World News Update

Chile

Early Saturday, February 27th, an earthquake with one of the highest magnitudes ever recorded, an 8.8, struck central Chile. Though the magnitude of the earthquake had a higher magnitude than that of the earthquake in Haiti, the damage done is not as great. The death toll is in hundreds, as opposed to thousands, though nearly 2 million have been displaced or affected. Cities are still left without electricity, running water, or telephone lines and looting has become an issue. The looters have been more organized than seen in the midst of past tragedies. Citizens of Chile that were involved and are providing food, water, generators and field hospitals. Other issues at hand involve the transition of presidency from the current president, Michelle Bachelet to the newly elected Sebastian Pinera.

Toyota

Starting in 2006, Toyota began receiving complaints regarding the breaks, acceleration, floor mats, and gas pedals in their vehicles, but by the end of the study in 2007 into the company, no concrete problems were found. Later that year, Toyota began recalling cars with loose floor mats that would cause the gas pedal to get stuck. Again though, another study into the issue failed. This is until November of 2008 when the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration accuses Toyota of providing inaccurate and misleading information regarding the past recalls. Since then, Toyota has recalled around 8 million cars and have halted production of 8 models. The company has solved the problem and are shipping replacement parts to dealerships around the country. Toyota president Akio Toyoda will appear before a U.S. congressional committee regarding the problems with the vehicles.

Olympics

By the closing of the Olympics on Sunday, the U.S. secured their place as leaders in the medal count with 37 medals, though Canada came away with fourteen gold medals as oppose to the U.S.’s nine. Highlights of the games include Apolo Ohno being disqualified from the men’s 500m final of the speed skating, the U.S. men’s hockey team losing to Canada’s in overtime 2-3, American Evan Lysacek took the gold in men’s figure skating, and American Shaun White took the gold in men’s halfpipe in the snowboard competition.

Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn

The Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, NY was declared a Superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday. The E.P.A. expects the cleanup to take 10 to 12 years and cost $300 to $500 million. The canal became a dumping site for raw sewage and runoff from the oil refineries, chemical plants, tanneries, gas plants, and other industrial plants in the area. The canal has been found to contain a large amount of contaminants including pesticides, metals, and other threatening chemicals. Compiled by Margaret Cohn, using The New York Times, CNN, and NBC websites.
New fields of study added to Lake Forest College Curriculum

Beginning in the Fall of 2010, Lake Forest College will offer new areas of study for students. A finance major, neuroscience major, and a social justice minor will be added and class offerings will become available soon.

The finance major will blend together components of the business and economics major. The major will utilize a lot of the classes already offered on campus, but others will be added.

The neuroscience major and minor will combine not only biology, chemistry, and psychology, but computer science and philosophy as well. Pre-existing classes will count for the major and minor, but other classes will also be added. The fields of study acknowledge the already present interest among students, some of which have been helping out in the creation of the major and minor.

The social justice minor will be part of the Ethics Center. Students participating in the program will be strongly advised to acquire an internship, participate in an off-campus study program, and participate in lectures and debates. Many students who may be interested in the program are already involved in social justice efforts.

Look for classes that apply to these fields of study when choosing classes for the fall semester of 2010. Talk to your advisor if you have any questions.

Lake Forest after spring break

Spring Break means beaches, fun, and a break from the busy lives of a student. At The Stentor, we know that it’s hard to come back to the forest after ten days of relaxation, but we’ve found some reasons that coming back might not be such a bad thing...

1-Greek Week starts the 22nd of March and includes events such as a sorority Powder Puff game, Delta Gamma’s annual Anchor Splash, and concludes with Toga on Saturday the 27th.

2-The Lake Forest College Dance Team will hold their first ever Dance Showcase on Wednesday, March 31st.

3-On Tuesday, April 6th, classes are cancelled as the Student Symposium takes over campus. Support your fellow Foresters by attending their presentations at various locations all over campus.

4-Come to the Mohr Student Center on Thursday, April 8th to reserve your room for next year with ResLife! They’ll be there from 4-8:30 pm. On Sunday, April 11th, you’ll have another chance when ResLife will be in the Student Center from 9 am-8 pm.

5-The annual Drag Show presented by PRIDE will be from 9 pm -1 am on Friday, April 9th. Come see performances by both professional drag queens and LFC students.

6-Fight cancer with LFC students and organizations at Relay for Life! Relay will start at 6 pm on Friday, April 16th and end at 6 am on Saturday, April 17th.

7-Only a little bit over a month after returning from Spring Break is the last day of classes. On April 27th, it’s time to put away your books and get ready for summer!
“Karaoke for a Cure” hits the right notes

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This past Thursday, the Student Center underwent a bit of a transformation: colorful balloon arches were raised over stairways, streamers were strung across all surfaces, and a plethora of posters were taped across the remaining empty wall space. This was a party with a conscience, however, as Tri Delta sorority hosted its annual “Karaoke for a Cure.”

Karaoke gives students a chance to perform, whether solo or with friends, and take the performance as seriously (or non-seriously) as they like. This year’s Karaoke started off a bit slowly, with a decently sized audience and a small chance to perform, whether Cure.”

However, as the night went on, the performances multiplied, including many performances by the Greek organizations on campus and some groups even getting up on stage three or more times.

Tri Delta’s Vice-President of Philanthropy, sophomore Kylie Radjenovic said that she felt that, overall, “it went very smoothly.” And it seemed to – more students gathered around, perhaps some who had planned to, and perhaps some who had stumbled on some unexpected entertainment whilst on a trip to Boomer’s and found themselves enticed by the sweet sounds of student-led serenading. Perhaps some students were attracted by the numerous raffle prizes that were given away during the night, including free yoga and pilates lessons, various gift certificates to local shops and eateries, a Vera Bradley bag, a dustbuster, and – everyone’s favorite – a few rolls of quarters for laundry money. Radjenovic also said that, after all prizes were raffled off and donations were collected, Tri Delta was “able to raise approximately $625” to donate to their philanthropy, St. Jude’s Hospital.

At the end of the night, however, only one performance group could claim first prize, and this year, the trophy went to Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, who kept Karaoke going with their multiple, lively performances. Happily, Radjenovic reported that “there were no major problems,” and that, on the whole, this year’s Karaoke for a Cure was “very fun and entertaining.”

A Lesson in Cuban photography

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For a short time, the Sonnenschein Gallery on the third floor of the Durand Art Institute is offering the chance to explore Cuban culture and learn more about the people living and working in Cuba through a photography exhibit showcasing artists from the island. An Unknown Generation: Contemporary Cuban Photography brings together a group of 25 photographs made in Cuba over the past twenty years, called the “Unknown Generation” of Cuba. The works by various artists look into the Cuban identity and what it means to live in a country known here for its last dictator and isolationism. The works, loaned to the school from the collection of Madeleine and Harvey Plonsker for the exhibition, bring together a large scope of thought-provoking images, mostly from artists raised in Cuba. The artists who were not raised on the island work there to create their photography, such as Liudmila Velasco and Nelson Ramirez de Arellano who contribute multiple pieces to the show, including the breathtaking All Roads Lead To The Sea. The 1997 photo pits a woman stuffed in a suitcase against the ocean waves, a picture that spurs questions about the status of women in the country. Others, such as René Peña González, raised in Havana, look into other aspects of the national identity. González has two pieces showing in the gallery, both from the series White Things that question male selfhood through photographs of juxtaposing the male body with glaring white articles of clothing. These two examples are just a glimpse into the array of images depicting the character of the inhabitants of Cuba that not only state their own self through the pictures but also probe what it means to be Cuban. Each artist creates an entirely separate view of the island from the others, painting the island with vibrant color through just the use of black and white photography. Aside from those already discussed, there is a very large variety of other artists on display. If you don’t know much about Cuba aside from cigars and Castro, the exhibition will give you some insight into the country we were not allowed to visit for nearly all of the last two decades.
Features

The Stentor asks: What are your spring break plans?

“Relax and do all the things I can’t do during the semester. I’ll catch up with reading and go to the dentist.” - Mayely Imhoff ’12

“For those who find yourself in the area and with little to do...”

“And, as always...

The Adler Plentarium is free every Tuesday from 9:30am to 4:30 pm.

The Museum of Contemporary Art offers free general admission every Tuesday from 10 am-8 pm.

Enjoy free general admission to the Field Museum on Mondays from 9 am-5 pm.

Check out some of these free things:

The Chicago Cultural Center is hosting the Chicago International Movies & Music Festival March 5th-7th.

An open mic casting call at Lakeshore Theater on March 11th at 7:30 pm. Watch upcoming artists audition, and enjoy a free show.

Take part in the dyeing of the Chicago River! Watch the annual dyeing of the river green for St. Patrick’s Day between Columbus and Lake Shore Dr. at 10:45 am on the 13th. The St. Pat’s parade follows the dyeing at 12 pm.

Sunday:
Give “Scrabble Sundays” at the Swim Cafe, located on W. Chicago Ave., a try! From 1-6 pm, and at no cost to you.

Tuesday:
Check out the 2010 Chicago Flower & Garden Show on Navy Pier from 10 am-8 pm. $15.

Rush Limbaugh! The Musical will be performed at Secondy City at 8:30 pm. $25.

Wednesday:
The Fame 2010 Fashion & Media Extravaganza will be held at the Harris Theater for Music & Dance on E. Randolph, starting at 6 pm. $10.

Show your skills or watch others’ at the Comedy Open Mic Night at the Chemically Imbalanced Theater on W. Irving Park Road. Free!

Thursday:
Check out “Chicago Golden Gloves,” at St. Andrew’s Gym on W. Addison. Starts at 7:30 pm, and admission is $10-15.

Friday:
Spend some time at “2nd Fridays Gallery Night” from 6-10 pm at Halstead & 18th Street. Free!

MUSE will be performing at 7:30 pm at the United Center on W. Madison. Tickets start at $50.

For those who find yourself in the area and with little to do...

“Exploring Chicago and Wisconsin.”
- Daysi Vargas ’11

“I’m going for a spring break trip with Habitat for Humanity. We’re stopping in Alabama to build some houses.” - Pratibha Shrestha ’12

“Going to New York ‘cause my mother is visiting. We’re going to NY for four days to do some sightseeing and then coming back to Chicago” - Fabricio Sordoni ’11

“My friends and I are renting a cabin in Wisconsin.” - Matt Kistler ’10

“I’m going down to my roommate’s house in Island Lake. His parents are going to Barcelona, so we’re getting the whole house to ourselves. And I’m working at the library.” - Benito Cobio ’12
Tragedy in Chile puts our little concerns in stark perspective

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Another earthquake hit last weekend, this time in Chile. I walked into my dorm Friday night (technically Saturday morning) at two a.m., turned on the news, heard a speaker say something about a storm possibly hitting Chile, brushed my teeth, and went to sleep. I may have spent fifteen seconds thinking about it, but that might even be an exaggeration.

Of course, the next day when people asked if I heard about the earthquake, I did really think about it. At two a.m., the news had been just another headline: words and sounds that I saw and heard, but seemed too distant, separate, and typical to worry about. It wasn’t that I thought devastating storms weren’t a big deal; it was that I was seeing information about it on a TV, but it wasn’t directly affecting me. I wasn’t concerned about much more than the fact that I had to be up in the morning, and I had to be up regardless of what the news did or didn’t say.

As ridiculous as that sounds, that was pretty much what was going on in my head. But, when on Saturday the news of the 8.8 magnitude earthquake was spread by word of mouth around campus, I realized what I had shrugged off the night before. And suddenly, the headline seemed a little bit bigger than the car ride I was taking that morning.

At this point, there are over seven hundred people declared dead from the earthquake, and today the news announced looting was occurring throughout the crumbling buildings in the towns. But it is still easy for me to shrug it off, just as soon as the TV is turned back off.

Perhaps part of this is because there has already been so much news about earthquakes this year in Haiti. Perhaps part of it is because there are always so many disasters and problems happening throughout the world and we are constantly being diluted with the news from them. But I think the biggest reason would be that, like most people, I can find it hard to care about something that doesn’t directly affect me.

We each get into our own little routines and focusing on anything more than what exam or task is coming up can be hard. So often, the world can seem to revolve around our own current dilemmas.

But in reality, earth is always so much bigger than any one of our problems. I may have had a bad day Thursday and a great day Friday, but another country was about to have its shores torn apart. Comparing my stresses here to the stresses any one person is probably having in Chile right now, really a worthy comparison. It’s obvious that my concerns are a little lower on the Richter scale than Chile’s struggles.

My point then isn’t that we need to stop worrying about each of our own joys and concerns; we always will; but just that every once in awhile, it could be good to stop being so consumed with them. We really are each just one person in a huge world of issues. When I let myself see this, I can see how insignificant much of what I worry about will be in the long run. And, even more, it can be a comfort, since no one will ever be struggling by themselves.

Chile is recuperating from an earthquake and we are completing our midterms and the first half of the spring semester at Lake Forest College. Maybe, it wouldn’t hurt us to think about what is happening in Chile or any other country, state, or town next time we begin stressing about the exam hanging over our heads. And maybe if we do so, it can help us keep the bigger picture in perspective.

After all, there is always something wrong, and there is always another headline. And though that can make it seem like caring about what is happening around the world is a waste of time, it is, even more, the reason why we should.

"Up, because it had hot air balloons."  - Vinisha Purohit ’13

"Avatar, not necessarily for plot, but for cinematography and technical excellence, though I’m not sure it will win because people can’t get over the blue cat people thing."  - Briana Pipczynski ’13

"Precious is one of the most down to earth and real movies since Crash."  - Barby Chapman ’13

I haven’t seen any of those movies."  - Stephen de Wolff ’13

"I’d have to say Up because it had a good storyline, great voice acting, and Pixar is just awesome."  - Cindy Lindrum ’13

"I think, in general, all the trailers were better than the movies this year, besides The Hurt Locker, because when you’re watching it, it’s like you are living through it."  - Hussein Daraghma ’13

The Stentor asks... What movie should win Best Picture?
Oscar mission accomplished: Jewish vengeance and Jewish suburbia

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Quentin Tarantino is not a man of much subtlety. Well, at least not in his overall themes. Inglourious Basterds is a film about vengeance against Nazis. That vengeance may be Jewish, American, or British, but it is certainly vengeance, pure and simple. That creates a moral quandary, one that, I choose to hope, is not unknown to Tarantino.

Scientifically efficient genocide is a work of evil. Few would dispute that. However, those who perpetrated those acts, be they corporations (Volkswagen, Bayer, IBM, etc…), the commanders, the officers, the men on the ground, or the complicit citizens, are they evil? Need they be wiped from the face of the Earth with fire and brimstone and machete and baseball bat? The Basterds, led by Brad Pitt’s Aldo Raine and his intoxicating southern drawl, certainly think so. Shosanna (Melanie Laurent) is far more sympathetic and coy, governed more by justice than by bloodlust. Yet Tarantino gives us Nazi characters with real lives: Wilhelm (a new father), Fredrick (a war hero who regrets the killing), and the enigmatic “Jew Hunter” Hans Landa (Christoph Waltz). Suffice it to say, nary a Nazi meets a happy end in this film, and I did not feel the need to cheer.

This is a fable. A fantasy. We meet Churchill, Goebbels, Hitler, Goering, and Bormann. Hitler’s a paranoid, arrogant prick. That’s probably pretty accurate. Goebbels is a faux Hollywood, rising star in German filmmaking because he’s good, but also because no one can tell him otherwise. They are slightly caricatured, but they are not Hogan’s Heroes, nor are they embodiments of wanton cruelty like Ralph Fiennes’ Amon Goeth in Spielberg’s Schindler’s List. The entirety of that cold and calculated part of Nazi Germany, at least as interpreted in film, is found in Landa, a man who can flit between a look of sheer contempt and genial frivity in a shudder-inducing instant. This person dominates the film, a darkly comic figure that is one moment away from murderer. Tarantino does a brilliant job of keeping his character consistent with himself rather than the National Socialist Party, making his actions all the more horrifying. They come from him, his soul, not some detached authority.

Still, what struck me about Inglourious Basterds is that it’s a WWII fable that sometimes attempts slapstick or witticism-infused dialogue that just isn’t funny. It’s clever and charming, but not funny. I laughed when that magnun blew a dude’s brains across the back of a sedan in Pulp Fiction—a moment with perfect comic timing, and an even funnier following scene where all that mess has to get cleaned up. Yet all the violence in Basterds just made me uncomfortable, or, at best, nod in a “yeah, that was what had to happen there” kinda way. In the scalping and the bullets ripping through testicles, I saw the depravity of man, both Nazi and Ally, no matter what necessity such deaths had. The typical breaks for extended well-written dialogue is more tense than it is hilarious, with the violence always looming. Unlike that of Tarantino’s previous work, violence here is more tragic than comic. He realizes this. The final scene, a clever meta-theatrical set piece of blazing glory, makes us question just how different our violent films are from Nazi propaganda, just how little we appreciate the value of a life when we can see Evil Soldier 26 get his head shot off for ten bucks at the theatre. Garnering this thought is a triumph for Basterds.

I am one to always promote mercy over vengeance, compassion over hate. Basterds forced me to face that philosophy as I witnessed a fiction where the deaths of a few could save millions. For that, I give it my praise.

A Serious Man, meanwhile, is funny. Riotic, even. Each character is really a collection of stereotypes, the most obvious being the decrepit and fascinating elderly rabbi, of whom one examines young Danny Gopnik’s(Aaron Wolf) portable radio, fumbling with this new fangled device until he places the plug in his ear, a look of quiet reverence coming over him.

The film follows the comically downtrodden and ineffectual Prof. Larry Gopnik (Michael Stuhlbarg), who begins firmly in the middle of suburban America, only to sink away from work, marriage, purpose, and faith. His journey has some happy overtones, but, mostly, it is bleak and uproarious. Highlights include his South Korean student, Clive Park, who slips him a bribe to get his grades up. When Larry refuses, Clive’s father confronts him, accusing him of defamation if he claims Clive gave him the money, but happily accepting a better grade for his son if Larry will take said ungodly money. When Larry points out the contradiction, the father responds, “embrace the mystery!” Brilliant.

There are moments like this throughout, steeped in understated humor and awkwardness. Sy Ableman (Fred Melamed), who has been courting and now plans to marry Larry’s still current wife, Judith, speaks with a forceful calm that stifles any objections, and hugs Larry upon seeing him like one would a fellow fiend at a therapy session. His neighbors, a red-blooded hunter that plays catch with his Aryan stump of a kid, and a Mrs. Robinson character who gives Larry a little life, are cartoonish, but it works. There are also three rabbis from whom Larry looks for guidance. Their stories of seeing the reality of the parking lot, or of some dentist getting obsessed with Hebrew script he sees on the back of a goy’s teeth, are irreverent and profound simultaneously, helpful and infuriating.

Larry is ultimately a passive character. The world controls him. He means well, but his utter honesty and respectfulness rob him of any verve. If you are looking for something uplifting about the human spirit, this ain’t it. This is the Cohen brothers film without much action or intrigue, just them playing with character in an era of dull living. It functions as a cultural experience despite its caricatured cast, and as a morality tale despite no character actually moving much along the scale. The film itself, as a story, is quite as ineffectual as its characters. I like it.

I have now watched and reviewed, brilliantly, the ten Best Picture nominees for this year’s Oscars. And, as I am sure you would all agree, I have little choice but to now opine on just which film should win this damn thing.

Of the ten, I can make a legitimate case for District 9, The Hurt Locker, Up, and Up in the Air. They each have near flawless pacing, strong, realistic characters, and focus on an important story not yet told.

Ultimately, impossible as it may be, I would want Up to win, as the film was tragic, comic, and fantastic, in all the right combinations. Realistically, The Hurt Locker is most likely. Avatar may win, but good technology with formulaic story does not good film make.
The 2009/2010 Men’s and Women’s Handball teams returned home from Houston this past weekend, having successfully defended their National Title from the previous year. The Foresters emerged as champions in all three sections of the tournament: The Men’s draw, the Women’s draw, and the Combined Draw, making it just the fourth time in the team’s 42 year history that they came away winners of all three titles. In a tournament full of heart, glory, and even some blood, Lake Forest proved once again to the Handball world that they are the team to beat. Junior Nikolai Nahorniak won both the singles and doubles titles, defeating senior teammate Suhn Lee in the finals of the singles tournament before teaming up with him to win the doubles over fellow teammates Victor Perez and Pat Jarvis, both juniors. On the Women’s side, the same story took place with senior Aimee Ulbert topping sophomore teammate Maria Dugas in the finals of the singles before winning the doubles with Dugas as her partner over teammates Emily Zender (‘10) and Sarah Brusig (‘11). For senior Suhn Lee, the emotional impact of knowing that his Handball career at Lake Forest was coming to an end was enough to allow him to overcome a head injury and come out on top in his semi-final match. After dropping the first game 21-20 and feeling “frustrated” with himself, Lee looked up to Head Coach Mike Dau, who pumped his fist as a sign of encouragement. “At that point I realized it could be the last match of my college career, and from there on out I gave 150%.” That mindset proved to be enough to force the match to a tie-breaker, which Lee won, but not before suffering a serious head injury. Up 5-0 in the breaker, Lee launched into an all out dive for the ball, hitting his head against a concrete wall that sent him into a blackout, followed by a dizziness in which Lee recalls “seeing stars.” Coach Dau came out onto the court, helped stopped the bleeding and Lee, confident that he could now handle anything, won the tie-breaker. Senior Emily Zender holds similar feelings regarding the team’s historic accomplishment this past weekend. For her, it was about all of the hard work that helped them get where they’ve gotten countless times before. “This was a great year to be a senior,” she said, adding, “spending the last four months training with some of the hardest working people I know during the most painful 6:30 am workouts and to see the hard work and determination of each teammate result in another National Title.” Head Coach and Lake Forest legend Mike Dau, the one who has the greatest perspective of all, said that this year stood out in particular for him among the 33 other titles he has won over the years. Dau took special appreciation to the fact that for the first time in the tournament’s 58 year history, both the singles and doubles finals consisted entirely of Lake Forest teams facing one another in a win-win situation. “The 2009-10 team worked exceptionally hard both on the court and in the weight room, with all of it paying off at the National Tournament,” he stated. “We have been blessed with many great players over the years, and seniors Aimee Ulbert, Suhn Lee, and Emily Zender all fall into that category.”

For most here on campus, the news of yet another Handball championship is hardly news at all. We have been spoiled over the years, having come to expect nothing less of the team, despite having very limited knowledge or enthusiasm for the game. The fact is, this year was different in that it truly highlighted the dominance of our school on the court, with championship matches coming down to teammates facing

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