



Is money the biggest motivator in life?

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Dealing with movie ratings

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# The Echo

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## Remedy 2013-2014: campus worship band

**Kira Roberts, Editor-in-chief**

Every year, students with musical gifts audition for the campus worship band, Remedy. Remedy travels all summer to different camps, leads worship for kids and leads chapel frequently during the school year. This year the members of Remedy are Shelby Oxner and Chesney Dodez on vocals, Clay Milford and Jared Gilreath on electric guitar, Caleb Swanigan on drums, Sam Duce on bass guitar, Alex Jones on keyboards, Zach Lucero leading with acoustic guitar and vocals and Drew Van Sickle on sound.

"It is a good way to be able to minister to students all over the region," Lucero said.

"I tried out because I believe that

Remedy is the best way to utilize the gifts and talents that God has provided me. During the summer, God was able to reveal Himself in different ways and able to help me work through my doubt. Time and time again, God proved that He is God and I need to trust Him.

God definitely was able to impact students at every camp through us. We made a very conscious effort to fill our lives with prayer and pressed into the Holy Spirit. Without God, nothing that we do is possible. I think that it is a great opportunity for students to really dive head first into a great ministry. It stretches you as a musician and stretches you spiritually. I am looking forward to being a part of the growing community at SNU.

Being a part of a team really forces you to learn other people's strengths. The trick is being able to utilize everyone's strengths to the best of your ability in order to maximize the potential of the group," Lucero said.

Milford said, "For me, Remedy is about feeling free. I know they say it's a PR band, but what we try and do is show that worship isn't about technique, like raising hands or whatever the go-to worship motions are; it's about feeling free and alone with God. It's about wrapping yourself in the music and believing in what is being said and repeated. It's getting lost in Him and not caring who or what is around.

"I learned what it means to be filled physically by His love and the power of the Holy Spirit. Several

times this summer we had to play a service until ten, then play games until one or two in the morning, wake up at eight, play a morning service and then drive six hours to our next place, set up and play another service, followed by games until 1 again. We had to have the excitement of a last night and a first night of camp consecutively, and it was challenging. The only way I got through it was Him showing me that my body might be tired, but He can energize me no matter how tired I think I am.

Sometimes we reach that place when we are all tired or stressed. But every time I get on stage and get to play music and worship with people I care about, all of that melts away and I just get lost in the moment. It makes my life."

## New Van Gogh discovered in attic of Norwegian art collector

**Macy Sliman, Staff Writer**

*"As for me, I am rather often uneasy in my mind, because I think that my life has not been calm enough; all those bitter disappointments, adversities, changes keep me from developing fully and naturally in my artistic career."* – Vincent van Gogh.

Beauty is relative sometimes. What one person thinks is a visage of heaven is another person's 2nd grade art project. People in general have different taste, and that fact is a pretty accepted fact.

However, a very popular opinion, when concerning art, is that

Vincent van Gogh is one of the greatest artists of the post-impressionist era. His work is in museums around the world, appearing mostly in the van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, where a good portion of his artwork is on display. Van Gogh's style, emotion and technique are greatly admired, studied and used as a judge for all other impressionistic works henceforth. His paint-

**"a discovery of this magnitude has never occurred in the history of the Van Gogh Museum."**

ings are absolutely priceless in the art world. Even though van Gogh is incredibly famous in this time, when van Gogh was alive he was thought to be mentally ill and was not appreciated until after his suicide in 1890.

If you do not know, Vincent van Gogh was born on March 30, 1853 in Groot-Zundert, Netherlands. He was the oldest son of Theodorus van Gogh and Anna

Cornelia Carbentus. At age 15, his family was struggling financially and he was forced to leave school. After some shifting and traveling around, van Gogh taught and preached. His hope was to become a minister, but the evangelical committees were not on board. In 1880, van Gogh began taking art lessons. This began his love for art.

With this short back-story, a miracle has taken place in our lifetime. More than 120 years after van Gogh's death, another paint-

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## Snowbarger Residence Hall Community Life

**Matthew Scott, Staff Writer**

What does everyone say about Snowbarger? People say it can be a fallout shelter; others may say it is a home away from home, but one thing for sure is people will know that SnowBarger is SNU. If you are returning, you know what I am talking about, but if you are a new freshman, you will learn soon enough. The resident Director and the Resident Advisors are going to make SNU feel like home to a lot of people. "Snow has always been a good place to live. I've met friends here that I wouldn't have otherwise," said Phillip Dietrich.

The RD is going to be a big part of the community this year, "We're going to do our best to provide a variety of entertainment and activities for the young men of Snow," said Davis Hodam, the new RD for this year. He will work

very hard to get residents involved activities students want to attend. "I would definitely be willing to put in extra personal effort to encourage residents to participate in our dorm activities."

Saying you are an RA is one thing, but actually doing the job is a totally different situation. Getting people involved in the activities of Snowbarger is tough, and that is a job the RA Staff do not take lightly. They make it their business to get people involved in their activities.

"It's something in me that I want to do," said Moises Parra, the second floor RA.

For an RA it is important to get everyone involved in the community activities, but not every student enjoys the scheduled activities. When asked whether he feels bad when residents do not get involved, Parra said, "Yes I do. I know they are missing out." So RAs take it

**"It's the little things like that that really make Snow a better community."**



Photo by Grace Williams

upon themselves to get more people involved, not just on the floor but also in the whole dorm.

Community in Snowbarger is very important to the people and the staff of SNU because it brings us closer to one another. The staff are here to get to know you "100 percent. I am definitely looking forward to this year in Snow. I am excited to get to know the young

men of Snowbarger," said Hodam. That is all community in Snowbarger really means: getting to know the people next door to you and down the hall. "Whether that be a game of wall ball on the second floor by the ice machine or Call of Duty out in the lobby while they are on duty. It's the little things like that that really make Snow a better community," said Dietrich.

## New Van Gogh painting discovered cont.



Photo from cnn.com

ing by the great artist has been discovered in the attic of a Norwegian art collector. It is the first full sized canvas discovered since 1928. Once thought to be a forgery, the "Sunset at Montmajour," a large oil landscape, has been newly recognized as the Dutch master's. The painting depicts a landscape near Arles in the south of France. This was known to be where van Gogh was working at the time. This work is said to have been completed in 1888, along with the other of his most loved paintings from the "Sunflowers" period similar to his works, "Irises" and "Starry Night."

On top of extensive research and tests given by the world's leading experts in the art world, a letter that van Gogh had written to his brother describing the painting also supported the accreditation

of this work.

It has been said that a discovery of this magnitude has never occurred in the history of the Van Gogh Museum. Starting September 24th, it will appear on exhibition in the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam for the world to see.

To put it into perspective the worth of this discovery, three of van Gogh's most popular paintings succeed each other in price. "Sunflowers" sold for \$39.9 million, "Irises" for \$53.9 million and "Portrait of Dr. Gachet" for \$82.5 million. This most recent unearthing has left experts refusing to discuss dollar worth; however, it is agreed upon that this painting is priceless.

So it is without any further delay, the world welcomes this new addition of art and culture into its history books.

## SNU Speak theme house 2013-2014: A local initiative

*Amy Lauver, Layout Editor*

The Speak house is a part of the fight to end modern day slavery. It is made up of a group of students on campus bringing awareness to the reality of human trafficking since it began in 2011. The speak theme house has doubled in size this year. Instead of one Imel Townhouse being dedicated to Speak girls, both Imel 4 and Imel 3 are housing the 20 girls who have joined the Speak movement. This year students are taking a local initiative by partnering with a local non for profit called No Boundaries International (NBI). Students will be raising money to help NBI buy a food truck to use as a tool for creating relationships with those involved in human trafficking in a nonthreatening way. The campus ministries council will also be working closely alongside Speak this year as they try to meet their goal.

As the previous Resident Director of Imel/Asbury, Misty Jagers has been the advisor of Speak since it began. Katy Bradley is joining the Speak family this year as the current RD of Imel/Asbury.

When asked about the history of Speak, Misty Jagers said, in regards to Imel housing, "We want-

ed it to be used for a more positive purpose. We have had a different boys theme house for every year, but Speak has carried on for three years now."

Speak's passion has grown over the past two years. "It started out with ten girls that had a passion for eradicating human trafficking. They then encouraged ten more girls. Now it's twenty girls, with campus ministries working with us and outside partners," said Jagers, "My hope is that with twice as many girls we can accomplish twice as many things. I am excited that we can become a more known organization on campus and establish more outside contacts, while continuing to generate energy for years to come."

Last monday, thirteen of the current girls visited the No Boundaries International firehouse, their community center. It is located on Robinson Street downtown, which is the track in the OKC ring. It was extremely eye opening. Students had been told how serious this issue is with how I-35, I-40 and I-44 cross each other, serving as a pipeline in OKC as these highways stretch across the country, but the truth of it was never fully understood until Speak girls were in the midst of the area.

# SPEAK HOUSE

*'speak up for the people who have no voice, for the rights of all the down-and-outers. speak out for justice! stand up for the poor and destitute! Proverbs 31:8-9*

*Photo provided by Lindsey Fudge*

Speak's partnership with NBI this year came about through a grant writing class last semester. Grace Williams, a member of the Speak house this year, was in the group that created a grant for NBI. "Zach Bond, Kendra Meek and I decided to be in a group for our big grant writing project. Zach had learned about NBI and told us about them. So we contacted them, and they told us about their mission, the idea for the food truck and thought it would be a really great project to get involved with," said Williams.

Speak will be working to help NBI raise money for their food truck initiative. "We found a funder that would not purchase vehicles

but will purchase other things, so we requested that they buy all the equipment and materials, pay for the installation and licensing/legal costs. So the speak theme house will raise the cost for the physical truck. Shane Mutz, a food truck builder who buys and outfits new and used trucks said he could get a truck for around \$7,000," Williams explained.

**If you want more information on how to get involved with the Speak house and the fight to end modern day slavery, contact Misty, Katy or any of the girls involved with Speak, and look for our upcoming events to show your support!**

## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 21: Home Football game- 6pm
- Sept 21: UAFS Volleyball Tourney
- Sept. 22: Ice blocking- 6pm-8pm
- @ Will Rogers Park
- Sept. 23 Faith and Film-@7pm
- Sept. 24: Women's soccer @ Texas A&M
- Sept. 24: Home Volleyball game-@7pm
- Sept. 25: Mcnair Summer Research Presentations 1pm-3pm in Heritage room
- Sept. 26: Class Chapels
- Sept. 26: Mens soccer @ Harding
- Sept. 26: Volleyball @ Northwestern
- Sept. 26: Kingdom come @ 9pm
- Sept. 27: Class Retreats @5pm

# STORMSPORTS

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## Southern Nazarene drops home opener to Ouchita Baptist University

**Zach Friesen, Staff Writer**

One week after dropping their season opener at Henderson State, Southern Nazarene dropped their 2013 home opener to Ouachita Baptist University by a score of 49-24.

The Crimson Storm (0-2, 0-2 GAC) simply could not come up with an answer to the 'Tigers' balanced offensive attack, which had 480 total yards, 262 yards rushing and 218 yards coming through the air.

Southern Nazarene, on the other hand, could only muster 265 yards of total offense, with quarterback Dylan Terry throwing for 189 yards and a touchdown, while running back Chris Hunter added 91 yards and two touchdowns on the ground. Ryan Mischler added 70 yards and a receiving touchdown.

Ouachita Baptist raced out to an early 14-0 lead in the first quarter thanks to rushing touchdowns on

their first two possessions. The Crimson Storm would finally get on the board, thanks to a touchdown run by Hunter with just over four minutes left in the first quarter to cut the deficit in half. However, two more touchdown runs for the Tigers would increase the lead to 28-7 with less than five minutes to play in the first half.

SNU would answer back, though, scoring 10 points in the last minute of the first half. Hunter would score his second touchdown of the evening with 33 seconds to go. Then, following an interception by Sherrod Daniels, Shaun Barnard would deliver a field goal as time expired to make it a 28-17 game headed into the locker room.

Unfortunately, the second half belonged completely to the Tigers. They would see their lead increase to 42-17 by the early stages of the fourth quarter before the Crimson



Photo from [snuathletics.com](http://snuathletics.com)

Storm offense could get on the scoreboard again. This touchdown came through the air, as Terry hit a diving Mischler to bring the score to 42-24. OBU would put the final nail in the coffin with a touchdown drive with five minutes to play to lead 49-24, which would end up as the final score.

On the defensive side, Michael Hicks led the way for the

Crimson Storm with nine tackles, while Dylan Parker, Josh Price and Blake Cavill each had seven tackles. Christo Lisika and Jake Garrett also combined for a sack.

Southern Nazarene will play host to conference foe Arkansas Tech next weekend. The Wonder Boys (1-1, 1-1 GAC) enter this matchup coming off a loss to Southwestern Oklahoma State. Kickoff for this game is set for 6 p.m.

## Student Athlete of the week

### Mike Hearne



Sport: Men's Golf

Class: Junior

Hometown: Bridgend, Wales

High School: Brynteg

Hearne shot a school-record 62, 10-under par at the GAC Preview on Lake Hefner's North Golf Course. The junior captured the individual title as SNU tied for third overall.

# Student Athlete of the week

## Natasha Fuentes



Sport: Women's Soccer

Position: Goalkeeper

Class: Freshman

Hometown: Yukon, Okla.

High School: Mustang

Fuentes posted two shutouts on the week as SNU went 2-0 against Rogers State and Missouri Southern. She posted four saves on the week.

## Intramural sports are underway for the 2013-2014 school year

*Zach Friesen, Staff Writer*

Now that the new school year is underway and students are getting settled in with their classes, intramural sports is finally underway on campus, with sand volleyball being the first. Games started almost two weeks ago, and teams are having a blast.

"It's just fun to get out there and play again," said sophomore Blair Price. "With classes starting back up, it's nice to get away from the studying and the homework for a while and just hang out with my friends."

Not only is it a good way for students to stay active, but it is also a place where students go to watch the games, even if they do not want to participate. Grass

areas near the courts are often littered with students that, like Price said, are just wanting to take some time away from studying or doing homework to hang out with friends and relax.

"It's really cool to see all of our friends out here and get to hang out with all of them again," said sophomore Blake Savage. "It makes it a lot more fun to play out here with all of them here, whether they're on the team playing or out here watching."

Not only is it fun just watching or taking part in the games, the players also like to have some fun coming up with the names for their teams as well. Many of the team names include puns incor-



*Photo by Amy Lauver*

porating volleyball terms, such as 'How I Set Your Mother' and 'Orville RedenBlocker.'

For the people that do not have much interest in volleyball, there will be many more opportunities to get involved in intramurals, as

other sports are set to start up very soon. Sign-ups for softball, dodgeball and 3-on-3 basketball are all set to come out relatively soon, with many more events later this semester, as well as next semester.

# SNU

Keep up with results  
and scores at  
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# Athletics

# OPINIONS

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## Is money the biggest motivator in life? part 2

### Editorial Staff

*This is the second part in a two-part editorial.*

The concept of the 'American Dream' began in the early to mid twentieth century when marketing was at a high. Advertising firms worked effortlessly to persuade people into buying things. They created the picture perfect American family, with a Volkswagen in the driveway, dad in a fancy suit and mom in the kitchen with the latest Kitchen Aid product. Even though we have stretched and revamped that American Dream, it is still driven by what we can have or obtain that will make us happy and successful.

So, if our society is aware of the negative connotations of obsession with money and materialistic goods, why does it continue? James 4:1-3 says, "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

In Mark 8:36 (NLT), Jesus said "And What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?" This is a very powerful verse, especially in today's world. In a world that tells us we need this to be happy or to be somebody, we often forget what is really important. If we are living a Christ centered life, our motivator should be the Kingdom of God. We are called to love the 'least of these,' those who do not have a

high worldly status. Jesus did not spend his time teaching and hanging out with the rich and the leaders (people who would be considered of high status today). He was with the poor and the broken, the drunks and the oppressed.

Success in America is a hard thing not to strive for, and in today's society it has a lot to do with money. But success is what you make it. As Christians, we do not have to abide by the standards of this world. We can create our own success through Christ and the Kingdom of God by living out His will for our lives.

Did you know that you can measure your slavery footprint? The way you live, the energy you use, the things you buy, the money you spend--it all impacts other people's lives. Slaveryfootprint.org says, "That smart phone. That t-shirt, computer, cup of coffee... That's stuff we buy, and that's stuff that comes from slaves . . . These reputable brands that we know and love, they just don't know where all the materials come from. What about the cotton in that t-shirt? The tantalum in that smart phone? The beans in that cup of Joe? That's where you find the slaves. In the fields. In the mines. In the raw materials processing."

In an article from clickz.com, Christine Bearsell explains, "Most psychologists generally agree on two types of human motivation: intrinsic and extrinsic. We're either motivated by internal passions, or we're encouraged by external reward. Generally, theorists suggest that intrinsic motivators should dominate over extrinsic motivators."

So, what motivates us on a daily basis--If we are going to be honest



Photo from bedouina.com

with ourselves, it is probably not the people in the world who are dying of diseases or dirty water; it does not seem to be the people who are in our city enslaved or broken. If we really reflect on our daily choices (how much we work, how much we spend, etc.), we may discover that we are highly motivated by money . . . even if it is not always what we desire to be motivated by.

The question, 'is money the biggest motivator in life?' is one with no right or wrong answer when it comes to the general population. However, there may be an answer

in each individual's life when we look at what each of our daily habits and tendencies are.

Our challenge, as a staff, to you is to consciously let the intrinsic motivators guide you through life. The extrinsic will always exist, and you will always be affected by them more than you would like, but don't let them overrun your inner passions and beliefs. Have faith that God will take care of you if you live your life for him and constantly aim to make becoming more like him every day your most influential motivator.

## Guthrie proves hospitable to the Gentlemen of the Road



Photo by Liz Bryant

*Clay Milford, Staff Writer*

On September 6th and 7th, Guthrie, Oklahoma played host to twelve main stage bands, including Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros, Alabama Shakes and Mumford & Sons, plus over twenty side stage acts as a part of the 2013 Gentlemen of the Road Stopover Tour. The original capital of the Sooner state happened to be one of five places in the world that was chosen to partake in the event. The Stopover proved to be a cultural and musical sensation, as over 40,000 people listened, sang and, yes, even danced their hearts out.

Maia Brown, senior, was able to

attend the festival and describes the event as “two words: hot and diverse. We got there around one and stayed until ten-thirty, and let me just say, it was worth the 100-degree heat for the experience we had. It was amazing to see not only the diversity in the music but also the diversity in the people. There were over 40,000 there, and I saw families with their children, 70-year-old couples, people from all over the nation and every kind of hipster you can think of.”

Spirits were high as a result of the gathering, and many people, like Maia, took away from the night

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## How should we deal with different movie ratings?

*Rachel Whatley, Staff Writer*

You are waiting in line at the movies to get a ticket, and you happen to glance up at the movie display. There are combinations of little letters and numbers right next to the titles: PG, R, PG-13. You scan across the movie you are about to see. One or two small letters, with or without a number, yet they have so much meaning. Maybe you just now noticed what the rating was; maybe you have checked it more than once before diving in. Either way, how efficient is this system anyway?

I see myself as the one who not only checks the rating once or twice but also wants to know why. G? It is probably fine. Most G movies are geared toward very young kids, and there are reasons for that. It is usually extremely clean, or maybe it is a documentary. Most PG movies are viewable, in my opinion, but there are still a few things that can crop up. We all have pre-conceived no-

tions of what a rating entails, what it is supposed to mean. Generally.

PG-13 is a little trickier for me because it can have that rating for any number of reasons. Sex? Violence? Language? A combination? And how much of each? These are the kinds of things I have to dig deeper for, the things a simple “PG-13” may not tell me. On the preview, it may give a reason for the rating, but it is not clear on quantity. For me, I would much rather see a PG-13 movie rated for violence and not sensual content. Then again, it goes back to what the violence is for and how much of it there is. Gratuitous, non-stop, start-to-finish, and/or gory violence is not my style, but it varies from person to person.

Some people might dismiss a movie just because of its rating or content, even though it may actually have a good message. I know a family who used to eschew most

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Photo by Llya Sedykh used under Creative Commons license

## Guthrie proves hospitable to the Gentlemen of the Road cont.

more than simply a fun time of listening to music. “During the last song, every single band from the festival went on stage and sang ‘With A Little Help From My Friends’ by The Beatles. Also, before the encore, all the bands Mumford & Sons have been touring with got on stage and sang ‘Come Together.’

It was cool to hear all different kinds of people from different backgrounds come to one place and sing along to Mumford & Sons’ songs. There are spiritual aspects to their lyrics, and it was amazing to hear all of the people sing along to them. God is so cool, He can teach you in really crazy ways.” When asked if

she would attend again next year, Maia responded, “Absolutely. Yes. Why wouldn’t I go back?”

The Stopover was not only a cultural success, but also with the influx of people due to the concerts, Guthrie experienced a financial boom, which brought in an estimated hundreds of thousands of dollars to local

hotels, restaurants and other businesses. Within two days, the town of 10,191 people more than quadrupled, making it an overnight metropolis. I am certain that the people of the city most notable for its brief stint as Oklahoma’s capital would love to welcome the Gentlemen of the Road back again next year.

## How should we deal with different movie ratings cont.

movies, especially PG-13 and higher. Yes, there are some things that are not appropriate for anyone at any age, and even if the film were to have a good message, it should be avoided. However, more meaningful movies are usually not that extreme.

For example, more conservative types may think that The Lord of the Rings trilogy is heavy on the violence, but it is filled with messages of good vs. evil, friendship, standing up for what is right and persevering in the

**“Who died and made the rating system king?”**

face of adversity. A better example is The Hunger Games. Some people may shy away from its darkness, recurring violence and PG-13 rating, but its “triumph in the face of adversity” theme and strong heroine shine through.

The MPAA rating system is good for general information, and we know what each socially constructed category means. TV ratings are a bit more descriptive about what the show entails, but still, it does not

say how much of each. Maybe a rating system could have a 1 to 10 scale in each category of objectionable content. That would be very helpful and more specific in determining how much of each instead of saying “brief language” or “fantasy action violence.”

But if that were the case, that begs the question: who died and made the rating systems king? Who would they be to say that Skyfall, for example, earned a 6 in violence? Someone else may disagree, saying that the people giving the rating were too lenient,

and give it an 8 instead. Who decides how strict they should be? What earned a high number in the 90s might not seem so high today.

Just like our standard, 21st century MPAA ratings, this pipe-dream method is relative and each person may take it differently. Each of us have different guidelines, it seems. So maybe I should just stick to my inquisitive ways and dig deeper for myself, and I encourage you to do so too. After all, I do not need an “all-knowing” organization to be the deciding factor in my entertainment experiences.

## Baker and Sam watch movies: Riddick part 1

**Baker Pitts, Guest Writer**

Do you like feel good comedies that have you leaving the theater with a warm feeling down in your tummy? If you answered yes to that question, then you probably should not go see Riddick.

Riddick is the story of a muscled guy who can see in the dark and is simply trying to find his way home. Along the way he is confronted by two groups of mercenaries that want the bounty on his head. He is then forced to get off the planet no matter what is in his way or who he has to kill.

Riddick is visually impressive, with beautiful landscapes and incredibly cool looking creatures, but unfortunately, that is where

the impressiveness ends. The storytelling is shoddy and driven almost entirely by violence, and if you want character development, then you would be better off watching Pacific Rim or a Godzilla movie from the 80s. Now, I do not really have an issue with violence in movies, but the violence portrayed in Riddick serves little purpose beyond simply showing violence.

All in all, I would not recommend going to see Riddick if you have any interest in seeing a movie that will keep you interested, excited or if you are expecting to have any fun at all at the movies. Also, since this is my first review, I’m going to set a precedent of



Photo from wikipedia.com

including a trigger warning at the end of my articles to give warnings of things that you will find in reviewed movies.

**TRIGGER WARNING:** Extreme blood and gore, nudity, attempted rape, potty mouths.



## Baker and Sam watch movies: Riddick part 2

**Samuel Duce, Guest Writer**

Writer/Director David Twohy's *Riddick* has not had a bad reception. It debuted as the highest grossing film in North America and was more defended than criticized by the popular press. Charles Koplinski of the *Illinois Times* called it "a Bit of B-Movie Heaven," and the majority of favorable reviews towards the film more or less reiterates this summation. It has not been defended by any other standard.

According to the *Oxford Dictionary*, a B-Movie is "a low-budget movie, esp. (formerly) one made for use as a companion to the main attraction in a double feature." These films are intentionally campy and cheap, yet assert cleverness for their ability to be this way effectively and stylishly. *Riddick* is an example of a film that incorpo-

rates the explicit and vulgar aspects of the B-movie genre, yet fails to exhibit an essential self-awareness. It therefore cannot be categorized in this genre.

In the film, after being betrayed by his people, the outlaw titular character is stranded on a planet and is forced to grapple with its hostile natural inhabitants. When he senses impending danger, he sends a distress signal resulting in a team of bounty hunters seeking his capture. He kills them at whim until they are forced to band together in order to escape the planet and its murderous alien creatures.

Twohy seems uninterested in this premise to the extent that the backstory of his betrayal is almost incomprehensible due to its hurriedness as well as lack of context, and each character

is a rudimentary stereotype. He is more interested in providing baseless spectacles of sexism and ultra-violence.

Violence is depicted with thoughtlessness, such as in the death of a particular bounty hunter. *Riddick* cuts his head in half and it is shown sliding in two. Though this act is exaggerated to the point of spectacle as in the B-movie genre, it does not achieve the comic tone typically used. It is instead used as an affirmation to the repeated sentiment in the film that *Riddick* is a tough dude. Is the audience supposed to admire him for his banal cruelty?

Though the original B-movie films were likely admired and studied by the filmmakers who originally recreated them in tribute, the general viewing public is

undoubtedly more familiar with the genre that has developed rather than the original films from which they gained inspiration. Modern filmmakers, too, seem recently more inspired by the modern genre than the original films, resulting in a gradual distillation of the same tropes. As inspiration is passed on, context is often lost and the meanings of these tropes may be inadvertently lost. Such is the case with this film. Twohy seems unaware how he intends the viewer to interpret the depictions of violence and sexuality.

These qualities of poor craft without awareness of implications suggest that the film is much more similar to an original B-movie than the post-modern genre in its tribute. What distinguishes it even from this is its large budget. If its quality is not defensible by even this standard then in what way is it defensible?

### Fine Arts Student Feature Caleb Siems



Hometown: Stillwater, Oklahoma

Biggest fear: Spiders

Hobbies and Interests: Performing, Writing, Cooking, Reading, Drawing

I would like to have witnessed: The process of creating the score for "Star Wars"

Most prized possession: An engraved wooden box from California that my sister gave to me for Christmas

Best memory: Painting a picture with my Grandmother

Three words that describe you: Learner, Planner, Storyteller

As a child you dreamed of being a: Pastor or Movie Star

Best advice your parents gave you: "You can control your thoughts"

Pet Peeve: Wet shoes

A talent you possess: Wiggling ears

Favorite Quote or verse: "It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live" - Albus Dumbledore, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone*

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