dash preliminaries. She followed it up with the overall win, in a time of 7.43 seconds, just missing the meet record and putting her in the top 12 percent of all high school female 55-meter sprinters.

Winik finished up her day with a dominating performance in the 200m. She completed the tight 200-meter oval in a blazing 26.25 seconds. If Winik had raced in the college meet, her time would have ranked her in a tie for 8th in the NAIA, and she would have won the collegiate race by almost half a second.

Captain Kevin Kuhn and a few other

members of the Yellow Jacket track and field team were able to meet up with Winik after her races. "We talked about a few of the other schools that she has applied to," Kuhn said. "Coach Bolender went up to Canada to see her run and invited her to our meet." Winik has also applied to Liberty University as well as a college in her home town.

In the men's competition, Huber Heights, the alma mater of Cedarville University track and field captain Justin Herbert, became the meet's champion again. The Warriors scored 77.50 points, defeating their closest competitor, Centerville, who tallied 67. Huber Heights scored the majority of their points in the sprinting events and came within three-tenths of a second of breaking the Cedarville Invite 800-meter relay track record that they



Junior Stephen Gruenberg competes in the long jump.

set last with a time of 1:33.88.

"I would usually be impressed with Huber Heights' win," Herbert said. "But we usually win at this level of competition, so

it's not really a big deal."

The high school meet is a big fundraiser for the Yellow Jacket track and field team. It provides money for scholarships, travel and team apparel.

Setting aside their own fundraising concerns, the team was also able to focus on raising money for World Help by setting up a small stand with a video and handouts for the visiting athletes and spectators.

"Last semester Kevin Kuhn and I talked about doing a ministry together and using the opportunities that we have with running

to glorify God," track team captain Judson Brooker said. "We wanted the track team to be involved too because there are more people and we can do it together."

2008 Oscar Nominations

BEST MOTION PICTURE OF THE YEAR

"Atonement"
 "Juno"
 "Michael Clayton"
 "No Country for Old Men"
 "There Will Be Blood"

PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE

George Clooney in "Michael Clayton"
 Daniel Day-Lewis in "There Will Be Blood"
 Johnny Depp in "Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"
 Tommy Lee Jones in "In the Valley of Elah"
 Viggo Mortensen in "Eastern Promises"

PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Casey Affleck in "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford"
 Javier Bardem in "No Country for Old Men"
 Philip Seymour Hoffman in "Charlie Wilson's War"
 Hal Holbrook in "Into the Wild"
 Tom Wilkinson in "Michael Clayton"

PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

Cate Blanchett in "Elizabeth: The Golden Age"
 Julie Christie in "Away from Her"
 Marion Cotillard in "La Vie en Rose"
 Laura Linney in "The Savages"
 Ellen Page in "Juno"

PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Cate Blanchett in "I'm Not There"
 Ruby Dee in "American Gangster"
 Saoirse Ronan in "Atonement"
 Amy Ryan in "Gone Baby Gone"
 Tilda Swinton in "Michael Clayton"

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM OF THE YEAR

"Persepolis"
 "Ratatouille"
 "Surf's Up"

ACHIEVEMENT IN DIRECTING

"The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," Julian Schnabel
 "Juno," Jason Reitman
 "Michael Clayton," Tony Gilroy
 "No Country for Old Men," Joel Coen and Ethan Coen
 "There Will Be Blood," Paul Thomas Anderson

ORIGINAL SCORE

"Atonement"
 "The Kite Runner"
 "Michael Clayton"
 "Ratatouille"
 "3:10 to Yuma"

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

"Juno"
 "Lars and the Real Girl"
 "Michael Clayton"
 "Ratatouille"
 "The Savages"

Salsa Experts, and Vintage Shopping

-- Stephanie Devine --
 Staff Writer

The Short North is one of the most underrated, unimposing and widely appealing neighborhoods in the state of Ohio.

Recognized as the "arts district" of Ohio's capital city, the Short North is mainly a commercial and residential area not too far from the famed 'Shoe.

The culinary and cultural offerings are unmatched in any other part of Columbus, and the juxtaposition of the two districts within the Short North, Victorian Village and the Italian Village, provide many architectural points of interest.

Less commercial than Beavercreek and more approachable than Yellow Springs, I highly encourage you to spend an afternoon skimming the surface of the Short North. After all, what better way to relate to OSU students and the people of Columbus than to understand such a big (and beautiful) part of their culture?

Geographically defined, the Short North is the length of High Street (including side streets) from Nationwide Blvd. to 11th Avenue in downtown Columbus.

The offerings range from restaurants, vintage and consignment shops, art galleries, coffeehouses, greenspaces, a Segway shop, jazz clubs and record stores to American Apparel and a spectacular Greek Orthodox cathedral.

One of the highlights of the district is the Gallery Hop. According to the official website, "On a typical Hop, over 40 galleries and non-traditional art venues (restaurants, boutiques and personal service shops) spotlight the best of established and

emerging Ohio-based artists. They also feature the works of nationally and internationally acclaimed artists.

On the streets, saxophonists, singers, improvisational dance troupes and even stilt walkers and stage characters add to the unforgettable experience. The Gallery Hop is held once a month; in February, it's the first Saturday of the month from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. (most restaurants stay open much later).

An area favorite is the North Market, a former warehouse converted into two levels of individual vendor marketplace and dining space with everything from French dessert chefs, Greek combo meals, Japanese candy, occasional live music, chip and salsa experts and the best ice cream shop this side of the Mississippi.

The Market is open Tuesdays-Fridays from 9:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m., Saturdays from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Sundays from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Aside from about two gallons of gas, Gallery Hop and the North Market are completely free unless you choose to dine there as well. This can range from \$3-\$160, depending on whether you sample Jenni's ice cream or prefer to experience one of Columbus's prestigious Cameron Mitchell steakhouses.

As far as curfew is concerned, you can estimate about an hour directly from campus, give or take 15 minutes. Directions and parking are easily attainable at www.shortnorth.org.

Whether you're a full-fledged music snob or someone who gets his or her cultural gratification at school plays, forgive my cliché, but the Short North truly has something for everyone.

Classical Music Far from History

-- Bethany Harpole --
 Staff Writer

Men in wigs. Women screeching at the top of their voices. An auditorium filled with elderly people, all dressed in black.

For many people, the term "classical music" brings to mind such images of composers long dead, operatic divas and solemn concert halls. Although the term specifically refers to the style of music popular from 1750 to 1820, it is also generally used to mean music before that time period, or later music that continues the artistic tradition. Classical music, in the general sense, is a broad category that encompasses such diverse musical genres as chamber music, art song, etude and, of course, opera and symphony.

Despite the diversity of classical music, interest in it has declined with the advent of contemporary pop music. Many people have dismissed it as irrelevant or esoteric; some have not even become familiar with it.

However, even in this postmodern era, classical music still retains a strong fan base that appreciates the beauty found in this eclectic field. Classical music is not merely beautiful; it is relevant and provocative in the questions and issues it addresses. It provides an excellent alternative style of music for those willing to experience and experiment with new and traditional sounds.

Today's renowned classical musi-

cians continue to interpret the enormous repertoire that has been accumulating for centuries. With the recent death of Luciano Pavarotti, one of the world's best known operatic tenors, interest in his music and other operatic music has only increased. "The Ultimate Collection," a compilation of his greatest hits, was released shortly after his death; other recent releases include "Ti Adoro," and "The Three Tenors: Best Loved Arias."

However, classical music extends far beyond opera and vocal performances. Lang Lang, a rising pianist and recipient of numerous awards, has recently released "Beethoven: Piano Concertos Nos. 1&4," and Olga Kern, winner of the 11th Van Cliburn Piano Competition, also recently released "Brahms: Variations."

While the works of great composers, such as Beethoven and Brahms, have endured and continued to inspire new interpretations, contemporary classical compositions are continually being made. William Bolcom is a contemporary composer whose "Works for Violin and Piano" is a collection of new sonatas for the two title instruments. Jay Greenberg, a teenage composer whose talent has been compared to Mozart's, has recently released a recording of his "Symphony No. 5 and Quintet for Strings."

With such impressive young talent, classical music will continue to draw listeners to its beauty and complexity, as it has for centuries.

Spring Media Previews

Warm Weather Brings Movie Drought

-- Dan Sizemore --
Staff Writer

The months of January through April are the drought season for cinephiles. With the movies being considered for Academy Awards already out of the theaters and summer blockbusters being finished up in post-production, the studios take this time to lump all their poorly conceived films onto the screens.

February starts off with "The Eye," yet another remake of a Japanese horror movie where Jessica Alba stars as formerly blind woman who starts seeing things that shouldn't be there after receiving corneal transplants. Who wants to bet that at least one of these shadowy apparitions will be a woman with long, flowing hair?

Speaking of the supernatural, "Jumpscare" stars Hayden Christensen as a young man who finds that he can teleport to anywhere in the world. Soon he finds others like him and a group dedicated to destroying those with his ability. Since it's directed by the man behind "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and "The Bourne Identity," it might be worth checking out if only for the pure adrenaline rush.

Other major films coming out this month are "Fool's Gold" where Matthew McConaughey adds another insipid romantic comedy to his resume; "Be Kind, Rewind," an intriguing film starring Jack Black and Mos Def as friends who become cult heroes after remaking classic movie they have accidentally erased; and "Semi-Pro" featuring Will Ferrell doing the same trick he's had going since "Anchorman."

As March comes around, we will be treated to "10,000 B.C." which appears to be a cross between "Apocalypse," "300"

and "The Scorpion King." An ancient man tries to rescue his wife while navigating historical inaccuracies, overblown special effects and a poorly contrived plot. If you are looking for an unapologetically macho action flick, you might have more luck with "The Bank Job," a heist film starring Jason Statham. For those who prefer to watch protagonists on the other side of the law, check out police drama "Pride and Glory" starring Edward Norton.

"Horton Hears a Who," featuring the vocal talents of Jim Carrey and Steve Carell, offers a nice comedic antidote to the various crime dramas.

As finals week wraps up in May and your brain is still decompressing, consider taking the chance to see the first summer blockbuster, "Iron Man." Watching a mechanized war machine wreak havoc is some of the best mindless fun your \$7.50 can buy.

Spring to Bring Diversity, New Favorites

-- Dan Zimmerman --
Staff Writer

Keeping with the tradition of the fashionably unpunctual music industry, this spring will be ripe with an abundance of post-holiday music releases. As always, the bountiful wave of spring music releases will comprise

February 5. Following closely will be Jack Johnson's "Sleep Through the Static," also scheduled for a February 5 release. Though Simple Plan can already be seen gallivanting across the nationwide pop frontier of MTV, its self-titled studio album will undoubtedly inflate its adolescently dependent popularity upon its release on February 12.

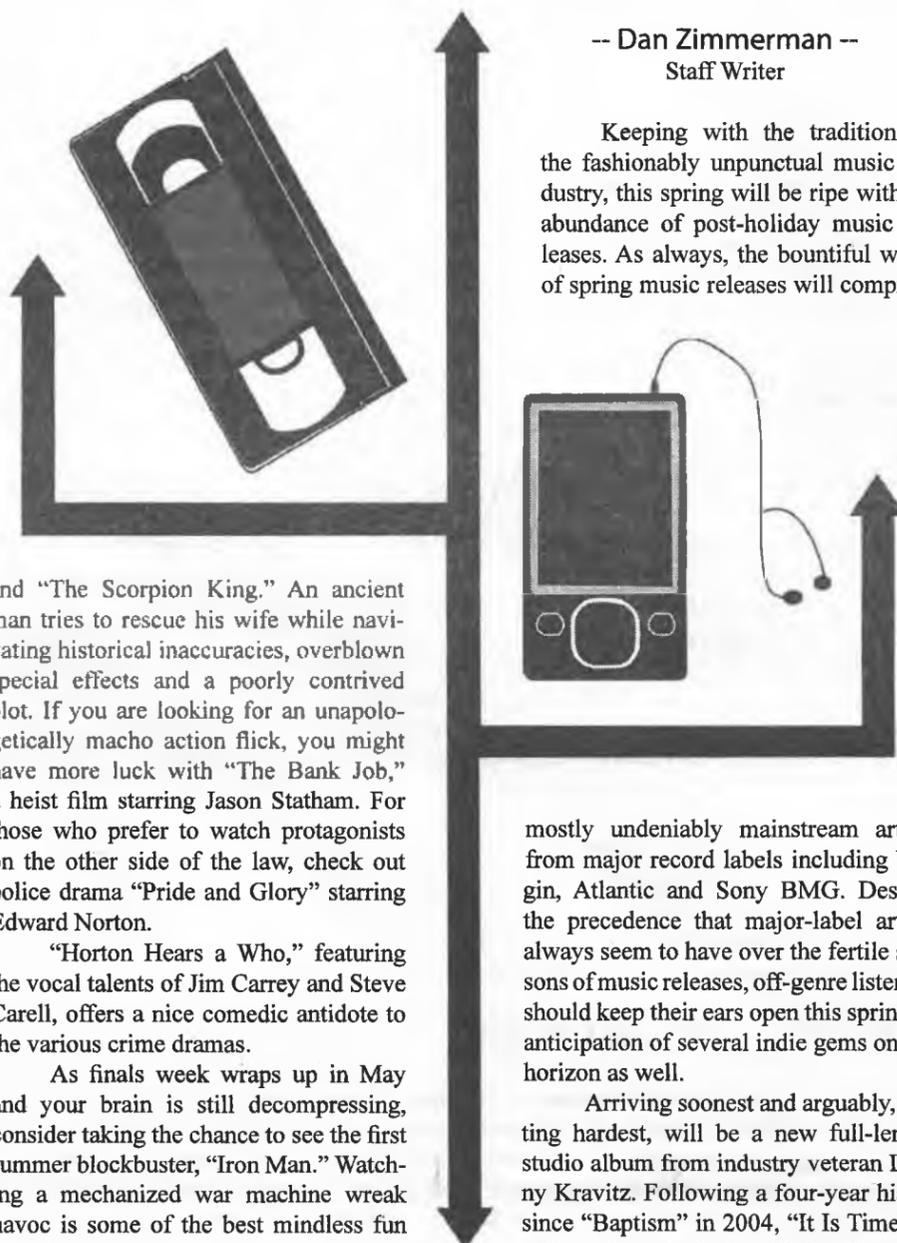
Following in the shadow of these prominent major label releases, the upcoming months will also offer several indie releases that will prove themselves to be equally, if not more, important to listeners. Off-listeners will be particularly thrilled at New York-based indie-pop outfit Edison Glass's new studio release. "Time Is Fiction," scheduled to drop on February 5, has made for itself an uncanny anticipation given the band's fledgling status. Subterranean post-grunge 4-piece Tiger Lou will be releasing a U.S. re-issue of its 2006 Swedish version of "The Loyal." Tiger Lou's sound and success in Sweden can easily be compared to that of Muse or A Perfect Circle in the states. The re-issue is scheduled to arrive February 19.

Christian music fans will benefit from the spring release wave with the arrival of three albums that the majority of Cedarville students, at least, will find themselves frenzied to obtain. "Never Going Back to OK" by the Afters and "Opposite Way" by Leeland will hit stores February 26. "We Need Each Other" by Sanctus Real, due on February 12, should tide listeners over until then.

Given the range and diversity of this spring's musical release prognosis, it seems clear that something is on its way for everyone.

mostly undeniably mainstream artists from major record labels including Virgin, Atlantic and Sony BMG. Despite the precedence that major-label artists always seem to have over the fertile seasons of music releases, off-genre listeners should keep their ears open this spring in anticipation of several indie gems on the horizon as well.

Arriving soonest and arguably, hitting hardest, will be a new full-length studio album from industry veteran Lennox Kravitz. Following a four-year hiatus since "Baptism" in 2004, "It Is Time for a Love Revolution" will be Kravitz's ninth studio album and will be available



LOOKIT

our picks

You Tube video:

Bill Clinton Has a Dream
Watch President Clinton fall asleep during this year's Martin Luther King festivities

Starbucks Drink:

Skinny Cinnamon Dolce Latte
This cinnamon-y, butter-y, and brown sugar-y delight is only 90 calories

Website:

www.regeneration.org
Visit this website for green tips from e-minded experts

Facebook Application

Make a Baby
Make babies by yourself or with your friends

Stage Production:

Sweeney Todd
Coming to Cincinnati from February 20-March 2

Personalized Gift:

www.mysharpie.com
Send your friends and family colorful and personalized Sharpies -- only \$12 for 6 markers

Have a favorite gadget? Let us know about it for the upcoming technology-themed Current. Send your stories and ideas to cedars@cedarville.edu

Foreign Film Series to Show "Shall We Dansu?"

-- Alyssa Weaver --
Staff Writer

On February 4, Cedarville's Foreign Film Series will show "Shall We Dansu?," the deeply introspective yet awkwardly funny film.

"Shall We Dansu?" ("Shall We ダンス") is the original to the faulty American remake "Shall We Dance" starring Jennifer Lopez, Richard Gere and Susan Sarandon. Rotten Tomatoes gave the remake a 48% versus the stunning 93% for "Shall We Dansu?"

The 1996 Japanese film directed by Masayuki Suo glittered at the Japanese Academy awards winning 14 awards, including Best Actor, Cinematography and Best Film.

The amount of cinematography-related awards is no surprise considering the film's simple, refreshing style. "Shall We Dansu?" is not comprised of sweeping and complex shots as if it were a glamorous montage. Instead, the understated flat shots, with little to no camera movement, reinforce the pervading simplistic tone.

Shohei Sugiyama (Kôji Yakusho) is a successful accountant seemingly content with a house in the suburbs, a loving wife, Masako (Hideko

Hara) and daughter, Chikage (Ayano Nakamura). But on the daily commute to work in Tokyo, his gaze falls on a beautiful woman, Mai Kishikama (Tamiyo Kusakari), dancing in a nearby dance studio. Entranced, he abruptly steps off the train and promptly asks for dance lessons.

However, Sugiyama hides his new hobby from his wife and co-workers. In Japanese culture, affection is considered private, let alone publicly being wrapped in another's arms while dancing. But what starts as infatuation for a woman slowly consumes him with fervent love for dance.

In this journey of self-discovery, dance is the gateway as Sugiyama searches for meaning and fulfillment. Consequently, it is refreshing to see Sugiyama's relationship with dance is not simply glossed over. Each faltering step is shown in that painfully, awkward humor that allows the audience to be a part of the film without hurrying from scene to scene.

With a style of humor that seems to mirror life with startling purity, "Shall We Dansu?" is a captivating comedy balanced with wit and drama.

"I do hope students take the opportunity to experience other cultures through the film series this semester," said Dan Clark, English professor and Foreign Films Series organizer. "Being able to view other cultures as they view themselves can help us better understand the unfamiliar."

"Shall We Dansu?" is the fourth installment of the Foreign Film Series. Doors to the DeVries Theatre open at 7:30 and admission is \$2.



FILM :: PG-13



BY WHITNEY MILLER

JUNO :: FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES



Nominated for four Academy Awards, quirky comedy-drama "Juno" has a lot of hype to live up to. But plucky "Juno" flounders as much as it flies.

A coming-of-age story, "Juno" was directed by Jason Reitman ("Thank You for Smoking"). Set to a string of indie-rock tunes, the narrative follows the sprightly teenage Juno (Ellen Page) as she decides what to do with her unborn baby and the baby's father (endearingly played by Michael Cera of "Arrested Development") at an age when she is still trying to figure out what to do with herself. "I don't really know what kind of girl I am," she admits to her dad (J.K. Simmons). Jason Bateman and Jennifer Garner play the would-be adoptive couple.

The movie's biggest hang-up is the dialogue. Though occasionally clever and sparkling, the phrases often come off jarring and ar-

tificial, as if the characters are puppets and the writer (Diablo Cody) is straining a little too hard for laughs, or trying (and failing) to sound cutting-edge Generation Y. ("Honest to blog!" exclaims Juno in an especially cringe-worthy moment). Most of the characters spout contrived verbiage that sounds like it came from Cody's folksy-cheesy-hip word bank rather than their own brains.

On the plus side, "Juno" is refreshingly independent from the usual Hollywood shtick. The plot arc is fairly conventional, but the film's validation of unlikely heroes adds certain charm to a tired storyline. Especially nice is the adoptive plot twist, from which Juno learns not to trust the appearance of coolness.

Like the line from the closing song "Anyone Else But You," "Juno" can be pretty cute despite some ugly material. But for all its glorified hipness, "Juno" still feels phony. Honest to blog.

FILM :: R



BY RACHAEL HUBIN

SWEENEY TODD :: PARAMOUNT PICTURES



It's quick, most likely painless, and incredibly descriptive in an ironically "tasteful" sense.

When it first premiered on Broadway in 1979, "Sweeney Todd" won eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical. In Burton's film adaptation, attention to detail is the key. Rivers of blood flow around the screen throughout the film while musical interludes interrupt the mood, leaving the viewer wondering whether to cringe in disgust or laugh in the shockingly playful exhibition of such an artistic portrait of murder. However, this movie would absolutely be forbidden to people faint of heart and weak in stomach.

Achieving his third Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe for Best Actor in Burton's gothic musical, Johnny Depp (Sweeney Todd) portrays a crazed serial-killer with only revenge on the mind. He had been wronged, and with his little hope now crushed

upon his late return to London, Todd and Mrs. Lovett (Helena Bonham Carter) concoct a plan that will give Sweeney his revenge and Mrs. Lovett her business back.

Because of the light-hearted musical undertones and the lyrical brilliance of the soundtrack, Depp was able to bypass his fear of singing on camera for the first time. He achieved a stunningly violent rapport while still exuding the presence of an inquisitively endearing nature.

With the pain that comes from losing what little one had, "Sweeney Todd" truly portrays what the tagline says: "Never Forget. Never Forgive." And "never" comes a lot sooner for the characters of this musical horror film than they thought.

The "Sweeney Todd" musical production, directed by John Doyle, will make a touring stop in Cincinnati from February 20 until March 2. Tickets are available at ticketspecialists.com.

FILM :: R



BY NICK ERBER

THERE WILL BE BLOOD :: PARAMOUNT VANTAGE



The beginning of Paul Thomas Anderson's latest film, "There Will Be Blood," shows Daniel Plainview, the oil baron around whom the film centers, in a mine shaft prospecting for silver. He is completely alone, cracking his pickaxe against the earth again and again.

It is dark in the shaft, so the audience only sees shadows of Daniel. When he finally strikes silver, he also manages to break his leg; the scene shows him dragging himself horizontally through the scrub and dust to bring his find to the nearest buyer.

The mood is rough and lonely. The landscape is vast. And the hunger in Plainview's eyes is a little bit monstrous and very human.

Based on Upton Sinclair's bombastic political novel "Oil!," this movie presents a world both historical and allegorical. Anderson's attention to detail and meticulous research show through in the particu-

lars of the characters' lifestyles and dialogue. As the story progresses we see the success of a true free-market capitalist — and the loneliness and dubious morals that this success involves. Though it can be read as an allegory, "Blood" doesn't get preachy. Anderson's direction and writing, along with Day-Lewis' outstanding performance, capture Plainview's deeply felt humanity.

"Blood" is nothing like P.T. Anderson's other features. There simply isn't any comparison between his strange, experimental films on topics of contemporary life ("Magnolia," "Punch-Drunk Love," "Boogie Nights") and this 19th-century "Citizen Kane."

In short, the acting is phenomenal, the writing is spot on, and the direction and overall attitude of the film are nothing short of epic.

Go. See this movie.

FILM :: PG-13



BY AMANDA ROBERTS

CLOVERFIELD :: PARAMOUNT PICTURES



Last summer, a mysterious sequence of previews slipped into theaters across the country, anonymously captivating audiences. The intriguing clip caused significant hype and anticipation in the media for what was eventually revealed to be "Cloverfield," the latest movie release from acclaimed producer J.J. Abrams.

The mystifying advertising was an ingenious idea on the part of Mr. Abrams and company, as certain qualities of "Cloverfield" might not have attracted as much attention otherwise.

Take the plot, for example. The scenario is so typical: a giant monster emerges from the Atlantic and wreaks havoc on the overpopulated, overused streets of New York City. As terror in metropolitan areas is not an original idea, "Cloverfield" needed something else to secure the interest its other excellent characteristics truly deserve.

While the actual premise is completely implausible, "Clover-

field" earns respect as a creative venture. The convincing effect of the constantly hand-held camera angle—a blending of "Godzilla" with "The Blair Witch Project"—artistically augments the believability of the story. Watching such inconceivable destruction and tragedy unfold through the raw, familiar frame of personal video footage evokes more sincere empathy and convicts viewers to wonder what they would do in such trying times.

The specifics of the plot are also essentially unique and touching. Instead of an equipped, informed group of people attempting to save the masses throughout the movie, "Cloverfield" focuses on a terrified, desperate group of friends risking their lives to rescue just one person. Notable acting from lesser-known actors, along with random moments of humor in between the more intense scenes, eclipse any minor flaws and define "Cloverfield" as an exceptional artistic work satisfying all preceding curiosity.

FILM :: R



BY DANNIELLE ALBERT

ATONEMENT :: FOCUS FEATURES



Do not be deceived by the previews—this is not your average romance/war movie. "Atonement" is a story about consequences, guilt, regret and redemption. It earned two Golden Globes, including Best Picture of the Year, and was nominated for seven Oscars.

Director Joe Wright ("Pride and Prejudice") artistically captures the emotional subtleties between the lines of Ian McEwan's book with breathtaking cinematography. Some fans of McEwan's work claim that the transition from novel to script is "intelligent" and "very successful" while others believe that the lack of access into the character's thoughts posed a problem for understanding motives.

The movie begins by introducing the audience to 13-year-old Briony Tallis (Saoirse Ronan), a naïve, imaginative, aspiring writer; her 22-year-old sister Cecilia (Keira Knightley); and the housekeeper's son Robbie Turner (James McAvoy), who all live together in an enormous mansion. On a sweltering summer day in 1935, Cecilia and Rob-

bie's long-suppressed passion comes to the surface, witnessed by Briony in the nursery window. This leads her to make false accusations which haunt her for the rest of her life.

The R rating is for disturbing images of war, vulgar language and a sex scene which is cringingly uncomfortable. Filmgoers who do not appreciate cliché-driven romance may find the not-so-fleshed-out relationship between Cecilia and Robbie disappointing. In addition, there were a couple contrived metaphors, such as Briony vigorously scrubbing her hands a la Lady Macbeth.

"Atonement" is a visual feast, featuring spectacular landscapes including a field of red poppies, a long pergola tunnel of climbing roses, a lily pad pond, a marble statue fountain and the Seven Sisters of East Sussex.

The music is exciting, the performances are incredible (especially by young Ronan) and there is a dazzling denouement with a twist.

Ledger's Death Cause for Reflection

-- John Hawkins --
Staff Writer

Heath Ledger was found dead in his apartment last week. This news has upset many people on campus. I know because I hear his name in conversation everywhere — at my dinner table, on my exercise bike, from the back of the classroom — and it's always followed by an "Oh, I know. It's so sad."

It's not a pity-sad, though, not the grunt that we give to the latest Lindsay or Paris meltdown. When we see them plastered up on our Fox News afternoons, we immediately take a step back and look out of the corners of our eyes with a curious, disgusted grimace, assuring ourselves we don't know them.

When we heard pills, Heath Ledger, and death in the same sentence, we took a step forward. We tightened our lips and made question marks with our eyebrows. Then, after a moment of processing, we felt a sense of loss, as though we were connected somehow.

To be honest, I had the same reaction. Like everyone else, I don't really understand why.

I never met Ledger. I don't know a

thing about him outside of his movies, and I only really liked the one in which he played Bob Dylan. Yet I responded as though he were a classmate I didn't know very well,



Ledger, 28, died last week from an apparent drug overdose. He had just completed filming for "The Dark Knight."

somebody I sat in front of in math class freshman year, but never really talked to. It's not personal, really, but he's a peer. He's close to our age, could be an older brother. He's one of us, and we've lost him.

Why do we feel this way?

It can't simply be the drugs. Roughly 375 Americans die every week of drug overdose according to the National Center for Health Statistics. We aren't upset about any of those deaths, even the young ones, because we don't know those people. We can't possibly feel for all of those people. It's too much.

That's part of the purpose of celebrity, I think. We take an overstuffed world in which billions are born and die and make love and get divorced and change hair colors everyday, select a few members, and make them important so that we can have an emotional point of reference in the world.

So even though we don't really know Ledger, we know him as a celebrity, which makes his overdose important.

That's it, I decided. It's just a Hollywood thing. We're back to Britney's terri-

tory, the town where we watch in mock horror as she strips down to addiction and child abuse because it makes us feel a little less naked.

Then I realized that the two are different in our minds. We don't see Spears as a real person anymore; if we did, we wouldn't be laughing. We wouldn't keep our distance.

We do look at Heath Ledger as real, human, part of our world. Ironically, his characters have made us feel connected to him.

He became the men he played, and we failed to distinguish between the two. We watched him mourn his brother's death, face the horrors of war, and lose his family to an affair. We believed we were seeing him, and that he could have been any of us.

We still feel that, I think, even as he died in a way that any of us could have. No cop battles, no slurred interviews, no theatrics: it was an ordinary death.

In short, we lost someone we chose to see as a human being. For whatever reason, we allowed ourselves to view Ledger's death as losing a piece of the continent. We didn't just skim over his name.

I think we should make that choice more often.

Under the Influence of Fiction

-- Michael Shirzadian --
Staff Writer



Everybody lies. Or so says Dr. House.

After watching my first episode of Fox's hit medical series, "House M.D.," I realized just how alike I was with the show's caustic, misanthropic, pill-popping protagonist, Dr. Gregory House. At least I liked to think we were alike.

There's something about this egomaniacal, narcissistic doctor that captivates me. I love his mannerism, use his insults, admire his ability to say whatever is on his mind. Sometimes, in fact, I envy his cane or Vicodin addiction. House is, without question, my fictional hero.

But perhaps he's more than a hero.

After I had finished the first three seasons of "House," my parents, especially my mother (a "House" fan herself), noticed a change in my demeanor. According to her, I was rude, cynical, and would end up miserable. She may as well have quoted the show. "You're just trying to be like House," she said. "You think it makes you special." Or, as House's best friend, Dr. Wilson, puts it, "Being miserable doesn't make you special, House. It only makes you miserable."

I denied it, of course, but couldn't help but wonder about my mother's accusation. Do I act like House because I admire him, or do I admire him because I believe we are alike? The change in demeanor portends the former.

But is this so wrong? Perhaps House isn't a great role model, but doesn't fiction play a large part in crafting our societal or personal identities? Consider, for example, the American narrative.

George Washington cut down the cherry tree, later admitting it, and thus instilling the reader or listener with the virtue of integrity. Huck Finn embarked on an epic journey up the Mississippi, celebrating the virtue of personal morality in the face of opposition and hypocrisy. Holden Caulfield's search for meaning and authenticity dominated the attitudes of thousands, if not millions, of young Americans dissatisfied with the materialism of the 50s.

Even today, one can hardly walk through the corridors of a public middle school without hearing a handful of references to Darth Vader, Frodo Baggins, or Harry Potter. We are, it seems, a fictive people.

And to some extent, fiction informs us on a more personal level. House is my role model, of course, but we all have those examples around which we tailor our personalities. We use fiction to make sense of the world, to act as our most fundamental guide. It is far easier, it seems, to follow a person, albeit a fictive one, than a set of codified rules.

And here, in fact, fiction becomes a valuable religious tool. Whether it is Hermann Hesse's "Siddhartha," John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress," Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins' "Left Behind" series, or Focus on the Family's "Adventures in Odyssey," religious organizations use fiction to actualize the otherwise abstract rules to which they subscribe.

So although it may not be healthy to fashion my life around an egomaniacal misanthropist, I cannot deny the wisdom in my mother's accusations — I strive to be House. And while season four has certainly been a letdown, it doesn't detract from Dr. House's reality. Not in my mind, anyway.

Theater Profile: Little Art Theatre

-- Naomi Washatka --
Staff Writer

A reflection of the eclectic movies it shows, the Little Art Theatre is more than just a place to watch movies. The small theater is appropriately located in the quaint town of Yellow Springs, and it is here independent film seekers can find an artistic and intimate atmosphere as well as a unique film.

The Little Art Theatre, commonly called Little Art, has been open for over fifty years, and has maintained the tradition of playing independent, documentary, and Hollywood films throughout its existence. With only one screen, the owners are selective in the movies they show, but offer a variety of genres in order to appeal to all those interested in venturing into the indie film world. They also show movies produced by local community members. Recently, the theater has shown movies including "Juno," "Amazing Grace," "Margot at the Wedding," and "Paris Je T'aime."

Students, senior citizens, and local Yellow Spring residents all agree the Little Art is a place worth checking out. From the entrance, patrons are greeted with a Hol-

lywood style box office and marquee, welcoming all to discover the treasures within. Inside patrons can buy artwork from local artists and homemade baked goods at the concession stand, which add to the intimate appeal of the theater. Coffee and herbal tea complements the almost coffee-shop atmosphere. Also unique to the theater are the handcrafted houselights — all of which were designed and installed in 1947 by an Antioch University student.

The theater seats 180 people and is quite different from most theaters — small and intimate, the theater is long and narrow. However, the old seats and quaint lighting only enhance the artistic feel. The theater fits the movies it plays, just as if the theater could be a part of the films.

Consider making a trip to the Little Art Theatre soon. The prices are cheaper than other local theaters, and the ten minute trip to Yellow Springs is perfect for those seeking a quick getaway. Show times are at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. every night, with a 3 p.m. matinee on Sundays. Check out www.littleart.com for more information. Discover more than just an indie film; discover this "cinematic treasure."



The Little Art Theatre in Yellow Springs plays a mix of eclectic, mainstream films and arthouse pictures.

"LOST" to Return for Fourth Season

-- Katherine Cella --
Staff Writer



Matthew Fox will return as Jack Shepard in the fourth season of "LOST."

When the premiere of ABC's science-fiction thriller "LOST" debuted in 2004, viewers and critics alike praised the show for its suspense, complexity, and glamorous new actors. Ratings soared as the show averaged 16 million viewers per episode and ranked fourteenth among television's primetime series. "LOST" almost instantly became a frenzy of pop culture, acquiring millions of devotees who created all sorts of online forums and message boards to discuss the twists of the plot and the cryptic revelations of the characters' pasts.

The plight of the remnants of Oceanic Flight 815 fascinated viewers through "LOST's" first and second seasons. The plot thickened as the narrative became increasingly intricate and dramatic. Viewers found, however, that as the episodes progressed, much of the phenomena remained enigmatic while many other unexplained concepts continued to emerge. Ratings plunged in the third and most recent season in accordance with viewers' dissatisfaction with the

seemingly unending riddles. Media critics even doubted the survival of the show as its numbers plummeted. This past year, the television writers' strike temporarily halted the continuation of the fourth season, again leaving viewers hanging in suspense.

Some viewers, however, who have invested much time and appreciation in the series, eagerly anticipate tonight's return of "LOST," if for no other reason than to finally discover the fundamental questions underlying the entire plot. Up until this point, the actual location of the island remains a mystery, giving rise to theories that perhaps neither the island nor the crash are even literal.

However, frustrations regarding the confusion of the plot do not seem to plague CEDARS Editor Dennis Nangle, who states: "I don't find it frustrating at all; the writers already have a projected end date, so all of the details have to be wrapped up and explained."

This end date is projected for 2010, wrapping up the final forty-eight episodes of the series in its sixth season. The executive producers of "LOST" claim that this publicized end date will allow viewers to "have the security of knowing that the story will play out as we've intended." To discover the exciting outcome, tune in to ABC at 9 p.m. tonight for the premiere of the fourth season!

Dispatches: "Clumsy" Love



-- Paul M. Smith --
Staff Writer

I would like to point out from the start that I do not, as a general rule, subscribe to the wisdom of Fergie -- you know, the oh-let's-say "singer." However, one of her newest songs, entitled "Clumsy," recently caught my attention because, I fear, it directly applies to my life.

Now, don't get me wrong -- Fergie and I really only have two things in common. First, neither of us could carry a tune if our lives depended on it, though we both suffer from the delusion that we can. Second, as she details in "Clumsy's" music video, we both end up trying way too hard to attract potential heartthrobs.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with this catchy tune, I'll fill you in. The oddly hypnotic beeping that fills the background and the completely random bridge aside, "Clumsy" describes Fergie's tortuous attempts to catch a would-be wooer's eye. In the video she stumbles off a catwalk, manages to destroy her hydraulically outfitted car, and unwittingly opens an airlock on a space station. Not exactly what most would consider graceful behavior.

Ignoring the chanteuse's caterwauling that she has somehow mistaken for vocal dexterity, I feel as though her song illustrates an important point: We all try too hard. Maybe we aren't all quite so clumsy, though some of us certainly fulfill that role well enough, but when we see somebody who we want to notice us, do we not suddenly become crazily uncharacteristic? For example, say you spot from a distance your CedarCrush waiting casually outside Chuck's. Immediately a pulsing techno beat such as Right Said Fred's "I'm Too Sexy" bursts into your mind's soundtrack, and you begin to strut across the new, frighteningly ugly carpet. But, see, the worst part of the whole matter is that you've completely convinced yourself that you are, in fact, a supermodel at heart, and if your CedarCrush would simply see you for that, he or she would be unable to withstand the sudden rush of emotions for you. Am I right, or am I the only one on an imaginary runway here?

Now the following problem arises: not only do you know that you're trying too hard, but your CedarCrush knows that you're trying too hard and everybody who happens to witness your behavior knows that you're trying too hard. It isn't attractive, it isn't effective, it isn't even who we are. See, I know that each and every one of us does, in fact, have something intrinsic to offer. So can we please all simply drop this inevitably mortifying charade and prove just how stellar we are? Geez.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go remove my application from consideration for NASA's next space station mission.

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Art House vs. Mainstream Cinema

-- Daniel Sizemore --
Staff Writer

What are the first words that enter your mind when you hear the term "art film?" Boring. Pretentious. Confusing. All of these are terms that I have heard people use to describe movies that stray away from the typical Hollywood format. The medium of cinema has the potential to produce great works of art. Combining the principles behind portraiture, photography, and music, directors have the opportunity to synthesize multiple forms of art into their visions. Why is it then that most movies have little, if any, artistic quality to them?

The main reason for the loss of artistic style is that Hollywood studios have made cinema into a business; the films that are made are ones that are the most likely to bring in large amounts of money. In today's culture, people have been raised with the preconceived notion that films are meant to entertain, not to invoke introspection or critical thinking about the world.

Art films use unusual narrative structures and visuals that require active thought on the part of the viewer in order for the artist's message to be grasped. In a world full of movies that spoon-feeds cliché plots populated by archetypal, one-dimensional characters, casual theatergoers are unprepared



"Rashomon," 1950

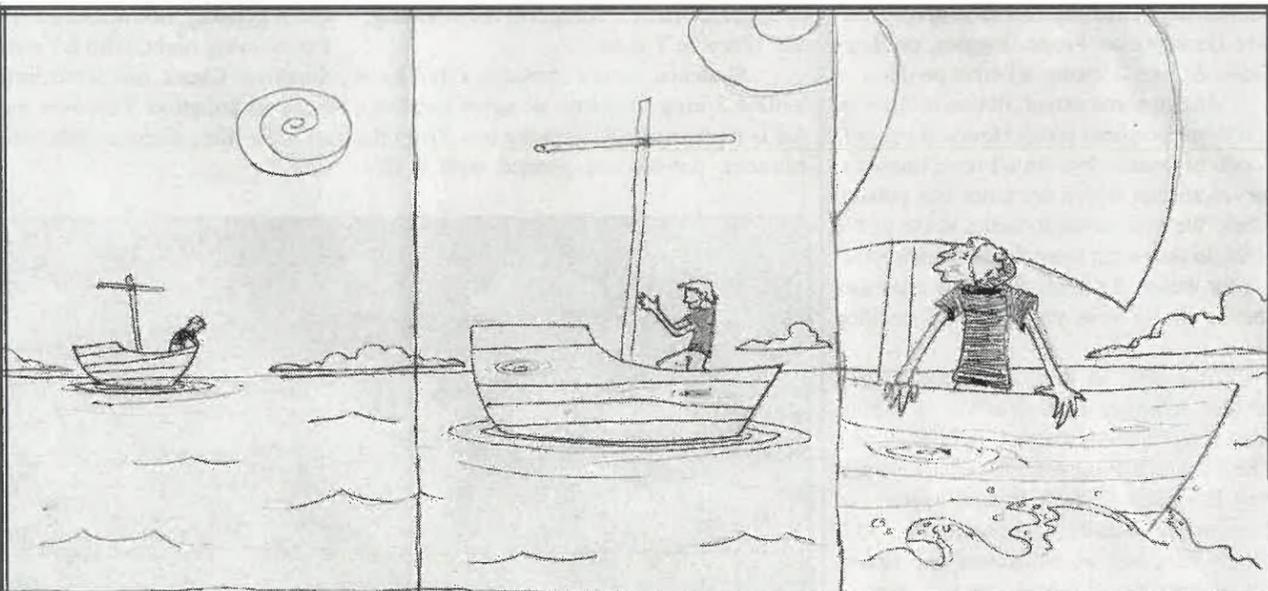
to think through the complex issues that the artistic style of film requires. Sixty-minute television shows and thirty-second commercials have conditioned people to passively receive quick, trite answers to life's problems from their media choices.

In opposition to this idea, many art films end with ambiguous, unresolved endings. Rather than giving the answers that the audience is expecting, these movies often ask the questions and then leave the answers to these inquiries for the individual viewers to work out for themselves. How do the multiple stories in "Rashomon" relate to what really happened? What happens to Dave at the end of "2001: A Space Odyssey?" While these answers would have been neatly an-

swered by the time the credits roll in mainstream films, the directors of artistic films assume that their audience members are intelligent enough to form their own opinions of the film. Their goal is to foster discourse, not to instill unthinking dogmatism.

Another thing that the average movie patron finds disconcerting in arthouse flicks is the metaphorical imagery and dreamlike surrealism often present. These stylistic choices require effort in order to decipher the significance behind them. "Barton Fink" starts as a realistically filmed story about a struggling writer, but by the middle of the film it descends into an existential crisis that involves burning hotels, paintings coming to life, and peeling wallpaper. The sudden change in tone and various symbols are all put in purposefully and used to relate the auteur's ideas in a visual way rather than by the usual narrative means.

Not all films need to revolutionize the way you view the world, and, in my opinion, it is perfectly fine to watch a movie for pure entertainment purposes. However, we should remember that at its heart cinema is a form of art. In between watching giant robots fighting and people performing pratfalls for laughs, consider getting a movie that will challenge the way you think and view issues with which you may have become complacent.



I am so uncertain as to what my heart should do when each departing vessel's plotted course returns to you.

what signals more disheartening? how miserable are we? to behold the wind without a sail and ship without a sea

So pray we will for guidance in the same we pray for rain upon this lonesome voyage grant us godspeed in thy name.