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THE ECHO

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Senior feature: December graduates

Kira Roberts, Editor-in-chief

While most seniors are preparing to graduate next May, a select few are finishing up their undergraduate degree in December. Two of these students are Kaylee Piatt and Brookeana Witt.

Piatt is a Sport Management major who will start her MBA in January here at SNU while she finishes her last season of eligibility for volleyball.

"I transferred here after playing volleyball for a year at Lamar University. I wasn't happy with where I was and coming to SNU was the

best thing for me," Piatt said.

"My time at SNU has been the best few years of my life. I have developed relationships that will last for a lifetime and have grown spiritually more than I would have ever thought. I am so thankful that I got the opportunity to be a part of this community; I will always treasure my time here," she said.

Witt ran track at The University of Texas at Arlington right out of high school. She is a Spanish major who plans to start a graduate

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Photo from ccsf.edu

What the "ObamaCare" act means for you

Grace Williams, Business Manager

What constitutes accessible and affordable health care has been debated for decades in the United States. In 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA or as it is commonly called, ObamaCare) became a law with the goal of putting affordable and accessible health care within everyone's reach. On October 1 2013, the marketplace for purchasing insurance opened and the countdown to the penalty for not having insurance began.

For the majority of SNU students there will be no change. Healthcare.gov states, "If a [parent's] plan covers children, they can be added or kept on the health insurance policy until they turn 26 years old. Children can join or remain on a plan even if they are:

married, not living with their parents, attending school, not financially dependent on their parents and/or eligible to enroll in their employer's plan."

Traditionally, SNU has required students to purchase a school insurance plan if they were not covered by their parents. However, in order to comply with new healthcare regulations the price for the plan increased significantly and now costs \$1,523 for the academic year.

Angie Hattler, Registered Nurse from the student health center, said, "This is the first year we have allowed opt outs because of the increased cost. About 80 SNU students opted out."

These students are now required by law to get a health care plan,

unless they qualify for an exemption or hardship. If one meets the following criteria for an exemption he or she can apply for these exemptions through the marketplace on healthcare.gov, which should have applications available later this year, or in some cases on tax forms.

According to healthcare.gov, "You may qualify for an exemption if: you're uninsured for less than 3 months of the year, the lowest-priced coverage available to you would cost more than 8% of your household income, you don't have to file a tax return because your income is too low (Learn about the filing limit, [check about table 2 on page 4 and table 3 on page 5]), you're a member of a federally recognized tribe or eligible for services through

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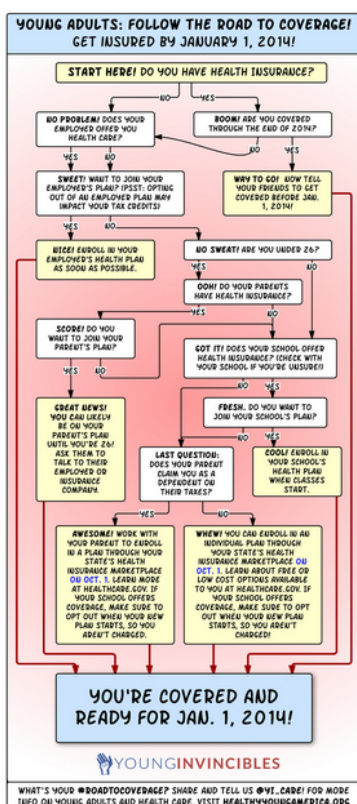


Photo by Young Invincibles

Coming soon: The Gender Equality Club

Amy Lauver, Layout Editor

Coming next semester will be an opportunity to create discussions on issues often overlooked. Gender equality did not end when women received suffrage or began to work; it is an ongoing movement as stereotypes and gender roles for men and women still remain. A new club on campus will be taking the issues related to gender equality by storm. Senior, Piper Ramsey will be starting The Gender Equality Club, along with Dr. Gina Weaver as the faculty sponsor.

“I realized that there is no place for discussion about gender equal-

ity issues at SNU beyond the classroom,” Ramsey said when asked why she wanted to start this club. She has been wanting a way for SNU students to address gender issues for awhile. “There can be a social stigma in this part of the U.S. when certain words, like feminism, are used in conversation, and I would love to see that change,” Ramsey said. This club is not for students to come rant about what they think about feminism and gender roles. It will have many different roles from a sort of book club to just creating discussions.

The Gender Equality Club

plans to first read the book *Jesus Feminist*, by Sarah Bessey. Ramsey wants the club to welcome open discussions about issues and ideas behind gender equality. She said, “My biggest hope is to bring awareness to the problems found within gender stereotypes, expectations and inequalities.” This club will be a constructive environment for students to bring their ideas, concerns or questions about gender stereotypes/roles. Ramsey plans for the club to “look for ways to bring change on campus and in our community to the way that we look at gender roles and rights.”

Ramsey’s passion for gender

equality has been present in her life for some time. “I have been aware of gender inequalities since I was a kid. I never understood them,” she said, “No one seems to be willing to discuss these issues, and it’s considered taboo to discuss them. So let’s!”

The Gender Equality club will be having meetings starting next semester. All students and faculty are welcome to join as they will be reading books and having open discussions about issues around gender inequality. It will be a student led club so that other students may express themselves freely. “Everyone can join. All genders. All viewpoints. All beliefs. We want to talk.”

Senior feature: December graduates cont.

program in Educational Leadership and eventually become a school administrator.

“My freshman year, Mikey Piatt was on the team with me. We became pretty good friends and after that first year, he transferred to SNU. During that next year (I was at UTA, and he was here) we started dating long distance. Some changes were made in the track program at UTA, and I was looking to transfer. Mikey told Coach Miller here at SNU about me, and he was interested. I came on a visit soon after and

have been here ever since,” she said.

When it comes to the SNU experience, Witt said, “Honestly, it took me a while to adjust to SNU life. Coming from a school with 34,000+ undergrad students to a campus with 1,500 was definitely a shock. But I have learned to love it! I like the small class sizes and the sense of community here on campus.

“I think coming here affected the types of relationships I have started making. At UTA, the focus of ev-

erything was worldly. Everyone talked about drinking and partying all the time. Even the faculty was not encouraging to anyone religious. As a Christian, it was a difficult place to be. Now I have people around me that are more like me and professors that support the Christian lifestyle. I have friendships that I will be able to maintain throughout my life.”

As far as advice for younger students goes, Piatt said, “Just keep swimming! I know studies can become overwhelming, and

it feels like a struggle just to keep your head above water. But just slow down and enjoy it. It will be over before you know it!”

Witt added, “Live it up! Your time here is a lot shorter than you think. Before you know it, you’ll be out in the real world having to get a real job and a real life. Go to events, make friends and enjoy college life!”

The Echo staff would like to wish Piatt, Witt, and all the other December graduates good luck in their next step of life and offer congratulations for all their work.

“Your time here is shorter than you think.”



Thanks Kira for all your hardwork with The Echo!

Love,
Your Staff

What the “ObamaCare” act means for you cont.

an Indian Health Services provider, you’re a member of a recognized health care sharing ministry, you’re a member of a recognized religious sect with religious objections to insurance, including Social Security and Medicare [or] you’re not lawfully present in the U.S.” One may fit the criteria for the various other hardship exemptions that can be found here from healthcare.gov.

If a student qualifies for an exemption, he or she may still be able to buy a catastrophic plan from the marketplace that may have lower premiums but will not cover expenses except for 3 wellness visits and for medical bills over \$5,000. The catastrophic plan

costs the same for each person regardless of income.

If a student does not qualify for one of these exemptions, then he or she will need to purchase and enroll in a plan by March 31st, 2014 or pay a penalty of whichever amount is higher, \$95 or 1% percent of his or her income, for not enrolling in 2014, in addition to the total cost of all healthcare services utilized. The fee will continue increasing every year.

A student needing insurance to escape the penalty can buy an SNU health care plan for the spring semester at \$762 and will need to continue buying this plan each semester. More information about this plan can be found

here. Stop by and talk to the staff in the health center for complete details.

One can also shop for health-care plans on healthcare.gov’s online marketplace. Some states have their own marketplaces (not Oklahoma but Kansas does). One can also call and speak with a representative, mail in an application or find a location where a person will personally assist you.

These plans are subsidized based on personal income. One can use the Kaiser Family Foundation calculator to estimate what plans will cost you on the marketplace. The Young Invincibles think-tank works specifically to help young people understand health care, so

check out their resources for additional help.

Some students may qualify for Medicare and should check out the qualification in his or her state. (SoonerCare in Oklahoma and Centennial Care in New Mexico, to name a few).

Now is the time to start shopping for healthcare if one wants to compare plans and pricing because it takes a while to get verified in the marketplace, and the deadline to enroll in order to start receiving coverage is January 1, 2014.

Watch The Echo for a follow up piece on my experience using the online application on the marketplace to shop for insurance.

Fall 2013 Who’s Who nominations

Amy Lauver, Layout Editor

Fall 2013 Who’s Who nominations
Kira Roberts, Editor-in-chief

Thirteen students have been selected as representatives of SNU in the Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

According to an snu.edu press release by Sarah Roberts, “These students join an elite group of students nominated from more than 2,300 institutions of higher learning across the country who nominate each year. Outstanding students have been honored in this organization with its inception in 1934.

“The SNU Who’s Who Selection Committee, composed of students from the sophomore and junior classes, along with faculty and staff representatives, chose these students from a list of eligible names, using the results from faculty and senior class preference votes as a guide. The committee sought to select students who are recognized campus wide for achievement in areas of scholarship, leadership and service. The SNU Who’s Who Selection Committee as a basis for selection uses the following criterion:

- Has a minimum 2.75 cumu-

lative GPA

- Is currently enrolled as a traditional student and in good standing with SNU Offices of Academic Affairs and Student Development
- Has completed at least 90 hours or intends to graduate by August 2014 (verified by degree summary check on file with the Office of the Registrar)
- Exemplifies SNU’s motto “Character / Culture / Christ” and the SNU mission “to transform lives through higher education in Christ-centered community.”

The students selected to represent SNU in Who’s Who 2013-2014 are (alphabetically):

Jeremy Acre
Maia Brown
Ronna Fisher
Joel Frees
Emily Gammill
Garrett Kruse
Katelyn Lamb
Allie Oakes
Kira Roberts
Ben Siems
Eric Smith
Teresa Starkey
Stan West

For more information contact the Academic Affairs office at 405.491.6600.

Write for The Echo!

**Have story ideas you want to see in The Echo? Join our staff next semester.
Look for meeting times when we get back.**

Email Ronna Fisher (rfisher@mail.snu.edu) with questions

STORMSPORTS

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Intramural football amps up the intensity for 2013

Clay Milford, Staff Writer

Every November, students get a chance to become “legends in their own minds.” Such is the tagline for SNU Intramurals, a school sports league that offers students who do not participate in varsity sports the chance to compete against each other in basketball, softball and football, just to name a few. This year, SNU Intramurals has a new director, Matt Shellenberger, and he has carried out a plan to make SNU Intramural football the most exciting non-varsity sport in the fall, maybe even the year.

As a part of the new-look football league, Shellenberger says that stats and awards have now been thrown in the mix. “This year, we are trying to make it closer to how college football is run. We are giv-

ing out individual awards and more recognition. Awards at the end of the season will be: The Jim Thorpe Award for the best defensive back, the Biletnikoff for the best wide receiver, the Davey O’Brien for the best quarterback and the Heisman Award for the best overall player. We’re also trying to make the regular season matter a bit more with the ‘race for the Heisman,’ along with all of the other honors.

“As far as stats, Eric Moore and I have talked about doing stats for while. I mentioned the idea to the Intramural I-captains and they thought it would be pretty cool. Eric is the former Intramural Director and he was the one who set up the app originally; I told him some of my ideas, and he created the stat page for Intramurals. They



Photo by SNU Intramurals

are collected by tallies; each person on each roster is printed out, and we put a tally down by a player's name after they record a stat.

“The stats that are taken are: Touchdowns thrown, inter-

ceptions thrown, touchdowns caught, two pointers thrown, two pointers caught and interceptions caught. We load them into the app immediately after each game

Continued on page 5

Why are you a fan?

Matthew Scott, Staff Writer

Just sit and imagine something in your head for me. 2011 Rangers vs. Cardinals, game six of the World Series. The game is in St Louis and the Texas Rangers are up 3-2 in a best of seven games series. They are one out away from winning their first World Series crown since the Franchise began all those years back. Up to bat, the Cardinal's David Frieze. It is a 1-2 count; the pitcher throws the ball, and he hits it deep to left field. It is a rope, and it is heading straight to left field at Nelson

Cruz. It is a little bit high, so he has to go back and try to catch it. You know that heartbreaking moment when something you want to happen does not happen at all; well this is one of those moments. He misplays the ball, and the cardinals end up winning the game. They won the series also. That feeling as a fan is nothing new at all because that means you are a true fan of the game. Why are you a fan of that team in the first place? What makes your team so special?

That is a question people get

all the time: why do you like the team you like? Sports fans would say a lot of different things, but it is not an easy answer. Oftentimes, fans answer with two words: “Your parents.” Most of the time, as a child, when you see your dad or mom rooting for team, you will like that team. For example, if you grow up in Dallas, Texas, there is a good chance that you will grow up a Dallas cowboys fan.

Bringing up the Dallas cowboys things brings me to my next point: locally voting for your

team. When you are from a certain area, for example Norman, Oklahoma, and when the certain university there is so big, it is just out of habit that you cheer for them. You do not know why; you just do. Anywhere you live can be an example of that; if you grow up in a certain area, than you vote for the team that is there.

Those are the biggest reasons, in my opinion, for why fans vote for their certain teams. You just have to understand that who you vote for is who you are and that doesn't need to change at all.

SNU

Keep up with results and scores at
snuathletics.com

Athletics

Intramural football amps up the intensity for 2013 cont.

is played so students can see them instantly. We have never done this before, so we are still looking for ways to improve this system. We usually have several people helping with the stats: Cameron Hobson, Katie Langston and Cody Nelson, just to name a few. As far as how things are run besides that, things are pretty much the same.”

Besides collecting stats, Shellenberger and his crew do a lot to make sure the Intramural football

experience is a great one. “Intramural football has a lot to it. When there is enough time, we set up sound (for music), and before all of that, Cameron Hobson and I set up the field. We have to open the gate and turn on the lights as well, so we usually get out there thirty minutes before the games if possible. As far as the game atmosphere, students get pretty intense in the games because they want to win. But it’s usually pretty cold, so

we usually don’t have an attendance of 100,000 people.”

Shellenberger also says that this year showed great promise even before the first snap. “I was really excited about all the new people who signed up. A lot of freshmen are playing, and it’s always great to see new people playing intramurals. I am also excited about the awards. I think it gives students more to play for.”

Aside from the stats, awards

and fun, SNU Intramurals, particularly football, is a great way for students to compete against each other while getting to know one another as well. Football is a universal language that will be spoken by many people for countless years to come. The SNU Intramural Football Championship will be played at the SNU Football Stadium. Download the SNU Intramural app for more info on date and time.

Women’s Volley ball team earns at large bid to National’s

Matthew Scott, Staff Writer

Women’s Volleyball team earns at large bid to Nationals
Kira Roberts, Editor-in-chief

After a very successful season, the women’s volleyball team received an at large bid to go to the National Christian College Athletics Association (NCCAA) 2013 National tournament in Kissimmee, Florida. The tournament will take place December 5-7 at the Kissimmee Civic Center, hosted by Southeastern University.

The team ended regular season play with an overall record of 25-10 and had the opportunity to host the Central Region Tournament on November 22 and 23. They finished as

the runner-up after losing to McMurry by two points in the fifth game. They ended as number five in the final NCCAA rankings and got the bid for the eighth seed out of ten teams participating in the national tournament.

2013 National Championship Participants and Seeds

- Point Loma Nazarene*
- Lee University*
- Azusa Pacific University*
- Shorter University*
- Campbellsville University*
- Bethel College*
- McMurry University*
- Southern Nazarene University*
- Oakland City University*
- Roberts Wesleyan College*



Photo from thencaa.org

For specific information about the tournament (schedule, live stats, live video, etc.) visit <http://bit.ly/1gbYxxy> (thencaa.org)

Atheletes of the Week Quan Conner



Men’s Basketball

Conner hit five 3-pointers and scored 24 points in a 100-75 win over Oklahoma Christian.

Atheletes of the Week Francisco Hukill



Men’s Basketball

Noched a career-high 14 points in each game of the UCO Classic against Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma

OPINIONS

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A Christ Centered Relationship

Macy Sliman, Staff Writer

“Let me not seek to be understood as much as to understand.”

On the way to Yukon, on the right side of the road, you might have seen the old abandoned building. To most, it is just some building that is covered in trash and weeds. But to one couple in particular, it is the start of something full of promise.

This particular structure was the site of Sam Duce and Shelby Oxner’s engagement. Over the course of a few months, Sam and some of his friends cleaned out the abandoned building and white washed the walls. A path was constructed leading through the building, and Sam went to work painting a mural on the wall. On the big night, Sam took Shelby into the building that once looked like a place to avoid. A friend of Sam’s was playing violin in the room adjacent, while they took symbolic communion together and walked through the now clean and freshly painted building where Sam popped the question.

The story is not all about the

story, however misleading that can sound. The story is actually about how they began this new chapter in their lives.

There are many different ways to go about a relationship. Everyone has a different thing that ends up working for them. Sometimes those relationships do not work out. However, when they do, they can be quite a beautiful thing. One such relationship is that of Sam and Shelby.

From the start, these two decided that their relationship was going to be centered around Christ.

“Since the beginning of our relationship we discussed that the goal of our relationship should be to drive us and other people towards Christ, so he should be the center of it. And if that wasn’t the case, then we shouldn’t be in the relationship to begin with,” said Sam, when asked about the start of their relationship.

When I sat down with them, they both agreed that this relationship has helped them grow and become better believers. Right from the start, their relationship was

“The goal should be to drive us and other people towards Christ.”



Photo from lifesupports.com

meant to be something that makes them want to be more Christ-like.

Even with relationships that have good intentions, there can be difficult parts. For Sam, their biggest obstacle as a couple was the human condition of straying towards selfishness. He claims that when he found the relationship the hardest was when either one of them was being selfish, which caused them to miscommunicate or not be patient or gracious. To him, this is when the goal of the relationship has felt the farthest away.

For Shelby it was a little different. “Something that God has

really dealt with me in this relationship would have to be my insecurities and how he has taught me to let go of the most important things in my life. And I am reminded of how blessed I am to be loved by God through Sam having nurtured, taken care of and loved me.”

One of the easier parts that this couple faces is their enjoyment in the contentment of their relationship. To them, this peace that God brings into their life constantly makes all the harder parts worth it, and they can remember to carry on with Him and His will as their goal.

Tell me all of your secrets

Ronna Fisher, Content Editor

But wait—actually, don’t. It turns out that I am a terrible secret keeper. This is something I began to discover about myself around the second semester of my sophomore year. Oh, the things you learn in college! I have gotten into quite a bit of trouble with friends for not keeping secrets very well. Since then, it is something that

I have been working hard at and, hopefully, getting better at.

Here are three selfish reasons I share secrets:

1. I like to feel important. When someone values me enough to share a part of their lives, I get excited. I feel significant. However, no one else will know how special you unless you tell them. I get a little buzz from knowing something that oth-

ers don’t, and it is hard to contain. When I was younger, I always got a kick out of telling my mom what my little sister made her for Christmas. Tears would ensue...along with a few slaps probably (from my sister, not my mom).

- 2. I am interested in people. I love to know about people and their stories. And, I like to share my interests with other people.

3. Sometimes I am unaware of what is confidential and what is just something that is being shared. Sometimes I assume information is common knowledge unless I am explicitly told, “Mum’s the word.”

Neither of these are excuses, although I have used them as an excuse. In fact, they just show my human tendency to put myself be-

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Tell me all of your secrets cont.

fore others. To break my blabber-mouth habit, I have begun asking myself before I share any information, “Do they really need to know this?” More often than not, the answer is no. I often have to remind myself multiple times in my head during a conversation, “They do not need to know this. I do not need to tell them this.” It has been very successful for limiting my secret-telling and my little nasty gossip habit.

Recently, though, I found myself sharing a pretty hefty piece of information. This information did directly impact my life, and it was something that oftentimes stressed me out. However, it still was not mine to share. I was talking to very close friends that I could trust. It was not a matter of whether or not this would get out to anyone because I knew it would not. So, I thought this could be an exception.

I instantly regretted sharing. I felt dirty inside. I went to bed re-playing our conversation over and over again. Oh how I wanted to

take it all back in. I was expecting relief, release from a burden, but, instead, I felt really low. So, this is who I am: untrustworthy, I thought. This is not who I want to be: a person who gossips and shares other people’s thoughts, feelings and stories—a low-life.

It was too late. There was nothing to do except move on and do better. . I want to have control; I do not want words to slip out of my mouth sneakily, involuntarily out of habit. I want the words that come out of my mouth to be uplifting, honorable. I do not want to have to make weighty promises to keep my mouth shut. I should not have to. Another lesson in the power of words and the tongue. Who can summarize the moral of my tale better than James?

“A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it! It

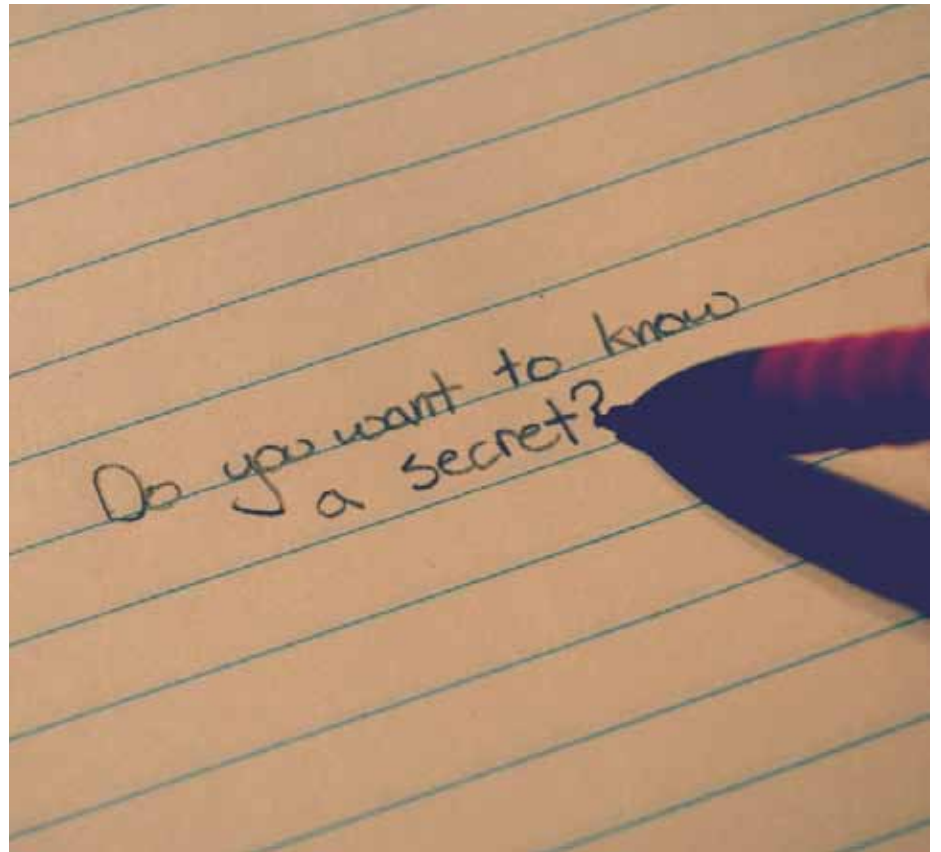


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only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a

reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it.” James 3:4-6 (The Message)

May our words create, not destroy, turn chaos to harmony, and heal scars instead of inflict them.



Pray for Malorie Chapman

and the other patients and families in the fight against cancer during this season.

The best and worst of Christmas gifts

Rachel Whatley, Staff Writer

Waking up on Christmas morning is arguably the happiest time of the year. (Or Christmas Eve, if you're like my family.) You might know exactly what you're going to get, but for some of us, those colorfully wrapped boxes are full of surprises. From ugly Christmas sweaters and boring socks to brand-new electronics, chances are, we all have memories of what our best and worst Christmas presents were.

One of my favorite Christmas gifts as a kid, believe it or not, was a dictionary. Yes. One year – I must have been in third or fourth grade – I asked for a dictionary. Most kids my age would ask for a puppy (that came later but not at Christmas), a dollhouse or a bike, but I was above that line of thinking. I was destined to be a scholar. Well, not really, but I was nerdy right from the beginning and had an extensive vocabulary for my age to prove it. The dictionary I currently had was geared toward kindergarteners, while the thick family dictionary at the time was too



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hard to understand. So, my parents managed to strike a balance and surprise me with one that was made for older kids.

I asked some of my Facebook friends to share their Christmas gift stories. One of my friends here at SNU received one of the newest digital cameras one year. "I love taking pictures," she said, "and it was a nice enough camera to where it took really good quality pictures!"

A former youth pastor intern at my church said that her worst gift was a hair dryer. She said, "I was thirteen and not at all pleased with the practicality of the gift...I didn't even like my hair back then! But now, as an adult, I'd be tickled to death to get something like that."

Tabitha Pope, director of disability services at SNU, got a lightweight racing bike one year. Her worst gift, a bag of re-gifts, is going to be re-gifted again.

A couple of people had extremely good gifts to end the year with: a mom of one of my friends spent Christmas in Hawaii, and my sister got engaged the week before Christmas.

My great aunt has fond memories of her mother's pre- and post-Christmas gift planning: "My Mom started in October, perhaps, wrapping up free or extra small stuff she'd get for Christmas in

Continued on page 10

'People should not be aloud to bare arms'

Jim Wilcox, professor of righting

Mary Christmas, everybody. It's time to share with you this semester's set of bloopers. Read them at your peril.

"People should not be aloud to bare arms." (Especially when that unsightly upper arm flab flaps in the wind.)

"Humans are inertly good." (It's when they become mobilized that they become dangerous.)

"It was the same color as the

hair found next to the corps." (Hair from a Few Good Men.)

"I don't know the intention of the author, but it limited my thanking process." (Think goodness for small favors.)

"Divorce is not as common in my couture." (Are you saying it's unfashionable?)

"So I walk outside and take a peak." (It's two-for-one at Twin Peaks, Idaho.)

"Refereeing to the Cain and Abel story..." (Well, lamb's sakes alive, junior, I believe you mean an umpyre!)

"You need to make sure you're a good stuart." (Or stuartess.)

"He was suddenly involved in a collusion with another car." (As long as both drivers agree on that.)

"Teachers must get students evolved enough to do the bear minimum." (Science teachers claim we've descended from mon-

keys. What do they know?")

"Teachers have the opportunity to help stunds beyond just just academics." (Where do I start?)

(essay title) "Curtain kids in High School." (I anticipate an essay about the Drama Club.)

(essay title) "This is my Pervasive Essay" (I was instantly permeated.)

"They love the game too much to

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The Hunger Games: Catching Fire movie review

Zach, Friesen, Staff Writer

“May the odds be ever in your favor.”

This is the phrase that fans of The Hunger Games novels know by heart. This phrase is repeated throughout the novels of Suzanne Collins, which take place in the futuristic world of Panem, and have become blockbusters on the big screen as well as on book store shelves. The most recent novel from the series to hit the movie theaters is the second book in the series, entitled Catching Fire.

In this part of the saga, the viewer follows Katniss Everdeen, who along with Peeta Mellark, has just returned home after winning the 74th Hunger Games. In the Games, Katniss and Peeta were both able to escape the arena by convincing viewers that they were madly in love with one another and threatening to commit suicide if they were not able to escape alive. President Snow, the ruler of Panem, sees this as an act of rebellion, instead of love, and threatens Katniss to convince him otherwise, or her family’s safety will be at risk. This causes deep conflict with Katniss who is torn between her feelings toward both Peeta and her child-

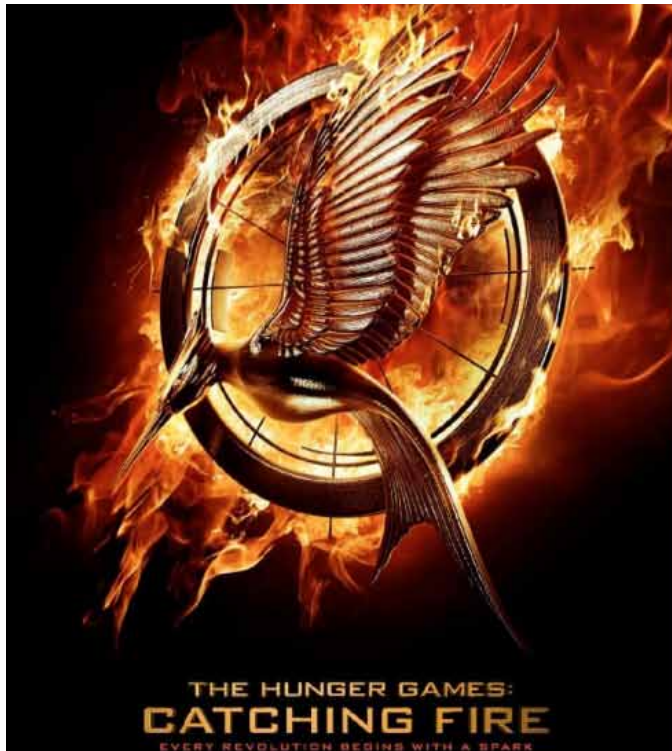


Photo from blogspot.com

hood friend, Gale Hawthorne.

After unsuccessful attempts to persuade Snow, Katniss and Peeta are forced back into the arena for the Quarter Quell, which calls for 24 previous victors to fight to the death in a new arena. While in the arena, Katniss and Peeta are forced into reluctant alliances with tributes such as Finnick Odair and Johanna Mason, as well as the friendly scientist Beetee, in order to survive.

The movie as a whole was very well done. The acting was superb, led by stellar performances from

Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss, Woody Harrelson as Haymitch, Josh Hutcherson as Peeta, Sam Claflin as Finnick and Jena Malone as Johanna. The action scenes from within the arena are unbelievably done, most notably the final scene and the fight between tributes and mutation baboons.

The one complaint about the movie from many viewers was the differences from the book. Many subjects are changed from the novel to the movie, most notably never seeing footage of Haymitch in his

Games and no foreshadowing of a connection between Heavensbee and the rebellion. Though these may seem like minor exclusions, these exclusions leave loose ends that will be hard to tie up in the final chapters of the saga.

All in all, The Hunger Games: Catching Fire is a great movie that is definitely worth going to see. Even if you have not read the novels, they are very easy to get into and are also easy to catch up on. All things considered, Catching Fire is definitely a must see.

‘People should not be aloud to bare arms’ cont.

take it for granite.” (Rock on!)

“Country life is so far away from theaters and bowling allies.” (You mean teams! T-E-A-M-S-E-I-E-I-O!)

“When you sleep with someone other than your spouse, you’re committing idolatry.” (So don’t touch each other’s golden calves.)

“Being around your spouse all the time can begin to take its toile.”(Well, now that hits at the very fabric of a relationship.)

“What do you loom for in a

spouse?” (She likes sweaters and hats.)

“The mare sired 150 colts.” (And I suppose the stud birthed them all.)

“To get guns you have to have a higher I.D.” (To get grades you have to have a higher I.Q.)

“If people don’t turn in their guns, we all become a little more venerable.” (Pacifism comes with age.)

“He got a glimpse of the fowl manor in which they were treated.”

(Isn’t that called a chicken coop?)

“Then the driver tires to speed away.” (Such a radial thought.)

“A few events that initiated the Vietnam War were the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, and the capture of Fort Sumter in 1861.” (And don’t forget the creation of the heavens and the earth.)

(Speaking of recent wars...) “As soon as word of attack reached

Washington D.C., Iraq forces set posts at the Saudi barber.” (I’ll bet that started a buzz among the troops.)

“Many conscientious objects claimed war to be evil.” (Let’s see, you’ve got the conscientious cannon, the weapons of mass principles, and the ethical bombshells.)

“Don’t biker werth the small stuff.” (Including spelling.)

“We shipped off tomorrow.” (That’s when things got tense.)

The best and worst Christmas gifts cont.

newspaper, and throw the gift behind the piano (cornerwise) so we couldn't get to them at all. This made Christmas so exciting to look forward to. She thought a great Christmas was when we'd have lots of newspaper to wade through on the floor afterwards."

However, there is one story that probably takes the cake.

For twenty years, two brothers-in-law traded a pair of moleskin pants back and forth every Christmas.

It started when a man named

Larry Kunkel received the pants from his mother in 1964. He found that they would freeze up in the Minnesota winter, so he re-gifted them to his brother-in-law, Roy Collette. Well, Collette did not like them either, so he gave them back. As the pants passed hands several times, the wrapping and shipping became increasingly ridiculous. It was then that they agreed to stay within the boundaries of legal shipping and end only when the pants were damaged beyond repair.

The outrageous ways the pants were shipped included mounting them inside an insulated window (with a twenty-year guarantee), putting them in a 600-pound safe and hiding them in a 1974 Gremlin automobile and then getting the car crushed (a note told Collette that they were in the glove compartment). In 1982 Kunkel was faced with the problem of getting the pants out of an eight-foot-tall tire filled with concrete.

The pants – and the game – finally met an untimely end when Col-

lette attempted to have the pants wrapped in 10,000 pounds' worth of shards of glass. The fun ended as molten glass was being poured over an insulated container that held the pants. A large piece of glass broke, which turned the pants into a pile of ashes.

Kunkel still received the pants – or the ashes, rather, that Christmas, in an urn with a note that read, "Sorry, old man. Here lies the pants... An attempt to cast the pants in glass brought the demise of the pants at last."

The Hobbit: desolation of smaug audience survival guide

Jim Wilcox, professor of righting

Keeping up with the many characters and motives of Middle Earth can be difficult. Here is a quick survival guide for the upcoming movie *The Hobbit: Desolation of Smaug*.

Use:

For those who have or haven't seen the first movie, use this to brush up on what characters are important and which ones to look out for.

Key Characters:

Bilbo Baggins: The main character of the story. He is a hobbit (they like to talk, eat, and do ordinary, unexciting things) who has been thrust into the adventure of Thorin and company.

Thorin: The rightful heir to the kingdom of the Lonely Mountain. He has gathered what remains of his closest kin and has embarked on a journey to retake the lost home of the dwarves.

Company: Excluding the characters already noted, the company includes: Bifur, Bofur, Bombur, Fili, Kili, Gloin, Oin, Ori, Nori, Dori, Dwalin, and Balin (all of which are related dwarves of Thorin).

Gandalf the Grey: A wizard that tends to create adventures wherever he goes. He is the one who brings the adventure to Bilbo Baggins.



Photo from funcheap.com

Bard: A lake man of special descent; he is an excellent archer and can still recall the damage Smaug inflicted upon the townspeople.

Legolas: The prince of the Woodland Elves. He would prefer to keep out of other people's problems. Also, he is not very fond of dwarves.

Key Plot Points:

Goal: To retake the Lonely Mountain, reestablish the dwarven kingdom, and also rescue all of that gold that is just sitting in that mountain.

Problem to worry about when we get to the mountain: The dragon. He hasn't been seen in 60 years, but that

is not entirely convincing proof that he is dead.

Problems to face now: Getting to the mountain without getting killed, which is more difficult than it sounds.

Evil People to Look for:

Smaug the Terrible (the dragon): Having been asleep for half a century may have made him rusty, but he is still a dragon.

Azog (the white orc): He has sworn to destroy the line of Durin (Thorin and company fall in that line). He has also a very large grudge against Thorin for

cutting off his left arm.

The Spiders: Really big (like the size of your desk) hairy ones. Ugh (Shiver). Need I say more?

The Wood-Elves: They have a bit of a running grudge against the dwarves. Not necessarily evil, but they aren't the most friendliest type either.

The Lake Men: As far as helpfulness goes, they are better than the wood-elves (a close ally). However, they aren't too keen about waking up their next door neighbor, Smaug.

The Necromancer: Most definitely evil.

Fine Arts Student Feature

Aimee Lege



Hometown: Orange, TX
 Hobbies and Interests: Besides playing my clarinet, I like to read, journal, and listen to music

Most prized possession: My necklace that I received on my 16th birthday that my pawpaw bought me before he died

Three words that describe me: caring, outspoken, passionate
 Best advice my parents gave me: My mom told always told me to not worry about the people who don't like me, I still have my real friends who love me, my family, but most of all God.

A talent I possess: Besides playing the clarinet(my main instrument), I can play a little bit of piano and sing, even

though I'm not that amazing
 Biggest Fear: climbing things
 I would like to have witnessed: The musical performances of the 20s and 30s from artists like Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, and Ethel Waters
 Best Memory: when my maw-maw was in the hospital. I know it sounds weird, but me, my mom, my dad, my sister, my aunt, and my maw maw were all there laughing our heads off. Somehow we were able to see past the hospital bed and just have fun.

As a child I dreamed of being a dancer. (I took dance for 12 years)

Pet Peeve: Vulgarity

Favorite Quote or Verse: 2- Jer. 29:11 and Matt. 6:34

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from The Echo Staff!!

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