

ENTERTAINMENT

Word Of The Year: (2/29/08)

imago (im-may'-go, im-mah'-go): noun - an insect in its final, adult, sexually mature, and typically winged state.

One of my best memories of home was watching my hated little brother go on his first date. "Good luck, imago," I said. He thought I said "amigo." Ha, ha, but I didn't.

Oscar nominations announced

Producers scramble for post-strike organization

By Connor Sattely
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Feb. 22, 2008

This Sunday, performers and nominees alike will take a sigh of relief as they can finally put the Writers' Strike behind them and enjoy this year's Academy Awards. The 80th anniversary of the Oscars will be its usual self, reported organizers. Exciting, glamorous, and complete with all of America's favorite stars, the Oscars award show promises to be one to remember.

However, things were not looking so bright several weeks ago, when the show's planners still had to think about the Writer's Guild of America's picket line. What would have resulted, had the strike not ended, would have been a "toned-down" version of the show. Musical acts would have still performed, and according to telecast producer Gil Cates, "there was going to be a lot of energy for that." Some actors, producers, and even workers, though, refused to cross the picket lines should the Academy Awards be held during the strike.

"It would have relied mostly on film clips," Cates said, "and historical clips, because this is the 80th anniversary of the awards."

Workers are scrambling to combine elements of the previously planned show, known now as the "B show," with the complete version, the "A show." What will result will hopefully draw enough viewers to separate the show further from the Grammy award show, which made one of its worst showings a few weeks ago, drawing far less than most TV shows. It was also a noteworthy occasion for the Grammys, as it was their 50th anniversary.

Colbert's presidential race cut short in South Carolina

By Connor Sattely
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Nov. 2, 2007

Comedian Steven Colbert made the first real step towards a Presidential bid by filing to appear on the ballot in South Carolina as a Democrat. The decision of whether Colbert would get a spot then fell to the Democratic Party in South Carolina. Unfortunately, that group of people shot down the popular TV host because he did not meet the requirements for a spot on the ballot.

The Democratic Party has two requirements for those who want to get a ballot spot in the state: that he or she is viable nationally and has spent time campaigning in the state.

Carol Fowler, the chairman of the state Democratic Party, as



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NOTEWORTHY OSCAR NOMINATIONS

- | | |
|--|---|
| BEST ACTOR, LEAD
G. Clooney: <i>Michael Clayton</i>
D. Day-Lewis: <i>There Will Be Blood</i>
J. Depp: <i>Sweeney Todd</i>
T. Lee Jones: <i>In the Valley of Elah</i>
V. Mortensen: <i>Eastern Promises</i> | BEST PICTURE
<i>Atonement</i>
<i>Juno</i>
<i>Michael Clayton</i>
<i>No Country for Old Men</i>
<i>There Will Be Blood</i> |
| BEST ACTRESS, LEAD
Ellen Page: <i>Juno</i>
Julie Christie: <i>Away From Her</i>
Marion Cotillard: <i>La Vie en Rose</i>
Laura Linney: <i>The Savages</i>
Cate Blanchett: <i>Elizabeth</i> | BEST DIRECTING
<i>Juno</i>
<i>Michael Clayton</i>
<i>No Country for Old Men</i>
<i>There Will Be Blood</i>
<i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i>
Source: www.oscar.com |

quoting Colbert, said "he does not appear to be campaigning to win if he is only running in one state."

Many Democrats in the state spoke out publicly about Colbert's run, claiming that it cheapened the Democratic process, and that he would not be shown any leniency in the laws that he was required to follow.

"Stephen Colbert clearly didn't qualify under our rules, and it would have been a mistake and wrong to violate our rules," said Charleston Democratic party chairman Waring Howe.

Reaction among Behrend students tends to be a lack of surprise.

"It was dumb, of course," says Behrend student James Wolfe. "But it would have been awesome if he had won. It would have been kind of scary, too."

Student Daniel Frankel agrees, and says that Colbert should have followed a much different strategy.

"If he was serious," he says, "he definitely would have started sooner. Everything he did was last minute, and even when he announced it, I was thinking, 'Wow, that's really sudden.'"

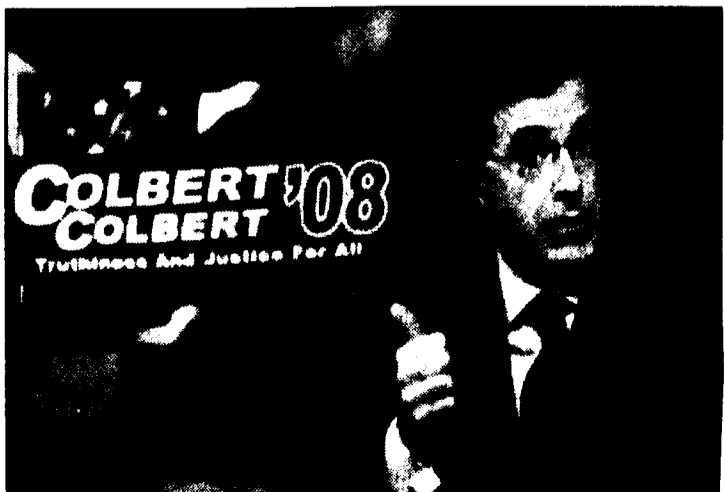
Though Colbert's run seems to be over, the shot at the White House may have done more than elicited some laughs amongst his fans. Many claim that his presidential bid could have just been a ploy to sell more copies of his book, "I Am America (And So Can You!)"

The book focuses on things that Colbert thinks are trying to threaten our country, and his various solutions on how to save the nation.

For this year, his run for the White House seems to be done early, as he has said he will not seek the Republican ticket's spot due to a \$35,000 fine that he would have to pay for the spot.

As Colbert's fanbase grows, there remains no doubt that he is one of the most popular comedians of the modern age, and his fans could expect to see a repeat performance in four years. Perhaps Colbert's fake bid will encourage imitations from fans or fellow comedians.

Maybe next time, it will be serious. But, then again, Colbert's antics rarely are.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Comedian Stephen Colbert

Actor Heath Ledger dies; autopsy results inconclusive as to cause

By Evan Koser
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Jan. 25, 2008

Police have yet to find the reason behind the death of 28-year old actor Heath Ledger this past Tuesday.

On Jan 22, Ledger was found dead in his fourth-floor apartment at 421 Broome Street in New York City. A police statement revealed that his housekeeper, Theresa Solomon, arrived around 12:30 PM for her daily routine. When Solomon entered his bedroom at 1:00 PM to change a light bulb, Ledger was face down on his mattress, sleeping and snoring heavily. Apparently, when Ledger's masseuse Diana Wolozin arrived at 2:45 PM, Ledger was unresponsive to his cell phone when he did not exit his bedroom at the set meeting time. Still unresponsive, Wolozin called 9-1-1 at 3:26 PM. He was pronounced dead ten minutes later when he did not respond to defibrillation and CPR.

Police said that six types of prescription drugs were found in Ledger's apartment, including anti-anxiety medications and sleeping pills. Authorities have announced that preliminary autopsy results were inconclusive. According to police estimates, it could be approximately ten days after the actor's death until a cause of death can be found.

Near Ledger's bed, a twenty dollar bill was found rolled up, but tests confirmed the absence of any drug residue. Police have also mentioned that there were no illegal drugs found anywhere inside of his apartment. Antihistamines were found and it has

been confirmed that three of the drugs had been prescribed in London, as Ledger had been filming in Europe. The only statement confidently held by the police is that Ledger may have accidentally overdosed.

Ledger mainly starred on television series throughout the majority of the nineties. He began his acting career at the age of twenty in Hollywood. He will have his final, posthumous appearance in "The Dark Knight" as Batman's iconic arch-enemy, The Joker. The role is surprisingly dark and twisted, straying away from his common pattern of often heroic and compassionate roles. The film is in post-production stages and footage will remain unaffected by his death. Thus far, the only known affect his death may have may be on the viral marketing surrounding his character.

In 2005, Ledger starred as Ennis Del Mar in "Brokeback Mountain." The role earned him an academy award nomination for the best performance by an actor in a leading role.

Ledger has also starred in "The Patriot" (2000), "A Knight's Tale" (2001), and "The Brother's Grimm" (2005). His latest role was in "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus," which was set to be released in 2009; however, production has halted in light of the actor's untimely death.

Those who have had the opportunity to work with Ledger have expressed their deepest condolences and regret about the actor's death. "He was just taking off and to lose his life at such a young age is a tragic loss. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family," says actor Mel Gibson, who played Ledger's father in "The Patriot."



Kanye West wins album sales battle over 50 Cent

By Erik Holman
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Sept. 20, 2007

On September 11th, 2007, an album battle of epic proportions had started between performers Kanye West and Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson. The popular rappers had a musical showdown as both decided to release their third solo albums, West's "Graduation" and Jackson's "Curtis," on September 11th, 2007. West and Jackson have both released platinum selling albums in the past, so the anticipation for each new CD grew with the approaching release date. Prior to this date, each had released three singles to increase the hype for their new products: West had "Stronger," "Can't Tell Me Nothing," and "Good Life," while Jackson had "Straight to the Bank," "I Get Money," and "Ayo Technology."

When those albums were released in stores that day, the stakes were high and experts and fans alike speculated on which would sell more. Jackson even stated he would "retire from solo records" if West's sales were to exceed his. An on-campus poll of students showed that popular



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

West and Curtis face off prior to releasing their albums.

opinion at Penn State Behrend favors West. Freshman Andres Emedan states, "West's music is catchier and I can relate to his lyrics better. His music provides a more positive message. Not so much about killing people." There are a few who stick to Jackson's side, such as freshman Kyle Gerhart, who simply comments, "50 Cent has better beats."

At the end of the first week, the results were out: West's "Graduation" sold over 930,000 copies and reached first place on

the Top Album Billboard, while "Curtis" sold almost 660,000 and came in second. The count is not final, but it is pretty clear who has won the "rap battle."

One other performer who had a part in the race was Kenny Chesney, who came in third on the charts with over 300,000 albums sold.

Although Jackson promises his retirement because of Kanye's sales, Jackson decided not to hang up his career anytime soon, much to the dismay of Kanye's faithful. Instead, Jackson found alternatives to cope with the sales, stating that West's label Def Jam "rigged the sales charts," that Def Jam gave West a better promotion, and claims his own label Interscope was not promoting him well enough. Jackson also made a new vow that he would release an album when Def Jam has its next huge release. So this "rap battle" would officially become an all-out war between rappers. Keep an eye out for an upcoming "50 Cent vs. Jay-Z" battle, or any other artist on Def Jam's record. For now, it appears that West is the "Stronger" competitor and a true musical champion.

Each week, the Behrend Beacon featured an entertainer of the week. In a tribute to some of the entertainers who have passed away this year, we now feature our Beacon Entertainers of the Year: 2007-2008

 Daredevil Evel Knievel b. Oct. 17, 1928 d. Nov. 30, 2007	 Author Madeline L. Eagle b. Nov. 28, 1918 d. Sept. 6, 2007	 Actor Stanley Kamel b. Jan. 1, 1943 d. April 8, 2008	 Actor Charles Horman b. Oct. 4, 1923 d. April 3, 2008	 Actor Heath Ledger b. April 4, 1979 d. Jan. 22, 2008
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