



Mumford and Son's new album: did it live up to all the hype?

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Fall break adventures: Grand Canyon, Canada, New York City....

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# The Echo

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## Students get creative for TWIRP, use videos and quiz for invites

Ronna Fisher, Assistant Editor

As some may know, tonight's the big night for the ladies. TWIRP, The Woman is Required to Pay, is an annual event at SNU. This year the theme is Time Machine.

There will be a comedy hour beginning at 7 PM and a haunted house put on by alumni from 9-10:30 PM in Hatley Hall. Every year there is a best costume contest, and this year is no exception.

But weeks (sometimes months) before TWIRP, the greatest commotion is about how the girls have asked the guys. This is commonly

known as "twirping" or "getting twirped." Some girls go all out.

One of the more popular ways to "twirp" someone is through video. Stacie Vernier, sophomore, asked Baker Pitts, senior, by pretending to be Pitts the day after Twirp. She dressed up as him and pretended to blog about going to Twirp with Vernier. She had them play it during an SNL practice between acts.

"I came up with idea because I thought it would be really funny to dress up as him since he has such a unique look," Vernier

said. "And mustaches are just cool to wear anytime. I wanted it to be funny and original."

Sometimes the girls will even get teachers involved. Tiffany Hunter, sophomore, acquired Dr. Tim Crutcher's help in asking Curtis Hahn to TWIRP. Crutcher surprised Hahn's Greek class with a pop quiz. Hahn had to translate a Greek statement to English. The statement said, "Do you want to go to TWIRP with Tiffany?" Everyone else's quizzes asked, "Should Curtis go to TWIRP with Tiffany?" He responded on

the bottom of the page in Greek.

According to Hahn, everyone figured it out before he

"Everyone was just smiling at me. I got a really big smile. I was just like, 'Oh snap!'"

did: "Everyone was just smiling at me. I got a really big smile. I was just like, 'Oh snap!'"

Why put so much effort into "twirping" someone? Sarah Handley, senior, whose TWIRP-asking experience a couple of years ago included kidnapping, zip-ties and a ukulele, explained, "SNUers put a bunch of time and energy into Twirping because, really, when else will we be expected, let alone explicitly permitted, to pull capers and crazy stuff like this again? I did it because I wanted to add to my great college memories here at SNU."

Besides, you never know when a Twirp date one year will be your fiancé another year, like Handley's did.

Hunter also admits that there is a little friendly competition between twirpers: "It's fun to be able to surprise people and try to outdo other girls, if we want to be honest."



This year's TWIRP theme is Time Machine. The activities will include a Haunted Hatley (hall). Photo by Kira Roberts

## The Grand Canyon, Canada, and NYC: stories from Fall Break

### Ashleigh Buchanan, Staff Writer

We get two days of school off for Fall Break. While this is a much-needed break after midterms, it's not enough time to do a whole lot or travel very far. Or is it? Some students took this small break as a challenge and made the most of the few days off of school.

### Emily Gammill:

"This fall break I set out with my family for the Grand Canyon with the goal of completing the Rim 2 Rim hike! The hike consists of 21 miles starting at the South Rim, going down into the canyon, and back up to the North Rim! After waking up at the crack of dawn and hiking for 9 hours, we accomplished our goal, and it was absolutely gorgeous (despite not being able to feel our legs)!"



Emily Gammill on her 'rim to rim' Grand Canyon hike. Photo from Emily Gammill.

Vancouver, BC. This hike is called the "Grouse Grind" and is only two miles long; the distance is not the challenging part, the entire hike is at a steep incline with an elevation gain of 2,800 ft. When we started the hike it was foggy and cloudy. Once we completed the hike, we were looking at the beautiful mountain tops with a sea of clouds below us.

After leaving Canada, my sister and I caught the Light Rail and traveled to downtown Seattle. We enjoyed the city market and the music from street performers. It was a quick but relaxing trip."

### Stephany Reyes:

"My brother, Jonathan Reyes, and my friends, Kevin Noriega, Lindsey Rauner, Niria Quinoños, and I went to New York City for fall break. We went to New York to pick up a car



Stephany and friends in New York City. Photo from Stephany Reyes.

my father had bought my brother and I. Statue of Liberty.

On Wednesday morning, we flew into Boston, toured the city, then caught the Greyhound to New York City. On Thursday and Friday, Jonathan and I gave Kevin, Lindsey and Niria a tour of the city. We visited Central Park, 5th Avenue, Time Square, Greenwich, World Trade Center, China Town, Brooklyn Bridge, and Wall Street (where we stumbled across the set for *Gossip Girl*). We also rode the Staten Island ferry so that we can see the

I'm a New York City native, so I had already experienced most of these attractions, but it was exciting to me to go back and visit, and I was excited for my friends because it was their first time being in the City. On Sunday evening we began the 25-hour drive back to SNU. It was quite a drive, but I had a blast!"

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Share your fall break story in the comment section or on our Facebook page!

## New course lets students play disc golf on campus

### Amy Lauver, Staff Reporter

Many of you have probably noticed the new disc golf course on campus. We interviewed the man behind it all, Anthony Puryear, resident of Snowbarger Hall and an avid disc golfer.

**The Echo:** We know you like to play disc golf, but why disc golf? What do you love about it?

**Anthony Puryear:** It's free and discs are inexpensive. It is a fun thing to do outside and is easy to learn.

**TE:** How did you go about coordinating the course?

**AP:** Dusty Dimitri and Travis Vernier approached me with the idea. They suggested we try to get one put in. So, I put together a propos-

al and got it approved.

**TE:** What are the rules for the course?

**AP:** You can't play between 8 am and 2 pm, basically, whenever there is class. Also, if you break anything you are responsible for it.

**TE:** What do you hope the course will add to SNU life?

**AP:** I think it will be a great way for people to get to know each other outside the dorm, and be a good way to relieve stress. People might also like to know every hole is a par 3. We will hopefully be putting a tournament together in the next couple months.

Puryear also has discs for sale. You can contact him if interested.

# OPINIONS

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## The US may be militarily dominant, but when will we grow weary of war?

**Brad Crofford, Editor-in-Chief**

This year, one of the issues in political commentary that has bothered me the most have been the calls for potential military action against Iran. While I believe there are times in which the US can be justified in using military force, war with Iran would not be justified for numerous reasons.

One of the primary reasons given for why increasing pressure (potentially including military action) against Iran is needed is that its leader has made aggressive statements regarding Israel, including calling it a “tumor” in 2005. Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, warned the UN that Iran is approaching the creation of a nuclear weapon. Republican vice-presidential candidate, Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), echoed these concerns during the vice-presidential debate. Meanwhile Vice President, Joe Biden, downplayed them, noting that even if Iran were to quickly get the needed nuclear material, they do not have the needed delivery systems.

It strikes me odd that we have so much war-mongering regarding Iran when we have so recently finished the war in Iraq and the conflict in Afghanistan continues. According to Brown University’s “Costs of War” project, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have already cost over \$4 trillion. For comparison, according to Reuters, the attacks of September 11, 2001, caused 50 to 100 billion dollars in damages while costing the hijackers only 400,000 to 500,000 dollars.

The combined cost of the conflicts are much larger than what these economic figures alone suggest. The war in Afghanistan had already claimed the lives of at least 2,000 US military personnel by Au-

gust 2012 according to PBS (or even earlier, according to CBS). According to Reuters in June 2011, for each one of the 2,995 lives lost during 9/11, another 73 have been lost as a result of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also reports that over 7.8 million people have been displaced.

I fear that over the past 10 years, war has gained a certain level of normalcy for the American people. Now, I recognize that there are individuals who are greatly affected by the continuing war in Afghanistan; indeed, I appreciate the daily sacrifices not only of our service men and women, but also of their families. However, have we really arrived at the point where we can talk so bluntly and nonchalantly

about war with Iran? Are we so desensitized as a nation that we do not have any trepidation about military engagement with other nations?

“the United States  
outspent China six  
to one in 2011”

It’s a given that we have the most powerful military on the planet, and rightly so, given that we are also the biggest spenders in the world. According to the George Washington University project, Face The Facts USA, the United States outspent China (the second highest spender) six to one in 2011; while China spent just over 120 billion dollars,

the US spent 695.7 billion dollars.

With all of our military might, with all this military spending, with our past decade of consistently waging one or two wars, I think we have developed a certain sense of invulnerability and desensitization to war. Unlike World War II and other wars that seemed to have affected more of society (through the draft, supply shortages, etc.), the current wars appear to leave the majority of the population largely unaffected. This leaves us in a dangerous position when we talk too casually about potential conflict with Iran.

We have already paid so much as a country in the past decade, both in money and in lives. When will we grow weary of war?



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## As I see it: My daughter's wedding

**Patty Juliuson, Columnist**

It's Friday, October 19, 2012, and we're somewhere in eastern Tennessee/western Virginia. I'm riding in the back of a van loaded with luggage and family, and we're headed to a wedding. Weddings are nice, but this one is special. On Saturday, our darling daughter is getting married.

From all over the country, kin-folk are gathering in Middleburg, Virginia, for a sacred ceremony that affirms our deepest beliefs: love, commitment, family, life. Her daddy will don his military dress uniform to walk her down the aisle, and I will step before the assembly to read a Psalm that is especially significant; it was the passage read when I married her

father. "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."

This wedding day brings extraordinary joy to my heart. For many years, our girl struggled against her family, God, and society in general. She went through a long period of substance abuse and self-damaging behavior before making a final, serious suicide attempt in 2008. [*Editor's note- the author's daughter gave the author her permission to include this information.*] I won't detail the events that led to her decision; she wrote several very straightforward articles about it for her blog. [www.jolieodell.com/blog](http://www.jolieodell.com/blog) Though the day she tried to end her life is a pivotal point, I mention it not as

a focus but as a vivid contrast to where she is now.

We anguished through her bad decisions for many years, but now we delight in our smart, funny little sprite, celebrate her joy, and look forward to what lies ahead. There's no guarantee it will all be happy, but we are assured she will square her shoulders, take life as it comes, and look to the Lord for wisdom, comfort, and strength.

And she's got a great guy. He's intelligent, diligent, with a dry sense of humor. They complement each other so well. He's a rail fence, clean, strong and straight, and she's the vine that hugs the posts and tumbles clusters of sweet flowers over the bars. They view love and marriage as a com-

mitment rather than a response to a feeling, and they're in it to last. They're both hard workers, but want a quality family life, too. Faith has been an essential aspect of their relationship from the beginning.

I know that divorce rates are sky-high, and no marriage is immune, but don't quote me statistics. Today, the sun is shining, the sky is blue, and everything is possible. The girl that was lost to us for such a long time is beginning a new, blessed period in her life, and we get to witness this miracle. There's more than enough joy to go around.

I hope every one of you is granted a day like today. See you in class.



Photo provided by Patty Juliuson

# STORMSPORTS

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## Women's soccer team advances to Regionals

**Matthew Wellman, Staff Writer**

The SNU women's soccer team clinched their spot in the NCCAA Regional Tournament in with their win on Sunday against NWOSU. They are 9-6-1 on the season and will close out their regular season play at East Central this Friday.

The team had a few kinks to work out early on in the season before going on a five game win streak in the middle of their schedule.

"We are a young team, but we are all learning how to play with each other very well and we really have pulled it together this season," said junior midfielder Kayla Thompson. "The success we have achieved has been off of the field. We have grown together in an awesome way. We have had great team bonding time and really connected with one another. There aren't really those typical "clicks" that a lot

of teams have, and it has shown to really benefit us on the field. We are just a bunch of friends getting together to do something we love."

Being a young team has shown a few times throughout the season, but the Storm have always

**"we have chemistry unlike any team I've ever been on"**

found a way to show their maturity and get back in the win column.

The switch to NCAA has also shaken the team up a bit. They've had more road games and have played a much tougher schedule than they have in past seasons.

"I think the team is adjusting to the new schedule and teams quite

well. It is definitely different, and most of the teams are much more physical; however, I think we are learning and adjusting as the season goes along," said sophomore midfielder Bekah Stewart on the switch.

Regional play will prove to be a test that the team has not faced yet this season. The conditions and competition will be much more difficult than what they are used to playing.

Senior defender Kendra Nixon said, "I think if we can handle the pressure and play our game, we can win. We are young, but we have chemistry unlike any team I've ever been on and that's not something you can practice."

They hope to finish out the season with a win at East Central and go into regionals with some momentum.

## International athlete feature: Mike Hearne

**Matthew Wellman, Staff Writer**

Here at SNU we have quite a few international student athletes. This week I got to know sophomore golfer, Mike Hearne, a little better.

Hearne is from Bridgend, Wales. He has been playing golf since he was five years old when his Dad first put a golf club in his hands. He has played competitive golf since he was nine and won his first golf tournament when he was ten years old.

There are some difference between golf in the US and golf in the UK.

"It's very different," Hearne said. "The courses are tighter and the grass is different. I think back home golf in general is more traditional compared to the clothes that people wear out here when

golfing. There is a dress code back home."

Sometimes it can be hard to adjust to different conditions in a sport, but Mike has done well since he has been here. He has led the Crimson Storm in scoring average this fall.

Adjusting to different cultures also can be difficult for an international student.

"Being an international student, there are many things that are different and I have found it difficult to fit in sometimes," Hearne said. "There are some rules here that I don't agree with, but I have tried my best to abide by these rules. Another thing for me is learning how to manage my time so that I am not stuck up pulling all night studying because I have been at practice or away at a tournament.

We also socialize much differently than Americans."

There are some positives to being an international student athlete.

"I've really enjoyed learning about new cultures and making new friends. The best thing about being a student athlete is the feeling of being needed by the school. They recruited me here for a reason and there is a special feeling when I fulfill my purpose as an athlete. Although I do miss my friends and family back home, the great friends I've made out here have made this a wonderful experience," said Hearne.

International students are part of what makes our student community so diverse and interesting. If you see any international students around campus, make sure you make them feel very welcome!

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Athletics

## Jake's movie review: *Beware of Christians* and two types of hypocrisy

**Jake O'Bannon, Columnist**

It's Netflix Special Week! What I mean by that is that this week I have picked a movie that is currently on the Netflix marketplace available to watch at any time.

The movie I chose is called "Beware of Christians," a documentary about a group of four college students who take a trip to Europe because they want to go somewhere and try to "figure everything out," because they have found themselves "churched out." I don't know about you, but the premise alone resonated with me and my current state of affairs.

When I say four college guys, I mean four absolute college guys. There is one guy who does the frat snap three different times. Three times! That's three too many! But the cool thing about these guys is that they really are just bros telling it like it is. For the most part, documentaries are filled with experts and people whose vocation deals with the subject of the film. This documentary was a shift from the norm, bringing together four regular guys who had more questions than they did answers.

Let's run with that phrase "shift from the norm" for a bit, because that is essentially what the heart

of the film is all about. There is a chance – and forgive me if I'm wrong – that today's Christianity is a bit too clean. There is a chance that Christians are too often hiding the difficult, dirty stuff in our lives because it could be considered disgraceful to call themselves a Christian, but still be taking part in activity that does not fit the "definition" of Christianity. We don't want to come off as hypocrites, do we?

That question is the reason why the bros made this film in the first place. Before the movie even starts, we see a quote from Brennan Manning that says, "The single greatest cause of atheism today is Christians we acknowledge Jesus with their lips and deny him by their lifestyle." Christianity gets a bad name every day by people who talk the talk but don't walk the walk.

Personally, this film has allowed me to discover a critical distinction between two different types of hypocrisy. There is one type that we all know; we'll call it Type 1 (creative, I know). Type 1 is where Christians do the "right things" like going to church, avoiding drinking, wearing a smile at all times, and knowing the right words to say. The problem with this type is that we keep the tough stuff locked inside



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because we're afraid of what might happen if we admit our faults. This type scares me because I know how destructive it can be to both the individual and to Christianity as a whole.

Then there is the second type, which we'll call Type 2. As strange as it sounds, this is the good hypocrisy. And this is what the bros show in the documentary. Type 2 happens when we claim to be Christ followers, but we fall short. But the critical distinction here is that these Christians put their faults out in the open. They are not afraid of saying,

"Yes I follow Christ, but I also fall short." There is a greater sense of honesty and community when this materializes. When looking at those two options through the scope of non-Christians eyes, it should be obvious which one comes off as the more genuine example of Christ.

I think you all should check out this documentary. It is extremely relevant to our current situation as college students at a private Christian university. The truth is that we all fall short. The question becomes how do we handle it when we do?

## Enjoy the show: Why Star Wars fans should stop hating George Lucas

**Baker Pitts, Staff Reporter**

Can you really consider yourself a fan if you do nothing but criticize the thing you claim to be a fan of? Most Star Wars fans would say yes, since all they tend to do is rag on George Lucas and the prequel trilogy. But I believe that while some criticism can be helpful, the amount these fans are throwing about is simply a sign of ignorance and a misplaced sense of nostalgia.

Anyone who has spent any amount of time talking about Star Wars with a fan has most likely heard about how George Lucas has ruined Star Wars and that the new movies are little more than childish grabs for money and merchandise.

Well, I respectfully disagree with those fans. While it is true that there are some aspects of the new movies that are there for

little more than merchandising (I'm looking at you Jar-Jar), the movies as a whole are a logical and, in my opinion, awesome way to explain the original story line and introduce a new generation to the magic that is Star Wars.

Now, I understand that I may be slightly biased, seeing as how I started my Star Wars obsession with the new trilogy. In fact, I have yet to see the original trilogy

in theaters. But I don't feel as if it changes the fact that Star Wars fans are almost always incredibly cruel towards the creator of the best thing ever, George Lucas, and the changes he has made to the movies.

A prime example is the addition of Darth Vader screaming 'NOO!' right before he throws Emperor Palpatine into the reac-

—————continued on next page

## Mumford and Sons' new album – has it lived up to the hype?

**Ashleigh Buchanan, Staff Reporter**

To say that Mumford and Sons' new album *Babel*, released on September 25th, was a much-anticipated album is an understatement.

Their 2009 album, *Sigh No More*, sold millions of copies all over the world. This album was popular among Indie music fans, as well as breaking its way into the Mainstream genre.

They introduced a modern folk music sound that many people hadn't heard before, or at least hadn't heard this type of folk music. Through their unique sound and heartfelt lyrics, they picked up quite a fan following while touring and promoting *Sigh No More*. Consequently, Mumford and Sons' fans have been waiting for *Babel* for years.

Hence the hype and the pressure on Mr. Mumford and his children (Just kidding, they aren't a family

band). Anyone that's ever been a fan of a band for more than one album knows that there is a fine line between evolving as a band, but still keeping old fans without making the same sounding CD twice.

So where does *Babel* fall on that fine line? In my opinion, it's basically *Sigh No More 2.0*. But it isn't necessarily a bad thing. Obviously, *Sigh No More* was a great album. And I think all songs that have a fiddle in it are going to sound similar. So I think that popular songs from *Sigh No More* are going to sound a lot like the songs in *Babel* that have a lot of fiddle.

Here are some of my favorite songs in *Babel*:

- *Wait For You* – You've probably heard this one. It's very typical "Mumford and Sons"-sounding with the fiddle going crazy all over the song. It's a fun one!

- *Holland Road* – This song has a great overall sound. One thing I love about Mumford and Sons is the emotion you get through the lyrics, and this is a great example of their passion that is so strong you can feel it even through your small laptop speakers.

- *Hopeless Wanderer* – There is an awesome piano intro to this song! It's one of several songs on the album that starts out slow but really picks up the pace by the end of the song.

Something interesting that *Rollingstone.com* wrote about Mumford and Sons is that their latest album release sold 600,000 in the first week, but dropped 72% in its second week to sell 169,000 copies. But don't worry; I think this album and this band will be very successful in the long run.

If you already like Mumford



Photo by Johanna Bocher under Creative Commons License

and Sons but you want to listen to some other bands that are like them, check out these bands:

- Of Monsters and Men
- The Lumineers
- The Avett Brothers

Enjoy your new folk-centered playlist!

## Why Star Wars fans should stop hating George Lucas, continued

—continued from previous page

tor shaft near the end of *Return of the Jedi*. Now, anyone outside of the Star Wars fandom would hear this and think nothing of it, but Star Wars fans got incredibly upset with this addition. I mean they got real upset. It was on the same level as when Lucas made Greedo shoot first in *A New Hope* (which is totally different because that changed the whole character of Han Solo) and that is really upsetting.

Now don't get me wrong, I too feel that some of the changes Lucas made to the movies were unnecessary, but then it is his movie franchise; he owns the right and he can really do whatever he pleases with

them. But on the other hand, he does have a certain responsibility to his fans who have made his creation into the phenomenon that it has become.

**“Star Wars fans are almost always incredibly cruel towards the creator of the best thing ever”**

Either way you look at it, one thing is clear: arguing about



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whether or not Lucas has ruined Star Wars is ultimately pointless. This writer would encourage you to simply shut up about it and enjoy the greatest films ever made.

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