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New Golf Course pg. 2



Movie Reviews pg. 8



Basketball pg. 10

We Shall Overcome: Martin Luther King Peace March

David Santiago
Opinions Editor

Diversity seemed to be the atmosphere as Methodist University students and staff of many different races turned out for the Peace March held in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The March took students and staff through some key moments in Dr. King's life, career as a minister, and the civil rights movement.

This march was primarily thought up by Tanya Davis, director of Residence Life and Associate Dean of Students. According to Davis, the idea originated from the practice of earlier universities she worked at. About six years ago, the first Peace March was held, but there was very little turnout. The Peace March was not attempted again until this year.

"Six years had rotated a whole group of students out and regardless of how many people turn out, he (Dr. King) deserves to be recognized and I am concerned about his memory disappearing," said Davis.

In contrast to six years ago, Davis was very pleased with the turnout this year and felt that it made an impact on those who attended. The march ended near Chris' House where students held a candle vigil while listening to Dr. King's famed "I Have a Dream." Students were then invited to sign the



Both students and faculty walk for the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace March. Photo courtesy of Tiffany Nabors

poster and wear a yellow ribbon, both symbolizing a commitment to carry on Dr. King's vision.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on Jan. 15, 1929. By the age of 24, he was an ordained minister of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, in Montgomery, Alabama. It was there where he was first noticed for rebelling against Jim Crow laws in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. He was instrumental in the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and was an advocate of non-violent protest. His insistence on non-violence remained crucial to the movement. He delivered several speeches, the two most famous being "I Have a Dream" and "I Have Been to the Mountaintop." Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.



Participants hold signs displaying events in Martin Luther King Jr.'s life.

Photo courtesy of Tiffany Nabors

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small TALK

Opinions.....5

Super Wal-Mart.....3

Entertainment.....7

Sports.....10

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PGM Makes Big Purchase

Ashley Young
News Editor



A shot of King's Grant Golf Course.
Photo Courtesy of King's Grant Golf Club Website

It looks like there are going to be more a lot more golf bags seen around campus. Approximately 90 days ago, a member of the PGM program approached Gene Clayton, the vice president for Business Affairs, and told him that the King's Grant Golf Course was up for sale.

"I don't know if we need another golf course," said Clayton when thinking about the purchase initially.

However, after further thought and discussion with the president and others at the university it was decided that the purchase of the gold course might not be a bad idea after all.

The PGM program will increase the number of PGM students attending Methodist and the money made from their tuition will pay the mortgage on the golf course. The final price of the golf course has not been decided yet because the univer-

sity is still under negotiations with King's Grant Golf Course. A decision should be reached by the end of this week.

Melissa Jameson, director of University Relations, said the golf course is, "A good purchase for us. The PGM program helped Methodist University to grow, nurture, and gain a learning experience."



Photo of King's Grant Golf Course.
Photo Courtesy of King's Grant Golf Club Website

What is Taking So Long with the Fitness Center?

Ashley Young
News Editor

Apparently there is a lot of confusion about the due date of the fitness center. The actual contract with the builder does not put the center being completely finished until the first of March.

Original estimates proposed that the fitness center would be opening by the end of this month. However, due to weather conditions, electrical

problems and other issues beyond the builders' control, the grand opening is now scheduled to be the middle of February.

The main issue causing the delay in the fitness center's opening is the floor. From Monday, Jan 15, it can be estimated that there will be one month before the fitness center officially opens due to the fact that the floor must be "climatized," or prepared for its environment.



Inside of the new fitness center.
Photo by Margina Coccozza Bendana



Outside of the fitness center.
Photo by Margina Coccozza Bendana

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smallTALK is the student-run newspaper of Methodist College. It is published every other week throughout the school year. The newspaper is editorially independent of Methodist College, and any ideas and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the faculty, staff and administration of Methodist College.

smallTALK welcomes Letters to the Editor. All letters should be delivered to the Student Media office on the first floor of Bern's Student Center or sent via e-mail to ashgenova@yahoo.com. Story suggestions should be sent to the same address.

Students are free to join smallTALK at any point in the school year. Meetings are every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Heritage Dining Room.



Felecia Nieves won a laptop after she entered a drawing for taking her yearbook picture. Congratulations! Photo by Tiffany Nabors.

New Police Chief at Methodist

Ashley Young
News Editor

"I absolutely love it," says Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police Dawn Hamerea when speaking of her new position at Methodist.

Hamerea was hired in the original police force, and started working at Methodist in July. However she did not take on the position of police chief until former Police Chief Saunders announced his retirement on Nov 30.

Hamerea has been active in the process of hiring the new police force and assessing the current procedures taking place at Methodist. She is working with the new policies that have taken place since the on campus police force was reactivated. Hamerea is also working with the budget and other various things which are associated with changing from a college to

a university. "I'm looking forward to developing a department of a crack team of professionals!" said Hamerea.



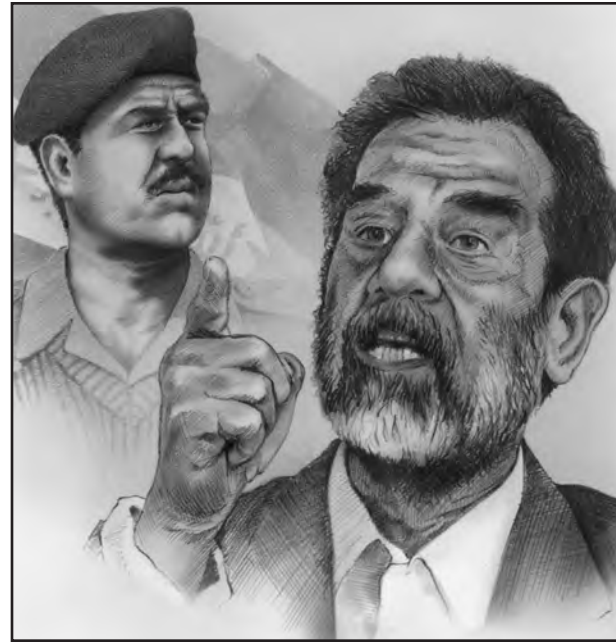
Dawn grins outside of Berns.
Photo By Ashley Young

Saddam Hussein Executed

David Santiago
Opinions Editor

S a d d a m Hussein swings his way into the news one last time. The former leader of Iraq and convicted war criminal was executed by hanging on Dec. 30 2006. He was tried by an Iraqi tribunal and the execution took place at 6 a.m. (10 p.m. ET). Hussein was offered a hood, a long standing custom of hangings, but refused.

Born on April 28 1937, Hussein took power on July 16, 1979, and maintained his position through brutal force and



A sketch of Saddam Hussein. Courtesy of MCT Campus

mock elections until the US invasion in April of 2003. He went into hiding, but was in De-

ember of that same year.

After a lengthy trial he was convicted of crimes against humanity. While the charges against him were many, the main event that sealed his execution was the 1982 killing of 148 Shiites in the town of Dujail.

While civil war ensues in Iraq, many predict this execution may heighten the violence. U.S. troops are on high alert.

Saddam Hussein was buried in his birthplace of Al-Awja in Tikrit, Iraq. He was buried near family members, including some of his sons. He was given all the customary burial rites of Islam.

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Wonderful World of Wal-Mart



A Wal-Mart Supercenter sign announces the store is open 24 hours. Photo courtesy of Bergdahl Photo Webpage.

Ashley Genova
Editor-in-Chief

The Ramsey Street Wal-Mart is about to be super-sized.

Monday, Jan. 22, a new Wal-Mart Supercenter will open its doors. This Super Wal-Mart will replace the old store located on Ramsey Street.

The new location is closer to Methodist, next to the Ramsey Street Pizza Hut and Taco Bell. The new Wal-Mart will feature a drive-through pharmacy, a gas station, and a

Subway restaurant. Like other Super Wal-Marts, this store will be open 24 hours.

David Santiago, a religion major, said, "I think its great because if I wake up at 3 in the morning and need soda, toilet paper and a can of paint I can go over to Wal-Mart and get it."

Byron Lowe, a resort management major, said, "I am pleased that there is an available Wal-Mart in close proximity to Methodist University available at one's leisure."

Fitness Fad

Robert Perez
The Orlando Sentinel
(MCT)

A new physical-fitness fad is taking college campuses by storm, with participants bouncing off the walls — literally.

Parkour, an import from France, is a graceful race through urban settings, where runners vault, climb and careen their way along, letting no obstacle stop their progress.

Traceurs, as participants are called, leap over walls, slip through railings and even dive through open windows. Think Jackie Chan, without the violence.

Its appearance at the University of Central Florida ranges from late-night runs through campus, caught on video posted on YouTube, to impromptu practice sessions near the campus theater by a group calling itself Renzhe Parkour, Urban Ninjas.

A growing network of Central Florida traceurs are turning up on blogs and parkour Web sites, all looking for the same thing: a place to run.

Renzhe Parkour member Justice Maynard learned to bounce, jump and throw himself off the ropes in the professional-wrestling ring, and those moves are coming in handy in his newest pursuit.

"It's a form of self-expression," said Maynard, 35. "You have a set of basic movements. You learn the basics and tweak them to fit you."

Parkour, from the French parcoures for journey or course, is relatively new in the United States, but it has been popular in Europe for more than a decade. A sign of its move toward the mainstream is the growing number of corporate sponsors for exhibitions, including Adidas, Nokia and Foot Locker.

In the latest James Bond movie, "Casino Royale," moviegoers get an eyeful of extreme parkour in the opening eight-minute action sequence. Bond chases a bomb-carrying terrorist, who scrambles up a high-rise construction site, balances along two construction cranes, then leaps from cranes to nearby rooftops.

Renzhe Parkour is one of the few organized parkour groups in the South. Last month, the six-member group was a finalist in a Yahoo-sponsored online talent contest — not for the sport, but for its video. One of 5,000 entrants, Renzhe Parkour produced three, three-minute

clips. One showed members racing over the UCF campus, bouncing through a playground and ending up at Lake Eola in downtown Orlando.

The group traveled to New York in early December to produce a new video for the Yahoo contest.

Though it didn't win the \$50,000 first prize — the winner was a San Diego-based singer — members are excited about the widespread exposure.

"All we wanted was the exposure," Rob Ray said. "We got a free trip to New York, and got to meet the other finalists."

IT'S ABOUT MOMENTUM

Parkour, which dates to the late 1980s, was founded by Frenchman David Belle, who was influenced by martial arts, gymnastics and military-obstacle-course training. But for Belle and many of today's enthusiasts, parkour is more than a physical endeavor.

To hear Maynard and other members of Renzhe Parkour tell it, parkour is as much a philosophy for life. Parkour constantly challenges individuals to overcome their fears and to take risks.

"It's not about strength," Ray said. "It's about momentum and getting over yourself."

"Everything becomes a challenge," Maynard said. "You make your body do something you didn't think was possible."

Parkour can be dangerous, especially for beginners. Advanced traceurs leap from rooftop to rooftop and scramble down sheer walls. That is why Maynard and others stress learning the basics first, such as how to land and roll.

"You have to take it in baby steps," he said. "There's no testosterone involved. It's not a competition."

Kris "Rice" Kropfelder, 26, adds, "It's about repetition, not competition."

The noncompetitive nature of parkour appeals to those seeking a physical and emotional outlet, Ray said.

"Unlike competitive sports, you're fighting against yourself, your fears," he said. "It's a new battle every day."

Kropfelder and Ray say the free running also is a great stress-reliever.

"It helps you reconnect with your childhood," Ray said. "I'm 27, married, I've got bills and debt. But for four hours, twice a week, I can be a kid again."



Pharmacy Students Get Dose of Reality

Debbie Kelley
The Gazette
(MCT)

When Al Lodwick graduated from pharmacy school in 1965 and got a job as a pharmacist, all he was allowed to do was give people the right medications.

"We weren't allowed to discuss their medications with them. If they asked us questions, the law required us to tell them to talk to their doctor," said Lodwick, who runs St. Mary-Corwin Hospital's anticoagulation clinic in Pueblo, Colo.

Now, pharmacists are often the first to hear questions about minor ailments, chronic conditions and other health concerns.

The trend has led to a growing movement to train pharmacy students in the field.

The School of Pharmacy at the University of Colorado's Health Sciences Center in Denver is expanding its efforts to get students working as interns in pharmacies across Colorado, and university officials are eyeing possibilities in Colorado Springs.

Students at the School of Pharmacy spend one afternoon a week for three years and the entire last year of the doctor of pharmacy degree by the side of pharmacists who work for hos-

pitals, community health centers, community pharmacies, national pharmacy chains and community organizations.

"We've begun to recruit placements for students on a more aggressive basis and are finding communities that want to provide more service to customers or even start new programs," said Chris Turner, director of experiential programs for the School of Pharmacy.

The work students do is commensurate with their level of schooling. First-year pharmacy students, for example, may go to elementary schools to talk about the principles of a healthy lifestyle and nutrition. Second-year students are trained to give immunizations with pharmacists who run flu-shot clinics.

"By the time they get to their final year, they've been places and done things. It's a world of difference from the old way, when they went out only minimally, and it was a passive mode of standing, watching and learning. Now, they're expected to be active," Turner said.

Each year, eight students in their final year of school are sent to each site for six weeks. Some students are able to help launch and staff new programs, such as chronic-disease management, Turner said.

"We don't set ourselves

up to be in competition with anybody — we work with local physicians and other health care practitioners, who refer patients to the pharmacy for self-management education," he said.

Students can work one-on-one with people with diabetes, for example, to help monitor their medication, diet and exercise, Turner said.

The program is unique, he said, adding that he expects it to become a model for other pharmacy schools.

"Our school has taken an aggressive stance and said each student in the program should be given direct patient care acuity," he said.

Lodwick said the experiential program has benefited his anticoagulation clinic.

"We get students in their last year of pharmacy school — at least their sixth year of college — so they are really good workers," Lodwick said.

He supervises two students at a time to draw blood and test it in the clinic. Students learn to adjust doses based on the results.

"It allows me to almost be in two places at the same time because they can test one person while I'm looking at the results. It's a huge win-win situation," he said.

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Opinions

Remille's Rhetoric

Remille Shipman
Sports
Editor



I'm excited to say that I'm glad that a new semester is upon us. Seniors are anticipating their upcoming graduations (mine will occur in May, if everything goes as planned). Plus, I'm looking forward to the upcoming spring sports season. At least, I and the athletes that have a stake in their particular sport are looking forward to it.

It's a painfully obvi-

say, creative in their support of Monarch football and basketball. Former smallTALK writer Dante Alvarado wrote a column about the subject of fan censorship. The football team has seen increased fan support in the last

two years. I know this from experience; last year I joined several then-seniors in toting around a green fence and imploring the Monarch defense to make the key stops on the field.

But I currently feel that the amounts of fans that are really passionate about Methodist athletics are few and far between. We as students have long maintained a reputation of not possessing school spirit, and I



The King roars to cheer the football team on. Photo by Spencer Hardwick.

ous fact that the vast majority of students here at Methodist aren't really the rowdiest bunch of sports fans in America. My three years of attending Methodist sporting events have shown me that students tend to take the "wine and cheese" approach when it comes to supporting Monarch athletics, especially at football and basketball games. I wouldn't call our students apathetic, but I wouldn't call them the loudest or spirited fans either.

Over the years, I have seen several fans that have been known for being, let's

know this reputation has been existent here even before I arrived in 2004. But I believe that reputations can always be changed with a little bit of work.

With that said, I challenge every Methodist fan to be more raucous and more passionate in their support of Methodist athletics. Go paint your chests or create signs or yell your lungs out. Maybe a bunch of kids can get together and emulate the Cameron Crazies at the few remaining basketball games that we have left. I know that this isn't Duke or Notre Dame, but college should be the best four years of your life. Being more spirited will only add to the good times.

A Voice From The Wilderness

David Santiago



This article began the night Saddam Hussein was executed. I find myself looking on this with mixed feelings. The humanitarian in me wants to say no, but the humanitarian in me is also telling me he deserves it for what he did to humanity in Iraq. Instead of celebration, I find myself reflection on the last six years.

My grandmother often told me about how she came back from an outing to find her mother ranting about the news that some Navy Base called Pearl Harbor had been bombed by the Japanese. Her husband worked at an electric company and during the war had spent some time working on some small electric parts for some super secret project the government had commissioned. He didn't even know what it was; he just knew it was something called "The Manhattan Project."

My father graduated from high school just six months before the draft was ended, just missing it himself. My mother remembers clearly the first man walking on the moon and Walter Cronkite's on-air shock that we actually made it there. At that time troops were being pulled out of Vietnam, as it was finally

seen as the horrible mistake and lost cause that it was. Growing up, I would joke that there was no real major historical event that I had encountered. I was too young to really remember when the

Berlin Wall came down and communism fell in Eastern Europe. The Clinton Scandal was all I had. I haven't told that joke since the September of 2001.

Since then I've seen the Twin Towers disappear, a war in Vietnam... I mean Iraq, and the Democrats take Congress back after a 12 year run as the minority, and Saddam Hussein killed. I watched some of my closest friends go to war, had my own political views changed as the truth behind what goes in the world bares it's ugly face and considered the possibility that my own country, the U.S., may cease to exist in it's present form within my generation, just like the fall of the Roman Empire.

Our economic success and insanely high standards of living are temporary and doomed to fall as do all times of wealth. The Roman Empire fell almost more quickly than it peaked. The economic boom of the 1920s was immediately followed by the Great Depression.

I struggle, as we all do, to make sense of all that is going on. As a history buff, there is one thing I notice, civilizations rise and fall, political systems fade and are ultimately meaningless, and yet, humanity

marches on. It seems just as mankind is destined to destroy itself, so also will new societies and civilizations build again. It's the destruction of civilization that is the key to our survival. When we are given a chance to rise from the ashes of past countries, we start with a clean slate. Open season for new ideas, no ruling class, no presumed authority taken from a family tree, which is the key.

Just so I do not get in trouble with my history professors, I am not meaning to say that it always ends up in anarchy for a time and then develops completely absent of some aristocracy, after all the wealthy are part of society (often a tumorous one). But in the overlap of two different eras, those in power before lose this power and it is often left to the masses as to what will happen in the next. I believe we are on the edge of such a time right now. The tension between political ideologies and crisis bear all the signs of the crumbling of our society, and we, as in we the people, need to think about what our next move will be.

The question isn't how will we preserve this nation, that is an impossible goal. No nation is eternal, not even our own. The question is that if you are one of the few to come out of the woodwork when this society caves, what kind of society will your actions build?

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Corner Worker Gets Critical About Readers

Jameson Jones
Staff Writer

After a careful discussion with my fellow staff writers, I heard that many of you did not know what type of racing I was talking about during my columns last semester and this piece will help clarify that I am not going to be talking about NASCAR but the more unappreciated forms of racing such as open-wheel, sports car and club racing. Many of you probably know that I am a corner worker in my spare time with the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) which focuses on different types of club racing. This organization competes at road courses as Virginia International Raceway and Road Atlanta that can differ in distance and characteristics with many of them having BOTH left and right turns. In addition, there may be elevation changes that may hinder or help a racer on the course

with the many different gear changes that are performed on their car within a lap around VIR or Road Atlanta. From these interesting characteristics, there have been many exciting races in the past at the aforementioned tracks including a close finish during April's Rolex Sports Car Series event at VIR.

My column would hope to open your eyes to the various forms of road and street racing that I have followed closely over the past few years since there is a misconception that the only type of racing in existence is NASCAR. I hate to break it to you readers; but NASCAR did not start racing as we know it. The first automobile race took place in France in 1895 which started in Paris and finished in Rouen where later in the same year the first automobile race in America took place in Chicago, Illinois ("Auto Racing" – Wiki-

pedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auto_racing) If it was not for these brave souls back in 1895 to start automobile racing, NASCAR would not be in existence nor would this column. My hope for this column is to discuss the various types of road and street racing that you not only see in America but throughout the world. As the semester progresses, I hope to discuss the various effects that road racing has on society and why you should pay more attention to the types of shirts you may see me wear. Oh, by the way, if you see me wearing a Spirit of Daytona Racing shirt, this group is not a NASCAR team but a road racing team that competes in the Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series. Until next time my friends, I will see you at the races.

What's Football Got to Do with the Super Bowl?

David Santiago
Opinions Editor

Everybody looks forward to the Super Bowl, even non-football fans. As comedian Lewis Black once said "I don't have any religion, but I believe a man needs ritual, and the Super Bowl comes once a year, on a Sunday!"

The thing is, and I do include myself in this statistic, I'm pretty sure 90% of the people watching are only watching for the commercials. I've even been to Super Bowl parties where people get snacks and talk while the game is being played, yet when the commercials come on, everyone is zeroed in on the TV.

And why not? Corporations pay big money for a spot on Super Bowl air time. That's why they pull out all they got. The Super Bowl is where new commercials are introduced. It was during the Super Bowl when I was about 11 that the world was introduced three frogs whose mission in life was to sit outside a bar, which was in the middle of the swamp for some reason, and collectively pronounce the word BUD-WISE-ER. The Super Bowl is where Britney "No-Talent" Spears first advertised Pepsi. I remember that because that was the year Tom Brady surprised everyone, and led the Patriots to win! (Sorry had to plug the home team somewhere).

Commercialism is the driving force behind the NFL anyway. Do you think they are their love of the game? NO!! High school students who play football and devote their time to that and doing homework in the evening forsaking time they could be hanging out with their girlfriends love the game. Semi pro players who do it for little money and have to work during the off season love the game. NFL players do it for the million dollar pay checks.

And let's not forget the half time show with stars like Janet Jackson and N'SYNC, because when I think about football, I think about N'SYNC.

Let's face it, the Super Bowl is not just a game. It's big business, and advertising is a major part of that. From soda and beer to credit cards, commercialism is the name of the game. The only thing one has to wonder is what is all that stuff where those guys in helmets run up and down a field and tackle each other? OH YEAH! That's football.

Fireantz

Ashley Genova
Editor-in-Chief

I invited a friend to come with me to a hockey game. He said, "No, I don't like hockey."

I replied, "Who goes to the hockey game to watch hockey?"

It's true. The crowd that gathers for the Fayetteville Fireantz, my local team, does much more than watch hockey.

Fans attend Fireantz games to watch the mascots. They have three mascots. The official mascot is Anthony the Fireant, a giant ant who plays tricks on the audience. He's been known to grab hats from people, and ride four-wheelers on the ice during intermissions.

Slapshot is the second mascot. He is a huge yellow bear with no sense of balance. During intermissions he slips on the ice as he attempts to dance.

The third mascot, Puckhead, wears such an outfit. Puckhead dons a black tuxedo jacket complete with tails. The tails and sleeves are trimmed with red flames. His pants are rolled to his knees, revealing stripped socks and red Chuck Taylor sneakers. He tops the outfit off with a foam puck-shaped hat.

With all the goofy mascot antics, it's easy to forget "The Heat," the official dance team. These girls groove to all of the music played at the games.

Let's not forget all the prizes and games! During the two intermissions. The most popular game is Chuck-a-Puck. For \$1, fans purchase a rubbery puck to toss onto the ice. A small container with a tiny hole in the lid placed in the center of the ice. The prize to put the puck in the container is over \$300. Fans may choose to toss their pucks in the back of the circling pick-up truck instead. The prize is usually a dinner.

There are prizes for the best dancer in the audience, someone chooses a sweetheart at the game to receive flowers, the dirtiest car in the lot is awarded a free carwash, and birthdays are announced. I even once saw a marriage proposal.

With everything going on at the hockey games, I'm thankful for the scoreboard. Otherwise, how would I know who won the game?

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Walking 'Widdershins'

Ashley Genova
Editor-in-Chief

Charles de Lint's latest novel, "Widdershins," is a reunion for his characters of Newford. Newford is a fictional town and home to de Lint's most well-known characters: Jilly Geordie, Joe (also called Bones), Christy, Raven and the crow girls. These characters and more come together in "Widdershins."

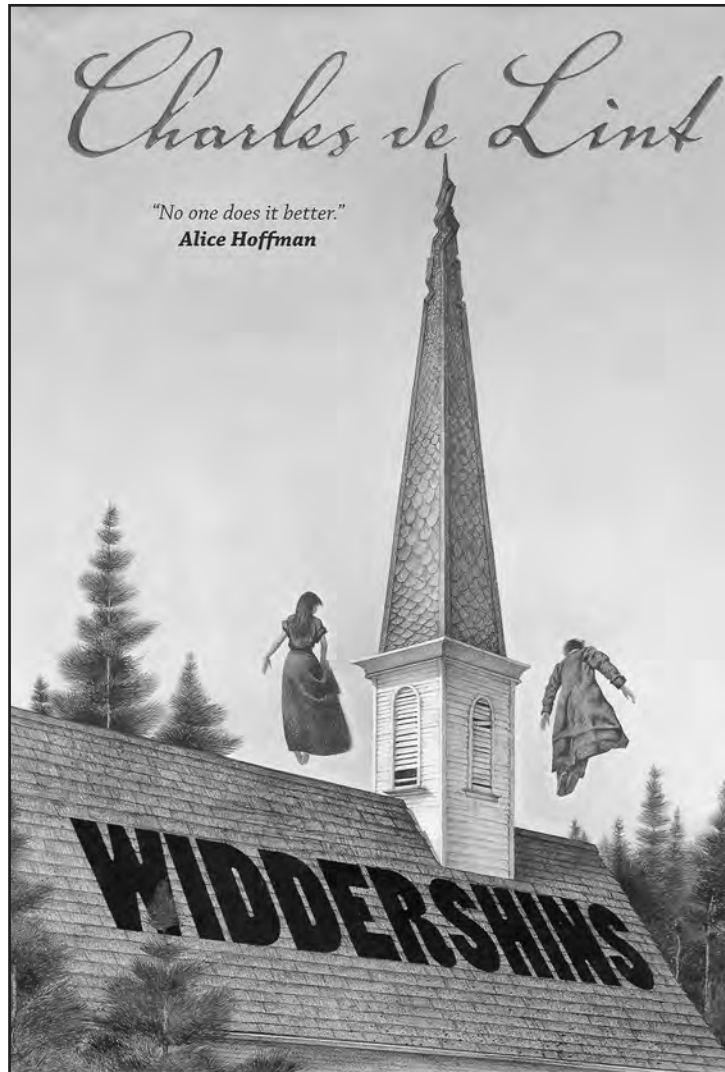
The novel is a sequel to "The Onion Girl," which tells of how a painter named Jilly becomes the victim of a hit-and-run accident. "Widdershins" continues her story. Jilly has lost most of her mobility, her ability to paint, and her closeness to her best friend Geordie. They begin to revive their friendship, and show sparks of a closer relationship, when they take a trip to help out the Knotted Cord, a folk band.

The band's fiddler, Lizzie, becomes involved in a dispute between the magical beings of the area, and a war begins between the Native American "animal people" and the European fairies. Jilly and Lizzie are drawn into the Otherworld, where Jilly's memories have recreated her hellish childhood. Jilly must deal with her emotional wounds before her physical wounds can heal and give her a chance for a life with Geordie.

Like most of de Lint's work, numerous plot lines dance around one another until they join in a conclusion. The narration switches from several first person perspectives to third person throughout the novel. This can cause some confusion, but it creates a quick pace.

"Widdershins" is a term that means to walk counter clockwise. The title is both literal and metaphorical. In one situation, the characters walk widdershins around a vortex. But as the book jacket says, "It's also the way people often back slowly into the relationships that matter, the real ones that make for life."

Readers who have not read previous de Lint novels may find "Widdershins" confus-



"Widdershins" by Charles de Lint

ing with its references to past events and unfamiliar characters. But de Lint provides many explanations so all readers can enjoy this book.

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James Brown, right, and Joe Cocker, left. Picture by MCT.

Godfather of Soul Dead

David Santiago
Opinions Editor

Funky music, dancing, a screaming crowd, sexually suggestive lyrics: no this is not a concert, it is the funeral of the late singer James Brown.

While his casket remained open his friends, family and fans remembered him not with tears, but with a party. Numerous friends and artists influenced by the singer preformed his music. The funeral had an atmosphere that resembled one of the concerts given by the late artist. The climax of it all was the charismatic speech given by Brown's friend and confidant, the Rev. Al Sharpen.

Born in Atlanta Georgia in 1933, Brown barley had a 3rd grade education. He dealt first hand with poverty and the trials of growing up as a Black child in the Jim Crowe South of the 1930s and 40s. Brown appeared on the music scene in the late

50s and helped launch the sounds of Mo Town records. He was a key factor in the development of gospel, Rhythm & Blues into soul and funk.

He has even been hailed as the "Godfather of soul." Known for his outlandish dancing and soulful voice, Brown remained in the recoding industry all through the 60s and 70s. While known for songs such as "I Feel Good," and "Sex Machine," he also recorded many deeply personal and socially conscience songs such as "Say It Loud (I'm Black and I'm Proud)." These made him an icon within the civil rights movement.

While his later years spawned a few hits, Brown decided into drug usage and ultimately served time in the late 80s. Brown died of congestive heart failure on Christmas Day at the age of 73.

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Eragon - Old Story, Newly Told

Ashley Genova
Editor-of-chief

The movie "Eragon" is a strangely familiar story: orphaned farm boy has the power to save a nation, boy matures with guidance from a mentor, boy kicks evil butt. It's a common story of fantasy novels and movies.

The movie, based on the same-titled book by Christopher Paolini, draws clichéd scenes from familiar fantasy movies like "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Chronicles of Narnia."

Unlike these greats of the fantasy genre, "Eragon" is unmoving and dull.

The main character, Eragon, was raised with his cousin, Roran. They live the land of Alagaesia, which is ruled by King Galbatorix. He was once a dragon rider, a peace-keeper accompanied by a dragon, until he killed his fellow riders and formed an empire.

Eragon becomes an enemy of the king when he finds a blue stone. The stone hatches into the dragon, Saphira, making Eragon the only dragon rider

who can oppose the king. With the storyteller, Brom, Eragon travels to the mountains to join the rebellious Varden.

Paolini's novel brings a breath of fresh air to fantasy clichés. The cultures of the dragons, dwarves and elves are unique. His portrayal of characters' relationships is unique. The movie adaptation does not bring this to the big screen. The characters barely take note of each other, except to exchange lines. The only show of a relationship is in the first ten minutes, when Eragon wrestles with his cousin.

As for the cultures of the races, zilch. One female character is supposed to be an elf, but nothing is said or shown to indicate this. The audience is given a glimpse of a dwarf, and nothing more is told of their history. Next to nothing is said about the wisdom and knowledge of the dragons.

Don't judge the novel by the movie. "Eragon" is a great coming of age story. That aspect of "great" is just left out in the movie. Just read the book.



Cover of Eragon novel by Christopher Paolini. Photo courtesy by www.fwomp.com



Apocalypto directed by Mel Gibson. Photo courtesy by www.moviemaze.com

Holiday Season Films Come Up Dry

David Santiago
Opinions Editor

"The Nativity Story," was a decent re-telling of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, but ultimately came up dry when compared to recent religious films such as "The Passion of the Christ."

The acting was mediocre at best. There was little merging of emotionally moving performances in key scenes. When the angel announces to Mary that she is to become pregnant, she

comes off as very apathetic and when she does speak. It is so dry and blatantly rehearsed she might as well as had a modern day King James Bible open in front of her as though she was actually reading it. Furthermore the visitation scene might as well have been the classic Christmas play preformed by children in churches all over the world.

On the upside, the movie contained some good comic relief with the three wise men as they see the star of David, which is actually the merging of three stars that takes place every three thousand years, coming together and the wise men embark on there journey. This also contained a more accurate depiction of Mary and Joseph as regular people. Instead of the classic blonde-haired, blue-eyed Mary, she was depicted as a darker skinned Middle Eastern girl with black hair. Also instead of two adults, this movie took on the more accurate depiction of Mary as a fifteen year old girl in an arranged engagement to a man in his mid twenties.

Another film I had the chance to see was Mel Gibson's "Apoclypto". This traced the adventure of a young man running from his captors in the

South American Rain Forest previous to the European Invasion.

This movie was interesting with its depiction of Inca civilization before Europeans invaded the land. Human sacrifice, slavery and connection to nature were common themes throughout the film. The acting was very good, and the use of the original indigenous languages made it somewhat interesting to historian types.

On the downside, the plot really has no direction and is hard to follow. The film shifts focus from one protagonist to another many times and this makes it hard to really connect with any one character.

Finally I recently went to see "The Curse of the Golden Flower." This was undoubtedly one of the best movies of the year.

While enjoyable, the plot takes some time to pick up and one may become bored during the first hour of the movie. The second half makes it worth while though as martial arts action and special effects combine with visually artistic scenes. It is an interesting insight to 10th century China.

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