

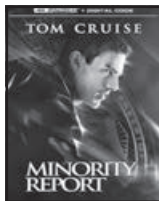


### CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (4K Ultra HD/Blu-ray/Digital) Paramount Pictures



tor — all before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday — an FBI agent closes in, hot on his trail.

### MINORITY REPORT (4K Ultra HD/Blu-ray/Digital) Paramount Pictures



ride through a future where free will is under surveillance — and nothing is at it seems.

### VAMPIRE ZOMBIES FROM SPACE! (Blu-ray) Cleopatra Ent.

1947, in the small town of Marlow, young Mary witnessed her mother's gruesome death, where the infamous Dracula emerged from the shadows to claim her life. Now, ten years later, the trauma of that night still haunts her, especially as strange occurrences begin to plague her town. When her sister and father mysteriously vanish, Mary knows something sinister is at play. Determined to uncover the truth, Mary starts digging into the events surrounding her sister and father's disappearances. At the same time, hard-nosed police Chief Clarke and a new transfer, Detective Wallace, eager to prove himself, begin piecing together clues linked to the recent strange occurrences. The deeper they delve, the more they realize that something far worse than they imagined is unfolding in Marlow. Terror grips the town as a full-blown zombie outbreak erupts, leaving chaos in its wake. The military is swiftly deployed, led by the over-the-top Colonel Talbot, who declares a state of emergency. Amidst the panic, Mary finds an unlikely ally in Wayne, a chain-smoking greaser with a heart of gold and a knack for trouble. As they investigate further, they uncover Dracula's true plan: to build an unstoppable army of vampire zombies, using the unsuspecting townspeople of Marlow as his soldiers. His goal is to unleash this nightmarish force upon the world, plunging it into eternal darkness under his rule. Mary, Wayne, Chief Clarke, and Wallace must band together to stop Dracula before his army grows too powerful to contain. Their mission is clear: *Stop Dracula and his undead legion before they overrun Marlow ... and possibly the world!*

### ON THE RUN (Blu-ray) 88 Films

Directed by Alfred Cheung and starring the legendary Yuen Biao, noir crime drama *On The Run* remains a classic staple of the thriller genre from Hong Kong. In the aftermath of his wife's brutal murder, struggling cop Heung Ming (Yuen Biao) is forced to go into hiding after discovering corruption in the ranks. His only ally is a deadly assassin Chui (Pat Ha) as they each try to avoid arrest, and even death.

### FRIGHTMARE - Tromatic Special Edition (Blu-ray) Troma Films

The gory ghosts of Hollywood's Golden Era return from the grave craving bloody revenge, in Norman Thaddeus Vane's *Frightmare!* Following the death of legendary horror actor Conrad Radzoff (Ferdie Mayne), a group of overzealous drama students steal his corpse from his crypt and take it to the decrepit haunted house where his finest fright films were made. As the night goes on, the students lean the true meaning of terror, as Conrad's vengeful spirit takes them out one by one. Featuring incredible special effects by Chuck E. Stewart and early performances by Jeffrey Combs, Nina Talbot, Scott Thomson and Donna McDaniel. *Frightmare* is a bloody terror trip from the Tromatic 1980s.

### LUTHER THE GEEK - Tromatic Special Edition (Blu-ray) Troma Films

A young country boy is plunged into the depths of homicidal madness after witnessing the strange exploits of a carnival 'geek,' a caged drunk so desperate for whisky that he bites the heads off live chickens in front of a freak show audience. Thirty years later, Luther is all grown up and out on parole, after spending his childhood behind bars for a series of grisly murders. Armed with only a pair of razor-sharp metal dentures and only able to communicate through chicken clucks, Luther restarts his bloody rampage as he terrorizes the citizens of a small town and takes a young mother and her family hostage in their isolated farmhouse. Featuring one of the most intense endings ever put on film, *Luther the Geek* is good gory fun in the splatter flick tradition of *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and *The Toxic Avenger*.

The time has come, the walrus said,

## TO TALK OF MANY THINGS of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giaratani

### EAST BOSTON WORKING ON PARADE'S RETURN THIS YEAR

This past Monday night, a group of East Boston activists met for the third time down at Kelley Square Pub trying to plan the return of an East Boston Italian American parade after the demise of the annual Columbus Day parade by woke culture.

This latest meeting was the third one held thus far and the next one should be on Monday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the pub. If you support the return of our cultural parade this coming October, join in with your neighbors to make it happen.

Over 20 community leaders met this past Monday in their quest to start the parade again. We deserve it. This year's parade is dedicated to the memory of the late Buddy Mangini, long-time parade organizer who we still miss.

### JEFF KUHNER LIKES STIRRING THE POT

Over four straight morning shows, his topics went from Maduro to the Boston City Council to Minnesota

to Iran. It is like listening to newspaper headlines. With the Kuhnerman, everything is simple. There is right and wrong, black and white, but that's really not so, is it?

I still haven't made up my mind about the Minnesota ICE shooting. I need more videos and more facts. I need to separate facts from disinformation. Was the shooting of the driver behind the wheel justified? The Feds must do a complete investigation and not one tainted by political bias.

I laughed when I heard the Mayor of Minneapolis and the Governor of Minnesota demanding to be part of the investigation. Are these two guys, the same guys that want nothing to do with immigration issues? Neither of the two wants city or state police to involve themselves with ICE when they come to town.

### TAPPER VS. NOEM

Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem was a guest on this past Sunday's CNN's *State of the Union* show, anchored by Jake Tapper. During the program, Noem took on Tapper over the recent ICE

shooting in Minneapolis and defended the recent shooting. Tapper grilled Noem for calling the victim a domestic terrorist. Noem quickly responded by telling him he couldn't change the facts because he didn't like them.

At one point Tapper asked Noem how she could be so certain that the driver was attempting to hurt the ICE agents by her car. He asked if she couldn't have been trying to just flee the scene. However, Noem shot back, the victim had weaponized her car and lunged it forward into an ICE agent.

### BOB WEIR FROM THE GRATEFUL DEAD IS DEAD

Bob Weir from the Grateful Dead just passed away at age 78. Weir, 16, met up with Jerry Garcia, 21, on New Year's Eve in 1963 when Weir went to hear him play down at a local venue. For Weir, the music never stopped until last Saturday when he passed away.

Once again, another legend has left the scene. It used to be legends who died were much older than me. But not anymore. I am only one year his junior.

### • Boston and Surrounding Areas See Rents Decrease (Continued from Page 1)

downward pressure on rents," said Crystal Chen, author of the 2025 Boston Metro Report.

Regardless of price declines in several cities, locations such as Medford and Brockton saw high rent hikes over the year. Metro cities and towns remain well above the national average of \$1,500 for a one bedroom in December 2025, "underscoring how expensive the region remains despite recent rent cooling," Chen said.

Cities with the largest rent decreases year over year include Quincy, down 6.8%, Lowell fell

6.4% and Somerville fell 6.2%. "Cities posting the largest or most consistent rent declines tend to share a common profile, greater exposure to new multifamily construction, higher starting rent levels, and limited ability to absorb new supply without price adjustments. Markets such as Somerville, Quincy, and parts of Boston proper fell into this category," Chen added.

Boston rent prices have dropped from a pandemic high in 2022, leveling off around 2024, according to Zumper

data. Looking ahead, Chen said, "continued softness or near flat pricing appears likely in the near term as supply remains elevated in the coming year, demand will be modest and renters will have greater leverage than Boston renters are typically accustomed to. That said, Boston remains a structurally supply-constrained market over the long run. Once the current wave of new construction is absorbed, rents are more likely to stabilize and gradually resume growth rather than continue falling," Chen stated.

### • Major Shift Expected to "Natural" U.S. Population (Continued from Page 1)

U.S. population, the balance of births over deaths, is projected to vanish. "Net immigration (the number of people who migrate to the United States minus the number who leave) is projected to become an increasingly important source of population growth in the coming years, as declining fertility rates cause the annual number of deaths to exceed the annual number of births starting in 2030. Without immigration, the population would begin to shrink in 2030," the CBODO wrote.

From that point forward, every additional person added to the U.S. population will come from immigration. The shift points to a rapidly aging American society, and is jarring at how soon

it is expected to arrive. Only a year ago, the CBODO and others believed this would occur late in the 2030s or even into the 2040s, moving the timeline up by less than a decade.

The accelerated change may derive from declining fertility and an aging population. Projected births are now at 1.5 per woman, below the required 2.1 "replacement rate," needed for a stable population, while at the same time the "Baby Boomer" generation is increasing their mortality rates, with annual deaths climbing.

There are substantial economic consequences to this shift. As the numbers of retirees increases, the number of working funding the social safety net

is narrowing. Americans age 65 and older are the fastest growing segment of the population. In 1960, there were approximately five workers for every retiree. Today that ratio is closer to three to one and by the mid-2050s, the CBODO believes it will decrease to two workers per retiree.

The contraction will have "significant implications" on the federal budget, including outsized effects on Social Security and Medicare. The loss of labor force growth could also result in the America economy relying more heavily on technological breakthroughs and AI to drive future gains, resulting in a de-humanized workforce.

### • News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

leadership, we are holding bad actors accountable and will continue to root out rampant fraud."

### Push to Reopen Norwood Hospital

As negotiations continue over the sale of Norwood Hospital, two lawmakers are reviving their push to reopen the hospital. This past Monday, Rep. John Rogers, D-Norwood and Senator Mike Rush, D-West

Roxbury have filed a bill HD 5528 that would authorize the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) to take the land the hospital sits on by eminent domain. Rogers' office said there have been ongoing talks between the hospital's current owner, and other hospital operators to complete construction and reopen the hospital. Rogers

has stated "This bill is about protecting the health and safety of the entire region by ensuring access to essential, life-saving care close to home."

### End Quote

"The three most important days in American history since the Civil War have been December 7, 1941, September 11, 2001 and January 6, 2021

— U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell