

Winter 2012  
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# XAVIER REVIEW

## *The Wrath of Sandy*

The remnants of the  
boardwalk in Rockaway Park

**James Gallagher '14**  
Editor

There are events in our lives that stand out above all others. Family weddings and funerals. Pearl Harbor. The day we landed on the moon. When JFK was shot. 9/11. For most of us here at Xavier, Hurricane Sandy will be that event. We will always remember where we were when the lights went out, the water started to rise and the fires began. One hundred and ten deaths. Over three thousand injuries. Sixty billion dollars worth of damage. One hundred and eleven homes destroyed by fire. Eighty displaced Xavier students. These are all numbers, but the pain and devastation that Hurricane Sandy caused cannot be quantified. The real damage that Sandy caused is best fleshed out through the stories of those who experienced it first-hand. Here are some of our stories.

My story is one of fear and ignorance. I live in Rockaway Park with my mother, just seven houses from the beach, and like so many of our neighbors, we decided to defy the evacuation order. After the over dramatization of Hurricane Irene, we thought perhaps that this would be another “non-event”. We were wrong. At about 7:30 PM that night, the Atlan-

tic Ocean came rushing past our house, towards the Jamaica Bay. It took less than an hour for the waters to rise up to our front porch, ten feet above street level. As water seeped through the floorboards and under our front door, we retreated upstairs to relative safety. It was from there that we felt the house shake from the strong winds, saw parts of the boardwalk float by and first noticed the bright orange sky. We could clearly see an entire block on fire just four streets away. To add to our fear, our carbon monoxide alarm went off. Knowing how deadly the scentless gas can be, we decided spend the rest of the night on our porch. Trapped and wrapped in blankets, we waited for the waters to recede as we hatched our escape plan, in case our house was to catch fire next. It was a surreal moment and one I won't soon forget.

That night, not only water and wind wreaked havoc throughout our neighborhoods, fires ravaged the Breezy Point section of Queens. The tight knit community lost one hundred and eleven homes, but thankfully, there was not one life lost. Belle Harbor also suffered devastating fires. Eamonn Gavigan '14 remembers, “From my window I could see ten houses up in flames.” Eamonn was in his basement trying to get family valuables to safety when the door

was pushed open by the force of water. “I was using my phone as a flashlight and when the water rushed in, the phone got wet and was fried. We lost everything in our basement, but I feel like we were among the lucky ones.” Even though his family's losses were great, like so many other Xavier students, he is just thankful to be alive. “We honestly thought that we weren't going to make it.”

Queens was not the only borough directly impacted by Sandy. Coastal areas in Brooklyn and New Jersey also saw severe damage. However, it was Staten Island which suffered the most permanent losses. With twenty lives taken, Staten Island had the highest death toll in NYC. Resident Michael Pedulla '14 said, “We definitely underestimated this storm. I couldn't believe that the water in the street was past my knees.” However, he too counts himself as lucky. “We weren't in a totally devastated area and we had power back a couple of days later.” Not all were so lucky. “My uncle, who lives in Tottenville, had two neighbors that died that night. A father and daughter died as the water from the Raritan Bay just carried their house away. We heard stories like that for days and felt so thankful that we were safe.”

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Courtesy: Frank Locascio - MSG Varsity

**XAVIER SLAMS  
THE RAM,  
THEN WINS  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Turn to page 3  
for the details

## Thanksgiving Food Drive Successful Again



David Fonseca '14  
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, November 20th members of the Xavier community gathered collectively in the Commons, assisting in the organizing and boxing of food items that would be donated to the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Throughout the entire school day, students as well as faculty were seen going in and out of the Commons willing to do as much as possible to help out. After a busy day in the Commons, the food drive eventually came to an end, as the items collected were ready to be donated to hundreds of underprivileged families from all over New York City.

With the food donated by Xavier, along with the dedicated work of the Xavier Mission, we successfully served 192 Thanksgiving baskets to 138 families for a total of 1152 meals. These results are alone very impressive; however, given the fact that the food drive was cut short to only a week due to Hurricane Sandy, the results are even more remarkable. Still managing to acquire leftovers, Xavier will use the remaining food for the monthly food pantry, which serves approximately 400 people.

This year's Thanksgiving Food Drive was certainly special in comparison to previous food drives hosted by Xavier. During this unfortunate time in which many are still suffering from Sandy, a large portion of the Xavier community is focused primarily on returning to normalcy and helping those in their communities who have been affected by the hurricane. However, everyone still finds it in their hearts and values to help out those who are in most need. This year's food drive is a powerful revelation of what Xavier High School is truly about.



## Xavier SC President's State of the School

With the end of the Christmas Season quickly approaching, the Xavier community is constantly being reminded of what they are thankful for, whether it be their friends, families, teachers, or advisors. I am writing this letter to give thanks to the Xavier Community. Over the past two months, we have witnessed great trials of faith through Hurricane Sandy and readjusting to life on 16th Street. I am proud to announce that through the Student Council Homeroom Coin Collection, we have surpassed our goal of \$2,500 that will go directly to aiding the Sandy Relief Projects here at Xavier. I would like to thank the student body for coming together during this period of hardship and showing exactly what the Sons of Xavier are capable of.

Even though a great deal of our time has been spent on the relief collection, we have not forgotten our goal of "enhancing the student experience here at Xavier." Currently, we are talking with Mr. Raslowsky about possible "enhancements" for the current school year and the years to come. The Homeroom Representatives are hard at work trying to find out what their classmates want at Xavier. We are always open to suggestions and we welcome new ideas.

Once again, I would like to thank the student body and Xavier for showing their support of the Student Council through the relief collection. The devastation seen these past few months will not end with the new year and I am confident in saying that my fellow students will always be there for those who need help. Thank you again, and I hope that everyone has a blessed and restful Christmas.

**For Xavier,**  
**Tim Kelly '13**

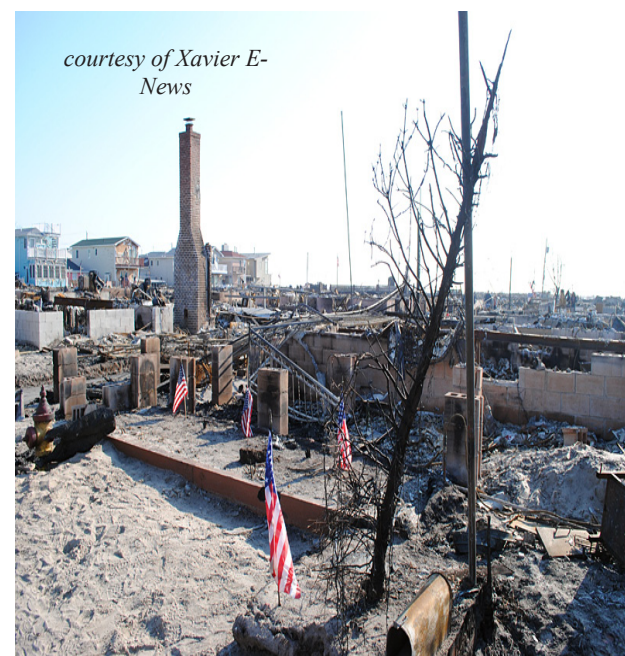
## Xavier's Blue Night Band

**Kevin Ko '15**  
**Staff Reporter**

Some students at Xavier, and possibly a few faculty members, may not be aware of the classroom located behind the cafeteria in the D building on the "0th floor". But, what classroom could possibly be on the "0th floor?" That answer is 0D1, also known as the band room. In fact, during my first day as a freshman, I had to ask numerous students and teachers before I was able to correctly locate this mysterious 0D1, which houses the JV Band and the Blue Night Band.

The Xavier Blue Night Band is best known for providing dynamic music during school events such as Maroon and Blue Day and the Turkey Bowl Rally as well as well as participating in various parades throughout the year; but the school band

## Sandy (continued)



It's been more than a month since the super storm. The thousands of New Yorkers that were left tired, homeless and emotionally drained have begun to recover. Some of us packed up what we had left and moved on. Some stayed behind to pick up the pieces and begin anew. Others, not directly impacted by Sandy's wrath, opened their homes and hearts to family, friends and even strangers. As is usually the case, tragedy brings out the best in people. Although we will continue to hear more numbers associated with Hurricane Sandy; tons of garbage, miles of beach erosion, businesses in ruins, it is our stories, the stories that will be told and retold over and over again that we should remember most. Hurricane Sandy took so much from so many, but it did not take away our spirit and our innate nature to reach out and help those in need.

should be recognized for far more than that.

To give some background information for those who might be unfamiliar, the Blue Night Band and JV Band practices two times a week for two hours after school. Musicians perform on multiple instruments ranging from trumpet, trombone, saxes, and rhythm instruments, often switching between daytime and afterschool sessions. Some of our concerts are hosted at Xavier for friends and family to watch, such as the Winter Jazz Concert (on Jan. 11th.) Two other important events are held in Boston, and Washington D.C. Both ensembles are excited to return to the Berklee College of Music High School Jazz Festival this coming March for the opportunity to compete for various awards. In addition, a performance at Washington D.C.'s renowned jazz club, Blues Alley, has been offered to our band this spring.

The instrumental music program at Xavier has recently taken some impressive steps in the right direction under our band director, Dr. Pace. Aside from the band's concerts throughout the year, Dr. Pace has incorporated video to the program's existing sound recording studio. With the power of HD video obtained from multiple new camcorders, coupled with high quality multi-track audio, musicians are able to visually and audibly identify any flaws in their musical performance for improvement purposes, and then share their progress with friends and family. Seniors will each create their own CD that features their own interpretations of various jazz standards. Several

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# Xavier Football Fights Adversity En Route to Turkey Bowl and Championship Wins



*courtesy of MSG  
Varsity*

Soheb Osmani '15 and Frank Nugent '15  
Staff Reporters

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the Xavier Varsity Football team trudged on to arguably the most important game in the school's history. The Turkey Bowl, the annual traditional Thanksgiving football game between the Fordham Rams and the Xavier Knights, has been played longer than the Super Bowl and has a rich tradition, one that promotes friendly rivalry and competition.

But this year, the game had much more at stake than bragging rights. For the first time ever, in the Turkey Bowl's electrifying and storied history, the game was a semi-final play-off game. Whoever lost this game would be knocked out of the playoffs. Whoever won would compete in the championship game.

The third seed in the CHSFL 'AA' Conference playoffs, the Xavier Knights came out strong and determined, marching down Fordham's field from the start. Fordham surprised Xavier when their defense came out with a completely new formation from that of the past two years. But this year the Xavier Knights, who have scored on average 33.6 points per game while they have only allowed 17.5 points per game, were ready for it and they did not lose hope. At halftime the Xavier Knights made some minor tweaks. They decided they were going to do what they had planned to do—run the ball, a strategy they would execute effectively.

The final score at the end was 38-21 with Xavier on top. The Knights clearly played better than Fordham. William "Tre" Solomon '14 had over two hundred yards and 3 touchdowns. Senior Ryan Kilgallen '13 ran for around one hundred yards.

When asked about the importance of the game after Xavier's win Coach Christopher Stevens '83 said, "These are two classy schools, and it is a great Jesuit sports showcase. I know coaches that have coached in other rivalry games and that have coached in this one, and they said that this is something special. This is not just a rivalry game—it's a rivalry game with a lot of nostalgia and tradition."

Many student-athletes on the team were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Referring to Sandy, Stevens said, "To come out here for such a special game, and have eleven kids out of

their houses and a hundred kids out of their houses in school. This was truly remarkable how with such tensions and problems Xavier came out of things, and even though there is a large task ahead of them...[they show] you can still accomplish great things under duress. I think the city needs this story. This team that has twenty five percent of its players out of their houses is rocking and rolling. REBUILD!"

With their victory the Xavier Football Knights moved on to face St. John the Baptist in the AA gridiron championship.

It was a brisk, cool night on December 1st as the Xavier Knights' Varsity football team members were about to clash with the St. John the Baptist Cougars. The Knights knew this was more than just a championship game that they were playing; it was a statement to the Xavier community that they could overcome any adversity put in their way, even a devastating hurricane like Sandy. Eleven players on the squad had been displaced with some of their most prized valuables and items being taken away or ruined by the storm. Fellow teammates had taken in most of those displaced players. Even though the players had lost much in the storm, they were more than determined to continue with the season, which is one of the things that not even a hurricane could take away. Many thought that Xavier would not win since they had been cut off from their resources. When their practice fields were unreachable, they were forced to practice in the gym and cafeteria. Halfway through the game when Anthony Chillo '15 was asked why he thought Xavier would win he replied, "It's pretty hard to score on [Xavier's] defense, as we've seen before, and once Tre Solomon has an opening, he's gone." The Knights were up to the challenge, soon prove all of the doubters wrong.

On the kickoff Ryan McDade '13 gave the Knights strong field position to attack after a 20-yard return to the 30-yard line. Later in the series, Ryan Kilgallen '13 made a 40-yard one handed catch which led to an outside handoff touchdown at the 5 yard line by Kilgallen. The second quarter started as the Cougars score a touchdown, but Xavier soon bounced back with a kick return by Jimmy Wolfer '13. Once again, Ryan Kilgallen found the open hole up the middle and scored on a 30-yard touchdown run for the Knights. Tre Solomon '14, the team's leading rusher, scored his first touchdown for the Knights, making it 21-7 at the

half. Defense dominated the third quarter with a sack by Ryan Kilgallen, who had an outstanding game with three total touchdowns; and an interception by Jimmy Wolfer. Even though the Cougars scored again in the fourth quarter, Connor Sweet '13 and Kevin Fitzpatrick '14 sacked the Cougars quarterback for negative yardage. Tre Solomon scored the final touchdown for the Knights nearing the end to seal the 35-14 victory. After the game, Coach Christopher Stevens was drenched with a Gatorade bath by two players. The Xavier Knights had captured the AA Division Playoff Title!

The game was featured not only on MSG Varsity, but also on ESPN which described Xavier as "the feel-good story of Sandy." In an interview with ESPN reporters, Coach Stevens stated, "We just wanted to get to the finals because that would extend the season for ten more days, and it's ten more days of camaraderie to help these kids that are out of their houses." Coach Stevens has led the Varsity Football team to a winning record five out of the last six years including three championships, a phenomenal achievement in such a small amount of time. After completing his ninth season with a 9-2 record his overall record as head coach is 60-38. This year Coach Stevens has yet again led the team to a winning season ending with a championship. This win was especially significant to those seniors who may never play football again but whom will always remember and embrace the 2012 Xavier Football championship run. When asked about his experience in Xavier Football Senior and starting lineman Luis Carpio '13 said proudly, "What I will miss about Xavier football is the camaraderie it created, particularly between us seniors. To have played four years of football together and to go play our hearts out and win the AA championship game required a lot of mutual trust and friendship. I will miss most my teammates and coaches. That is the best part about Xavier Football. Although it is sad that for most of us that the championship game was the last time we would ever put on a helmet and shoulder pads, I couldn't have asked for a better way to end the season." With that, the Xavier community congratulates the Varsity Football Team for all of their hard work and dedication which has led them to a momentous championship win.

## Band (continued from page 2)

songs performed by seniors and juniors are currently posted on YouTube for public viewing with many more to come.

In spirit of the Christmas season and as is our Xavier tradition to convene for mass, the Xavier Blue Night Band will also be performing a number of holiday arrangements at Christmas at Xavier. This year the band is preparing "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch" with the hope that Mr. Livigni may once again read the all-time childhood favorite of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss to the entire Xavier community. The combination of the story and song would certainly bring the ultimate, joyful mood to everyone this season along with many other Christmas carols we have in store for December 21st.

## Xavier Recovers from Sandy

Jack Defuria '15  
Staff Reporter

On October 29th, 2012, Hurricane Sandy touched down in New York City and changed almost everything about life as we knew it. Areas throughout New Jersey, Long Island, Connecticut, Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Staten Island, and the majority of Lower Manhattan were without power for days. The hurricane, which was rated a Category 2 hurricane, left a path of destruction across the East Coast of the United States.

Hurricane Sandy hit particularly close to home for Xavier. Over 80 students at Xavier were displaced from their homes due to Hurricane Sandy. Breezy Point, the small beach neighborhood in the Rockaway section of Queens, alone lost 111 homes due to the effects caused by Sandy.

Amidst all the destruction left by Hurricane Sandy, the Xavier community was willing and ready to help all those who were affected by the storm. Xavier's Ignatian Service program organized the first school relief service trip on Friday, November 2nd, before Xavier had returned to classes and while Xavier and the rest of lower Manhattan were still without power. In addition to the students and faculty who volunteered, several Xavier alumni came and helped assist with the recovery efforts. The crews of Xavier volunteers were set out to families in Breezy Point, the Rockaways, Red Hook, Belle Harbor, Gerritsen Beach and Howard Beach.

James Gallagher '14, a resident of the Rockaways, felt the effects of Sandy extremely hard. Gallagher has since relocated to Middle Village, Queens, but said that "seeing the response from the Xavier community was great. The way people opened up their homes, wallets, and hearts was amazing and even more so the Xavier students and faculty who came to work on the cleanup." James added, "It wasn't surprising because I've come to expect nothing less from this school and these students."

Through all the hardships that were faced by the Xavier community, many members from all different walks of life were able to reach out and help another Son of Xavier in a time that they needed it the most. This is only a testament to the Xavier community's dedication to service for others and our tradition of working toward the greater glory of God.

## Xavier Needs Intramurals

Frank Nugent '15  
Staff Reporter

What ever happened to the Intramurals at Xavier? I remember when I first arrived at Xavier; I looked on the former website to find an Intramurals Page under the Athletics Section, finding a group of teams and matchups lined up to face each other in different sports such as basketball, ultimate frisbee, and even football which would take place in the Commons. Some of the teams that were set up even had team names such as "Five Guys Burgers and Fries" and other titles that might be found amusing amongst friends. Some say that it never really caught on too well, and that it was soon forgotten about. So, why shouldn't we have them again? Many schools have Intramurals, and I believe that Xavier should be one of them.

Intramurals are always a fun way to show off athletic skill, yet still be loose enough to have a good time and enjoy some competition with your friends. They can be set up in a various amount of ways that can be considered organized yet lenient at the same time. You can set up a tournament in the Commons during 4th, 5th, or 6th Periods to find out which team reigns the highest in that sport in which a possible trophy can be set up as a reward for that victory. Rather than just have pick-up games in the Commons where some people may not get a chance to play on the court most of time, you could set up a league where certain teams face off against each other every week in the Commons or Quad whenever they are available. Team records could be kept accordingly as to how well certain teams do in the season. Also, to make sure that every-

one gets some playing time, teams of five could be set up to leave no one on the bench and to ensure all teams get a chance to play each other within the league. The teams that do the best in the season and playoffs will play each other in the championship in which a reward could be given to the winning team. Being organized may not always be the most fun option, but in some cases, it might just be if people get into it enough where it almost feels like you're playing on an actual team.

Even though I do love playing pick-up basketball and football with friends in my free time, sometimes I do wish that there could be some way to keep count of my team's wins so that there would be some overall goal to achieve rather than merely playing. It can add to the competitive aspect of the sport you're playing, and can give some recognition to those who work hard in the sport they play but don't quite play on an official team.

I was able to ask a couple of students how they felt about intramurals being implemented into the school. Gerald Todd '15 humorously yet earnestly states, "Seems legit. I would definitely join." Also, Patrick Caoile '15 says, "I think it would be extremely beneficial for the students to get involved in the school through Intramurals." The topic of Intramurals has come about in past school presidential campaigns, but I think it should be brought to light among the other good ideas that the student council comes up with. Intramurals are a considerable option for the school to take in and "test" to see how well it does for the students. Intramurals may not be the way to go for some, but for others, it definitely would be beneficial. Thus, the school should consider their reinstatement.



Xavier High School's Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund is still accepting contributions. All donations to the Xavier High School Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund will provide clothing, books, and other supplies to Xavier students devastated by the storm. In addition, the Xavier High School Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund provides tuition assistance and specific aid to Xavier families who were greatly devastated by the storm. To donate, visit [www.xavierhs.org](http://www.xavierhs.org) and select the "Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund" button.

# 2012 Xavier Cross Country Surges

Braham Berg '13  
Editor

Even after losing three core Varsity runners due to graduation, two of whom—Dmitri Zuccarello '12 and Greg Watch '12—are now running at Division I schools, the 2012 Xavier Cross Country team felt as though they could surpass the success of last year's squad, which finished nineteenth at the Federation meet. Despite the vicissitudes marked by injury and Super Storm Sandy which inhibited the runners from practicing together during Championship season, the Knights persevered and made the 2012 season a year for the history books.

Dominating victories at the Pre-season time trials, the Jim Scott Challenge, and NYC Cross Country Festival showcased the potential for the team. Leading into championship season, the Knights ran to 6th, 5th, and 2nd place finishes at McQuaid, Burnt Hills, and the Xavier Invitational, respectively. At Sectionals they placed a close second behind Monsignor Farrell. All season long the team fluctuated between the 11th and 25th New York state rankings in one of the most talented years in New York state history. Early on, the team set the VCP school record for lowest team. Sophomore John Rice had a dominant season as the Knights' top runner. "Counting out Van Cortlandt Park [in which he ran the third fastest time in school history with a 13:18]," Mr. Patrick Dormer, the Varsity head coach in his 20th season of coaching at Xavier, noted, "Rice set the Varsity school records on each course, including McQuaid [15:27], Burnt Hills [15:46], and Bowdoin Park [16:45]."

The Cross Country team had eyed the CHSAA Intersectionals as the meet to have their best showing, hoping to upset the top-ranked teams in the league and secure a trip to the New York State Federation meet. The Knights entered Intersectionals unable to practice for a week due to Super Storm Sandy, but still managed to place 5th and qualify as an at-large bid to Federations. "We definitely dealt with the training sidetrack as best as we could have," said Captain Nick Karam '13, who along with fellow captains Isidro Camacho '13 and Jimmy Buckley '13 provided much needed leadership and inspiration to the team. Camacho '13 added, "I was especially proud of our performance at Cities where we had everybody under 14 minutes. That will set the standard for the teams in the future."

Against the best teams in four New York divisions—the PSAL, AIS, CHSAA, NYSPHSAA, the Knights placed 16th out of 28 teams, the second highest finish in school history. It was only the fifth time in school history that a Cross Country team has qualified for Federations and the second time ever that Xavier has done it two years consecutively. The next week at the New York Nike Cross Regionals, Jordan Berka '14 ran a huge personal best to fill the void that was left after Eliot Kaufman '14, the team's second best runner went down with injury. Once again, they placed 16th and ended the season with the 16th best ranking. Karam said, "Because we finished in about the same place as Federations it really confirms that we deserve our ranking."

Despite great running displays, many on the team felt they did not run to their potential. "I don't think we reached our full potential because our training was delayed because of



For the 5th time in school history The Varsity qualified for the NYS Federation Cross Country Championships

the hurricane," said Karam. Berka provided a different take, "There wasn't really a week where we could confidently say that we all ran the best race of our lives." When asked where the team ranks in school history, Kaufman asserted, "When it comes to performance we were the best." If this team is in contention for the best team in school history after setting remarkable team and individual records, it leaves to one's imagination what they could have achieved without injuries and training interruption.

To sum up the season Mr. Dormer said "We had some tremendous performances by our seniors Jimmy Buckley '13, Braham Berg '13, Isidro Camacho '13 and Nick Karam '13 who stepped up and showed their leadership ability. In addition, we had a great group of sophomores and juniors who showed an incredible amount of promise. Even though graduation might hit us hard I'm confident that our level of success will indeed continue." This promise is seen in the JV squad led by underclassman Louis Vazquez '15 and upperclassman James Galasso '14 that placed second in the Archdiocese. Additionally, freshman phenom Christian Raslowsky '16, the third consecutive Xavier freshman to break 8:40 on the 1.5 mile Van Cortlandt, will contend for Varsity next year. Next year, Rice, Kaufman, Berka and Vazquez will return to form a formidable top four runners. Junior Eliot Kaufman said, "We are very excited about next year and the returning talent."

Xavier High School is a Jesuit institution serving New York, the Church, and the nation since 1847.

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<http://www.xavierhs.org/review>

## The Acoustic Coffeehouse

Jose Vila '14  
Staff reporter

On December 7th, 2012, various Xavier students and faculty had the chance to perform covers or originals in an event known to all as the Acoustic Coffeehouse. To call this year's coffeehouse a success would be an understatement. What made the coffeehouse so successful would have to be the variety of music and the versatility of some of Xavier's students and faculty. The strong work of the stage crew and CFX volunteers also should be highly commended.

The music at the coffeehouse was extremely varied. Along with the acoustic covers of popular Top 40 hits, the audience enjoyed some jazz, ballads, rap, punk, and even some hard rock. The first performance, JK2.0, was an acoustic performance by faculty and student, namely Ms. Kennedy-Orlando and Chris Barcia '14. Other acoustic performances included The Derivatives, which has Mr. Iannuccilli and Ms Velasquez singing covers of famous songs (most memorably Lady Gaga's "You and I." Chris Barcia's second and not the last performance had a variety of genres turned acoustic, such as Blink-182's "Adam's Song" and a compilation of Bruce Springsteen's work.

The treat of the Acoustic Coffeehouse was not just the delicious Xavierccinno, but the added variety in music. Rock Paper Scissors Shoot was an all jazz band that ended with a memorable cover of "Piano Man" by Billy Joel with Nick Broncle '15. Derrick Irving '14 had an interesting rap performance in store with inspiration seen from modern and past greats such as Tyler the Creator and Notorious B.I.G. New Era was

another multi-genre performance. It had elements of R&B/rap with Malik Horton '13 to transition into a hard rock group with Justin Armstrong '14 on guitar. A large number of artists were covered by New Era, ranging from Nirvana to Mike Shinoda to Linkin Park. Justin summarized by calling the feeling on stage "one of the best feelings in the world"

The Acoustic Coffeehouse has very beneficial effects as well. All proceeds, which totalled \$1,948 from the coffeehouse go to the Companions of Saint Francis Xavier (CFX) to assist in funding trips to Mexico, Alabama, Maryland, and Tennessee, where Xavier students travel to help the impoverished.

There is much credit to be given not only to the performers, but also to the people that made the coffeehouse all happen. The stage crew had been working since Monday of last week to construct the stage, adjust the sound, and set up lighting for the Commons. When asked how they feel about their contribution to the events, such as the freshman play and the coffeehouse, James Cole '16 simply said "It's rewarding to know that you were able to do your part to help" Waiters and other helpers also contributed to the coffeehouse.

The Acoustic Coffeehouse has always been a testament to the talent and hard work of Xavier. It is a collective effort by the performers, CFX volunteers, stage crew, band technicians, and audience alike. It is a great experience, great coffee, and a helpful contribution to the CFX program. Save the date: the next Acoustic Coffeehouse will be on March 15th, 2013.

## One Life, One Chance



Harry Cooke '15  
Editor

What distinguished Monday, October 22nd's sophomore seminar from the previous Monday meetings was the presence of Toby Morse, a heavily tattooed but substantially knowledgeable man who had a significant message for Xavier through his program: One Life, One Chance.

Toby Morse is prominent as the front man of the distinguished hardcore punk band known as H2O, which has recently completed its tour in South America. Toby introduced himself by debunking the introduction several students may have made initially on account of his appearance- it is hard to believe that a man so undated with tattoos could be a loving husband, father, vegetarian, and, most significantly, one who has never touched a single drug in his life. Not only is breaking this stereotype a part of Toby's mission, but he also seeks to ensure that students across the country follow his example to a "Straight Edge" lifestyle.

When Toby's father died at the age of 30, his mother strenuously worked three jobs, leaving Morse with his two brothers for care who introduced him to the realms of skateboarding, punk music, and usage of drugs and alcohol. Refraining from such tendencies, Toby moved to New York to pursue a career in punk music. Many musicians respected him as he progressed to H2O in 1994, and even met his prospective wife on tour, but lost two of his closest friends to heroin abuse.

Morse's main message, however, arrived through the mention of the acronym PMA- this stands for Positive Mental Attitude, a primary focus on self-respect, respect to others by diminishing stereotypes, and a sense of leadership in doing justice. Toby's actions of persistence (never using drugs, turning down drinks at his wedding) are covetous, but he reminds us that we can do this too. Toby reflects on how important his son Max is to him, and how it is his job to prevent Max from using those substances that have cost Toby so much in life.

With little time left, Toby Morse required one final but powerful question to end the session. Sophomore Francis Clarke, Jr. inquired: "If given the opportunity, would you slam the ram?" Unaware of the Xavier adage, Toby responded with a quick "yes" and was met with tremendous applause, displaying a warm welcome into Xavier's community via his inspiring words.

*To learn more about One Life, One Chance, visit the official website at <http://www.onelifeonechance.com/>.*

## Xavier Winter/Fall Sports

William Dunn '13  
Staff Reporter

As it is time for Xavier athletics to switch gears from the fall to winter seasons, it is a good time to recap their past events and preview those yet to come. There were some solid seasons for the football, soccer, and cross-country teams, as their competitive efforts have lasted the entire season. The strong finishes by these teams gives the winter teams, bowling, swimming, and basketball, momentum moving forward.

In Mr. Byrne's first season as head coach and with the help of Mr. Martino, the varsity soccer team was one of the more dominant teams in the division, compiling a 9-4-3 record, as well as a trip to the playoffs. Although they lost to St. Francis Prep in the quarterfinals, the team experienced plenty of individual success: Captains Sal Borgognone, Trystan Montero, and Matt De La Ossa, as well as Danny Gresser, all were named to the All-League Team. In Ms. Unger's first year as head coach and led by captains Nicasio Alonso, Kurt Motyka and John L'Insalata, the JV team also had a strong season, but missed the playoffs. With the success of both teams this year, we can expect big things to come out of Xavier Soccer in the near future.

It has been a challenging yet successful season for the Xavier Bowling team. The young leadership certainly gives the team a unique

dynamic, captained by sophomore Mike Martell who recently bowled a 288, the highest single game score in the league. Even with the addition of many new bowlers, the team has had an impressive run, with the Varsity averaging a score of 148 and the JV currently vying for a spot in the playoffs.

Xavier swimming is off to a promising start in the most competitive league in the state of New York. They began the season 3-1, with victories over Kellenberg and Xaverian. Led by coaches Mr. Martino, Mr. McCardle, Mr. Murphy, and diving coach Mr. Militano, the season outlook is very positive, especially with Junior standout diver Heath Carmichael.

Xavier Basketball is off to a great beginning as well, compiling a 3-1 record in the first couple weeks of the season. This season is looking bright, led by Senior Captains Matt Crockett and Tito Ovalle. Mr. McGrane's squad is looking to go deep in the playoffs this year and make some "noise," so be on watch for the Xavier Basketball squad this season to excel.

Xavier athletics is already in the midst of another strong year. After a strong showing in the fall sports, the winter sports are looking excellent as they begin their seasons. This year is poised to be as successful as any sports era in Xavier history, and each team is focused and ready to roll.

# THE JETS AND GIANTS: SEASON IN REVIEW



Tom Lally '15  
Staff Reporter

Vince Lombardi once said, “If winning isn’t everything, why do we keep score?” This statement proclaims what all NFL teams believe including New York’s Jets and Giants. Both teams have played well in the weeks leading up to the final three games of the year. The Jets ended a three game losing streak and now are on a two game winning streak beating the Arizona Cardinals and the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Giants have proved their intention to win the NFC East division as the race tightened up during the weeks. They beat the mighty Green Bay Packers with brute force as well as the New Orleans Saints

The New York Jets are pushing for a playoff berth, but the overwhelming injuries that have plagued the team have left them a limited depth chart. Star cornerback Darelle Revis’s torn ACL has left a massive hole in the secondary. The quarterback controversy has come to a

head with Tebow’s minimal playing time and he cracked two ribs which left him deactivated at midseason. The New York Giants are dealing with injuries as well. Hakeem Nicks throbbing foot has forced him to sit out 6 games. Standout running back Andre Brown is out for the year with a broken fibula. Safety Kenny Phillips’s knee has proven difficult to play with and has forced him to sit out nine games.

Gang Green’s quarterbacks have claimed headlines throughout the year. The acquisition of Tim Tebow has been questioned by many as he’s played a footnote to the struggling offense. The erratic play of Mark Sanchez has once again claimed headlines. During the Week 13 game verse the Cardinals, Rex Ryan shocked the crowd by sending in third string quarterback Greg McElroy after Sanchez threw three interceptions. Although McElroy won the game with a late touchdown pass, Ryan selected Sanchez to start against the Jaguars in a win.

Eli Manning’s starting spot has never been questioned, but he has been inconsistent at times, especially in Giant losses. As of late however, he looks to have regained his stance as an elite QB.

As of Week 14 The Giants hold the best record in their division at 8-5 while the Jets are at 6-7, but entering the final three games of the year, the Jets are playing three teams with losing records, so their playoff hopes are still existent. The Giants have a tougher schedule, but look to hold the reins on the NFC East. For a team that has been punished by devastating injuries, locker room problems, and inconsistent play, the Jets can still qualify for the playoffs which is stunning. The Giants will be tested in their final three games, but their record in the past has shown that they can compete in big games as the team tries to not only gain a playoff berth, but a Super Bowl Ring.

## Word on 16th Street:



What is your favorite Christmas movie?



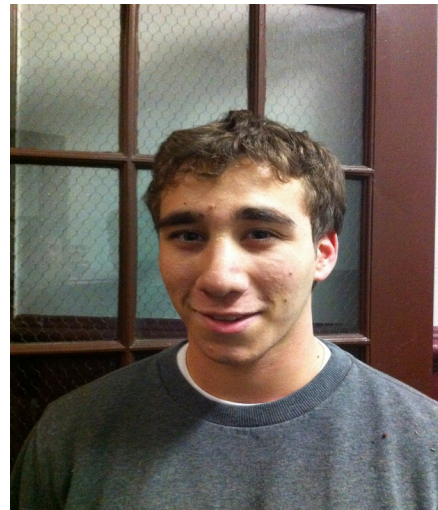
**Liam Murray '13:**  
It’s a Wonderful Life

“I think the ending is really uplifting when he is with his family and friends.”



**Jeremiah Ownubuya '15:**  
How the Grinch Stole Christmas

“It’s a Classic that everyone can enjoy.”



**Charbel Abi-Hassoun '13:** The Nightmare Before Christmas

“Jack Skellington is a phenomenal character and it shows more than one side of what Christmas really is.”



**Mr. Mule:**  
12 Dates of Christmas

“I love ABC Family movies and I think this is the best of the bunch.”

# The Legacy of Dr. Ron Paul



Joe Rovito '15  
Staff Reporter

After the “Nixon Shock”, when U.S. currency was made no longer able to transfer into gold, many campaigned against this, hoping to change back to the gold standard. There was one man who led the charge to change back to the gold standard and switch our government’s policies back to the old values that our Founding Fathers had. On August 15, 1971, Dr. Ron Paul decided to enter the huge world of politics, coming out of it as one of the most important politicians in the decade. Even though he will soon leave office next year, his legacy will stand tried and true throughout the next century, and possibly even after.

Ron Paul was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on August 20th, 1936. In his book, *End the Fed*, a New York Times bestseller, Dr. Paul explains about how the cost of products when he was just a child is enormously inflated from what is now. Throughout all of his books I have read, he never seems to miss a moment to contrast his own childhood to modern times. When he looks back at his childhood, he talks towards dissent about growing up during World War II, explaining further that the government was attempting to control business, but most of all, inflate our currency. He exposed some major holes in Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s presidency, attacking him on many of his actions, especially his actions of printing enormous amounts of money, inflating our currency.

On June 5th, 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt removed the gold standard, a system that would show our money’s value in gold. The reason for this was to create a flexible economy, accepting the large amount of inflation it would create in the future. Now, our economy is in ruins of debt and large amounts of inflation. From this, Mr. Paul felt that our entire economy has now accepted its own death sentence. When in college, Ron read many

books written by Austrian Economists and libertarian writers, such as Ayn Rand and Ludwig Von Mises. Dr. Paul became inspired and chose to take up the libertarian cause.

In the aftermath of the “Nixon Shock”, while still a medical resident, Ron entered the political world. In 1974, Dr. Paul’s campaign for congress failed, but soon after the incumbent was put in charge of the Federal Maritime Commission, he won the next election in 1976. Dr. Paul was also part of the House of Representatives Banking Committee. There, he started his crusade to combat the Federal Reserve, from what he claimed, was destroying the American Economy.

In recent days, one of the most iconic chants for Paul’s cause is, “End the Fed”. In his book, *End the Fed*, he explains how this chant came to life in a rally speech in the University of Michigan where college students chanted, “End the Fed!” as Dr. Paul mentioned his economic policies. Dr. Paul’s supporters are known as the most loyal ones, flooding in at Republican Conventions, year after year. Dr. Paul’s vigor has moved a large part of the political world to combat the Federal Reserve and fight for true freedom. Due to the wide support of his cause, Congressman Paul’s bill, *Audit the Fed*, was passed through the House with support from both Democrats and Republicans, showing how Paul has united them to take up the cause.

When hearing the news on November 14th, many libertarians became scared of knowing that Dr. Paul would soon be leaving Congress after his farewell address. Though this is true, after thinking more about the situation at hand, I now know that Dr. Paul’s great legacy has made thousands upon thousands of others rise up and follow his cause. This makes me feel safe to know that even when Dr. Paul is absent from the political world, his followers will take up his cause and yell out, with immense emotion, that chant, “End the Fed!”

patiently for a pro team, Cyclones notwithstanding, and it has finally happened. Not only is the move itself very exciting, but the Nets are winning games. The additions of Joe Johnson, Jerry Stackhouse, and C.J. Watson and the re-signings of Deron Williams and Brook Lopez has given the team a huge boost. Before Hurricane Sandy hit the New York, the Brooklyn Nets first game was to be played against their cross-town rivals, the New York Knicks. However, with the trains being flooded the game was rescheduled to the 26th. If there is one game that captures the essence of what the move to Brooklyn means, its that one. The excitement during that game was unreal. The crowd was jumping, chanting for the Knicks to go home, and it was a great night for Nets fans and for Brooklyn in general. With the Nets moving to Brooklyn, it has given Brooklyn natives something to look forward to. Little kids who are growing up in Brooklyn will root for the Nets and look up to their players.

Brooklyn native Marty Markowitz says about the move, “They’ll hear it, that’s for sure. When they’re great, they’ll know it and when they’re not great they’ll know it, too.” Or as Brooklyn resident Khalid Summer puts it, “It’s either fight or flight. So they’re going to either be great or we’re going to look at them and say, ‘Do not ride the D train and come through my neighborhood.’” While that last part seems a bit threatening, the pressure on the Nets will be innumerable, especially with them coming from Newark, where they had trouble filling the arena whenever they weren’t playing the Knicks.

The move to Brooklyn will also help the city’s economy. More jobs are opening and the Barclays Center will bring in a lot of money. Not to mention all of the merchandise that has been and will be sold even if the team isn’t that successful from the outset. Plus, Brooklyn will be relevant in the sports world again. People from all around the world will get to know the environment of Brooklyn that we all know and love. The location of the Barclays Center is in the heart of Brooklyn which means that almost every single train line goes to the Barclays Center making transportation very easy. So with more fans in the seats, even the new Brooklyn Nets Mascot, the Brooklyn Knight will be getting public recognition. The Knicks and Nets rivalries will grow further, there will be brawls, game winning shots, uncontrollable fans, and this rivalry is one that will go on for a long time. It will be similar to the Mets-Yankees rivalry. Jay-Z has invested his money well with the Nets and he must be happy that the borough he grew up in is finally getting the recognition that it deserves. It will be interesting to see who comes out with the division title now and in the future and there is a good chance the Nets and Knicks could meet in the Eastern Conference Finals sooner rather than later. Wouldn’t that be a series to remember?



## The Nets are Home

Michael Pedulla '14  
Staff Reporter

In Episode 5 of “The Road to Brooklyn,” the documentary-series on Jay-Z’s YouTube channel, *Life+Times*, producers examine what the team means to the borough and what the borough means the team. Utilizing interviews with local artists and Nets community reps, the piece tries to place the Nets in the context of a borough that’s becoming more than

just a place ...and the pressure that can bring. Says one local, DJ Clark Kent, “The Brooklyn Nets probably have more pressure than any team in the NBA because of the borough that they’re in.” Adds Hip-hop artist Telli Ninja-sonik, “They’re going to bring their best game and their heart and soul to this Brooklyn arena, because that’s all we know, because you’re not just playing for a team, you’re playing for a borough, a borough that’s a city, a borough that’s a country, a borough that’s a way of life.” The Nets move to Brooklyn has been successful so far, and will continue to get better. There had not been a sports team in Brooklyn since the Dodgers left in 1957. Brooklyn has waited



# In the Wake of Sandy, the NYC Marathon Could Not Have Been Run

James Bruzzese '14  
Staff Reporter

Devastation—that word does not describe the events and the ongoing battles following Super Storm Sandy. No words can describe the lethal blow Sandy has dealt to New Yorkers. With 118 people dead, around 200 houses burnt to the ground in Breezy Point and Rockaway, approximately 5,361 people living in shelters, and an even greater number than that displaced from their homes, this storm goes down in history as one of the worst tragedies to hit our beloved state. Yet, our Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who supposedly cares for our well-being, was concerning himself with the planning of the New York City Marathon, a race that would have run through the destroyed five boroughs. One word describes the priorities of the mayor—disgraceful.

Because the ING New York City Marathon attracts an international field of runners and brings in about \$340 million to the city, this race is one of the most important events the city holds. This marathon is a great opportunity for many runners, some of who are Olympians, to win the \$130,000 cash prizes awarded to the male and female winners and enhance their reputations. When Hurricane Sandy hit, many of runners planning to run the 2012 NYC Marathon had already arrived to New York, having paid the entrance fees as high as \$347 in addition to flight and hotel costs.

The Marathon sounds great, but not within the week that Sandy devastated the tri-state area, leaving most people without food, homes, electrical power, and other essentials. Sandy decimated subway systems, roads, bridges and tunnels. Xavier High School, our home, school, and safe haven—lost power, heat, and communication for a week, leaving students who are from the hardest hit places without a refuge and in need of support. Despite the fact that our city had not recovered

from the devastation of Sandy, our mayor insisted that the marathon should continue, because he believed it would act as a symbol of hope for desperate New Yorkers. In actuality, it would have served the opposite purpose. Had the Marathon been held, citizens would have been outraged.

Warbasse Houses hard and the residents were in dire need. The buildings had no power, no heat, no electricity, no hot water, not even gas to cook food. The city could not evacuate the elderly in these buildings because of the closed bridges and tunnels and because of the shortage of gas for emergency vehicles. In this instance, one generator from the marathon could have been used to run one entire building by itself and give these suffering people their basic needs. This is one of many examples of how many generators and other utilities were being used to run the marathon for the healthy and unaffected while many New Yorkers were in anguish.

The marathon was not a reasonable option. If Bloomberg wanted to uplift spirits, he should have been more enthusiastic about helping New Yorkers instead of trying to maintain a race that utilizes the needed supplies. The mara-

thon would have insulted the citizens. Imagine healthy runners enjoying their race through the mangled boroughs while dislodged people watch the runners from the wreckage of their own homes.

This widely debated issue caused much tension and trouble amongst New Yorkers in a time when they were preoccupied by more important matters. The marathon, although cancelled, instigated more pain and suffering for people everywhere, including many families in the Xavier community. The generators should have been used in places like Breezy Point, Rockaway and Staten Island. If Bloomberg had given Xavier a generator, Xavier would have opened and helped its students and families. The devastation done by Sandy was real, but Mayor's Bloomberg's suggestion to continue to the marathon shows his disconnection with reality. To the relief of New Yorkers, the marathon was cancelled. Still, for many hours, as Xavier sat without power and heat, as New Yorkers were observing the wreckage and regrouping, as residents initiated cleanup efforts, the generators and resources were laying unused in vacant tent along the course of a marathon that would not be run—disgraceful.

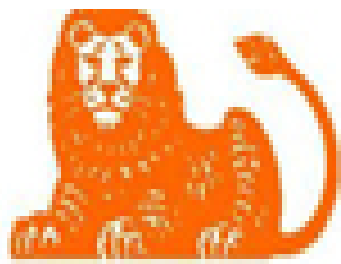


To run an event as large as the New York City Marathon, an enormous supply of food, generators, and manpower is required, resources that could have been allocated to New Yorkers. For example, Bloomberg should have given the 19 generators that run the tents and kitchens during the race to the New Yorkers who had lost power. The generators could have been better used, like running shelters, pumping floodwaters out of heavily flooded areas. These generators could have been used to give power to places like Xavier, so they could have served as a shelter or emergency medical center. Nonetheless, these generators were sitting idle on the course of the marathon waiting to heat the tents and power the kitchen appliances used by famous chefs, who were cooking food for the runners in advance. Even after the race was cancelled and the generators were moved to Staten Island, four hours elapsed before they were moved to a power station. Additionally, the surplus of food could have been donated to those who were starving.

Another major issue that news channels failed to broadcast related to a group of twenty stories high buildings in Coney Island called Amalgamated Warbasse Houses, where many elderly people reside. Storm Sandy hit the

courtesy of als.ny.org

# ING



# NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

PREMIER EVENT OF NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS

## A Review of the Dragonborn DLC for The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim



courtesy of  
Bethesda Softworks

Demetri Sofides '14  
Editor

Up until the release of the new expansion, I'd not actually played Skyrim on my Xbox since early in the summer. As was the complaint of many gamers, the snowy land of the Nords had lost all its luster; one could only kill so many wolves and dragons and bandits before he stopped being interested, after all. The first DLC, Dawnguard, did a good job of renewing the awe factor of the game, but soon the wolves were replaced with annoying vampires and stuffy crusaders. The second DLC, Hearthfire, allowed the player to settle down and start a home- sort of a let-down for the epic power fantasy that Skyrim honestly is.

Given that, this time last year, I so lauded the original game, I feel it's doubly fitting to declare that Dragonborn, the third DLC and the most recent so far, is its true rebirth. Much of the expansion takes place on the nearby island of Solstheim, an entirely new country about one ninth the size of Skyrim itself. Interestingly, Solstheim was the setting of a DLC for the third Elder Scrolls installment, Morrowind- this game is hailed by some fans as the best "Elder Scrolls" of them all. Just so, the land is teeming with remastered enemies and music from the third and fourth volumes, bringing a simultaneous vibe of brilliant innovation and nostalgic bliss. In addition, the story and the new enemies within the game sort of bring the player down to earth, but not so much as to turn them off- for the first time ever in one of these "power-fantasy" RPGs, I felt that the whole entire world was not quite at my fingertips. Equally impressive to me was the new variety of armor and weapons to be crafted- also imported from Morrowind, some items among their ranks fall into my list of the most stylish and interesting-looking armors within the game.

The introduction of the main antagonist, the very first "dragonborn" warrior, brought back from death apparent and strong enough to remotely mesmerize a whole continent; the inclusion of the Daedric Prince Hermaeus Mora, knower of things unknown and master of all information; and the addition of giant, tentacle-swinging beasts that come up from pools of black water and kill anything that gets in their way; all these things contribute to an initial feeling of having been humbled, that soon grows into a greater empowerment than ever before as you master their ways and learn to combat your new foes with ease. It's a well-done technique that I truly have never encountered.

Finally, and most exciting to me, Dragonborn includes a second new world: Apocrypha, home of Hermaeus Mora and loaded to the brim with towers made out of books, strange and eldritch new creatures, and a massive, oily sea writhing with tentacles. Now, if you're like me, you see that this world draws heavily from the writings of H. P. Lovecraft, the virtual founder of weird fiction whose works have, to some degree, influenced every RPG ever made. He also happens to be my single favorite author, and when the aesthetic of Apocrypha was first revealed to me, I was immovably ecstatic for about an hour thereafter. Not only is it just the way I would have designed it, but it's also totally unlike anything in Skyrim, coming complete with a good spot of creepy, eldritch poetry in the writer's distinct style; with this, it is fleshed out completely, making it a welcome addition to the DLC.

In conclusion, to say nothing of the story or missions therein, Dragonborn adds a whole continent's worth of new content and material, all of it invoking some deeper feeling that brings definitive life back to the Skyrim experience. Bethesda, you've done it again.

## A Preview of the Long Anticipated *Hobbit* Movie

John Settineri '15  
Staff Reporter

Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* came out on December 14th as the first part of a trilogy based on J.R.R. Tolkien's masterpiece *The Hobbit*. Peter Jackson finally returns to the directing chair after his adaptation of Alice Seibold's *The Lovely Bones*. More recently Jackson has produced movies such as *District 9* and *The Adventures of Tintin*, but now returns to the enthralling setting of Middle Earth, where he had produced the 17 Academy Award winning *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

The film experienced a long delay, dealing with lawsuits, comings and goings, and constant script changes, but eventually co-writers Guillermo del Toro and Peter Jackson reached an agreement to produce the movie. Ian McKellen returns to play Gandalf as he did in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and Martin Freeman, a British comedian who starred in *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *Nativity!* plays Bilbo Baggins. Also returning is composer Howard Shore, who looks to woo audiences with his majestic, epic soundtrack as he did with *The Lord of the Rings*.

From trailers, this film looks to outdo even Jackson's original work. Like *The Lord of the Rings*, the *Hobbit* movies were filmed in Peter's homeland, exotic New Zealand, which features massive plains and fields, mountains, and locations that outclass the average green screen used in most productions. Jackson provides his audience with an "immersive" 3D experience, which surrounds the audience with astonishing 3D visual effects.

A prequel to the beloved *Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* attempts to recapture the same imaginative epic feel that the original trilogy had. With an expansive, deep storyline filled with some of the same beloved characters as before, *The Hobbit* could potentially equal the previous success of the *Lord of the Rings* films. Make sure to check out this movie because it is the final blockbuster in what has been an amazing year for Hollywood.



## Christmas at the Movies



Nick Inglese '14  
Editor

Christmas Day has come to be known as a day at the movies. Some of the medium's best movies (read: most likely to win Academy Awards) are released, usually along with a cute family comedy. This Christmas is no different, as it will see the releases of such titles as *Les Misérables* and *Django Unchained*.

**Les Misérables – Directed by Tom Hooper**  
This immensely popular Broadway musical is coming to the screen like never before. Directed by the Academy Award winning director of *The King's Speech*, Tom Hooper, *Les Misérables* will be the first movie-musical to have been musically recorded on camera whereas, in the

past, the cast would have had to record the album and then film the movie. The actors must usually lip sync, and the result is simply unrealistic and quite noticeable. This time, the actors will be able to convey their emotions unlike anything seen on film before (check out the hair raising trailers for evidence). The story follows an ex-prisoner (Hugh Jackman) who is on the run from a strict police officer (Russell Crowe) during the French Revolution. The film is a solid lock for a Best Picture Nomination. "Les Mis" stars Hugh Jackman, Oscar winner Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway and Eddie Redmayne.

**Django Unchained – Directed by Quentin Tarantino**

*Django* (Jamie Foxx), the titular character of this Christmas' *Django Unchained*, is a slave in pre-Civil War America. When he is called upon by a Dr. King Schultz (Christoph Waltz) to track down the infamous Brittle Brothers, Django accepts on the condition that he and Shultz then locate Django's wife, whom he lost to the slave trade. Their search brings them to 'Candyland', a plantation owned by Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio). Expect yet another Quentin Tarantino film filled with great dialogue, transcendent acting, and, of course, some dark and twisted humor.

*Django Unchained* stars Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christoph Waltz, Samuel L. Jackson, Gerald McRaney, and Kurt Russell.