Seven Days...  
Friday, Mar. 1
Nelly Furtado at Avalon in Boston
Indigo Girls at Paradise Rock Club in Boston
Jerry Seinfeld at Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford, CT
William Topley at the House of Blues in Cambridge
Saturday, Mar. 2
CSNY at the Fleet Center in Boston
Bill Cosby at Symphony Hall in Springfield
GWAR at The Palladium
Goatwhore at The Palladium
Sunday, Mar. 3
NAS at Avalon in Boston
Edie Carey at Passim’s in Cambridge
Monday, Mar. 4
Ratdog at Hippodrome in Springfield
Edwin McCain at Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton
Tuesday, Mar. 5
Further Seems Forever at The Palladium
Hod Rod Circuit at The Palladium
“Stars On Ice” at Hartford Civic Center
Wednesday, Mar. 6
The Scooters at T.T. The Bear’s in Cambridge
Carbon Leaf at Pearl Street in Northampton
Convoy at Paradise Rock Club in Boston
Thursday, Mar. 7
Bela Fleck and The Flecktones at Bushnell Memorial Hall in Hartford
Neil Diamond at Hartford Civic Center
Convoy at Paradise Rock Club in Boston
DJ Logic at Orpheum Theatre in Boston

**WEEKLY PICKS**

**BOOK**

**The Outsiders**

By S.E. Hinton

“It’s the best—one of those books you can read over and over again.”

— Meagan Gorman '05

**MOVIE**

**Don’t Say A Word**

Starring Michael Douglas

“I’ll never teeeeeeeelll how good this movie is.”

— Catherine Borelli ’05

**MUSIC**

**Physical Graffiti**

Led Zeppelin

“Possibly the best Zeppelin album.”

— Brendan Radke ’04

**WEBSITE**

**Google.com**

http://www.google.com

“It is very helpful for finding information. It’s just like Yahoo!”

— Ali Blum ’05

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

Despite the five-month delay of its release in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, “Collateral Damage” remains a victim of bad timing, not so much in that it deals directly with the now familiar and disturbing subject of international terrorism, but in that it deals with the subject with the expected profundity of a standard action-thriller, i.e. very little. It attempts to paint its heroes and villains in broader strokes than stock caricatures, and its attitude toward the subject matter is a bit more introspective than most action flicks. Yet, it never sheds the pudginess of its genre despite its haphazard attempts at moralizing, it is still very much an action movie at its core.

Mind you, this is not necessarily a bad thing. For a standard Arnold Schwarzenegger action vehicle, it’s a slick piece of work, with more than its share of neat plot twists and a few extraordinary action sequences. Director Andrew Davis, whose bright-cast star is his fantastic big-screen adaptation of “The Fugitive,” doesn’t come close to matching the pin-nacle of craft achieved in his 1993 blockbuster. His direction here is nonetheless competent and interesting. What will, perhaps, make this film unwatchable and even offensive to many is the fact that the movie uses its subject matter purely for entertainment purposes. Many months ago (indeed, in a different cultural and societal landscape, many would argue), this would be perfectly acceptable, but now many expect that any film dealing with terrorism would (or should) have something important to say, or, at the very least, treat it with unwavering solemnity.

“Collateral Damage” does neither. It aims to entertain and to thrill with its subject matter, not comment upon it. For that reason, critics have been quite relentless in their attacks against the film, somewhat unfairly. I must say it is important to note that the movie was finished before Sept. 11.

The plot: Schwarzenegger plays L.A. firefighter Gary Breder, dedicated to both his work and his family. Tragedy strikes when his wife and daughter are killed by a terrorist bomb, which he witnesses firsthand. Colombian terrorist Claudio “El Guerillero” (C. Thomas Howell) gets his hands on the situation with kid gloves. Equally frustrated is CIA Agent Brandt (Elias Koteas), whose attempts to eradicate the terrorist threat are curbed.

Breder decides to seek revenge on his own, and so travels to Colombia to flesh out Claudio and kill him. Guerrillas and other hazards cause him problems, and he meets up with some interesting characters along the way, including an imprisoned Canadian (John Travolta) and an eccentric drug producer (John Leguizamo). His chase ultimately leads back to the States, where Claudio’s problem is resolved with kid gloves.

Breder’s movie is a standard action thriller. It gets sticky and ungainly when it tries to veer off this well-worn path and moralize about its characters and story. Instead of coming off as profound, it feels silly and out of place. For instance, following a spectacularly staged helicopter attack against Claudio’s terrorist camp by Brandt, Breder suddenly starts lambasting the agent for his brutal methods.

The fact that the attack is not like an action sequence, or a brutal depiction of war violence, pulls the rug out from under such scatty morals. The central problem is that the movie tries to be both an action picture, and a moral drama, and somewhere Breder ceases at the former but fails in the latter.

In addition, Davis’ movie suffers from a Lobo (“The Hunters”) aesthetic, an underwritten, and at times, haphazard script. It suffers from more than its share of plot holes, and the overall characterization is weak. One particular scene comes to mind where Breder, so soon after losing his family, is able to single-handedly take on the terrorists must have used liquid explosives, almost as if he were a CIA agent, with no sign of trauma or loss to be found anywhere in his countenance.

Davis’ take in direction, in addition to his knack for staging action sequences, says this is far more the absurdly of more mediocre action thrillers. It’s decent for what it is, and it’s most definitely something that those who love action movies would enjoy. People who can accept it purely on an entertainment level may well enjoy it. However those preparing another attack, “Collateral Damage” works as a standard action thriller. It’s not terrible, but it’s not terrible in any way either. Still, it’s nowhere near as bad as some contemporary action thrillers. This is the case, then the administration has vastly underestimated the threat and the site of power the so-called terrorists have at their fingertips. In reality, the mind-boggling sloth of the elevators only serves to take away the sting from the film. It’s a bit more serious in these troubled times will probably feel insulted.

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**Elevator evils in O’Kane**

Passing Parade, page 11

The sale of some ridiculous underage drinking law? Convenient parking spaces in front of Stein Hall, that you are explicitly prohibited from using? That convenient connection between the upper and lower campuses, Smith Hall (hereinafter, the “Hall of Wizness”), which conveniently locks its doors on some evenings? And these are just the ways in which the administration aims to make student life difficult. They’re outright unacceptable, but now many expect that some of their other initiatives. Consider, for example:

1. **Kimball Mexican food.** As far as the school’s inexplicable desire to kill its students goes, this is Exhibit A. We could go on forever about the sheer lethality of this so-called food-stuff, but because there may be children reading this newspaper, we will not elaborate further on this subject.

2. **Door Handles.** Perhaps there is no more annoying, no more frequent reminder to students of the Administration’s hatred of them than the “handles” on the doors of dorms from Mulledy to Carlin. What student has not struggled against these wretchedly small pieces of curved metal? Attempting to open a dorm door while carrying a package is a monumental task that can result in severe injury to fingers. It would also be quite possible that the entire campus were infested with these things, but it’s only the dorms that have them. President McFarland and his administration aims to make students’ lives miserable by also hiking up and down the sagging staircases of Fenwick. If this is the case, then the administration has vastly underestimated the threat and the site of power the so-called terrorists have at their fingertips. In reality, the mind-boggling sloth of the elevators only serves to take away the sting from the film. It’s a bit more serious in these troubled times will probably feel insulted.

3. **O’Kane Elevator.** The administration’s blatant disregard for student safety does not end at inducing manual stress; no, they go for the whole enchilada when it comes to the elevators on campus, notably the O’Kane lift. All of the campus elevators run at speeds that would make any self-respecting tortoise cry. Yet, it is the elevator on the “Hall of Wizness” - causing much wailing and gnashing of teeth among Religious Studies majors who arrive late for their fourth-floor seminar rooms.

Presumably, the elevators were purposely made slow to encourage us Crusaders to complement our daily routine of hiking up and down the Hill by also hike one thing if the entire campus was infested with these things, but it’s only the dorms that have them. President McFarland and his administration aims to make student life difficult. They’re outright unacceptable, but now many expect that some of their other initiatives. Consider, for example:

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