

MOVIES • MOVIES • MOVIES • MOVIES

— The Godfather —

Directed by: Francis Ford Coppola
Starring: Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, James Caan
Rating: R

This week, I thought I'd take a look at one of the given classics of the cinematic canon, *The Godfather*, to see what all the buzz is about. And what a waste of three hours that was.

The problems start with the first line, as an emphatic Bonasera – or, as Marlon Brando (*The Island of Dr. Moreau*) calls him, “Blahnuhsuhbluh” – declares, “I believe in America.” And right away, we know it's going to be one of *those* movies. Nicolas Cage's uncle drags us through the next three hours as Al Pacino (*Gigli*) ruins a perfectly good Italian dinner, James Caan (*Elf*) manages to mess up going through a tollbooth, and Diane Keaton (*Mad Money*) whines a lot. Whenever you think this movie is picking up speed, it gets derailed by another scene where Marlon Brando shows off his ability (or lack thereof) to talk with cotton balls shoved in his mouth.

We can safely stick this movie in the category called “Trying Way Too Hard.”

While I give *The Godfather* an A for effort for trying to make an old-style family saga, it doesn't live up to expectations. While the story has some potential, it just wasn't brought to fruition in a satisfactory way. A remake might correct some of the original's mistakes. If Michael Bay (*Transformers*) were to direct, with Steven Seagal (*Under Siege*) as Don Vito and Jack



Black (*Gulliver's Travels*), Rob Schneider (*The Hot Chick*) and Robert Pattinson (*Twilight*) as the Corleone brothers, then we'd have some real cinema. We'd have a movie filled with enough action, humor, and vampires to suit today's audiences. After all, a movie has to have an audience to be good, and as it stands now, *The Godfather* has little viewer appeal.

I give *The Godfather* 1 star out of 5, since the gimmick with the horse head was actually pretty entertaining. Next week, I take a look at the great Ed Wood classic *Plan 9 from Outer Space*.

PUBLISHED LOCALLY, READ UNIVERSALLY!

The *Press* is published in Harvard, but it's often stowed away in the spacesuits and gym bags of loyal readers as they cross atmospheric layers and county lines.



An astronaut on the lunar surface poses with the *Press*. (Courtesy photo)



Kathy Hewett (left) and Connie Larrabee traveled with the *Press* to the fringes of Harvard, crossing the Boxborough line into Middlesex County. (Courtesy photo)

POLICE FOG

Tuesday, March 22

An Ayer Road man came to the station seeking advice about a domestic matter. His mother-in-law from New Jersey had come for Thanksgiving, stayed through Christmas, and was getting to be a major headache. Officers informed him that this was not a criminal matter, and advised him to seek family counseling. An Ayer Road pizza shop called to report a suspicious home-delivery order of a whipped cream chocolate chip pizza with sprinkles. An undercover officer delivering the pizza found a four-year-old left unattended while her mother burned brush outside. The mother was cited for neglect, and had to pay for the large pizza.

Wednesday, March 23

A New Jersey woman who was visiting Harvard called to report finding a dead rat in her handbag. Police were unable to determine if it was a New Jersey rat. A couple walking on Bare Hill Pond reported passing a spot where there appeared to be no weeds under the ice. State environmental officers were informed and an investigation is ongoing. Police responding to a 911 call found a precocious 6-year-old who got confused while calling for an appointment with her personal trainer. A Shaker Road woman called to report a suspicion that her neighbor was in violation of Shaker celibacy laws.

Thursday, March 24

A West Bare Hill Road woman called to report that her husband had just bought a new car and it wasn't a Prius. She was advised to contact an attorney. A distraught elderly woman reported hearing “growling that sounded like a bear” outside her bedroom window late at night, and finding “claw marks” on the window sill the next morning. Although the woman's son-in-law had told her it was almost certainly a very large and dangerous beast, officers determined that the marks had been made by a claw hammer.

Friday March 25

A caller reported seeing a unicorn at the intersection of Orchard Hill and Finn

Road. Responding officers were unable to find the intersection. A small nest of killer bees was found on Ayer Road, tucked under a parked car with New Jersey plates. Wildlife officials were mystified at the finding. Police feared the worst when an enormous snapping turtle was seen climbing the shore of Bare Hill Pond near Turner lane, dragging what appeared to be an ice-fisherman's vest. It turned out that the fisherman had left his vest on what he thought was a large rock, along with his lunch and a thermos of coffee, and returned to find that the rock had disappeared. Police questioned the turtle about the missing items, but found him uncooperative.

Saturday, March 26

Police investigated a report that a Harvard man was seen rummaging through the metal pile at the Transfer Station, apparently assembling the makings of an IED. Officers talked to the man, who they knew to be having in-law problems, but found no reason to detain him.

Sunday, March 27

The clerk of the Historical Commission called to complain that the commission's chairman was forcing her to take minutes with quill and ink. Harvard police requested backup from Ayer and Boxborough to untangle a traffic mess in the center of town. (See story, page 1)

Monday, March 28

In a cruel hoax that appears to target elderly women, an imposter claiming to be from the *Oprah* show tricked a visitor from New Jersey into returning home to collect a round-trip ticket to Las Vegas, all expenses paid, and a new car. There was no such ticket or car, of course, and authorities are at a loss to explain the scam. The woman's family lives on Ayer Road, and the fraudulent call originated in Shirley. Impersonating an *Oprah* representative is a federal offense, and police are investigating.

The Police Fog is written by Harvard Pressed reporters who have too much time on their hands.

THE GENERAL STORE

FOR FREE

To good home. Gray tabby kitten or 40-year-old husband. Kitten is affectionate and playful, neutered with all shots. Husband is personable with good job, but doesn't like cats; says he goes or cat goes. [4/1]

Snow shovel. My back went South a month ago, and I'm going with it. Contact C.U. Later @ General delivery, Key West, FLA. [4/1]

Used dog. In good condition. Comes with fleas, but no ticks yet. Housebroken, but can be repaired. [4/1]

LOST AND FOUND

Lost sheep. I don't know where to find them. Please contact L. Bopeep. [4/1]

Lost slipper. Glass, size small. Found on way to the ball. Call Prince to identify and claim. [4/1]

Weed harvester found. The town's aquatic weed harvester, which was reported missing in late December, was found last week in the remains of a huge snowbank near the Department of Public Works garage. [4/1]

FOR SALE

Fish filets. From exceptionally large marlin caught by elderly Cuban fisherman. Call Santiago. [4/1]

Put-Down Sticks. Infinitely easier version of Pick-Up Sticks. Fun for the whole family. [4/1]

Touched by an Angle. My un-aired documentary on Pythagoras must go! [4/1]

SERVICES OFFERED

Golf lessons. For women only, preferably tall blondes. Call T. Woods. [4/1]

SERVICES OFFERED

Letter writing. Skilled writer will compose a love letter to be sent to the object of your affections. Call C. de Bergerac. [4/1]

Mouse and chipmunk control. Skilled on-site removal expert. Low-cost, high-quality eradication. Call Miss Kitty anytime between naps. [4/1]

Math tutor. Relatively low rates. Call A. Einstein. [4/1]

Knitting lessons. Learn intricate, revolutionary techniques. Call Mme. Defarge. [4/1]

HELP WANTED

Monogram removal. Call H. Prynne. [4/1]

Personal chef. Low-fat dishes only. Call J. Sprat. [4/1]

REAL ESTATE WANTED

To rent or buy. Enormous house with scenic view. Many bedrooms and baths, huge closets and floor-to-ceiling mirrors, private gym, Olympic-size pool. Six-car garage, helipad. Secluded setting, not too far from Gillette Stadium. Call or tweet G. Bundchen. [4/1]

MESSAGES

Need a ride to California? Large family looking for riders to share cost. Call T. Joad. [4/1]

Party on! Everyone who's anyone will be there. Call J. Gatsby. [4/1]

On-Anon-Anon. Meets weekday mornings for coffee at the General Store. Your favorite town officials are always there. [4/1]