

# STUDENT LIFE - YEAR IN REVIEW

## 'Baby' goes one more round with 'Aviator'

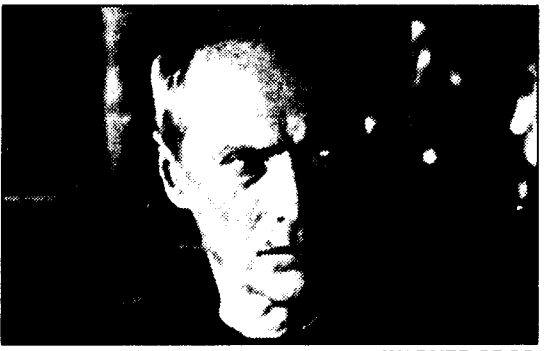
By Daniel J. Stasiewski  
from the Feb. 25 issue

As excited as I usually am this time of year, I'm starting to have that feeling I had the week before Election Day 2004. I just want it over. At this point, two worthy candidates (unlike Election 2004) are up for the top spot; the rest of the categories are heated races, then there is Jamie Foxx, the sure thing.

**Best Picture**  
Nominees: "The Aviator," "Finding Neverland," "Million Dollar Baby," "Ray," and "Sideways"

As Steve Buscemi would say, "Define irony." Six years after Miramax's "Shakespeare in Love" stunned the world with its deserved win over "Saving Private Ryan," Miramax's year-in-advance favorite "The Aviator" is looking down the barrel of a surprise loss to "Million Dollar Baby." As a fan of the epic, "The Aviator" I do want to see it win. But the Director's Guild Award win for Clint Eastwood says it all. It's the most accurate Oscar precursor when it comes to predicting both Best Director and Best Picture. The conservative activist groups and fundamentalists who have lambasted the film's final scene, have only fueled the fire underneath what could be Warner Bros. first winner in nearly 12 years. The same thing happened with "A Beautiful Mind," and as long as the controversy is short-sighted and easy to overcome, the Academy will stick it to the right-wingers and vote "Million Dollar Baby." Of course, Clint's pure Hollywood-style also works toward the favor of "MDB" over the stylized "Aviator." The epic isn't back quite yet.

Prediction: "Million Dollar Baby"  
Close Second: "The Aviator"



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**Best Director**  
Nominees: Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby;" Taylor Hackford, "Ray;" Mike Leigh, "Vera Drake;" Alexander Payne, "Sideways;" and Martin Scorsese, "The Aviator"

While Scorsese may be overdue, he'll likely join



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the elite circle of directors to go zero and five when it comes to the Best Director Oscar. If Hitchcock and Robert Altman couldn't win, I doubt New York-boy Scorsese can get over the Academy's disdain for outsiders. Eastwood on the other hand is all Hollywood. Even though he's already won a directing Oscar for "Unforgiven," his work today is as poignant as it is classical. His purely American directing style woos the Academy for a second time and Hollywood once again salutes its own. Because Eastwood is doing some of the best directing work of his career, he should easily overcome Scorsese, who people seem to dislike for not being as brilliant as he was almost 30 years ago.

Prediction: Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"  
Close Second: Martin Scorsese, "The Aviator"

**Best Actress**  
Nominees: Annette Bening, "Being Julia;" Catalina Sandino Moreno, "Maria Full of Grace;" Imelda Staunton, "Vera Drake;" Hilary Swank, "Million Dollar Baby;" and Kate Winslet, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"

I may be making this category harder to predict than it really is, but a "Million Dollar Baby" Best Picture win doesn't seem like it would help Swank. With one Oscar to her name already, a Swank win here would make her royalty. The last actress to win two award this close together was Jodie Foster,



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and Swank's no Jodie Foster. Imelda Staunton got a major push got three major nominations. Her role in "Vera Drake has wowed critics and the political theme may be enough for the film to take one award home. Of course, Benning may sneak in, also. Unpredictable? Maybe, but this is the category that looks best set for an upset.

Prediction: Imelda Staunton, "Vera Drake"  
Close Second: Hilary Swank, "Million Dollar Baby"

**Best Actor**  
Nominees: Don Cheadle, "Hotel Rwanda;" Johnny Depp, "Finding Neverland;" Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Aviator;" Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby;" and Jamie Foxx, "Ray"

I won't waste much space with this one. But I will say if Foxx doesn't win, I will be eating a shoe in the Beacon office Monday at noon.



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Prediction: Jamie Foxx, "Ray"  
Slam Dunk

**Best Supporting Actor**  
Nominees: Alan Alda, "The Aviator;" Thomas Haden Church, "Sideways;" Morgan Freeman, "Million Dollar Baby;" Jamie Foxx, "Collateral;" and Clive Owen, "Closer"

This category is a three-horse race with Screen Actors Guild winner Morgan Freeman leading the pack. Traditionally a supporting award goes along

with Best Picture and Alan Alda isn't likely to get more than a thank you from the winner of this category. Church was a critical darling, but has faded. Owen is the Globe winner, but his film wasn't carried enough to make it look like a winner. Church and Owen could still pull it off, they've been campaigning like Kerry and Bush in October. The overdue veteran, however, has a solid role, and Freeman is likely to finally get the little gold guy.



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Prediction: Morgan Freeman, "Million Dollar Baby"  
Close Second: Clive Owen, "Closer"

**Best Supporting Actress**  
Nominees: Cate Blanchett, "The Aviator;" Laura Linney, "Kinsey;" Virginia Madsen, "Sideways;" Sophie Okonedo, "Hotel Rwanda;" and Natalie Portman, "Closer"

This may be the only race where any of the five could take the award. Linney is overdue and plays a supportive wife. Portman is a young up-and-comer, like Mira Sorveno and Marisa Tomei. Madsen is a critical favorite. Blanchett plays an Oscar goddess. Okonedo plays a supportive wife. Of the five Blanchett and Madsen have the most heat going into Oscar night, but Okonedo may pull off an upset like Marcia Gay Harden did when she won for playing a supportive wife in "Pollock." Madsen has the problem of being in an Alexander Payne film and he couldn't even get Jack Nicholson an Oscar. With Blanchett winning the SAG award, I'll pick her. But watch out for Okonedo.



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Prediction: Cate Blanchett, "The Aviator"  
Close Second: Sophie Okonedo, "Hotel Rwanda"

**Best Original Screenplay**  
Prediction: "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"  
Close Second: "Vera Drake"

**Best Adapted Screenplay**  
Prediction: "Sideways"  
Close Second: "Million Dollar Baby"

The Academy Awards will air Sunday at 8 p.m. on ABC.

## Violence struck at New Found Glory concert

By Siobhan Conway  
from the April 8 issue

Students who attended the New Found Glory concert March 31 may have been surprised by the chaos that erupted during the show. Apparently, ignoring the signs on the door warning "No Moshing," a mosh pit formed and students were injured.

Students were allowed to crowd surf twice, although they weren't advised of this rule. There was supposed to be one person on each side of the stage who would put slash marks with a red marker on anyone's hand that decided to crowd surf. If a person had two slashes and tried to crowd surf a third time, they were supposed to be removed from the premises.

Because there was so much chaos at the front of the stage, this procedure was not successful. It was almost impossible to keep track of the students and the number of times they crowd surfed. It was also difficult to control the crowd because the band members were also encouraging audience members to continue.

The Student Security Committee was told not to touch anybody. They were informed that they could get in trouble or the school could get sued if they confronted anyone physically. The security committee was instructed that Police and Safety would be in charge of any physical violence.

Police and Safety officers can't be in two places at once and the physical violence and injuries were too numerous for the officers to handle by themselves.



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Mosh pits and crowd surfing caused students injuries at the New Found Glory concert. Pictured above is the band performing to an outside crowd in California.

"Everybody got smashed to the front," said Mark Walczak, MIS 04, a student on the security committee. "I had to pick up a girl who passed out from being pushed. I didn't want her to get hurt."

Another problem was with the placement of the student security members within the building. The larger members should have been placed in front of the stage to control the crowds.

Justin Curry, PSYCH 08, was in charge of the hospitality committee for the show. The possibility of violence at the concert wasn't discussed with any committees except for security, but he did notice the signs warning against moshing at the doors.

"I don't think anyone expected the crowd surfing and moshing to happen to the extent that it did. It seemed like every three seconds someone new was crowd surfing," said Curry. "I believe this concert was an excellent idea and the work that went into it as well as the turnout was great. I hope the administration doesn't think so badly about this that they wouldn't allow us to have another concert."

Four people who attended the concert were taken away in ambulances, including one girl from the student security committee.

## Student's directing career begins

By Lori DeFalco  
from the April 1 issue

Is it possible to begin a career as a freshman? It is for Behrend student Aaron Amendola, 02 THEA/EDU, who was rewarded the role of director for the theatre troupe "United We Stand" performance of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple."

Amendola has been interested in theatre since high school, which helped him land his first directing role with United We Stand. One of his high school theatre teachers introduced him to Clark Mitchell of the theatre troupe, and after numerous interviews, Amendola was awarded the job.

As a director, Amendola has already 40 hours of rehearsal and a lot of school time devoted to the troupe since he became director in late Feb. He wanted to see all the roles and is continuously learning on the job. He set sound and lights, in addition to the job of directing the actors and interpreting the script.

The show is a comedy, directed and in some cases, performed by a group of 15-16 students. The show is a comedy about a little town in Pennsylvania. "It's like a town of people who are just trying to get by."

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