

Article# 1

Breaking Dawn does not live up to expectations

Erica Schwartz

The very important question that has been lingering in all of Americas' mind since 2008 is team Jacob or team Edward? Quite honestly, that would probably be the most interesting thing to discuss about the whole Twilight Saga, anyway. I know some may disagree with me.

Never having been a fan of the the Twilight movies, I wasn't too anxious to watch the newest and last of them, Breaking Dawn Part 2. However, I decided to go last Saturday to see what the whole fuss is about, not to mention that I had nothing to do that afternoon and Taylor Lautner isn't too hard on the eyes. So I called up my friend Carl and we headed to the AMC at the Barton Creek mall for the 5 p.m. showing.

Overall, the movie was just what I had expected it to be. Kristen Stewart, who plays the main character, Bella, had the same monotonous expression as always. It's miraculous how she shows no sign of emotion, as if she thinks giving birth to a half-vampire-half-mortal baby is actually common.

Without giving away too much, my biggest disappointment of the movie was its highlight. Near the middle, a battle takes place between the Cullen family and the Volturi (the vampire enemies). This was the part where Carl woke up from his brief nap and actually paid attention with me. The battle scene takes up almost half of the movie and many of the significant characters get killed in it, which was exciting to watch. When a certain one got killed (can't say who), a group of six 12-year-old girls stood up from their seats and clapped and wooed as if they were waiting for that moment all their lives. Unfortunately, Carl's and my fun ended abruptly with the final twist. I swear we almost lost it. The only good part got completely shut down. That's all I can say.

Here's my advice: don't watch Breaking Dawn Part 2. You want to see creepy people who crave blood and not food? Go watch Vampire Diaries on your television. You want to see Taylor Lautner? There are still reruns of Sharkboy and Lava Girl somewhere. You want to see big cute wolves? Go to the woods and bring some meat with you. The point is, unless you are a prepubescent girl or Stephenie Meyer, you have no excuse to put yourself through the perfect example of what modern media is manipulating us to think of as a good movie.

Article# 2

Italian restaurant lives up to good reviews

Colleen Pletcher

Carmelo's is a delicious Italian restaurant located at 504 East 5th St. in downtown Austin. The restaurant is located in an old, beautiful building. From the inside, the building seems large, but on the outside, it is small and nestled in to the surrounding area. It is easy to miss.

When my family and I walked into Carmelo's, I immediately realized something important. We were underdressed. In our uniform of jeans and T-shirts, we stood out like a sore thumb against the skirts, slacks and button-down shirts. I ignored an old lady's disapproving glare at my sweatshirt as a waiter led us to our table. Another waiter brought over bread and olive oil with Parmesan cheese, which was delicious. We ordered bread plate after bread plate. I pretended not to see my mother's eye roll and my father's head shake as my sister and I battled over the last piece of scrumptious bread.

For the main course, I ordered the fettuccine dish. After a wait that left me a little impatient, the waiter rolled out a large table and proceeded to cook my meal right in front of us. I was hypnotized as he tossed ingredients into a frying pan with poise and grace. It was awesome, besides the fear that he would set his hand on fire. The fettuccine was amazing. It was filled with flavor, and I devoured every single bite.

The major downside to Carmelo's is the hefty price. We only ordered entrees, but our meal for four cost \$99. Even though the food was delicious, that is a lot of money. However, for a really special occasion when you need an amazing Italian meal, Carmelo's is definitely for you.

Article# 3

Teens have an adventurous new shopping experience

Laura Jessich and Michelle Fairorth

Michelle and I, being avid thrifters, were looking forward to our journey to the Goodwill Outlet located in south Austin. It was our first time going, and we had no idea what to expect. We walked in to find a warehouse crowded with shoving, yelling people desperately attacking hundreds of blue plastic bins. We forced our way through the mob and began rummaging through the mounds of clothing like we were digging our way to China.

The clothing being sold is thrown in the bins and priced at a \$1.39 per pound. The catch is, if you have intentions of claiming these extremely underpriced items, you are likely to lose a limb. First, there are the employees. As soon as Michelle's hands touched the clothing we were instantly reprimanded by a disgruntled worker and told to stay away from the "unauthorized" bins. There were several cops stationed around the store glaring at everyone.

The customers were even more hectic. The workers were constantly bringing out new bins and as they wheeled them out, the shoppers lined up and waited for the signal that they were open. As soon as the employee stepped out of the way, the rabid pack of people swarmed towards the bins like voracious, feral animals going after their prey. Grabbing armfuls of clothing, they formed an assembly line with their friends and passed the garments on to the next member of the team. In a matter of seconds, the bins were stripped clean. The teams then sorted through the carts and discarded the leftovers. Aside from their obvious cahoots, the shoppers have no boundaries. They steal from others carts, shove anyone who's in their way, and they will go to excessive lengths to get what they want.

Even though it's disorderly, crazy, and feels like an elementary school cafeteria, the unbeatable prices and the one-of-a-kind items are definitely worth it. The Goodwill Blue Hanger Outlet is a match made in heaven for anyone who loves thrifting.

After a successful, but brutal hour in the store, Michelle and I agreed that we would definitely be coming back. We left with 22 items that included t-shirts, blazers, jumpers, jeans and a brand new experience for \$21.07.

Article# 4

Juiceland serves smoothies with local flavor

Michelle Fairorth

Juiceland is all that it appears to be from the outside: a small, eclectic hole in the wall nestled in the heart of Barton Springs, and it amazed me entirely. I fell in love with the place. It's brilliantly quirky, nothing more than a tiny haunt that seems to have been decorated by small children. It poses a welcoming, slightly nostalgic atmosphere. From the inside and out, this smoothie shack truly represents Austin. Who wouldn't be intrigued by all the peculiar wall hangings, posters, and mossy plants potted in glass bulbs strung from the ceiling? But what really impressed me were the smoothies themselves.

It might just be easier to pick your smoothie through a round of eenie meenie miney mo. I'll admit, it's slightly intimidating starrng up at the menus. It feels like reading a whole other language trying to sift through a million different names like Wundershowzen and Crunk Tesla. But don't sweat. The ingredients are listed for each smoothie on the menu, and the people who work there are genuinely friendly. If you talk to them they'll definitely make some suggestions and let you taste a few samples.

What makes the smoothies at Juiceland so unique are the bizarre ingredients that go into them. It's a bit frightening. Do I really want to be slurping down spirulina and double ginger wheatgrass? But trust me, the smoothies are great, and those unpleasant sounding foods are actually super healthy for you and you can't taste them in the smoothies.

To anyone going into Juiceland for the first time, I'd recommend the Originator. Out of all the smoothies I tried, this one's my all-time favorite. It's made up of a variety of fruit and peanut butter, along with a couple weird ingredients like flax oil and rice protein, but it tastes amazing.

If you'd rather just play it safe, then Home Run is a good option. It tastes like your average fruit smoothie, but the ambience of Juiceland makes it that much better.

If you're brave, go for the Kaleibrator. It's got a bunch of terrifying ingredients, and I'll be honest, it's an acquired taste. When I took my first sip, I felt like I was drinking liquid grass and seeds, but once I got used to it I began to like it, even though it does have quite a strong coconut edge.

Unfortunately, the smoothies aren't cheap. They range from about \$5 to \$12, but you're definitely paying for wholesome ingredients and you're also supporting a local business. The location I went to was 1625 Barton Springs Road, but they've got a couple other places in Austin listed on their website. They stay open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and they're open every day. Everyone at Juiceland is welcoming and lively and their smoothies are excellent.

Find them at www.juicelandaustin.com

Article# 5

J.K. Rowling's new book is anything but casual

Brian Wieckowski

"The fame thing is interesting because I never wanted to be famous, and I never dreamt I would be famous," best-selling author J.K. Rowling said to The Telegraph's Jeremy Paxman in 2003 about her life since Harry Potter became the world's new literary sensation. "I imagined being a famous writer would be like being like Jane Austen - being able to sit at home in the parsonage and your books would be very famous and occasionally you would correspond with the Prince of Wales' secretary. You know I didn't think they'd rake through my bins; I didn't expect to be photographed on the beach through long lenses."

Since that interview, Rowling's books have been adapted into another five movies, hit the New York Times #1 spot an additional three times (giving her a grand total of seven), and seen the creation of eight Potter-based video games, not including pottermore.com, an interactive website where users can compete and attend Hogwarts with each other. Of course, since then, we've also seen the end of the Harry Potter series itself.

Rowling is the only known billionaire to make her entire fortune off writing and has the top-grossing book series of all time, beating second place by almost \$150 million. She has also won more than 40 major world literary awards, including the British Book Awards Lifetime Achievement Award and the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the highest award an international author can win in the children's genre, and the. Needless to say, there is little Rowling hasn't accomplished in the literary world. So it's no wonder that so many people were surprised when she announced that once done with Potter, she planned on stepping away from her success with children's books and working on a new novel - The Casual Vacancy.

We were told from the beginning that the new book would take as many steps away from Harry Potter as possible, but I would call the transition to Vacancy more of a series of leaps assisted by a trampoline. It's in an entirely new genre, with no trace of the innocence that so marked Rowling's previous books. The adult content of the book may even be disturbing for some, as the novel delves into the darkest evils a quiet village town can endure. The setting for the story is the small English idyll of Pagford, where everything seems to be going as small town things go: people moving about their day, children playing soccer, families eating dinner together, loving one another on the cobbled market square or admiring the ancient abbey across the way. However, when Barry Fairbrother, the local town councilman, has a fatal aneurysm, things get rough. Deli owner Howard Mollison takes the opportunity to organize a movement to elect a more preferable councilman, other citizens fight him and petty squabbles turn into full-out distinctions between poverty and wealth, morality and self-indulgence, and the truth of human nature. Soon the parents of the village are acting like children, their teenagers are starting to rebel in overwhelming ways, and the town is at war over things that go far beyond the destruction of an old church or the election of Fairbrother's replacement.

I can't say the book wasn't entertaining. Rowling's writing ability alone sets Vacancy apart from

most of the books you find, and her knack for characterization is nothing short of captivating. That said, it lacked something in that the whole book was completely driven by the characters. The plot was minimal, which I guess would've been fine if the plot wasn't what drove most of the Harry Potter series, so I had come to expect more. But then again, this could be another effort by Rowling at distancing herself from Potter.

The main deterrent for most people, though, would probably be the graphic nature of the book. I'm not a reader that's limited to children's novels by any means; *The Silence of the Lambs*, *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* and *The Kite Runner* all sit on my bookshelf. But even so, *The Casual Vacancy* was exceptionally dark. Among the topics discussed are rape, incest and almost overpowering descriptions of what we'll call rated-R scenes. All in all, I think that the book was fine, but it would not be selling half as many copies without Rowling's name on the cover. Readers beware: this isn't Harry Potter. The themes, descriptions and justifications of *The Casual Vacancy* are vastly different than where you may previously have thought J.K. Rowling stood. At the end of the day, I would give *Vacancy* 3.5 out of 5 stars. If you don't have money to spend on the book (the hardback I got is more than \$35 at Barnes and Noble's), I would hang out at the library for a few weeks for a chance at the book. It's not spectacular, but it's not bad, and it's certainly not casual.