**WEEKLY PICKS**

**BOOK**

*The Red Fern Grows*

By Wilson Rawls

“A great American classic.”

— Ladd Moore ’04

**MOVIE**

*El Mariachi*

Directed by Robert Rodriguez

“The prequel to, and superior of, Desperado.”

— Dan Croak ’04

**MUSIC**

Tom Petty’s Greatest Hits

*Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers*

“Tom Petty... Greatest hits... What more could you want from an album?”

— Colleen Cregan ’04

**WEBSITE**

[U2.com](http://www.U2.com)

“Socially conscious musicians with Irish accents... What more could you ask for?”

— Julia Crowley ’03

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**Seven Days...**

**Friday, Feb. 1**

Dustin Diamond at Curry College in Milton

Don Byron at Holy Cross

Cheryl Wheeler at Me & Thee Coffeehouse in Marblehead

Leo Kottke at Sanders Theatre in Cambridge

Beatlejuice at Bad Abbot in Quincy

**Saturday, Feb. 2**

Billy Joel & Elton John at the Fleetcenter in Boston

Zan Tricksteres at Tammany Hall in Worcester

Alison Krauss & Union Station at Wang Center in Boston

Mighty Mighty Bosstones at Webster Theatre in Hartford

**Sunday, Feb. 3**

Jay Bennett & Edward Burch at Middle East Club in Cambridge

James O’Brien at Passim’s in Cambridge

Dave Dershman at Passim’s in Cambridge

Rob Siegel at Passim’s in Cambridge

**Monday, Feb. 4**

Billy Joel & Elton John at Hartford Civic Center

Soulive at Trinity College in Hartford

**Tuesday, Feb. 5**

Pete Francis at House of Blues in Cambridge

Dave Cook at Klekoci in Middletown, CT

**Wednesday, Feb. 6**

Mary J. Blige at Orpheum in Boston

Billy Joel & Elton John at Hartford Civic Center

**Thursday, Feb. 7**

Creed at the FleetCenter in Boston

Deep Banana Blackout at Pearl Street in Northampton

Varnaline at T.T. The Bear’s in Cambridge

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**“Extra Gravity” rises to occasion**

The Holy Cross student film reflects hard work and talent

**BY TIMOTHY O’COIN ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR**

Ask student filmmakers Jean-Paul Bonneau ’02 and Kevin Long ’02 what they should do if they want to get into moviemaking, and their answer is...watch a lot of movies.

“You have to be familiar with the language,” states Bonneau. “It helps you to develop an instinct for what works and what doesn’t when you’re actually making the movie.”

Bonneau and Long, aspiring cinema artists and self-professed movie buffs, are the latest additions to the steadily growing ranks of student filmmakers here at Holy Cross. The pair’s extensive experience in, and knowledge of, film, finds striking expression in their student picture, “Extra Gravity.”

Comprised of a trio of vignettes based on three poems, it uses a varied and unique visual canvas to express and explore the ideas set forth in those pieces. The three segments are titled “Futile Preoccupations,” “Drunken Vigil,” and “Karma,” based on the poems “Morning Song,” “Drunken Morning,” and “Karma” respectively.

“Extra Gravity”’s origins go back to last summer, when Bonneau was assigned to make a series of shorts based on poems. When he was told he should work with an English major, he brought Kevin Long on board.

Although Long’s chief responsibility was to select the poems that would provide the basis for the film, Bonneau is quick to point out that the entire project was a team effort, from beginning to end. “Both worked together on every aspect of the film, from the concept stage to the editing room. All of the decisions were made by the both of us,” said Bonneau.

Long: “Neither of us could have done this without the other.”

The two students began with a collection of 20 poems, selected from numerous anthologies and collections. Bonneau described the first few weeks as a “filtration process,” where he and Long steadily narrowed down their selections to about three or four poems. Ultimately, they decided on the three mentioned above for their subject matter and the possibilities they allowed for visual interpretation.

After Bonneau and Long had decided on the poems they would use, they began plotting their ideas on storyboards. It was like mental ping-pong,” commented Long. “Everything was an idea that we bounced off each other.”

Despite the fact that the film blossomed from a given template, both of the student filmmakers strove to make “Extra Gravity” something different and unique. Rather than simply giving a visual dimension to the poems, they sought to analyze them in a different context. “We tried to put our own layer of meaning on each of the poems,” Bonneau said.

One of the chief ways they did this was to explore each poem in a modern context. Both felt that the poems they selected had universality, and that they very much apply to today. “Basically, we changed the time period, but not the insight,” Long said. “In Futile Preoccupations,” for instance, the movie juxtaposes images of mourning serenity and beauty with scenes and sounds of a droll work day routine. “Drunken Vigil” takes the words of its poem and surrounds them with a rush of images from a rowdy drinking party.

The planning, shooting and editing of the “Drunken Vigil” proved to be the project’s biggest challenge. For the segment, the two utilized guerrilla-style moviemaking; shooting at actual off-campus parties. “None of it was choreographed,” said Bonneau. “We basically had to just shoot and edit; mold it into what we wanted.”

Indeed, both agree that the film truly took shape during the editing process. It was through the cutting and assembling of images that Bonneau and Long achieved the film that they wanted. States Bonneau: “Neither of us have ever done anything like this in terms of editing. However, we knew what we wanted, and the chief way we achieved that was through editing.” For “Drunken Vigil,” “the pair had to craft a five-minute vignette from over 90 minutes of raw footage.”

Above all, Bonneau and Long wished to make each individual segment unique in its message and style. “We wanted each film to be its own entity, to have a different look and feel,” said Bonneau. However, they also wished to unify the three separate segments into a unified whole, which they accomplish through connecting title cards and other connecting elements.

Bonneau hopes that the film will give those who are open to new ideas something to think about. Nevertheless, both he and Long have a great deal of pride in their work; particularly in light of the fact that they completed it in one semester (most student films at HC take one year). With its striking visual style and structure, “Extra Gravity” promises to be a stand-out showcase of these two HC student filmmakers.

**Screenings times of “Extra Gravity” are:**

Tuesday, 2/5 at 3:00 p.m. in Stein 129

Wednesday, 2/6 at 8:00 p.m. in Stein 116

Thursday, 2/7 at 8:00 p.m. in Stein 129

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**THE CRUSADERFEATURES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2002**