## CSB/SJU Philosophy Department

## The Gadfly

## Ex Nihilo Nihil Fit

December, 2008

## Season's Greetings!

Tis' the season for giving, so the Philosophy Department faculty put their minds to the giving task. And we came up with lists, all sorts of lists. Yes indeedie, you can find it all here, all the things you need to know to enrich your existence. On behalf of the department, best wishes for the season to you and enjoy the teeny-weeny bits of wisdom here.

## Steve Wagner's Cool Cool Jazz

Louis Armstrong - The Hot Fives and Sevens Count Basie - The Complete Atomic Basie
Dave Brubeck - Time Out
John Coltrane - Giant Steps
A Love Supreme
Miles Davis - Birth of the Cool
Cookin'


Kind of Blue
Duke Ellington - Never No Lament Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie -

The Quintet: Jazz at Massey Hall
Benny Goodman - Live at Carnegie Hall
Dexter Gordon - Our Man in Paris
Scott Hamilton - Plays Ballads
Coleman Hawkins - The Hawk Flies High
Charles Mingus - Mingus Ah Um Thelonious Monk - Monk's Music Art Pepper -- Meets the Rhythm Section Sonny Rollins - Saxophone Colossus Horace Silver - Song for My Father


## Emily Esch's Great Places to Hike

Indian Peaks, Rocky Mountain National Park, CO

Circle Peaks, Rocky Mountain National Park, CO

Devil's Den State Park, Ozark Mountains, AR

Ouachita National Forest, AR
Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area, OR and ID

Bagby Hot Springs, OR
Mt. Hood National Forest, OR
Weir Creek Hot Springs, Bitterroot Range, ID

Watkins Glen, Finger Lakes Region, NY
Pitchoff Mountain, Adirondacks, NY


## Good Books from Rene McGraw

The Road by Cormac McCarthy. McCarthy has, first of all, a genius for beauty. In almost all his novels at the center of the story is the love relationship between two people which allows the reader to find meaning even in the most horrendous of situations. In The Crossing it was the love between two brothers. In Cities of the Plain, it is a younger innocent, who falls deeply in love with a prostitute, but who is sustained and loved by an older man whom he admires and who loves him. But in The Road, it is the love between a father and his son in world which has experienced a catastrophic fire, which has destroyed civilization, perhaps a nuclear winter. The young boy-I suppose about eight years old-serves as moral compass for his father. Somehow through the violence that is so horrendous in all of the novels of McCarthy shines a love that gives meaning even though the violence is hard to stomach.

Seeing, the sequel to Blindness of José Saramago. When I say "sequel," I mean that only from about p. 150 on. Both Blindness and Seeing are violent. Not quite so graphic, not quite so beautiful as McCarthy's novels, but still that same purity of meaning shines through. These two, I think, will still be read in another hundred or two-hundred years.

History of Love by Nicole Kruase. After so many books about the Holocaust, it is difficult to find one which does not simply repeat the same horrors. This one does not recount a lot of the horrors. Indeed the greatest part of the novel is only about the aftermath of the Holocaust. But it is a book of fidelity, when sometimes fidelity would not seem to make sense.

## Erica Stonestreet's Favorite Christmas Albums!

1. Songs of Angels: Christmas Hymns \& Carols (Shaw Chamber Singers)
2. December (George Winston)
3. "Elf" soundtrack
4. Nutcracker Suite (Tchaikovsky)
5. "Polar Express" soundtrack
6. A Charlie Brown Christmas (Vince Guaraldi Trio)
7. When My Heart Finds Christmas (Harry Connick, Jr.)
8. Wintersongs and Traditionals (Billy McLaughlin)
9. Psalmer (Anders Widmark Trio)
10. Christmas in Bethlehem (The Bach Choir of Bethlehem)


## Gene Garver's Future Travel Plans (Go boy! Go!)

After I finished my ride from Cairo to Cape Town, people immediately started asking me what I was planning to do next. Here's my list, which should keep me busy. I'm looking for partners for the last three, so start training now.

1. Birding in Costa Rica. My wife's \#1 priority. Not too strenuous. I'm hoping she'll be up for \#2 on the list, and maybe even \#3. After that, I'm afraid I'm on my own.
2. Swimming in the Greek islands. A woman I met in Egypt and Sudan has done this twice and it sounds great. Boats will take all your gear from one island to the next; other boats will be alongside as you swim from island to island. They offer food and water, and will pick you up if necessary. All you do is swim.
3. Hiking from the top to the bottom of Israel. There is a hiking trail down the middle of the country. B\&Bs all along the way so you don't have to carry camping equipment. Most Israelis do it one segment at a time on weekends, but it sounds like an easy trip to do all at once.
4. Two Oceans Marathon, Cape Town. 35 miles, which doesn't sound so bad. But there's a 3500 foot climb in the middle as you ascend from the Atlantic, and then the same descent to the Indian Ocean.
5. Comrades Marathon, 56 miles. That's two marathons, and then an extra 5 k . Run between the capital of the Kwazulu-Natal province, Pietermaritzburg, and the coastal city of Durban, the race alternates annually between the "up run" from Durban and the "down run" from Pietermaritzburg. You have to do it twice to decide which is harder.
6. Killiman. Nine days. First you climb up (and down) Mt Kilimanjaro in six days. Then a two day mountain bike race around the mountain. And then the next day, you compete in the Kilimanjaro marathon. Last year twelve people did it-there were relay teams too, but that's for wimps. I met the fellow who finished second, by five minutes after nine days!

> Jean Keller's Vegetarian Cookbooks (Yum. Yum. Eat 'em up.)

Madhur Jaffrey, World of the East
Moosewood Collective, Sundays at Moosewood
Jack Bishop, Italian Vegetarian
Madhur Jaffrey, World Vegetarian
Edward Espe Brown, Tassajara Bread Book
Moosewood Collective, Moosewood Restaurant Cooks at Home
Deborah Coultrip-Davis, Deborah Davis, and Young Sook Ramsay,Flavors of Korea: Delicious Vegetarian Cuisine

Jay Solomon, Lean Bean Cuisine: Over 100 Tasty Meatless Recipes from Around the World

## T-Rob's Big Movie List!

"You ain't educated or cool unless you've seen these flicks," says Tim Robinson

## COMEDIES

The Apartment (1960)
Blazing Saddles (1974)
Bringing Up Baby (1938)
Cat Ballou (1965)
Cosi (Australian, 1996)
The Court Jester (1956)
The Gazebo (1959)
Irreconcilable Differences (1984)
The Loved One (1965)
It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World (1963)
Midnight Run (1988)
O Brother, Where Art Thou (2000)
Outrageous Fortune (1987)
The Paleface (1948)
The Pink Panther (1964)
Ruthless People (1986)
A Shot in the Dark (1964)
Some Like it Hot (1959)
The Tall Blond Man with One Black Shoe (French, 1972)

To Be or Not to Be (1942 version)
To Be or Not to Be (1983 version)
Waiting for Guffman (1997)
Waking Ned Devine (1998)


160 29th Avenue South, St. Cloud-251-BIKE

Hey-don't be a Grinch. Get your little brother or sister a new shiny bike for Christmas.

## MUSICALS

An American in Paris (1951)
Holiday Inn (1942)
Lady, Be Good (1941)
Oklahoma (1955)
Showboat (1951)
Singing in the Rain (1952)
South Pacific (1958)
West Side Story (1961)

## WESTERNS

High Noon (1952)
Little Big Man (1970)
The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962)

3:10 to Yuma (2007)
Unforgiven (1992

## MYSTERY/INTRIGUE/SUSPENSE

Casablanca (1942)
Dead Again (1991)
M (1931, German)
Mississippi Burning (1988)
My Life as a $\operatorname{Dog}$ (1985)
The Night of the Hunter (1955)
North by Northwest (1959)
Ronin (1998)

## HISTORICALS

Bridge on the River Kwai (1957)
A Bridge Too Far (1977)
Gunga Din (1939)
Pimpernel Smith (1941)

## Mo’ T-Rob

## SWASHBUCKLERS

The Prisoner of Zenda (1952)
Scaramouche (1952)

## DRAMAS

African Queen (1951)
Billy Elliot (200)
A Christmas Carol (1951, Alistair Sim version)
Emma (1996, Gwyneth Paltrow version)
Lone Star (1996)
Pride and Prejudice (BBC/A\&E miniseries)
To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)
What's Eating Gilbert Grape (1993)
PROPAGANDA
The Triumph of the Will (1935)
MYTH, LEGEND, FAIRYTALE
The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad (1958)

HEAVY DRAMAS: Take in small doses alternate with frivolous things

Catch-22 (1970)
Death and the Maiden (1994)
Hotel Rwanda (2004)
Memento (2000)
Munich (2005)
Rendition (2007)
Schindler's List (1993)
The Shawshank Redemption (1994)
Under Suspicion (1999)
Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe (1966)
SCIENCE FICTION
Forbidden Planet (1956)
HORROR
Nosferatu (1922)

## Laura Schmitz's Favorite Ballparks!

Fenway Park in Boston (the Green Monster rocks!)
Jacob's Field in Cleveland (it was named this when we visited it 5 or 6 years ago, guess the new name is Progressive Field [boring])
Yankee Stadium in NY (not because of the current Yankees team $\sim$ do not like them $\sim$ but because of the old guys - the Great Bambino, Gehrig, Mantle, etc.)
Kaufmann Stadium in Kansas City (the city of waterfalls)
Wrigley Field in Chicago (another oldie but goodie)
County Stadium in Milwaukee (we probably attended 4 or 5 games at this old park - the tail gaiting was a blast!)
Dodger Stadium in LA (where the fans show up late and leave early - not sure what they pay for their tickets but we stayed for the entire game)
Jack Murphy Stadium in San Diego (it's been torn down since we visited in '96)
The Ballpark in Arlington (deep in the heart of Texas)
Miller Park in Milwaukee (it's ok but not nearly as awesome as the old park was)

## TC's Literary Passages

Don't you just love a great passage from literature? I sure do. Here are some of my favorites.
She got so she received all things with the stolidness of the earth, which soaks up urine and perfume with the same indifference.

## Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God

The curve of the girl's back as she bent over the table seemed to Inman a shape not to be duplicated in all the time stretched out before him. A thing to fix in mind and hold, so that should he become an old man the memory might be useful, not a remedy against time but nevertheless a consolation.
...There was a redemption of some kind, he believed, in such complete fulfillment of a desire so long deferred.

## Charles Frazier, Cold Mountain

If she sleeps, the magic could be gone when she wakes up again in this room. She might be merely here, in a cousin's ironing room, with no memory of what has happened tonight. It seems like a fairy tale, and the stories say spells get broken and magic doesn't endure. That people don't really love one another and dance in the woods for no other reason than to promise goodness, and lose track of themselves, and keep an old fire burning.

## Barbara Kingsolver, Pigs In Heaven

And no matter, for the sadness was at her center, the desolated center where the self that was no self made its home.

Toni Morrison, Beloved
An imperfect human heart, perfectly shattered, was her conclusion. A condition so common as to be virtually universal, rendering issues of right and wrong almost incidental.
Richard Russo, Nobody’s Fool

## Brother Dennis' Flicks

(These are movies shown on Monastery Saturday Movie Night over the last couple of years . An asterisk (*) indicates the movie is in a foreign language, with subtitles. All are in Alcuin Library .)

| Alice | Motorcycle Diaries* [Spanish] | The Fog of War |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Once | Ushpizin (Guests)* [Hebrew] | Lone Star |
| Machuca* [Spanish] | Pan's Labyrinth* [Spanish] | Match Point |
| Dirty Pretty Things | The Life of Others* [German] | The History Boys |
| Millions | Abouna (Our Father)*[Chad] | Untergang [German] |
| The Sweet Hereafter | La Vie en Rose* (La Môme) [French] | Rendition |
| Everything is Illuminated | C.R.A.Z.Y.* [French (set Montreal)] | The Station Agent |
| Running on Empty | Volver* [Spanish] | The Visitor |

The Widow of Saint-Pierre* [French/Canadian]

