Coach Calabria: A 20-Year Alvernia Story

By, Katy Eby
Staff Writer

The Alvernia University women’s basketball team made it into post season playoffs for the 20th year in a row. Kevin Calabria, who has been the head basketball coach since the beginning of the program, 21 years ago, can be credited with building the program to what it is today. Coach Calabria holds a career record at Alvernia of 389-188 and has shown that the Crusaders can truly hold their own on the court. Coach Calabria shares some of his thoughts about Alvernia Athletics as well as some of the knowledge that he has gained from coaching for 21 years.

KE: What made you come to Alvernia and start a program here?

Coach Calabria: When I was about to start my eighth season coaching at Holy Name High School in 1988, I had a phenomenal freshman man player who might have been the best player ever in Berks County. I worked with her in my camps for 2 years and went to every one of her CYO games. She was a great player and a fantastic young girl. She came to Holy Name as a freshman. In October, her Dad was transferred to Kentucky. It broke my heart to the point that I had to leave the environment to avoid dwelling on her loss. One morning as my wife and I were heading out to Notre Dame for a football weekend, there was an ad in the Reading newspaper for a women’s basketball coach. I called Dr. Richard Flannery, the Athletic Director and told him I was very interested. Since I knew him well, he hired me over the phone. It made for a nice trip to Notre Dame. Little did I know what I was getting myself into that first year. But obviously, it worked out quite nicely.

KE: What was the biggest challenge that you faced while starting a new program in 1989?

Coach Calabria: I was hired in October so I had no opportunity to recruit. I had seven players on my first team. Four never played in high school. None of them were recruited to play college basketball. So we did not have a lot of talent. What we had were 7 young ladies who wanted to learn and who allowed me to coach and push them a little bit. We lost at the buzzer in our last game and finished 10-11, our only losing season.

KE: After 21 years you are still at Alvernia. With the records that you have, you could be coaching at a more prominent school. Why have you continued to stay at Alvernia?

Coach Calabria: I applied for a couple of Division 1 schools over the years but could not even get an interview. Even if I would have been offered a job, my wife would never leave Berks County. Her family is here and family is very important to both of us. KE: I understand that you coach mental toughness. What does it mean to be mentally tough and how does this effect the way basketball is played?

Coach Calabria: I would like to know who told you that. But yes, I try to get my players mentally tough for the environment they just encountered at Lebanon Valley this past Wednesday in the Commonwealth Semifinals. When opposing fans are in your face and yelling at you and calling you disgusting names, you must be able to play through it and mentally block it out. It’s not easy. So that’s the reason I am hard on my players at practice. They must learn to focus on the job at hand. Those lessons will certainly help them in the future in their jobs and as parents. Life is not easy. Funny thing however, my past players tell me I have gotten soft in my old age. So maybe my players now have it easy!

KE: What is the biggest lesson that you have learned while coaching?

Coach Calabria: Honestly, I hate to lose, even more so today. I am a very driven person and have been my whole life. I am still trying to learn how to lose without letting it linger for days or even longer. Unfortunately, I still take it home with me. My wife understands me, thank goodness. I guess I have learned that you have to coach each player differently because they have put in different amounts of time into the game. I might be easier on a player who really puts in the time to improve. I might be tougher on a player who has a lot of talent but I feel is wasting it.

KE: In order to see more success with Alvernia athletics, what needs to be done?

Coach Calabria: A 20-Year Alvernia Story

Remembering Sr. Pacelli: Teacher and Friend

By, Sister Rosemary Stets, OSF, M.A.

Remembering Sr. Pacelli continues on page 3

www.alvernia.edu

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Remembering Sr. Pacelli: Teacher and Friend

By, Sister Rosemary Stets, OSF, M.A.

Remembering Sr. Pacelli continues on page 3

www.alvernia.edu
By, Chris Farley
Contributing Writer
The day will come when men will recognize the woman as his peer, not only at the fireside, but in councils of the nation. Then, and not until then, will there be the perfect comradship, the ideal union between the sexes that shall result in the highest development of the race.” - Susan B. Anthony.

Oh, how I yearn for that day. In some ways, much can be said about the active equality in the avenues of America. Women are not spat upon or covered out of shame. They are free to vote, free to exercise their voices in song and spirit, free to channel their expressions through the same activities as a man. In restaurants, offices, department stores and in many career-drivers, men and women share the same tasks and responsibilities. One can only hope that we are close to an egalitarian society, but what would a powerhouse of the women’s movement like Susan B. Anthony think of our efforts?

To say that equality between the sexes has been accomplished is to say something extremely dangerous. The fact remains: women are “beneath the man” in countless societies around the globe. In America, the sexism is more subtle. On Thursday, March 11th, I randomly asked women around campus the question: Does the degradation of women still occur in the world today? Are women still treated unfairly? Out of the 28 women I asked, 27 responded with “yes.” Most of these answers came out rapidly, indicating that they have personally experienced unnecessary inequity. I am certain that, if I would have asked the entire female campus, the amount of “yes” answers would have stayed above 95%. Asking men the same question seemed like a vapid undertaking. How women are gracefully assuming roles of women. Led by their inspirations and in the face of remaining financially stable, housekeeping and raising children are the core of remaining financially stable, housekeeping and raising children are the core of women’s lives. Women are still forced to carry the brunt of despondency. As citizens of our country, it is our duty to promote women’s rights. Until many things change, the United States should not boast of equality when one out of three women are abused in some way (one out of six are sexually abused). There is plenty of work to be done. As far as international eforts go, Dr. Victoria Williams suggests that providing higher-education is the most integral step to advocating women’s rights.”- “Higher education leads to higher ages of marriage, lower birth rates, and longer lives. It leads to jobs and eventually countries, out of poverty.” Below are more websites to further this cause.

“Creativity for Peace” visited Alvernia on March 10th, 2010. Fairouz Abadi, May Freed and Amira Said, all from different cultural backgrounds in the volatile Middle East, sat on the panel and spoke of their new-found peace. CFP is a revolutionary example of how women should be enabled to not only be a part of society, but to lead it. For more information or to donate to this incredible organization, visit www.creativityforpeace.com. Countries and cultures aren’t the only guilty culprits in this destitution of equality. Religions have, for centuries upon centuries, treated women unfairly. As a Roman Catholic, I often have many problems with the my religion’s treatment of women. The Church could learn a lot from the Sisters of the faith. Instead, it seems like a monic, negative trend. What turns many people away from their faith is the judgmental notions stemming from the pulpit. On the other hand, when sitting beside someone like Sister Maureen, Sister Lynn, Sister Rosemary or Sister Restituta, one will likely feel a mysterious inner tranquility. They are pure, understanding and incredibly loving. This is the kind of paradigm the Church must follow.

From “main street” America to other cultures, the face of women, women are still forced to carry the brunt of despondency. As citizens of our own country, it is our duty to promote women’s rights. Until many things change, the United States should not boast of equality when one out of three women are abused in some way (one out of six are sexually abused). There is plenty of work to be done. As far as international eforts go, Dr. Victoria Williams suggests that providing higher-education is the most integral step to advocating women’s rights.”- “Higher education leads to higher ages of marriage, lower birth rates, and longer lives. It leads to jobs and eventually countries, out of poverty.” Below are more websites to further this cause.

To my fellow men: It’s time to look at things a little differently, for “every time we liberate a woman, we liberate a man” - Margaret Mead.

American literature, but equally captivated by the mystics and thinkers of Christian literature: Theresa of Avila and John of the Cross; Thomas Merton and Edith Stein. Her ability to recognize a blend of secular and spiritual themes in the literature and culture of our day and her remarkable openness to well-grounded opinions afforded everyone a place at the table, allowing them the necessary freedom and confidence to explore new ideas, abandon misconceptions, work collaboratively, and grow from the dialogue. I suppose her experience and wisdom gave her an uncommon measure of patience too, knowing that sooner or later, with time, good will, and God’s help, all things would be well. And I believe she was right.

In the summer of 2009, Sister Pacelli and I participated in a much anticipated congregational retreat at Alvernia on St. Bonaventure’s Jour- ney of the Soul into God, led by An- dre Cirino, OFM and Josef Raischl, SFO. This eight-day retreat experi- ence on Bonaventure’s masterpiece consisted of lectures, spiritual rituals, private prayer and reflection, personal sharing, and liturgies that focused on deepening our understanding of each soul’s intended journey to God, be- ginning with our first baby steps in this created world, and, as if climbing a ladder, ascending the subsequent stages of personal development that would lead us upward to our final em- brace of the Crucified Lord, and our passage into eternal life with God. It was a profoundly moving time for us as a religious community, and more than once I found myself in conver- sation with Sister Pacelli during that week, seeking her perspective on the readings, marveling at her astute un- derstanding of the material, reflect- ing on her humility as she candidly shared her spiritual insights. Looking back, I see now that she was closer to her goal than any of us could have imagined. As I contemplate her pass- age into eternal life with God, I pray that I may be allowed to succeed in the way for fresh, sound, and visionary academic ideas. In the classroom, Sister Pacelli was able to challenge the academically gifted and still hold the attention of those inclined to be less engaged. No one missed her no- tice, and everyone was given ample opportunity to succeed. She chal- lenged students and welcomed their questions, the give and take of So- cratic learning, and she never failed to win their respect as a fair and open-minded educator. Her range of intellectual interests kept the discus- sions lively and provocative, and her sharp wit a constant surprise and delightful discovery, even for under- grads with low expectations. More recently in our conversations, I would often reminisce with Sister Pacelli about my own college days, and re- mind her that she gave me my first “C” grade in an English course, my major, while I was pursuing my de- gree at Alvernia. At the time I was taken aback, thinking that I deserved better. But she would smile wryly, and gently remind me that I owed her a debt of gratitude for this favor; it taught me to be more critical of my own work and to strive for excellence.

Perhaps Sister Pacelli’s unique mix of secular and religi- ous education; she attended public schools until her entrance into reli- gious life, thereby choosing to align her extraordinary academic gifts with an equally compelling desire to fol- low in the footsteps of St. Francis by living the gospel as a Bernardine Franciscan sister. Sister Pacelli was completely at home with J.K. Rowl- ing’s Harry Potter and J.R.R. Tolke- n’s Lord of the Rings; fascinated by the gothic figures of English and
By Lauren Rocchino
Campus News Editor
On February 24, 2010, Shujaa Graham spoke about his experience as an innocent inmate on death row, as part of Witness to Innocence, an organization that fights against the death penalty. This event was sponsored by STOP, the Criminal Justice Association, and Honors Council.

Shujaa Graham started his speech with an expression of gratitude toward Alvemira's students. He explained how seventh- and eighth-grade students helped to organize a defense committee, Black Prison Movement, in the attempt to set him free. Shujaa had a powerful tone that had an effect on each member of the audience. One could feel the pain he went through just by listening to his story.

Shujaa Graham was born in Lake Providence, Louisiana and grew up on a plantation. His family members worked as sharecroppers in the segregated South of the 1950s. Shujaa spent three years in juvenile hall before the age of eighteen. In 1961, he moved to California and was later sent to Soledad Prison. While in prison, Shujaa was mentored by the leadership of Black Prison Movement. Shujaa taught himself how to read and write at the age of eighteen. In 1976, Shujaa Graham was sentenced to the death penalty at San Quentin’s death row after being wrongly accused of murdering a prison guard.

“[He] thought that he looked guilty as soon as he entered the courtroom because he was wearing chains. Shujaa thought that he looked innocent, but the room because he was wearing chains. Shujaa thought that he looked guilty as soon as he entered the courtroom because he was wearing chains. Shujaa thought that he looked innocent, but the guards yelled “dead man walking.” Shujaa made the point that racism exists in the twenty-first century in the criminal justice system. Since 1973, over one hundred and thirty death row inmates have been released after evidence proved their innocence. Almost seventy percent of the people on Pennsylvania’s death row are people of color. Pennsylvania has the larger percentage of minorities on death row among states with more than ten people on the row. Pennsylvania’s death row has over 200 prisoners. Shujaa thought that he looked guilty as soon as he entered the courtroom because he was wearing chains. He looked and was treated like an animal instead of a human being. Shujaa’s overall message is to fight for social justice. “Stand up for human rights and against police brutality. No one should be on death row just because they are black.” Shujaa said.

Because the district attorney had excluded all African-American jurors, in 1979 the California Supreme Court overturned the death conviction. Shujaa was on death row for three and half years and went through four trials before he was finally found innocent. Maureen Plover, President of STOP, said “I believe that working for social change begins with hope and continues to spread further and further until individuals are making a difference and changing the world.” Deborah Crum, President of Honors Council, said “It was a great honor to hear Shujaa’s speech. It was a very personal story that obviously was difficult to tell, but he offered a unique perspective on an issue that is commonly debated simply as right or wrong. As someone who has researched the death penalty extensively in the past, I was still blown away by Shujaa and his story. I will not forget.”

Shujaa was released from prison in March of 1981. Shujaa currently works on building community support for the prison movement and against police brutality. “I have to give back to my mother, my father, my nation,” said Shujaa. Shujaa’s spirit and determination for justice through Witness to Innocence makes him an influential leader in the anti-death penalty and human rights movements.

Shujaa Graham: Innocent on Death Row

By Danii Cortes
Staff Writer
R&B plus violins? How does that work? On Tuesday, February 23, 2010 in the Francis Auditorium, a music duo consisting of two talented artists performed a show with violins and R&B. Wil B began playing the viola at age 14 and Kevin Marcus started playing the violin at age 9. This was the beginning of their career together. Wil B and Kevin Marcus are from Florida. They both attended the Dillard High School of Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale.

“After graduating from high school, both Wil and Kev were granted full music scholarships to colleges, Florida State and Florida International University respectively. It was at FIU that Kev first encountered the group’s future manager, Sam G, with whom he and Wil soon formed a production company: DKNEX” (http://blackviolin.net/). This is when the two men started to brainstorm and foresee the future for a band.

The group’s musical inspiration was seen in both modern and classical music, from Bach to 50 Cent. This captured many students’ attention seeing that these were not typical contemporary musicians. Black Violin covered songs by a great variety of artists, including: Shostakovich, Bach, Nas, Jay-Z, 50 Cent, Aerosmith, Tom Petty, Aretha Franklin, The Eagles, P.Diddy, and Kanye West. Many wondered how it was possible for these two classically trained violinists to perform such an array of musical traditions.

Some in the audience thought the performance would be compelling because it was such a mixture of genres. Others saw the little flyers on the cafeteria tables and though they looked interesting. It was unique opportunity to be able to see this eclectic show on campus.

This terrific duo showed an outstanding amount of diversity and great potential to be well-known throughout the nation. They have performed at some of the biggest events including the Billboard Music Awards in 2005 with Alicia Keys, and also accompanied Linkin Park’s Lead singer on tour with Fort Minor. All of these outstanding achievements have exceeded their expectations.

They do strive for higher recognition as all musician’s full of passion for their careers do. They are extremely talented individuals with a great amount of opportunities ahead of them.

The chemistry between the two is uncanny and simply remarkable to see. They showed great enthusiasm with every stroke of their violins. Many students left the auditorium still humming the melodies out loud. Some went on to say that they hope Wil B and Kevin Marcus return in years to come.

Black Violin Brings Eclectic Music To AU

By Danii Cortes
Campus News Editor

Performing at the Dillard High School of Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale, Black Violin covered songs by a great variety of artists, including: Shostakovich, Bach, Nas, Jay-Z, 50 Cent, Aerosmith, Tom Petty, Aretha Franklin, The Eagles, P.Diddy, and Kanye West. Many wondered how it was possible for these two classically trained violinists to perform such an array of musical traditions.

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Dear Students,

By, Michele Lafaver
Contributing Writer

The seasons of the year produce different periods of time in which we can rest, rejuvenate and reflect. Now that the winter season has passed, spring is coming, and with it a time for clearing out the old and renewing our mind, body, and spirit. The weather is turning warmer, the sun is shining, and flowers are blooming. However, that does not make the demands placed on us any lighter or completing them any easier. There are still deadlines to meet, papers to write, exams to take, and with the spring season calling us outdoors, it is much more difficult to focus on work. So how is a person supposed to cope? It is easy: Get moving!

Sitting long hours through the winter months tightens muscles and joints. The longer days provide less time to be outdoors, and the lack of sunshine may sadden some individuals. Simply going outside just to enjoy the beautiful spring weather and warmer temperatures helps to loosen up those tight muscles and by getting your body moving, you begin to experience this season of renewal. Take a walk, play a game, or just run around – your body, and thank you.

My next tip might make some cringe or roll their eyes, but I will suggest it just the same. Clean! That’s right, attack those dust bunnies under your bed, throw away the old pizza boxes and empty containers, clean out your backpack, and wash everything in sight! Clearing away the things that clutter your life or your space makes room for fresh air and positive vibes. Who doesn’t need those, especially with the end of the semester coming soon! After you are finished cleaning your room, remember to keep your refrigerator, drawers, and cabinets as well. Why, you ask. Well, eating well is a primary means to reduce stress. Fill your mini or full-size fridge with healthy food. Fruits, vegetables... whole grains are beneficial to not only your physical health, but your emotional health as well. Eating a balanced diet helps avoid sudden drops in blood sugar. Also, remember to stay hydrated and avoid excess caffeine. After you have had fun outside and cleaned everything inside so it sparkles, take some time to relax. There are plenty of options for relaxation. You could spend time with friends or family, do yoga, watch a movie, listen to music, or read a good novel. Sharing your concerns or worries with someone close to you may help alleviate stress as well.

The important thing is to enjoy life and make some time for yourself. There are ways to manage your time effectively and control your schedule instead of it controlling you. Until next month, enjoy the new season and remember to take good care of you.

By, Tesia Smucker
Layout Editor

Every semester around this time, the world ends. And by the world ends, I mean there are midterms to be taken. Of course, every time I have a midterm, I have to work the night before. This means going to school, going to work, coming home and studying (or falling asleep), then going to class the next day to take a midterm.

Midterms are hard on the average college student especially in classes that have a paper due a week before or after the big exam. However, for a working student like myself, midterms tend to take lower priority to things like working to pay the bills. I almost never study for midterms. I also almost never fail midterms. What’s my secret? I take amazing notes. I try not to skip class, and I listen when I am in class. Listening and taking notes is the easiest way to pass midterms I am usually prepared to study. I am not afraid of failing midterms because I have to work to make the money I need to live. At this point, I am barely doing that. I owe money in taxes, my car insurance is due soon, and I can’t put any money in savings because every week it’s gone by Wednesday.

So what do I do? Well, I make tie-dye shirts and sell them to my friends. I sell old books, CDs, and movies on Amazon and Ebay. I collect change and take it to the bank - I am that person picking up the pennies on the ground. I comb Craigslist for odd jobs and freelance writing work. I also quit smoking so I have that extra five to ten dollars a week. I hustle life. I make money come out of nowhere, and pray that it will be enough.

By, Emily Berret
SGA President

Dear Students,

I hope you all had an amazing spring break! SGA has been working extremely hard to sponsor events on campus, address your campus concerns, put together great events on campus, and raise awareness of the crisis in Haiti. I would like to thank everyone that attended the Dodge Ball Tournament! We had a great turnout and the teams did an amazing job. Congrats to the Baseball Team that is now 4-0 in the Dodge Ball Tournament! Congrats to SGA on winning best dressed at the event! With the co-chairs for Spring Fling, who along with the stress of midterms, there is also the stress of decreased hours at work. This is a wonderful thing because I now have more time to actually finish my homework and maybe have some time to play Tetris (my favorite game), but also have no more than five dollars to my name every week. My paychecks go to bills and gas with very little left over. This makes me think I should get a third job, but then there goes sleep and homework. Working in school is always a delicate balance of having nothing done and no time to do it, but convincing everyone that you are on top of everything and have time left over.

Money is the worst part of midterms. I can never take off work this time of year because I am only getting a few shifts and I need them all to pay my bills, but I need to take off so I can study for midterms or write midterm papers. I end up trying to do both and succeeding only in making myself frustrated. I always think that school is a vicious cycle. I need money to have an education, but I need an education to make money. And I am afraid of failing midterms because I have to work to make the money I need to live. At this point, I am barely doing that. I owe money in taxes, my car insurance is due soon, and I can’t put any money in savings because every week it’s gone by Wednesday.

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SGA Spring Update: Haiti and The Office
By, Emily Berret
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When a member of the class was texting during her lecture, she called her on it. When someone else showed up without their book, she found them out. She demanded excellence from her students, and she would accept nothing less. Her lectures were always brilliant, because she put so much energy and life into them. I felt bad when I would stand next to her, since I am so tall. I felt it would make her feel shorter, so I often knelt or sat on a chair so she wouldn’t feel so short. Sister Pacelli and I talked about many things as our friendship grew, among them my desire to become a priest and to teach. She encouraged me in both those ambitions, and I always found her counsel to be wise and prayerful. I will miss my friend.

- John Hutta, Junior Theology/Philosophy major
I had the opportunity to sit next to Sr. Pacelli during the English/Communication/CIS department’s recent holiday celebration. The faculty gathered at a local Reading restaurant, and we shared a crowded table to enjoy a meal and exchange used books. The table was a bit of a tight fit, and one of my colleagues asked if I was comfortable; she even offered to change spots with me. I responded that I was fine, and jokingly added that “I rarely get the opportunity to sit this close to celibate women.” Sr. Pacelli, without missing a beat, simply responded, “I do.”

-Michael Kramp, Assistant Professor of Communication

Sister Pacelli had many accomplishments. She was a truth teller and she was modest. She was also a guide—she was always there for anyone who needed anything. She really is someone who I would say is an “institutional memory.” The faculty even created a calendar a little while back and the inspiration was that here at Alvernia everyone wears a bunch of hats...as in has multiple duties and jobs within their job. She wore a white, feathery hat and she just looked too cute and funny, along with the rest of the faculty and staff pictured in the calendar. She participated in all activities and really enjoyed herself and her work at Alvernia. She even was called “Patches” by the other sisters in the convent...short for Pacelli of course.

-Beth DeMeeo, Chair of English, Communication, and CIS; Associate Professor of English and Communication.

A fond memory I have with Sister Pacelli goes back to when I first started working here. I was pregnant and soon gave birth to my first daughter: Rachel. Being a new mom it was tough balancing home and work so I would occasionally bring her to campus with me. I can remember like it was yesterday that Sr. Pacelli was so great with Rachel. She was really into children and she enjoyed having mine come with me to school. I did not realize or really to expect this about her at first, but soon learned that she had a heart of gold. Sr. Pacelli had a soft side to her and it was revealed when she would hold or play with my daughter (s).”

-Jodi Radosh, Associate Professor of English and Communication.
With March Comes Madness

By Scott Rodgers
Sports Editor

With the announcements last night, it is time for millions of people to print and write up their NCAA basketball brackets. It is just the thing to do, like eating apple pie or watching American Idol.

1-3-1 will http://www.ncaawins.com/betting/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/ncaa-basketball-championship-odds.jpg give most teams a fit. They can also play man to man from this set up.

But New Mexico does do two things well: rebound and shoot three pointers. Plus with Darington Hobson, who is seemingly a human double-double (16.2 PPG and 9.2 RPG), they have a shot. But in the end, I expect a WVU/Kentucky matchup, with Kentucky coming out on top (though this will probably be the best game of the tournament).

In the South regional, Villanova, despite all of their issues at the end of the year, has a clear path to the Sweet Sixteen. A fun first round matchup to watch, for those that like a lot of points, will be Baylor against Sam Houston State. In the seven games they lost, SSHS allowed 54.1 percent of shots to go in, including 47.7 percent from three-point range. Look for Baylor to put up 100 in this one.

A massive upset to keep a watch on comes from the top of the bracket, with four seed Purdue playing 13 seed Siena. Without Robbie Hummel, the Boilermakers have put up 44 against Michigan State, 42 against Minnesota, and 64 against Penn State (who went 3-15 against the Big 10 this year).

I expect Duke to make the Sweet Sixteen, though Louisville may give them a bit of a challenge early on. Sienna is a dark horse Sweet Sixteen team, but that is an alarmingly popular one. The toughest game for me is a potential Villanova/Baylor matchup. I want to go with Baylor, especially with Villanova’s finish to the season, but I will say if Nova wins, they beat Duke.

But in the end, I have Baylor winning this bracket, especially with LaceDarius Dunn. I was also told to plug Ekpe Udoh, who averaged 13.9 PPG, 9.8 RPG, and 3.9 BPG. I wonder if Michigan could have made the NIT with him.

The West strikes me as a bracket that a mid-level team could make a huge run in. Gonzaga/Syracuse poses an interesting potential second round matchup. BYU and Xavier are potential spoilers, and if Butler can make it past UTEP (which is the popular 5/12 upset this year), they have a shot. Pittsburg is not close to the team they were last year. In the end, once the dust settles, I expect Kansas State to win. Arinze Onuaku’s injury dampens Syracuse’s chances, and if he is not up to speed; Gonzaga may bounce them in that second round matchup. Plus as it has been pointed out almost everywhere, sending Cuse out west was a bad call. I think the only person in the world picking Lehigh over Kansas is Dr. Tom. Kansas plays in Oklahoma City and St. Louis in the first two rounds, giving them a ridiculous advantage.

The two through six seeds are all great teams. However, out of all of them, I only think Georgetown can beat Kansas. But Kansas is too strong, and I believe they will inevitably win the West. Even though I picked three Big 12 teams to make the Final Four, I believe Kentucky will win it all. I just do not see Baylor (or Duke, or Villanova) beating them. On the other side, Kansas has beat Kansas State three times already this year. Not much I can do to debunk that. It took two brilliant minds coming together, and a lot of me saying “South Carolina could beat them,” (followed by: “No, that is a boldfaced lie”) but I feel confident in the bracket the two of us produced. Oh, and he picked Kansas over Kentucky just to be different. Of course, right as I was wrapping up this article I got a text saying: “I changed my mind, WVU is beating Kentucky.” I just replied “Do not worry, John Wall’s got this.” Oh and the women’s bracket? Here is my advice: UConn wins.
Tim Alquist picks . . .
NL East: Phillies
NL Central: Cardinals*
NL West: Giants
NL Wild Card: Cubs
AL East: Red Sox*
AL Central: Twins
AL West: Mariners
AL Wild Card: Yankees
NLCS: Phillies vs Cardinals
ALCS: Red Sox vs Mariners
World Series: Red Sox vs Cardinals
Winner: Red Sox

Bruce Williams picks . . .
NL East: Phillies
NL Central: Cardinals*
NL West: Giants
NL Wild Card: Mets
AL East: Yankees*
AL Central: Twins
AL West: Mariners
AL Wild Card: Red Sox
NLCS: Phillies vs Cardinals
ALCS: Yankees vs Red Sox
World Series: Cardinals vs Yankees
Winner: Cardinals

Krysta Blocher picks . . .
NL East: Phillies
NL Central: Cardinals*
NL West: Dodgers
NL Wild Card: Giants
AL East: Yankees*
AL Central: Tigers
AL West: Mariners
AL Wild Card: Red Sox
NLCS: Phillies vs Cardinals
ALCS: Yankees vs Mariners
World Series: Phillies vs Yankees
Winner: Yankees

James Hein picks . . .
NL East: Phillies
NL Central: Cardinals*
NL West: Dodgers
Wild Card: Braves
AL East: Yankees*
AL Central: Tigers
AL West: Angels
Wild Card: Mariners

By Scott Rodgers
Sports Editor
You know baseball season needs to start soon when Buster Olney of ESPN is reporting that the Phillies are kicking around the idea of trading Ryan Howard for Albert Pujols, in a one for one deal. Yeah, OK, Buster. I am sure the Cardinals will get right around to doing that one. Once the Phillies toss in Chase Utley, of course.

At any rate, with Spring Training well under way, the excitement is building. Especially here, where the buzz surrounding Roy Halladay has reached critical mass, with the number of Halladay jerseys rivaling the number of Utley jerseys I see on any given day.

To keep on the Phillies theme, they are my pick to win the NL East. There is too much firepower in that lineup and Cole Hamels should bounce back. Brad Lidge cannot be much worse, either.

However, I caution Phils fans. This upcoming offseason will be a big one, with Jason Werth becoming a free agent. Signing him will likely spell Ryan Howard’s exit next year.

In the West, I have the Rockies. Ubaldo Jimenez is one of the most underappreciated aces in the game. Carlos Gonzalez is set to take another major step forward, and Troy Tulowitzki is the best shortstop not named Hanley Ramirez in the league.

The wild card has given me a free agent. So by process of elimination, and with much caution, I have narrowed it down to two teams: the Brewers and Diamondbacks. The Brewers just strike me as a disappointment waiting to happen, the Giants have no offense, the Braves are

The AL East presents quite a conundrum. Anyone who knows me knows I am a huge Red Sox fan. But the Yankees did nothing but improve in the offseason. And then there are the Rays, who I expect to throw things entirely out of whack. So, as much as it pains me to say this, the Yankees will win the east. When I found out they had acquired Curtis Granderson, I knew it was over. Then they went out and got Javier Vazquez. The Red Sox’s additions do not equal the eight wins between them and the Yankees from last year, not counting the Yankees’ improvements.

First, the Brewers rotation one through five is solid (Yovani Gallardo, Randy Wolf, Doug Davis, Manny Parra, and Dave Bush). I will just ignore Jeff Sappin’s existence. Second, the Diamondbacks rotation is not solid. Dan Haren is an ace (for half a season), Brandon Webb is already hurt, Edwin Jackson is likely to regress, then Yankee cast off Ian Kennedy and Billy Buckner is the favorite to be the fifth starter. Yeah, that does not inspire much confidence.

The offenses are washes, with the top of the Diamondbacks order being better (Stephen Drew and Conor Jackson). The offense is not solid. Dan Haren is an ace (for half a season), Brandon Webb is already hurt, Edwin Jackson is likely to regress, then Yankee cast off Ian Kennedy and Billy Buckner is the favorite to be the fifth starter. Yeah, that does not inspire much confidence. The offenses are washes, with the top of the Diamondbacks order being better (Stephen Drew and Conor Jackson).

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In the central, I was going to go with the Twins. Then the Joe Nathan injury happened, and that sent me into a bit of a spiral. I do not believe the Tigers have enough firepower to hang so that he leaves the White Sox as my pick. Hey, Alex Rios cannot be worse than he was last year, right? The AL West, aka the Angels playoff berth, has been turned upside down. This was the hardest pick for me, personally. With the Angels out (losing Chone Figgins, John Lackey, and Vladimir Guerrero then replacing them with Brandon Wood, Joel Pinto, and Hideo Matsui? No thanks), that leaves the Mariners and Rangers. This pick I change more than my NL Wild Card, but with Ian Kinsler already injured (and he will probably get another season ending fluky injury), I am going with the Mariners. Felix Hernandez and Cliff Lee are right up there with Wainwright and Carpenter. I believe in Jack Zduriencik’s master plan. For the wild card, I am going with the Red Sox. Come on, did you expect anything else? Though let me say one thing about this pick: if anything goes away with the top three (Jon Lester, Josh Beckett, and John Lackey) the Rays will pounce and snatch this away.

The teams with home field will be the Yankees in the AL and Cardinals in the NL. The Yankees will win 100+ games again, and the Cardinals have the easiest road. The Phils will make it close, but they have to see too much Josh Johnson, Tommy Hanson, Jair Jurrjens, Tim Hudson, Ricky Nolasco, and Johan Santana too much for my liking. Then there is Derek Lowe who inexplicably has a career 2.56 ERA against them. Who knew? For the NLCS, I am going to go with the Cardinals and Phillies. The Rockies have the potential to upset the Phils, especially with a healthy Jeff Francis, but the Phils are too strong offensively.

The Yankees always crush whichever AL Central team pops up. However, again, if Lester, Beckett, or Lackey get hurt, I believe the Rays will make this position just as easily. With so many storied franchises in the championship series, the World Series will have a great matchup no matter what happens. I think the Cardinals will win the NL, simply because Wainwright and Carpenter are better than Halliday and Hamels. Of course, the Cards have to hope that Carpenter has his disabled list time early in the season for this to happen. The offenses for both teams are great, but with Matt Holliday coming back, the Cardinals’ three-four of Pujols/Holliday is just as, if not better than, Utley/Howard. The surrounding offenses give the edge to the Phils, but in a battle of bullpens, I give the edge to the Cards. For the AL, and I hate saying this, but the Yankees are too strong. CC Sabathia, AJ Burnett, and Javier Vazquez (if he does not collapse in a pennant race) can hold their own against the Red Sox’s top three. The Yankees obviously have the better offense, and the bullpens are a push with Phil Hughes and Joba Chamberlain likely in the Yanks’. But the Yankees also have Andy Pettitte, who would likely start (perhaps over Vazquez, who very well could flop in New York again). On the flip side, the Red Sox have Clay Buchholz, who if he puts it together, can push this one the Red Sox’s way. This just came down to the Yankees’ big bats and the Red Sox being light hitting with little power (why they did not trade Jacoby Ellsbury after the 2007 postseason, I will never understand). For the World Series, I will go with the Cardinals winning it all. It could be said I refuse to let the Yankees win in my mind. Perhaps. It could also be said that I am buying into Cardinals hype. Again, perhaps I am. But at the end of the day, when you have the best player in baseball, a potent one/two combination at the top of the rotation, and Tony La Russa, I will buy into what you are selling. Just to finish up my thoughts on the Rays, if they make it, they win the AL. I do not know if they can compete with the Cardinals, but for the Rays to make it, that will have meant the Yanks or Red Sox are killed, which very well could put the Rays in the playoffs, after all.

This year’s rookie class is one of the best in recent memory. With Ar- oldis Chapman and Stephen Strasburg, you have two of the most hyped pitching prospects in memory. With Jason Heyward, you have comparisons being drawn to Fred McGriff. And that is just the NL. Because Heyward is going to start Opening Day and both Chapman and Strasburg will go to the minors for some tuning (though Chapman may force the Reds’ hand), he is my choice for the NL. The AL award may surprise you, but I am going with Brian Matusz. Nef- tali Feliz is the flashy name, but the Rays seem a bit content to keep him in the bullpen for some amount of time. Matusz will be a starter as long as he does not implode for the Ori-

ers love wins (see: Bartolo Colon). Linecum would not surprise me, even with three in a row, though. Hernandez will get stiff competition from Justin Verlander, Lester, Sosa, and Zack Greinke. But with the Mariners’ defense behind him, he has one of the largest margins for error, and he does not make many mistakes. This year’s rookie class is one of the best in recent memory. With Ar- oldis Chapman and Stephen Strasburg, you have two of the most hyped pitching prospects in memory. With Jason Heyward, you have comparisons being drawn to Fred McGriff. And that is just the NL. Because Heyward is going to start Opening Day and both Chapman and Strasburg will go to the minors for some tuning (though Chapman may force the Reds’ hand), he is my choice for the NL. The AL award may surprise you, but I am going with Brian Matusz. Nef- tali Feliz is the flashy name, but the Rays seem a bit content to keep him in the bullpen for some amount of time. Matusz will be a starter as long as he does not implode for the Ori-
Student Specials

Sports

Youth Impacts Crusaders Ice Hockey

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By Bruce Williams
Staff Writer

When you think of Ice hockey some names that might come to mind are Alexander Ovechkin, Sidney Crosby and Patrick Kane. All three of these players have two important things in common: (1) they are all very young, and (2) they are all leading their NHL teams in points (combined total number of goals and assists). Similar to the three all stars, Alvernia sophomore Sean Castineira was on a mission this past season, leading the team in points with eleven goals and eighteen assists. Starting when he was just 3 years old at a Rec center in Philadelphia, Sean quickly learned the fundamentals, as he built a good foundation over the years. Now that’s a tough job. In college, athletes are where they were meant to be. Parents might not always like it, but it will be the greatest memory you will ever have. Just imagine the memories of the games. Most importantly, the memories of your teammates and the fun stories will last a lifetime.

KE: You are a business professor at Alvernia as well. Do you think lessons learned while playing sports carry over to the working world?

Coach Calabria: No question about it. You know from watching me coach that I am very passionate about coaching. But honestly, I love being in the classroom even more. I have an opportunity to influence more lives in the classroom. Joanna Graber, one of my senior players, has me in class this semester. She told the team recently that she has seen a different side of me in the classroom. I found that comment interesting. Thank you Coach Calabria for sharing your thoughts and congratulations on the season’s success and best of luck next year.

I like to think of Sean as a triple threat player. He is nothing but a headache for his opposition as he can skate through anyone, score at will, and just when you think you may have stopped him, he can dish the puck off to his teammates for an easy goal. Not far behind Sean in the points category is the young, but extremely talented freshmen Kevin Mengel. A breath of “fresh” air for returning players this season, Kevin didn’t hesitate to show that he is the key for all Alvernia athletes.

What I wanted them to do, especially in the off season. The off season is the key for all Alvernia athletes.

KE: Do you feel the athletic department has enough support from the rest of the University?

Coach Calabria: Yes, I feel the administration is supportive of the athletic department. If we could get more creative with financial aid packages we might be able to attract a lot more athletes to Alvernia. We see and hear of some funny prices other colleges are throwing around.

KE: As a coach, do you feel that family and friend support is important in college athletics?

Coach Calabria: 100% support of an athlete by their families is critical. Attendance at games is critical as well. We have had a lot of supportive families over the years. Some families never missed games in 100 career games for their daughters. Now that’s support!

KE: You are a veteran coach now after so many years. What do you think is the most difficult thing young coaches face today and are you affected by the same problems?

Coach Calabria: College is different than high school. In high school, all parents complain all the time, so that’s a tough job. In college, athletes are where they were meant to be. Parents might not always like playing time for their kids, but we are trying to win games. I wanted to be a Psychiatrist when I was a pre-med student at Notre Dame. I got what I wanted. Dealing with people is what we do as coaches. It’s never easy.

KE: Is good sportsmanship a bigger problem today in athletics rather then when you first started coaching?

Coach Calabria: We encountered a very hostile fan environment at Lebanon Valley the other night in the playoffs. It got personal. When I found out about it, I was quite upset. I treasure my players and I never want to see them get hurt by some jerks in the stands. Sportsmanship has not improved over the years.

KE: What do you feel is the hardest aspect of being a student athlete today?

Coach Calabria: Time management. Being dedicated to your college work and your sport takes a lot of time. College sports are not for everyone. But if it is, it will be the greatest memory you will ever have.

Thank you Coach Calabria for sharing your thoughts and congratulations on the season’s success and best of luck next year.
The Truth “Hurts” but the Gold Feels Good

By Laura Eibisch
Contributing Writer

As the anticipation grew on the night of the Oscars, expectations faded as the awards for Best Picture and Best Director went to Kathryn Bigelow and her film The Hurt Locker rather than the world’s top-grossing film Avatar. Bigelow was the first woman to be awarded Best Director, while her production The Hurt Locker was awarded six total Oscars. The hype still lingers as Bigelow received more gold than former husband James Cameron, whose epic film Avatar went head-to-head with The Hurt Locker at the 2010 Oscar Awards.

So how did The Hurt Locker fare, with its $14.7 million gross sales, receive more awards than the $720.6 million gross-selling Avatar? Perhaps the gold statue could be credited to the film’s important and unbiased message about the war in Iraq. Bigelow became interested in creating The Hurt Locker after she discovered that screenwriter Mark Boals was going to Baghdad to plant a bomb. “And not unlike the general public, I felt fairly unaware of what was going on in Baghdad. I think it’s a war that has been under-reported in many respects, so I was extremely curious, and I kind of suspected that, providing he survived, he might come back with some really rich material that would be worthy of a cinematic translation, and that’s what happened. So then he came back and we started working on the script in 2005, raised the money in 2006, shot in 2007, cut it, and here we are” said Bigelow in a recent interview.

Many Americans have expressed the realization and the reality of war. The challenge in creating a film like The Hurt Locker is appealing to the public through a thrilling film that approaches the war in Iraq without any bias, but also shows the cruelty and the demanding condition that our troops encounter daily. Bigelow overcame the challenge to address the war by creating a very realistic portrayal of the trials of the soldiers in Iraq.

The film takes place in Baghdad, where American Staff Sergeant James and his squad are responsible for disarming bombs in the intense combat atmosphere. One delegated sergeant has the assigned task to defuse bombs as the rest of the squad scopes the surrounding area to ensure that there are no potential terrorist threats. The intensity builds as the suit-protected sergeant approaches the bombs that are buried under the ground, hidden in cars, strappled to victims, and even concealed inside a person’s stomach. The squadron faces many deadly challenges as it completes its mission to not only disarm bombs but protect its members while undergoing oncoming fire from terrorists.

The environment of war involves one repeatedly being exposed to the death of those around him or her, and the horrific mental scars that come with viewing such terrifying experiences. Bigelow addresses this emotional impact by depicting the mental weight that one soldier faces after he is told to clean the blood off of the bullets so they will no jam the machine gun. Do not be surprised if you do not recognize any of the cast members of The Hurt Locker. The Oscars normally go to the films with big name casts, but Bigelow stayed away from the familiar actors to add to the sense of reality. The film just would not have had the same effect if George Clooney were the sergeant who disarmed the hidden bombs. The questions of how Bigelow’s film will be received, or how Cameron’s Avatar are still circling, but there is no doubt that the movie is a thrilling production that is sure to leave the viewer at the edge of his/her seat as the war in Iraq becomes very real and extremely intense. “If The Hurt Locker is not the best action movie of the summer, I’ll blow up my car. The movie is a visceral, exciting, adrenaline-soaked tour de force of suspense and surprise, full of explosions and horrific scenes of combat, but it blows a hole in the condescending assumption that such effects are just empty spectacle or mindless noise,” said A.O. Scott of The New York Times. So whether it be the realistic, emotional, and thrilling message of the film, the non-star cast, or just the fact that it is an all-together good movie, Bigelow should be proud of her accomplishments; perhaps her ex-husband shares her pride.

Boondock Saints 2 Not As Good As Original

By Angela Miller
Entertainment Editor

The long-awaited sequel to the Boondock Saints finally hit DVD stands on March twelfth. Nothing about the movie had changed—not the director, not the writer, and definitely not the actors. But even though the Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day has its redeeming qualities, it is still not as good as the first. Then again how many sequels do manage to surpass the original? The Boondock Saints 2 follows the MacManus brothers, Murphy and Connor, as they emerge from hiding to eliminate everyone involved in their favorite priest’s murder. The city remains divided when it comes to the ‘saints.’ Because the priest died in a similar way to the saints’ other victims, it is easy to see why people think they have returned. However the murder of their beloved priest was just a ploy to get the saints to come back—and it worked.

Detectives Dolly, Duffy, and Greenly are investigating the priest’s murder. They are accompanied by Special Agent Eunice Bloom, the protégé of Paul Smecker, to investigate the death of the priest. At first the detectives are not too keen on having a Federal agent working with them, but like Smecker before her, she is smart and very helpful to the investigation. She seems to know all of Smecker’s tricks from the last movie. However Special Agent Eunice Bloom is not as good as Paul Smecker from the original film. This is one way in which The Boondock Saints 2 suffers. Another liability of the movie is the saints’ new sidekick: a Mexican fighter named Romeo. The director has regretted killing off Rocco, the original sidekick to the MacManus brothers, but it had to be done because of budget and casting problems. While Romeo has his own perks, he is not as cool as Rocco was. Murphy and Connor pick on him just as much as they did with Rocco, and, like Rocco, Romeo takes the criticism from the brothers with his own smart comments. However one of the best moments in the movie is the interaction between Rocco, Murphy, and Connor through a dream. The MacManus brothers seem to get back to their old selves with the help of Rocco even though he is gone.

As the movie progresses the audience learns that Concezio Yakavetta, the son of Giuseppe “Papa Joe” Yakavetta, is behind the priest’s murder. He wants revenge for the way his father was executed during his trial. Murphy and Connor start at the bottom working their way up as they learn new information from their victims. There is a dramatic twist at the end of the movie when it is revealed that Paul Smecker faked his own death in order to provide support for the saints and their work. Smecker has every intention of breaking Murphy and Connor out of prison. The brothers know their work is not done, and this leaves room for another potential sequel.

The Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day is a good movie to watch with friends. It has some funny sequences, but it seems to be a different kind of humor from the first movie. It may not offer the same comedic effects as the original film, and this shift may be one of the reasons why The Boondock Saints 2 does not come close to surpassing the original Boondock Saints.
Death Returns As Main Subject In April

By Angela Miller
Entertainment Editor

While it was a relief to avoid the subject of death in movies, sadly the death trend has resurfaced again, including classic horror remakes and tales of battling gods and titans. Movies coming out in April range from comedies to horror films, and look to be promising, but looks can be deceiving.

Clash of the Titans comes out on April 2nd in both 2D and 3D theaters. The story follows Perseus on a quest to save his family from Hades, the god of the underworld. Without his family, Perseus has nothing left to lose, so he volunteers to lead a dangerous mission to defeat Hades before he can seize power over Zeus and ultimately destroy the world. With his band of brave warriors he sets off into forbidden worlds to battle beasts and demons alike. The only way he can survive is to accept his power as a hero and create his own destiny.

On April 30th another remake of A Nightmare on Elm Street will be released into theaters. It is the classic horror tale of Freddy Krueger, a horribly disfigured killer who terrorizes a group of teenagers in their dreams. There is no escaping Krueger in their dreams; the only way to protect themselves is to stay awake. As with all horror movie remakes, this could be a hit or miss, because while there may be a lot of gore for fans, they may miss the true horror behind the tale.

Even though action and horror movies are dominating this month, it is important to point out at least one non-death related movie. Coming out on April 9th is Date Night, which stars Jason Bateman and Tina Fey. They play a married couple who finds their routine date night becomes more than just a dinner and a movie. It is hard to predict whether or not this movie will be good because there is not a lot of information out for it, but the comedic talent of Carell and Fey almost always bodes well.

Coming to DVD in April is The Lovely Bones. The movie did not exactly make a big hit in theaters, but those who liked it can get their hands on it in late April. The Lovely Bones is about Susie Salmon, a young girl who is raped and brutally murdered by her neighbor. Susie watches from heaven as her family begins to fall apart under her father’s obsession to solve her murder. She must decide to either help them or just watch from afar, as her family falls apart under stress.

Another DVD release to look for is The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus. It is about Doctor Parnassus, who had made a deal with the devil to remain young and is cursed to live forever. As part of the bargain Parnassus promised the devil his first son or daughter on their sixtieth birthday, and now his daughter, Valentina, is rapidly progressing to the doomed age. In order to try to save Valentina, Parnassus holds a competition to see who could seduce five souls in the Imaginarium. Unforeseen events happen to complicate the competition; secrets and lies are revealed. Movie and DVD releases are at a minimum this month. It seems all the exciting and long-awaited movies came out in March, but nevertheless there are still some things to which to look forward.

Dodgeball Tournament Delivered Good Time

By Michael O’Boyle
Staff Writer

On Sunday, February 21, Alverniania had the 4th Annual Dodge Ball Tournament. The tournament was run by the Sport Management Association’s Chris Brent and Ryan Lineaweaver. The tournament was for a good cause, as the money collected from the tournament went to the the Alvernian Helping Haiti fund. The participating teams paid a dollar per person to enter the tournament and there were also opportunities to give additional cash donations to the Haitian relief effort.

There were eight teams participating in the double elimination tournament, and there were four referees helping out. The eight teams were SGA, The Super Heroes, 204, H.I.Vicious, On the Fly, The Baseball Team, The Basketball Team, and Nerney’s Spot, (named after Alvernian men’s basketball player Brian Nerney).

There is no better way to experience the Dodge Ball Tournament than to take part in the action. The tournament kicked off with SGA taking on The Super Heroes and Nerney’s Spot ironically taking on Brian Nerney and The Baseball Team. The second set of games had On the Fly taking on H.I.Vicious. The next game featured the defending 2009 Dodge Ball Champions, The Baseball Team, taking on 204.

After a few games, the teams started to get knocked off. SGA was the first to exit courtesy of Nerney’s Spot, followed by On the Fly. There were two more elimination games as The Basketball Team and The Baseball Team awaited for their semifinal opponent. The Super Heroes were knocked out, along with Nerney’s Spot, losing to H.I.Vicious.

All of this paved the way to the two semifinal matchups, where The Basketball Team would face off against 204 and The Baseball Team would take on H.I.Vicious. In the semifinals The Basketball Team advanced with ease and while The Baseball Team struggled a little bit early on, it managed to advance past H.I.Vicious. This set up a best of three series between The Basketball Team and defending champions, The Baseball Team.

In the championship game The Baseball Team took the first of the best of three series and were one win away from winning the Dodge Ball Tournament yet again. The second game started off as a pretty even contest, but as the game wore on, the arms of The Baseball Team started to overpower The Basketball Team. As the final match neared the end, The Basketball Team was left with one person, Matt Colombo, who is not a basketball player but a soccer player for Alvernian. Travis Berger, the host of the tournament, found this very amusing but The Baseball Team was too much for Matt Colombo. The Baseball Team would win game two and be crowned as 2010 Dodge Ball Champions. The Dodge Ball Tournament turned out to be a great event for the night. The teams enjoyed the competition and the fans enjoyed watching everyone get hit by the flying balls.
Remember Me: A Great Movie For Boring Days

By Michelle LaFaver
Contributing Writer

According to the Mayan calendar, the world as we know it will experience a radical evolutionary shift during the winter solstice of the year 2012. Some prophesize the physical world will be destroyed and the date of 12-21-12 may signal the end of days. In the vision of Roland Emmerich, director of such sci-fi thrillers as Independence Day and The Day After Tomorrow, the world will experience an apocalyptic disaster of epic proportions. However, there may be hope for all humanity if the world and its collective peoples can overcome moral turpitude.

This film opens in India, where a geophysicist working at the Naga Den Copper Mine makes a startling discovery. Huge solar flares are affecting the Earth. Neutrons have mutated into a sort of nuclear particle and are changing the temperature of the earth’s core. This information is provided to Dr. Adrian Helms who takes it back to Washington and advises Carl Anheuser, the President’s Chief of Staff, played by Olivier Platt, of the impending doom. Set in motion are a series of events that uncover corruption and governmental cover-ups around the world. Enter Jackson Curtis, played by John Cusack, a famous science fiction novelist with a part time job as a limo driver, two children, and an ex-wife he still loves. On a camping trip with his children to Yellowstone National Park, he encounters the seemingly crazy conspiracy theorist Charlie Frost who contends that the world is coming to the end of days. Charlie believes the leaders and wealthy of the world have been building space-ships in China, which will allow them to escape the doomed planet. Curtis comes to realize this is true when the children of his employer, the Russian billionaire Yuri Karpov, tell him they have tickets for a big ship on which they will live and he will die.

The ensuing progression of this film chronicles the heroic acts of those trying to survive the imminent destruction. As the world begins to crumble, choices are made regarding who has the right to continue to exist. The human race encounters moral and religious challenges that define world civilization and history. 2012 brings to light the failings of humanity what we should strive for as a collective people. Do not wait to love your family, make peace with those you have wronged and live life to the fullest. Appreciate what you have and remember that money is not everything. Lastly, have faith and cultivate a relationship with the Divine. At the end of days, faith may be the only thing of value left.

This film is a definite must with the Divine. At the end of days, faith may be the only thing of value left. This film is a definite must with the Divine. At the end of days, faith may be the only thing of value left. This film is a definite must with the Divine. At the end of days, faith may be the only thing of value left. This film is a definite must with the Divine. At the end of days, faith may be the only thing of value left. This film is a definite must with the Divine. At the end of days, faith may be the only thing of value left.
By Angela Miller
Entertainment Editor

The movie so many people anticipated, critics and audiences alike, has finally made its debut in theaters. *Alice in Wonderland* was very well received by audiences for its memorable characters, its solid storyline, and the excellent acting.

Alice in Wonderland

was thought always soothed Alice's mind. Alice must slay the Jabberwocky on the fast pace part of your life. Do not realize you have more money then before and go blow all of your money. Just remember summer is a couple months away. Do not be so uptight about things. Certain things can be a great month to start cleaning out and throwing out those properties. If it begins to be enough don't be afraid to not go to certain outings.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): - During this month you may feel that you have taken on too much. This would be a great time to reflect on the jobs that you have taken on and reflect on the impact it is having on you life. If you can not handle it all, let go of the most important and don’t worry no one is judging you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): During this month your social life is going to become very active with lots to do. However, do not let this take away from your school work or other properties. If it begins to be enough don’t be afraid to not go to certain outings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is the month to take risks. See where this can take you. During this month, do things that you never thought you could do before. Taking risks is not always a bad thing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This is a great time to explore new options, and to go out on new adventures. If your hobbies include drawing or even writing this could be a very creative time for you. If writing is your passion try to get one of your books published.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do not be so hard on yourself this month. Allow mistakes to happen because that is the only way that you are going to grow. This will also be a good month to learn that always being on your self is not a good thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): During this month relationships are sure to blossom. This could be either friendship relationships or romance relationships. Do not try to stop this from happening. But remember money can not buy friends or romance, so keep a close eye on your spending throughout the month.

Horoscopes

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your attitude this month has definitely gone in the positive direction. Keep this up through the month and you will be in a great place both mental and physical. With the positive attitude your friends will also see a change in you and it will be on that they love.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is the month to let your hair down. Do not be so uptight about things. Certain things are going to happen no matter what so just let them happen.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Life for you this month is headed in the fast lane. This may be hard for you to get used to at first but just know that you will be able to keep up with it. Because of this, make sure you write everything done so that you are able to accomplish everything during the fast pace part of your life.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you are not close with your family, this is a great month to make that relationship stronger. In return your family life will become more positive for both you and your family members. Also this may be a great month to start cleaning out and throwing out those items that you no longer have use for.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): During this month your finances will be in better shape then they have been previous. Do not realize you have more money then before and go blow all of your money. Just remember summer is a couple months away.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): This is a very upbeat time for you. Many great opportunities are going to be coming your way. Do not back down from any job offers you may receive. The more you receive during the month the better.

Alice in Wonderland Blows Audiences Away

By Vanessa Policare
Advertising Editor

Alice and her mother are attending a party for Alice’s engagement to a Lord Hamish. However when Hamish finally asks the question Alice runs away to chase a white rabbit she has been seeing. She finally catches up to it as it reaches the rabbit hole, and as she peers down it collapses sending Alice down the hole. When Alice comes to she is convinced she is dreaming because dreams cannot turn a person small and a cake does not make a person huge. The white rabbit and some old friends are watching as Alice tries to figure out her new situation, but they are not sure if this is the ‘right’ Alice because she appears to have forgotten Underland (also known as Wonderland). Alice soon learns about what has happened to Underland while she’s been away. The Red Queen has taken over and is ruling with an iron fist. Creatures inhabiting Underland are being taken prisoner and forced to follow the Red Queen. Absolom, the caterpillar, reveals to Alice that she is the White Queen’s champion, and Alice must slay the Jabberwocky on the Frabjous Day. However Alice refuses to believe she can slay anything, and is still convinced that she is dreaming.

It is not until she meets the Mad Hatter that she starts having doubts that she is dreaming. Hatter gives Alice more details about what has happened, and the two become great friends. Once the Hatter is captured Alice stops at nothing to try and rescue him, and along the way she obtains the Vortap Sword, the very sword she needs to defeat the Jabberwocky.

Chessur, the grinning Cheshire cat, saves the Mad Hatter and the door mouse from execution while Alice races to the White Queen’s castle.

There Alice accepts the fact that she is not dreaming and that she is the chosen champion to defeat the Red Queen once and for all. So she fights the dreaded Jabberwocky and decapitates it. Order is restored as the White Queen is crowned once again, and the Red Queen is banished with the Knave of Hearts.

Alice in Wonderland provided several funny moments, but it was more Gothic than anything. Tim Burton’s interpretation of Wonderland and its memorable characters made this a phenomenal movie. Even Johnny Depp’s portrayal of the Mad Hatter worked, and there should not be too many complaints about his character. Overall it is a movie worth seeing, maybe even a few times, because there will most likely be something one always misses.
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