

Xavier Review

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Economic Crisis Hits New York: Jobs Lost, Stores Close, Music Industry Hit



Conor Casey
Co-Editor in Chief

Across the United States, 2.6 million jobs were lost in 2008. The unemployment rate for this year is already over eight percent. With a little over 300 million people in the country, that's over 24 million people without a job. In August of last year five percent of the people in New York City did not have a job, and it is now 7.4 percent. That's over half a million people without a job.

Many of the jobs lost in recent months were temporary jobs and retail jobs, a number that will likely increase in the wake of major store closings and massive capital losses in the city. Close to Xavier, Au Bon Pain, a highly popular breakfast and lunch stop for Xavier teachers, has also closed.

Also near Xavier, more stores popular with Xavier students and faculty have been affected by the economy. Virgin announced in January that the Times Square Virgin Megastore would close in April, leaving many briefly relieved that the Megastore located on 14th Street in Union Square would stay. However, last month Virgin ended their attempt to remain a physical presence in New York as a music, movie, and video game store. The Union Square store is scheduled to close at the end of May.

All Virgin Megastores locations in America to close by summer.

This comes in the wake of Circuit City closing all of its U.S. outlets after filing for bankruptcy and Chapter 11 protection. Circuit City was another big presence on the south side of Union Square, right next door to Virgin Megastore. Once the second largest consumer electronics retailer, the store had seen significant losses in sales over the last year and a half, making it one of the largest casualties of the recession. Virgin, itself in financial troubles, has acknowledged that all Megastore sites in America will be closed by this summer.

The loss of Circuit City is also a result of Best Buy overcoming it in sales due to lower pricing. But the survival of Best Buy does not mean a reprieve for the ailing music and record industry. The Virgin Megastores have the largest physical catalogue of music, allowing for unknown artists as well as ones already enjoying market success to gain more exposure and CD sales. As these stores shut down, companies such as Universal Music Group, Time Warner Music Group, and Sony Music are likely to see significant losses in the sales of CDs, as well as other electronic media and hardware sold through the dying stores.

Weakened Music Industry Further Damaged by Financial Crisis

This loss of availability in the physical market for music pushes many to online sources, both legal and illicit. On the closing of the Virgin Megastore in Union Square, one Xavier student commented, "If I was bored on a day with nothing to do I might go to Virgin. I don't usually buy music, but if I did it would be a CD I got on a day hanging out in there [Virgin Megastore]." Another student commented he finds it easier just to download music off of torrents, files on music sharing sites containing free music from a vast array of artists. These downloads, including the increasing use of iTunes to purchase music legally and more cheaply without actually buying CDs, have hurt CD sales.

Whether this is progress for the music industry, the process is undoubtedly injurious to their profit, and music companies, along with all other stores, are now trying to maneuver through the dangerous economic climate. People are upset about the loss of the Megastores, but they are also trying to survive the recession, and their drive to survive is what ultimately brought an end to these stores. These factors will give rise to the shape of business operations for the music industry determining any future presence in retail.



Louisiana Underdog Hits Hard at the White House

By Conor Casey
Co-Editor

On February 24th, 2009, one of the greatest political orators of modern America gave a landmark speech that in no uncertain terms addressed the many problems Americans now face as a nation. At a time when many Americans are looking for moral and intellectual leadership, this decisive, uplifting firebrand's rise through the ruinous labyrinth of American politics has made the young age with which he achieved success even more impressive.

What would America do without Bobby Jindal?

With the country apparently suffering on a national scale from a serious case of the vapors the GOP was faced with the task of calming down the hysterical nation. Problematically for the party, all of their major leaders have a distinct 19th century patriarchal robber-baron vibe. Following President Barack Obama's failed drunken wedding-toast of a speech to Congress and the senate, Jindal showed up with the answer.

The grassroots, southern Governor of Louisiana. The man with the drawl. The immigrant's son, and he's a Republican too. He's been the gun on the mantle place for the Republican Party for the last several months as they struggled to come to terms with the country's sudden and frightening desire for "change." Now, fully loaded with the Republican platform, Jindal blew classical American ideology in the faces of the business-as-usual politicians and The Media, showing them what hope really means in this time of big spending and big, impending government control.

As a fresh face in America's notoriously diverse political spectrum, Bobby had to lay down his credentials. He started by addressing the new standards that permeate the current political climate by addressing one major issue in the minds of Americans, health care, and one major issue in the minds of guilt-ridden Republicans, immigrant heraldry.

As always, he addressed these issues with his famous southern wit, saying, "Like the president's father, my parents came to this country from a distant land. When they arrived in Baton Rouge, my mother was already 4½ months pregnant. I was what folks in the insurance industry now call a "preexisting condition". A reference to deadly corruptions in the



Bobby Jindal - "the face of the new Republican party."

health care industry and immigration. Clearly, the face of the new Republican party was up on the issues, and ready to delve in. But first, story time!

Jindal recounted a tale of his father taking him to a grocery store as a child where the Young Bobby's patriotism first began to bud. Looking at the shelves upon shelves of food, Bobby's Indian father told him "Bobby, Americans can do anything." Seeing his father, who lived in a nation wrought with abject poverty, come face to face with a representation of American consumerism and food hoarding was a humbling experience for Bobby. It formed his philosophical view of America.

Well, not actually. In fact he didn't really mention much about his parents after this point in the speech, or explain how their unique view point on American life might have helped to cultivate any sort of divergent or original point of view. That's the kind of stuff Obama would pull. What Bobby knows is that immigrants are in, and like a pair of rimless Armani Exchange sunglasses that only the rich kids can afford, Bobby wants you to know he's got a pair too.

After that quick, nostalgic view of his father through the lens of an idealistic immigrant that has undying admiration for American culture, Bobby got back to business. On the Republican Party, he stated, "We [republicans] stand for universal access to affordable health care coverage. We oppose

universal government-run health care. Health care decisions should be made by doctors and patients -- not by government bureaucrats." See? Bobby does have an answer to the many problems Americans have with modern health care, including the denial of service by coverage carriers he alluded to earlier in the speech. What Americans need now is not government rescue, but to rediscover why they fell in love with their profit driven HMO's all those years ago.

Really, Americans are suffering a crisis of philosophy. While Obama seeks to impose a Court of the Star Chamber system where corrupt government workers administer death to patients behind locked doors for whatever nefarious, evil reasons government does things, Bobby Jindal remembers that what Americans really want is the watchful, familiar invisible hand of the market to protect them from danger. People seem to have forgotten that this hand has been what kept this country safe and prosperous for the last two and a half centuries, excluding a few minor transgressions (The first and second national bank, The New Deal, the progressive move-

ment, Civil Rights laws, other mistakes).

So, Bobby Jindal is an immigrant's son. And he's a republican, a governor, and a capitalist, and he wants the American people to know that the GOP is ready to adjust. It knows that America has needs. It also knows that she's a little fickle, but it can forgive that, and it's going to let her have her fun with her new president, who isn't half the exotic foreign son that Bobby Jindal is anyway. Well, okay half, but still that's a fifty percent profit if they take back the Republicans.

When America gets over this exotic phase, she will remember that the Republicans have been the ones who always had her back. Obama's such a negative guy anyway, Bobby said, "A few weeks ago, the president warned that our nation is facing a crisis that "we may not be able to reverse." Our troubles are real, to be sure. But don't let anyone tell you that we cannot recover -- or that America's best days are behind her." Who wants that kind of downer in their life? America knows she can do anything she wants to, and she doesn't need some father figure bossing her around, telling her not to stay out late, or not to blow all her money on daiquiris and gambling in Vegas. It's her money; she can do what she wants with it.

So, America, if you want change, vote for Bobby Jindal in 2012. When the next presidential election comes along, if he's still peddling the same stuff, it will be a real 180 from the presidency we have now.

THE XAVIER REVIEW

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All Safe as US Airways Jet Crashes into the Hudson River



Peter Orphanides
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Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger salutes to the flag, just as many saluted him for his heroic landing.

In the late afternoon on January 14, 2009 in New York City, a US Airways Jetliner lost power in both engines after taking off from La Guardia Airport carrying 155 passengers on board as both its engines failed. The engines were allegedly blown out by a flock of birds striking engine causing them to catch fire. Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III, 57, smoothly landed the jetliner in the icy Hudson River, and all on board were rescued by a flotilla of converging ferries, emergency boats, and life preservers, according to reporters and authorities.

What looked like a catastrophe in the making was averted by the pilot's quick thinking and adroit maneuvers. As the stunned witnesses and authorities all gaped at the heroic performance of the pilot, all would agree it was nothing short of amazing. Witnesses and reporters described this event as an absolutely epic performance.

On board, the captain, Chesley B. Sullenberger, unable to return to the airport, made a rapid decision to avoid densely populated areas and immediately attempted an emergency landing in the Hudson River. When word was given to passengers that both engines had gone out, Captain Sullenberger warned the 155 people to brace hard and prepare for a harsh landing. As most of their heads were down as the jet headed for the Hudson, the only thing they could do at that point was to remain calm, sit still, and to say one last prayer. All of this occurred just about three minutes after the jet took off on what was supposed to be a flight to Charlotte, North Carolina.

Most passengers on board and spectators around the city were stunned to see the aircraft stay afloat as it hit the water. Instead of immediately sinking, the aircraft floated and drifted along on the strong southerly currents of the Hudson River. As three New York Water-

way commuter ferries moved in, horrified passengers immediately began storming out of the emergency exits.

The scrambling passengers exited the aircraft as soon as possible and swam for their lives in the ice cold water. As the first ferry nudged up alongside, witnesses said that some of the passengers were actually able to leap onto the decks and others were able to jump onto life boats without assistance. Soon afterwards a small group of police boats, fireboats, tugboats and Coast Guard craft converged to the scene in order to rescue additional passengers.



news.bbc.co.uk

Over the next hour or two, as a mesmerized city watched live television reports of the dramatic event all afternoon, all of the passengers, including the pilots and flight attendants, were transferred to the rescue boats. The pilot, however, walked up and down the aisles several times looking for stray passengers before finally evacuating the plane.

Brought ashore, the survivors were taken to the neighboring hospitals in Manhattan and New Jersey, mostly for treatment of hypothermia and overexposure to the brutal cold. There were few injuries and many were treated at hospitals, but there were no fatalities which some would consider a miracle.

Wrapped in coats and blankets, the survivors were walking along the shore waiting for family and friends to arrive. Some were upset, scared, and discouraged, however some were smiling and eager to give interviews to the mobs of reporters and television crews that had stormed onto the scene.

"We've had a miracle on 34th Street," Governor David A. Paterson said at a late afternoon news conference in the city. "I believe now we've had a miracle on the Hudson. This pilot, somehow, without any engines, was somehow able to land this plane, and perhaps without any injuries to the passengers. This is a potential tragedy that may have become one of the most magnificent days in the history of New York City agencies." Mayor Michael Bloomberg had also arrived at the scene and said the pilot had done "a masterful job."

W. Douglas Parker, Chairman and chief executive of US Airways, and officials of the Federal Aviation Administration said that Flight 1549 had taken off from La Guardia at around 3:26 PM, bound for North Carolina. As it headed north, across the East river, en route to Charlotte, the aircraft seemed to have stumbled across a flock of birds which blew out both engines, losing power within a few minutes of the flight. All conclusions about the cause of the failed engines are yet to be drawn from examination of the airplane.

F.A.A records showed that the aircraft involved in the crash had made two other emergency landings in the past ten years. On February 2, 2002, the pilot spotted a fire which caused an emergency landing and on June 23, 2003, the faulty landing gear of the plane caused yet another emergency landing.

Tom Fox, president of New York Water Taxi said that it was ideal for the plane to land on the water. "It couldn't have gone down in a better location because there are so many water-borne assets there," he said. "The pilot must have been both talented and charmed," said Fox.



Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Stephan D'Urso
Staff Reporter

St Patrick's Day dawned with great promise as a beautiful day for a parade. Indeed, the sun shone brightly on a huge crowd of spectators lined up on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan to view the spectacle. The Xavier Regiment and the famous Blue Night Band lined up anxiously at 11:00 on East 44th Street, eagerly anticipating the Command "Forward March!" from the Regimental Executive Officer, John Pusz. At about 11:45, the Regimental Color Guard stepped out smartly onto the most famous avenue in New York City, and the crowd roared its approval!

In front of St Patrick's Cathedral, Cardinal Egan reviewed the troops and paused to accept the greetings from the Regimental Executive Officer, Father Gatti, Mr. LiVigni, and LTC Campbell. Egan joked that he may have had a little something to do with the glorious weather for the parade.

CDT/MAJ Nick Pope led the First Battalion, and CDT/MAJ Jeff Wilson led the Second Battalion. Shouts of "Go Xavier" and "Sons of Xavier" could be heard from both sides of this grand avenue from 44th Street all the way to 86th Street near the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Father Gatti greeted well-wishers along the route with greetings for a "Happy St. Patrick's Day," and Mr. LiVigni and LTC Campbell greeted the exuberant New Yorkers as well. Father O'Brien and Mr. McKinney marched alongside the Regiment and enjoyed the beautiful weather and the large crowds as well.

Cadets called cadence to keep the units in step. Matt Blanco, William Pepe, Chris Corrado, and Joe Rinaldo did a superb job keeping the cadets lined up properly and in good military discipline as they marched up Fifth Avenue.

The Rifle Team was led by Kevin Taub, and the Raiders were led by Francesco Piccione. The X Squad performed gallantly as they dazzled the onlookers with their patented Rifle Precision Drill routines.

Finally, the Blue Night Band, under the direction of Dr. Pace, brightened the spirits of cadets and onlookers alike with their stirring rendition of "Sons of Xavier!"

Xavier has participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade for almost 100 years, and is already looking forward to next year's Parade with hopes that the weather will be equally cooperative!



First Battalion stands "at parade rest" on Fifth Avenue.



The Regiment diligently waiting for the command to continue marching.



Shane Lonergan leading Xavier's Raider Team.



Extracurricular Activities: Beneficial or Destructive?

By Jack Raisch
Associate Editor

It seems as though there are not enough hours in a day for commuting, school, clubs and sports, homework, and not to mention, sleep. This makes the average Xavier student ask himself, "Are the clubs and sports really worth it?" Some clubs and sports require less dedication than others, while some are daily endeavors. With commuting, school, and homework, it can be difficult getting the eight and a half to nine hours of sleep we need each night. Now imagine adding extracurricular activities, which can increase the strain on the student's schedule each day. I've asked a few members of Xavier's faculty and student body what their thoughts on the subject are.

Mr. Stevens, once a Xavier student and a member of the Xavier Knights, is now a teacher and coach. He knows personally the dedication it takes to be on the football team. Stevens spoke about the academic standing of his players during the season and he claims that the players do better during football season. The usual case, Coach Stevens explains, is that they have less time to spare so they use it more efficiently. "Their motivation comes from two things: one, they don't want to let their teammates down, and two, they represent something when they are on a team."

Academic achievement is the main thing colleges look for, but demonstrating an interest in other things is also seriously considered by college admissions committees. Any club or sport can help someone get into a college. Ms. Happel, moderator of Student Activities, says that clubs that require a lot of dedication like stage crew,



Students who are involved in sports like football, usually do better in season than out of it.

student council, and yearbook, just to name a few, help in the admissions decision. In addition service trips, language clubs and clubs that



Michael Powis shows that dedication to schoolwork is a Xavier student's top priority.

emphasize writing such as the Review or The Lexicon also help. Mr. Harkness says that "Colleges want to see students engaged and active in their school. Colleges can tell when clubs are being listed just to give the impression that the applicant is really involved. When dealing with colleges, the phrase 'quality over quantity' is important when deciding to join an activity."

But is there such a thing as too much? Of course there is. All the teachers and the Dean of Academics agree that, although it is important to become involved in school, clubs can wear a student down. Ms. Happel advises, "Start

with two clubs, find out if you can balance them well, and if you want to, you can try for another club. Some people get over involved. Something will always slip when this happens." Mr. Harkness agrees and advises that students try to be on one sport, one club, or two clubs.

A rough estimate of the number of students involved in sports is one-third of Xavier's student body. The percentage of students who become ineligible for extracurricular activities due to academic failure is just below eight percent. The reason that this percentage is so low is that, as Mr. Harkness puts it, "Students communicate with each other on a team and realize that they can help each other." If students are in fear that they will become ineligible for sports, they should talk to their teammates and ask how they are successfully managing sports, clubs, and school.

Ms. Kennedy-Orlando, moderator of several different clubs including book club, photo club, and drama club warns that even though most students do better in school when they are involved in sports and clubs, everything comes down to the individual. It is important to know oneself before joining a club, to reflect on whether you work well under time constraints, and to know the level of pressure caused by the team, sport, or activity. Ms. K-O knows from experience some tricks to work more efficiently. "Sometimes I come home and I am tired and just want to rest. In these cases, I do what I can and go to bed and try to work early in the morning."

Regarding schoolwork, senior Christopher Duffy who is on varsity golf and track suggests. "Generally, extracurriculars help you concentrate because you have pressure from your coaches to do well academically and on the field. The key is not to procrastinate and do work as soon as you get home."

So, show school spirit and join a club other than the 2:35 club. It helps in the formation of lasting friendships, developing talents, and it might even land you a better grade.



Members of the Dramatic Society in this year's production of Dracula



Jonathan Goodwin: The Next Houdini?

Andrew Lacqua
Staff Reporter

He is a man who can escape unscathed from anything. His audacity and fearlessness help him accomplish some of the most dangerous and unrealistic challenges known to man. People who have witnessed his amazing feats have claimed that he is "superhuman." His name is Jonathan Goodwin, and he is the reason why they say, "Do not try this at home!" In his new show *One Way Out*, airing on the Discovery Channel, he will test his skills in different scenarios each week.

The science of escape and the art of ingenuity gets put to the test as escapologist Jonathan Goodwin attempts to break out of bizarre and unsafe homemade contraptions. In his line of work he has to be ready for **anything**—flaming dumpsters, angry ostriches, and human slingshots. The scenarios that he faces may seem far-fetched, but he can escape from anything.

So why do you think Goodwin puts himself in danger trying to escape from different situations? When he was seven years old he read a book about Harry Houdini and truly inspired by his magical works and what he was able to escape from. He decided from then on to teach himself the mechanics of locks and the types of ropes that are best to escape from. After many years of practicing and eventually mastering all the tricks, he realized that



Jonathon Goodwin is the reason they say, "Do not try this at home!"

the tricks that Harry Houdini did were actually just cleverly disguised tricks. He felt like he had wasted his time. He learned how to do all these things when, in fact, the guy he modeled himself after had used trickery to accomplish his feats.

The years passed, Jonathan got his degree in drama and theater and moved to London. There he worked for a production company which made a one-hour special with an escape artist. This experience reawakened his desire to perform and be an escape artist. From then on, he decided to devise his own stunts and contraptions and post them on YouTube. All the videos he posted quickly became popular and were put on television.

Since becoming a full time escape artist, he has found the opportunity to escape from many scenarios which have greatly increased his skill. He has been hanged, buried alive, put into a box with two hundred thousand bees, and sealed in a tank with freezing water. Keep in mind that he does not use trickery and that this is the real deal. Anything can go wrong. He will get into trouble in order to learn how to get out of it.

Jonathan Goodwin loves the thrill of what he does and can now test his skills and show everyone what he can in his new show. He is always trying to find new and extreme ways to put his skills to the test. It may look like fun and games, but there is a lot that can go wrong when there is only *one way out*.

The Two Days the Earth Stood Still

Brian Hurley
Staff Reporter

On September 28, 1951, a new film was released in theaters that took the United States by storm. *The Day the Earth Stood Still* is the granddaddy of classic sci-fi films. It is enjoyable to anyone who is a classic sci-fi lover, from beginning to end.

It is about a human (or so we know) named Klaatu, who comes down from his planet to save us from ourselves. He wants to stop all our wars, not for our sake, but to prevent us from extending our war-faring into the reaches of space. Klaatu is denied the privilege of seeing the world's leaders, which makes him unhappy, so he goes into hiding. He befriends a boy who shows him around the city of Washington, D.C., and meets a scientist who aids in his quest for world peace.

Despite Klaatu's "peacefulness," he uses his "bigger sticks" in order to get the people to listen, including shutting off the electricity around the world and deploying his robot companion Gort, a famous symbol of the 1950s, who shoots lasers which can, "destroy our tanks and guns."

There is also the famous command, "Klaatu Berada Nikto," which for all the viewer knows is an alien phrase that makes Gort rescue Klaatu

and resurrect him if he gets killed. Aside from this, Klaatu gives Gort many other commands, such as, "Beringa." Again, it is really just gibberish meant to sound extra-terrestrial.

The film was controversial for the time. Every actor in it faced blacklisting due to what people thought were communist overtones. Also, upon analysis of the movie, many people have compared Klaatu to Jesus Christ. As ludicrous as that sounds, it is visible if analyzed more thoroughly. Klaatu comes down to spread a message of peace which ultimately

leads to his death, but he is resurrected and gives his message to the world, and finally ascends back to space. Despite all these obvious overtones, it is still an enjoyable movie and it is highly recommended to anyone who is a fan of sci-fi classics. I give it a 4.5 out of 5 Gorts.

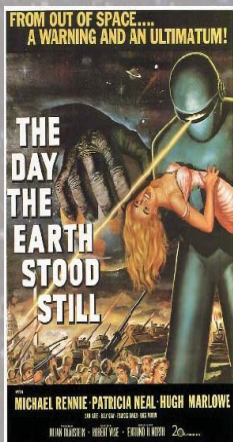
This year, Hollywood found it absolutely necessary to unleash a remake of the film. The remake, which starred Keanu Reeves, was released on December 12, 2008. Reeves, in my opinion, was appropriate for the

role. Though remakes tend to try to change many aspects of the original, not so many things were changed around in this one.

The film has a similar plot, and even keeps many of the same dialogue sequences. With this said, they still changed some things around: some features of the plot, some of the characters, and the music were changed. Even the message of world peace was changed into global warming. Yes, aliens come down to stop global warming. Gort does not play as much as an important role in this one.

This movie's plot structure is similar to that of an episode of *Seinfeld*. Klaatu is plot A, while Gort is plot B. Gort is also CGI. It is not the worst CG ever featured in a movie, but it is not pulled off completely. Speaking of special effects, some of the effects in the movie do not even seem very space alien. You never see the spaceship; instead it is covered by a light and some green gas orb. There are also other green gas orbs which come up from the Earth and take two of each animal into space (again with that religious symbolism). Then, weirdest of all, Gort turns into mosquitos and flies around disintegrating human structures. The movie got fairly poor reviews, but as its own individual creation, it was a decent movie. It has some great special effects and it is in no way cliché. It is important to mention, also, that

the film had no ending to it. I give it 3.5 Klaatus — along with a copy of *An Inconvenient Truth*.

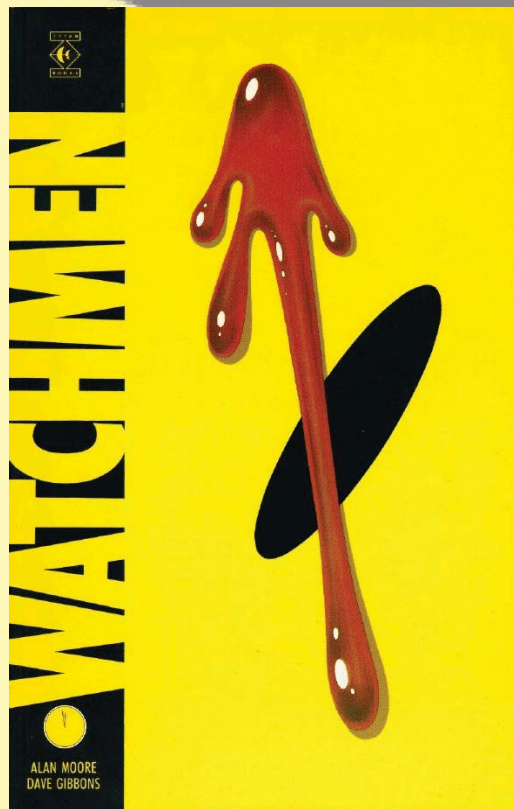


The 1951 original of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*



The modern day remake of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*

Chelien Brown Watches the Watchmen



Chelien Brown
Assistant Editor

Director Zack Snyder takes on one of the most complex comics of all time with his film adaptation of the infamous *Watchmen* series this month, but he doesn't do the series justice for the most part. As many fans had anticipated, the story that even the graphic novel's creator Alan Moore had felt was too lengthy for the silver screen did not make the transition nicely. In its film form, *Watchmen* struggles under the weight of its critically acclaimed predecessor and barely stays afloat with the help of monstrous production values. Even without the foreknowledge of what goes on in the comic book it is obvious that the story unfolding in the movie theatre was never meant to be told in two hours.

Unlike comics like *Spiderman* and *Batman* that can be summarized in four or five pivotal scenes, *Watchmen's* more substantial content is spread throughout the entire publication. Its appeal stems not from intense physical action but mainly from the intricacy of its characters and the turmoil of the terror ridden world that they live in. The couple of hours that the film spans are just not long enough to make anyone care about the heroes in the way that the

twelve issue comic did. Snyder does make an attempt at remedying the situation with scenes constructed to illuminate the murky pasts of the heroes but aside from The Comedian (played by Jeffrey Dean Morgan, believe it or not) and the coverage of his life, which much of the movie consists of, these do not have the same lasting effect as the original. Fans of the series will have a much easier time seeing past this since they know how everything is supposed to turn out, but most others will feel left in the dark and won't see the point of the hype.

Snyder also remains faithful to the series in other areas of its content, including his incorporation of the more mature subject matter, but with mixed results. The movie's cast is truly emblematic of his commitment to telling the story right with each actor suiting their character well. Nite Owl, played by Patrick Wilson, Ozymandias by Matthew Goode and Silk Spectre by Malin Akerman each feel portrayed in a way that is true to the original work. Jackie Earle Haley does such a fantastic job as Rorschach that his voice will most likely become the standard in the minds of most readers and Billy Crudup's Dr. Manhattan, while digitally rendered, captures the brilliance of the character with his cold logic and reason driven per-

sona. The action scenes are a brutally detailed and amusing part of the mix, with time slowing down, just as a man's arm is broken, so that no part of the gruesome display is missed.

Dr. Manhattan's telekinetic abilities are even more terrifying in real time and Rorschach's ink blot mask migrates perfectly to the big screen. The fast-paced battles do add to the excitement of the film but they are few in number and don't serve as a substitute for the hastened plot very well. Oddly enough, Dr. Manhattan's nudity is much more appropriate than some of the other features of the film. The major sexual scene between Nite Owl and Silk Spectre is horribly done and outweighs a lot of the good that the movie had. There is almost nothing that could have been done to make the film any worse than the addition of this scene, with its grade school innuendo and sub par acting. Snyder was on a decent path until this misconceived bombshell completely disrupted the film and afterward made it nearly impossible to take seriously.

Squid or no squid, *Watchmen* lacks the sophistication of the graphic novel and doesn't offer very much to the average moviegoer who hasn't read the original. Anyone who missed the comic book or has a low tolerance for gaudy displays of affection shouldn't expect much.





Slumdog Millionaire Wins Big at the 81st Oscars



Frank Terrone
Staff Reporter

The Oscars are eighty-one and this year was a big year in the movie industry. All of the movies nominated had big chances of winning, but only one can win in each category. The biggest winner was *Slumdog Millionaire* this year. The movie won eight awards. Did your favorites win? Here's a complete list of the winners in each category:

A big surprise of the night was the winner for Actress in a Supporting Role, Penelope Cruz, in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*. This was the first award of the night and was presented by the past five actresses to win this award. The winner for Writing (Original Screenplay) was Milk. The writer of the screenplay, Dustin Lance Black, gave a moving acceptance speech saying, "But most of all, if Harvey had not been taken from us 30 years ago, I think he'd want me to say to all the gay and les-

bian kids out there tonight who have been told they are less than by their churches, by the government or by their families, that you are beautiful creatures of value."

Slumdog Millionaire took home its first award of eight when it won Writing (Adapted Screenplay). *Slumdog* went on to win Sound Mixing, Cinematography, Film Editing, Music (Score), Music (Song), Directing, and Best Picture. Disney's *Wall-e* took home best Animated Feature Film. *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* won the awards for Art Direction, Makeup, and Visual effects. Funny men Seth Rogen and James Franco were feature in a skit showing the best comedies of the year. Later the two presented the award for Short Film (Live Action). The winner was Jochen Alexander Freydank, for his movie *Spielzuegland (Toyland)*, but James Franco butchered the name prompting his buddy Seth Rogen to burst into laughter on stage.

The Dark Knight won the

award for Sound Editing. Fans of *The Dark Knight* feel it was overlooked because of its action genre. The movie's star performance came from the late Heath Ledger, and that was recognized when he was given the award for Best Supporting Actor. His mother, father, and sister accepted the award for him formally but the award was eventually given to his daughter, Matilda.

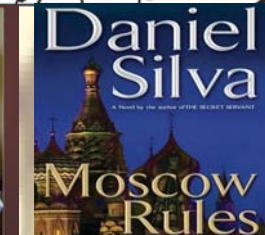
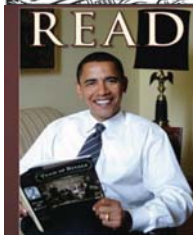
The award for best actress was presented by the past five actresses to win the award. Kate Winslet took home the award for her performance in *The Reader*. While Kate Winslet may have beat out Meryl Streep for Best Actress, it was Streep's 15th Oscar nomination, a record. The award for Actor in a Leading Role was given to Sean Penn for his performance as Harvey Milk, in *Milk*. The Super bowl of the movie industry is now over, so congratulations to the winners and good luck to the movies that will come this year.

Television Gets a Facelift

Richard Armstrong
Staff Reporter

In the United States, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requires full-power stations to turn off analog channels around the country. Due to this, many people are transferring to digital television on June 12th, 2009. Two positive aspects of the digital television transition are a better picture and improved sound quality. Also, digital is much more efficient than analog. For example, analog television only has one choice of quality, while digital television has a choice of super sharp "high definition" digital program or regular "standard definition." Both of these types of televisions go through a process called "multicasting". Multicasting allows broadcasters to offer several channels of digital programming at the same time. And one thing people must keep in mind is that it is the cable box that gets changed, not the television.

Also, everything you have used with analog television such as DVD players VCRs, and video game consoles may still be used. Only the analog television cable box must be switched to a digital television cable box. People can order coupons for converting to digital television. These coupons are provided by the government to cover any costs associated with switching the cable box to digital.



Join Xavier's Book Club! March's Book: Moscow Rules by Daniel Silva

Bowling Team Has Another Successful Season

Steve Sidoti
Sports Editor

The bowling team entered the 2008-09 season with expectations of being a contender. Despite a coaching change, and the loss of key seniors, the Knights felt there was no reason why they could not win games and succeed.

Former coach, Mr. Cicalese coached the team for the previous four years. He decided to leave this summer, leaving the job to his former assistant coach, Mr. Fong. Mr. Fong graduated from Xavier in 1995 and was a member of four successful bowling seasons as a player. He had a knack for the sport and was passionate about it.

Despite the past success of the bowling team, some would characterize Coach Cicalese as more of a moderator for the team. He made sure things were in line, and that the kids were given a chance to play a

sport they loved. But hey, the record speaks for itself.

Fong made an immediate impact with the team, with motivational speeches for both the JV and Varsity teams. Fong was tested early in his new role, when Varsity freshman phenom Dwanye Adams was forced to sit out due to academic ineligibility in October. He would miss the remainder of the season, and his absence was felt throughout. Fong made sure the team had his back, and they would play out the year as a team. From that moment on, the Knights stuck together and were able to put on a successful run. Good chemistry and respect for one another would turn out to be a building block for a 58-2 season. In bowling, the record works in a point system. In a two game format, if you sweep both games, you are awarded 5 points. If you win a game, it is 2 points, and if you take the total pin count, it is 3 points.

The Knights rolled into the playoffs and played with the intensity and grit that got them there. First they took the divisional title for the Bronx/South division and then went on to win the archdiocese title consisting of all teams from Manhattan and the Bronx. They closed the season finishing fourth in the cities. The team was led by Senior Captain Frank Finn, and juniors Michael Kaye and Mike Trizzino.

Despite not winning the championship, the Knights looked back at a terrific season. Senior Captain Frank Finn will leave a good team next season and hopes to continue playing the sport.

"No regrets," said Finn. "I had a great time with my teammates. Unfortunately we were not able to win a city championship, but I am still proud of what we accomplished."

Finn may decide to play at

St. John's University in Queens next season, but is still weighing his options.

The team will be in current junior Michael Kaye's hands next season, as he is likely to take over Finn's role as a senior. Kaye played the role of right hand man to Finn this season, and the two were a big part of the success.

"He (Kaye) has a lot of talent and knowledge of the game," said Finn. He is definitely a committed kid and I know he will do a good job at leading."

All in all, it is evident that the team played well this season and will continue to do so for years to come. Coach Fong proved he could handle the job and solidified the spot by making sure his players stayed competitive. It was an excellent season run by the first time head coach.

Sports SuDoku Yankees Edition

Christopher Chavez
Assistant Editor

Fill in the boxes so that the nine columns, the nine rows, and the nine 3x3 sections, so that all of them contain every number from 1-9. In this edition the numbers are represented by the player's jersey number. Ex: Billy Martin-1, Derek Jeter-2, Babe Ruth-3, Lou Gehrig-4, Joe DiMaggio-5, Joe Torre-6, Mickey Mantle-7, Yogi Berra-8, and Roger Maris-9.





Xavier Freshmen Win Sectional Championship for First Time in Meet History

David Campmeier
Staff Reporter

On January 25th, at the 168th Street Armory the archdiocese championships was held. Under the diligent coaching of Mr. Dormer, Mr. Verlezza, Mr. Noga, Mr. Ianuzzi, and Mr. Subramany, the Xavier freshmen dethroned Fordham Prep as freshmen sectional champions. In order to achieve the sectional championship title, the freshmen had to earn more points than the other teams in the meet by placing first, second, third, fourth, or fifth in any race. The section includes teams from Westchester, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island.

The freshmen were led by Meet MVP Gabriel Spooner and John Maiocco, they scored and medaled in events. Gabriel Spooner earned the title of Sectional Champion and medaled in the 55 meter dash with an impressive time of 6.9 seconds. He also earned the Sectional Champion title and medaled in the 300 meter dash. He also set a personal record with another impressive time of 39.6 seconds in beginning heats of the dash and 39.5 seconds in the final. He set a new Xavier record in the 300 meter dash with his blazing times. The former record was set by Vincent Esposito in 2007 at 41.12 seconds.

Not to be outdone, teammate Jonathan Koonce, took the title of Sectional champion, medaled, set a personal record and set a Xavier record in the 400 meter (quarter mile) dash with an outstanding time of 56.0 seconds. George Acevedo ran a solid time at 2:23.1 taking 6th place in the 800 meter (half mile) run and John Kane ran a 12:07.7 in a grueling 3200 meter (2 mile) run and took 7th place. John Maiocco became the newest member of the "sub 5 club" running a 4:56.9 mile in the 1600 meter run. He took second place and set a personal record.

The freshmen team also competed aggressively in the relay events. The frosh, a team for the 4 200 meter relay were able to gain a position in the final heat of the relay event by running an remarkable team time of 1:48.7. In the finals, the "A" team comprised of Francis Arigo, Phillip Arvanitis, Jake Busuttill, and Devon Sheehy ran a team time of 1:46.7, came in 2nd place and medaled. Xavier continued to impress with its "A" team's amazing Distance Medley

Relay. This relay was made up of an 800 meter run, 200 meter dash, 400 meter dash and 1600 meter run. Dmitri Zuccarello set a personal record in the 800 meter leg of the relay running a 2:29.9. Phillip Arvanitis ran a 26.6 in the 200 meter leg and Jonathan Koonce ran 56.1 in the 400 meter leg. John Maiocco ran an especially impressive 1600 meter leg at 5:08.9. The "A" team medaled and took the Sectional Champion title.

O'Brien at 36'5", and DellaFera at 35'10". Gino Giglio medaled and took the title of Sectional Champion. In the triple jump, Jake Busuttill jumped 35'3.25" to medal, set a personal and Xavier record, and took the title of Sectional Champion. Nicholas Aguilera took 6th place in the triple jump and set a personal record with a jump of 29'11". In the high jump Domenic DeNiro and James Kondrat both jumped 5'0" tied for second. Ales-

ter dash. The Junior weight 4 by 800 meter relay medaled and took 2nd place. Nicholas Barr, Shiv Patel, Joseph Cipolla, and Keith Tiu ran a total team time of 11:15.8. In the Midget 800 meter relay George Farrell, Sean McCarthy, Yuki Nakamura, and Francis O'Sullivan ran a team time of 2:07.0 and took 6th place. The Junior weight class 800 meter relay teams the A team, PhuocTan Truong, Keith Tiu, Mithuun Kanapathipillai, and Shiv Patel ran a team time of 2:00.7 and took 4th place while the B team Lorenzo, Matthew Gelling, Patrick Frankowski and Nicholas Barr took 5th place and ran a team time of 2:06.3. In the field events, Francis O'Sullivan took the Sectional title and medaled in the Junior Weight shot put, throwing 29'5".

In the Varsity events, Jordan Elie-Vieux ran the 3200 meter run. He took fourth place and ran a time of 10:06.9, setting a school record. In the novice 1600 meter run, Juan Martir, Ivan Caesar, and Thomas Conroy took 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places respectively. Juan Martir ran 5:00.9, medaled and set a personal best. Ivan Caesar ran 5:02.1, medaled, and set a personal record. Thomas Conroy ran 5:02.7 and set a personal record. In the relay events the "A" team of the Varsity 4 by 800 meter relay run by Brian King, John Bruno, Santo Machiavelli and Jose Miranda ran a team time of 8:39.8 and took 6th place. In the Varsity field events, Keith Mesidor jumped 19'11" in the long jump, taking 3rd place and medaling. Keith Mesidor also took 6th in the triple jump jumping 39'5.5".

All in all Xavier had an excellent day, winning a total of 27 medals. Many school and personal records were set. Ten Xavier runners earned the title of Sectional Champions. Freshman John Maiocco joined the ranks of the coveted sub 5 minute mile club and Gabriel Spooner was named Freshman Meet M.V.P. For the first time in the history of the greater New York City section, Xavier freshmen won the Sectional Championship meet!



Keith Mesidor sets a school record in the Triple Jump.

The Xavier freshmen hurdle crew ran noteworthy times in the finals of the 55 meter high hurdles. Led by freshman Domenic DeNiro the freshman took 2nd, 5th, and 6th place in the 55 meter hurdles. DeNiro ran 9.7 seconds in the opening heats of the race and ran 9.9 in the finals. He took second place, medaled, set a personal record, and set a Xavier record. Fellow hurdlers Giancarlo Schillaci and James Kondrat took 5th and 6th places respectively. Giancarlo Schillaci ran 10.4 and set a personal record in the opening heats and ran 10.6 in the finals.

The freshmen also took the field events by storm. In the shot put, Gino Giglio, William O'Brien, and Nicholas DellaFera all set personal records; Giglio at 49'11.5",

sandro Dicesa in the high jump jumped 4'8" and took 6th place. Finally in the pole vault Nicholas Avila vaulted 9'6" took second place, set a personal and school record and medaled.

The Freshmen track team in total, won 18 medals, and seven freshman won the title of Sectional Champions.

Xavier also competed in the Weight Class Sectionals and Varsity Sectionals. Jethro Abraham medaled and took 2nd place in the sub midget 55 meter dash, running a time of 8.0 seconds. In the Junior weight class 55 meter dash PhuocTan Truong took 5th place with a time of 7.8 seconds. Al Dalton took 5th place with a time of 73.9 seconds in the sub midget 400 me-





Competitive Eating... Is this Really a Sport?

Chris Chavez
Staff Reporter

would only be seen in school cafeterias or at county fairs, but over the last couple years, competitive

be shown to the next generation of Americans. In a recent interview with

muscles to cooperate more consistently. I can do a practice twice a week if my body recovers quickly.

Have you ever gone to a pizzeria because you were so hungry that you ordered four slices? Then you finish your first slice and wonder how in the world you are going to finish the rest of them? Well, try having to eat forty-five sixteen inch slices in ten minutes. A man by the name of Joey Chestnut has done it. Welcome to the world of competitive eating, where the size of a person's stomach is about ten times the size of their brain.

Competitive eating is considered a sport to some people. Other people define a sport as an activity in which you do exercise and burn off calories. Competitive eating definitely does not fit that description. In fact the point of competitive eating is to do the opposite: get fat and lose weight later on. Some people believe that this "sport" is the reason that sixty-four percent of adult Americans are obese. Health officials are also sharing their concern for competitive eaters. They say that many eaters have trouble keeping their weight under control after a competition; for example, a competitor might gain ten pounds. The next week they have lost those ten pounds and are training for another event. Doctors say that this constant shift in balance and in weight could have long-term and dangerous effects on the body.

It started off as an activity that



www.npr.org

A competitive eater gorges himself in order to be the next champion.

eating has made its presence known as it has grown in popularity due to sponsors and growing television coverage. CNN, the Today Show, Sports Illustrated, and ESPN are just some of the big name sponsors have helped competitive eating extend to new fans. ESPN broadcasts the Nathan's Hotdog Eating Competition live from Coney Island on July 4th. Newspapers like the *New York Times* also cover competitive eating events.

The message that the sport is trying to send with all this media coverage is a message that can be taken in two different ways. Some people might see the sport as a fun activity to watch and to talk about. Other people delve deep behind the media coverage and take a look at the sport from a different point of view. They see it as a very dangerous sport that shouldn't

www.thestreet.com, Joey Chestnut, the world's number one ranked eater, describes his work method and his training for a big competition. "I go for days of fasting, drinking large amounts of water and liquids, and to practice contests every week. I've been training for over a month for the [Krystal burger] contest. For [Nathan's Fourth of July Coney Island] hot dogs, I train for three months. Last year, my record was 103 burgers. In practice, I've gone up to 114. Part of practice is getting my

And every time, I push myself farther. In between practices, I fast, have a minimum calorie intake and protein supplements. I am trying to maintain a healthy weight. As soon as I gain weight, I slow down. I train like a weight lifter. Every time you lift weights, you push your body to the limit, hit a failure point, and next time you can push your body farther."

Eating one hundred and fourteen burgers in practice may not seem like a lot to the man who has the world record for 7.05 pounds of chicken wings in twelve minutes, 59 hot dogs in ten minutes, 8.6 pounds of asparagus, and many more.

There are many other records around the world that have a shot at being broken. Sometimes you might look at a record like 80 chicken nuggets in five minutes and say, "Hey, I think I have a shot at beating that!" So, you make your way to the nearest McDonalds and try and make an attempt at the record. After the first 20, you realize how much of a spectacular feat it is to set a record in competitive eating. Competitive eating truly is a sport that you can just sit back and watch. The only word out of your mouth watching someone like Joey Chestnut break a record is... "Wow."



Joey "Jaws" Chestnut shows off the hot dogs he will devour at the Nathan's Hot Dog Center.



This competitor looks hopeless as hot dogs quickly fill his stomach.



Xavier Basketball Peaking at the Right Time



Senior Steve Olliver looks forward eagerly, confident in what he does best.

Dylan Kitts
Assistant Sports Editor

Peaking. In any sport, it's a phrase referring to the time when a team is playing its best. Although coaches want the best out of their team every night, coaches fear that a team's peak may not come at the right time. Luckily, for Xavier head coach Joe McGrane, his team is peaking at the perfect time: the last month of the season.

Ever since the Knights' loss to CHSAA "A" City Champion Bishop Ford on January 19th, the team has won five of their last seven games, including victories over division rivals La Salle, Fordham Prep and Cardinal Spellman.

The beginning of the season was dreadful. After their 25 point win over Scanlan in their season debut, the youthful Knights played a lackadaisical and undisciplined brand of basketball, leading them to a long losing streak.

It was a losing streak so long that it lasted nearly a month, starting on December 12th with a heartbreaking loss to La Salle (9-9, 8-8) and ending on January 6th's disappointing loss to "A" doormat Cardinal Spellman (3-13, 1-11). During this period, the Knights underperformed in their 61-54 loss to St. Edmund's Prep (5-15, 2-13)

and their 61-44 loss to Fordham Prep (11-10, 8-6) – two of their worst performances of the season.

"Consistency has been a problem all year," McGrane said. "Certain games, certain quarters we have played very well and in other games and quarters, we haven't."

The team awakened from their coma on January 9th against archrival Regis, defeating them 66-41. Although only their second win of the young season, this gave the team something else they desperately needed: confidence.

"The guys were down during that losing streak – myself included," senior Chris Coyne said. "We were amped up for that game and it got us going. We realized the potential we have and got confidence as a result."

Three days prior, Xavier was injected with something else they desperately needed: sophomore Eddie Sullivan. The point guard practiced with the team during the pre-season and made his varsity debut versus Spellman on January 6th. Despite his inexperience, he has helped the Knights every way imaginable. Offensively, he's relieved some ball handling responsibilities from Coyne, enabling the senior to curl off more screens. He also brought a fresh, hardnosed brand of de-

fense, allowing McGrane to assign Sullivan the opposing team's best player.

What has been most impressive about the sophomore has been what doesn't show up on the stat sheet: intangibles.

"Eddie leads the team in intangibles," McGrane said, "Whether it's loose balls, deflections, steals, or charges. It's helped tremendously and brought some life to the team."

Ever since the call-up, the Knights are 7-5.

Heading into the playoffs, the team is considered a sleeper. In what is a parity-laden division, any team is capable of making a run to the final four. In order for Cinderella to dress in maroon and blue armor, the team will need one thing: post scoring.

All season, scoring from their forwards has been sporadic. Without a threat in the paint, opposing teams will linger around the perimeter, limiting space for guards Coyne, Sullivan, Billy Hunter and Tom McNoble.

"We need some consistent post play because our guard play has been pretty good. When we get consistent post play, we are pretty effective," McGrane said.

Although still a question mark, the team's confidence is at an all-time high.

"We realize we have the potential to play with anyone," Coyne said. "The guys are learning that we are out there to have fun. When you have fun and you're loose out there good things happen. ... We definitely can surprise every team in these playoffs."

That's one of the benefits of a team playing at their peak.



Senior Christopher Coyne