

## Movie Review: *Dawn of the Dead*

by Moriah Geer-Hardwick

First off, I should say that the post-apocalyptic/survival/horror genre has been the only genre to successfully penetrate my hardened, desensitized shell of cynicism, and genuinely freak me out. To me, there's something genuinely frightening about society, as we know it, imploding into a violent, inescapable black hole of chaos and death. So, when I trotted off to see the remake of George A. Romero's 70s cult classic, *Dawn of the Dead*, I was already well into the nail-biting stage. Still, I was unprepared for the 1hr 40 min experience of gut-wrenching gore and violence and the wide-eyed, shell-shocked feeling that still eerily clings to the back of my mind.

Not that *Dawn* is just a senseless, thrill-kill kind of movie. It is actually a well thought-out drama, filled with lifelike characters and heartrending emotion. Delving into the most imaginable definitions of "worst-case-scenario," it is the story of a handful of people whose world has crumbled around them. An unexplained virus has swept across the nation, turning all infected with it into mindless, primal killers. Loved ones, neighbors, even children, all turn on each other, and only a few survivors manage to take refuge behind the locked doors of a local shopping mall. Confronted with the shock of death and loss, they begin to degrade into the baser tendencies of their true

characters. Only those with strong wills to survive, and enough self-discipline to remain sane, manage to keep any of them together. Death is not glorified here; it is only an inevitability that each one of them desperately wants to avoid.

Now, in no way can I feel justified in actually recommending this movie to anyone. It's violent, gory, shocking, and deals with difficult, sensitive issues with all the tact of a chainsaw. It also deals with several zombies with a chainsaw, but that's exactly what I'm getting at. It's a remake of a cult classic that became famous mostly because of its blood-splattered notoriety. No doubt it too will create its own crimson trail into the pages of cinema history. It's not for the weak of heart and definitely not for the weak of stomach.

What then, you may ask (granting that you aren't one of those sick puppies that naively think death is quote-unquote: cool), is the point of watching such a film? For many, the answer is simply, there is none. Some people, and no malice intended here, are better off with "Veggie Tales," and "Leave it to Beaver" reruns. They shouldn't watch *Dawn of the Dead*, or *The Passion*, or *Saving Private Ryan*, or *Braveheart*, or any sort of film that deals with that pesky little thing called a sin-nature and the deadly consequences it brings. I don't know if everyone is supposed

to let themselves come face to face with the inner demons that we, as fallen human beings, all share. I know the hope that grace through Christ brings us is more than sufficient to blot out what we are without a Savior. For some people that's all they want in life. But me, I like to know what humanity is and what it will do when the sandy foundations of social normalcy, etiquette, and yes, religion are washed away by some catastrophe. And far better than actually living through some cataclysmic event is experiencing empathetically a hypothetical rendition of what could happen.

Final Take: Though compelling, and decidedly disturbing, watching *Dawn of the Dead* is an experience to be survived rather than enjoyed. A stunning film in its own right and more than a little overwhelming, the movie is a fascinating example of the fallen nature of humanity and the breakdown of society.

Rated R for pervasive strong horror, violence and gore, language, and sexuality.



## Jubilee Conference Challenged Students

by Jennifer Kaiser

On the snowy morning of February 27, seven Montreat students along with Assistant Dean of Students Tom Oxenreider, Outdoor Education professor Dottie Shuman, and Davis Hall Resident Director Jeremy Burnett, set out for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for Jubilee 2004.

Jubilee is a weekend conference for college students put on every spring by the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO). Over two thousand students, mostly from colleges in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, met at the Downtown Pittsburgh Hilton for this annual event.

This year's featured keynote speaker, Lakita Garth, gave a challenge for the students to put themselves in the "gates" of society. Referring to ancient cities where the gate was the position of power for the entire city, she urged students to find the places in today's society where they can make a difference for Christ.

Senior human services major Amy Boggs said that Jubilee, "really challenged my views on who Christ

was as a person. He didn't always come to preach, but to meet our needs. I gained an awareness that my role as a Christian is to meet the needs of the world around me."

On Saturday, students had the opportunity to attend their choice of several seminars on various topics of interest to society and the academic world. Professors, writers, and professionals came from around the country to present how they had found a way to bring Christ into their fields of expertise. They challenged students to look beyond the pulpit and see every profession as a platform for following Christ by serving others.

Running alongside the traditional Jubilee were two branches of the conference, Jubilee Latino and Jubilee Africana. "I enjoyed my time at the Jubilee Africana seminars," said sophomore April Heyward. "I learned how the past greatly affects problems the culture faces today and ways to be a help in the future."

Along with incredible speakers, there was also time for inspiring

worship, fellowship, and exploring the beautiful city of Pittsburgh. Saturday night was packed with many events for students to enjoy, including ethnic music and dancing, such as the Hip-Hop group, Liberation, the University of Pittsburgh gospel choir called, Some Of God's Children, and Latino and Irish dancing. There was also a political forum, and a poetry reading with Lucy Shaw, author of *Polishing the Petoskey Stone*.

Booths of representatives from various ministries, graduate schools, and seminaries, as well as a book table also enriched the conference. A local bookstore brought hundreds of volumes on every aspect of society, written from a Christian perspective. There were sections for any job field, interest, or theological issue.

For anyone interested in attending Jubilee in the future, Boggs describes it as "a great time to step out of your normal routine, a safe place to worship and be challenged." For more information on the CCO or Jubilee 2005, check out [www.ccojubilee.org](http://www.ccojubilee.org) or contact Tom Oxenreider.

## What's up?

### Montreat Happenings

*Post-College Financial Realities*

Senior Coffee Break Series

Side Dining Room, Howerton Cafeteria

Thurs 1 Apr, 3pm

*Easter Break*

Thurs 9 Apr - Mon 12 Apr

*Southeastern Conference on Christianity & Literature*

Thurs 15 Apr - Sat 17 Apr

Contact Dr. Rich Gray for info at (828) 669-8012 x. 3216

*Coffee House with Eric Peters*

Gaither Fellowship Hall

Thurs 15 Apr, 8pm

### Sports

*Men's & Women's Tennis Home v. Tennessee Wesleyan*

Fri 2 Apr, 2pm

*Softball Home v. Lee*

Fri 2 Apr, 5pm

*Baseball Home v. VA-Intermont*

Sat 3 Apr, 1pm

*Men's & Women's Tennis Home v. UVA-Wise*

Sun 4 Apr, 1:30pm

*Baseball Home v. VA-Intermont*

Sun 4 Apr, 2:30pm

*Baseball Home v. Lenoir-Rhyne*

Tue 6 Apr, 3pm

*Men's & Women's Tennis Home v. Bryan*

Wed 7 Apr, 2pm

*Baseball Home v. N. Greenville*

Tue 13 Apr, 2pm

### Theater

*Vincent*

One-man play about Vincent Van Gogh

UNCA Lipinsky Auditorium

Tue 13 Apr, visit [www.unca.edu/studentlife/arts.htm](http://www.unca.edu/studentlife/arts.htm) for info

*Lysistrata*

Diana Wortham Theater, Pack Place

Opens Thurs 15 Apr, call (828) 257-4530 for info

\$10 student-rush tickets may be available

### Dance

*Montreat College Spring Formal*

Biltmore Estate

Sat 3 Apr, 8pm-1am, \$15 single, \$27 couple

*Contra Dance*

The Gray Eagle, 185 Clingman Ave., Asheville

Every Mon, 8pm, \$5

*Old Farmer's Ball*

Warren Wilson, Bryson Gym

Every Thurs, lesson at 7:30pm, dance 8-11pm, \$5

*Ballroom Dancing*

Asheville Ballroom, 991-B Sweeten Creek Rd.

Sat 27 Mar & Sat 3 Apr, 8-11pm

call (828) 274-8320 for info

### Music

*Dani*

Diana Wortham Theater, Pack Place

Fri 26 Mar, 8pm, call (828) 257-4530 for info

\$10 student-rush tickets may be available

*Tarbell Patton*

Recital in Chapel of the Prodigal

Sun 4 Apr, 7pm, free

*Catacombs*

Worship, poetry, and art with Warren Wilson Students

Wed Mar 31, 8:3 Fellowship Hall

*Katy Bowser in concert in Gaither Chapel*

Tues 30 March, 7pm - 9pm