



the OBSERVER

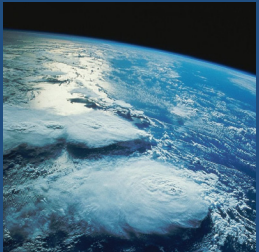
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observer@snhu.edu

Manchester, NH

JANUARY 28:
CHRISTA
MCAULIFFE DAY



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Sarah Silvestriadis
Co-Editor In Chief

Students hoping to use Wikipedia to do their homework were out of luck all day on January 18. Popular websites like Wikipedia, Imgur, Reddit, Craigslist, and Google all protested the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) from the House of Representatives and the Protect IP Act (PIPA) from the Senate by blacking out their logos or shutting down the entire website for the day to stop the piece of legislature that is being reviewed by Congress.

Major media companies who want to put a stop to copyright infringement of their material

back SOPA, but could seriously damage the Internet. Every file sharing website will be censored, and could possibly be shut down. The U.S. Attorney General will seek to target websites that post copyrighted material, even if

the websites users post a link, picture, or video, making it inoperable. According to Kukil Bora from The International Business Times, "Internet service providers will be required to block all access to

the targeted site within five days, search engines will be required to remove all references to the offending sites from their indexes, ad providers will be required to stop providing ad service to the site and payment providers will be required to terminate service to the site."

On November 15, 2011 Google, Facebook, Twitter, Zynga, eBay, Mozilla, Yahoo, AOL, and LinkedIn teamed up to write a letter to both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate and said that both SOPA and PIPA were "a serious risk to our industry's continued track record of innovation and job creation, as well as to our

Please turn to page 03



Tech Fever Network

Food for Thought: BHT (Butylated Hydroxytoluene)

Angela Feher
Contributing Writer

If you ever look at the ingredients on food or cosmetics, you might have noticed one called BHT. BHT, or Butylated Hydroxytoluene, is a preservative found in several processed foods. It preserves the product for longer, and is actually banned in several European countries.

According to CNN, BHT is commonly found in cereals, shortening, and foods in high fat or oil. It keeps food from changing flavor, color, and odor.

BHT was given a government-sponsored review of safety in 1978, and the report determined that more studies were needed to assess safety.

According to The George Mateljan Foundation for The

World's Healthiest Foods,

"Since then, BHT has been shown to induce tumors in the stomach and liver in animals

when used at high levels. Again, although this was allowed in foods at a low level per each food, it is one of the most

common preservatives and is present in many processed foods. The amount consumed in the entire diet may be higher than the "permitted" level per food and remains a concern by many scientists."

Besides food and cosmetics, BHT can also be found in pharmaceuticals, jet fuels, rubber, petroleum products, and embalming fluid.

2,592 products with ratings on The Environmental Working Group's Deep Skin database were listed to contain BHT. Including Dove Beauty Bar Soap for Sensitive Skin, a common household product.

Next time you pour a bowl of Kellogg's Frosted Mini Wheats, look for the "BHT for freshness" on the side of the box.



www.cravingchocolateandlaxdays.com

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Letters from the Editors

Megan Kidder
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Welcome back SNHudents!

Along with a new year and a new semester, The Observer is under new management. As one of the new editors-in-chief, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Originally from Sanford, Maine, I am a junior in the Creative Writing program. I eat, sleep, and breathe writing. There is nothing I love more than cracking open a new book, jotting down a plot line in my journal, or merely expressing my creativity through story. I think that is what I enjoy most about being a part of this campus' newspaper, the ability to work with such creative and talented individuals. My partners and I are proud to step into our positions. I am looking forward to expanding The Observer on all levels. This semester will be a fresh chapter for our organization and I encourage you to get involved. Great things are to come for The Observer. Stay warm and keep reading.



Sarah Silvestriadis
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Happy New Years! Welcome back Observer readers to semester two at SNHU! Along with the new fallen snow the Observer is going through some major changes. We have three brand new Editors-in-chief's: Megan Kidder, Chad Marden, and myself! I'm Sarah, It's nice to meet you. I am a freshman Communications major and I am excited to make the Observer the best university newspaper in the state! I come from Epsom, New Hampshire and I've already been working towards my dreams of becoming a journalist for a big-time publication. I feel that much closer to my dream now that I am a co-Editor-in-Chief. Our new website will provide SNHudents with breaking news, old and new articles, and a chance to contact us for improvements, guest writers, positive notes, or if you want to join our staff (you know you want to). Keep your eyes peeled for our name change contest, and the winner will win something big! The Observer staff is going to work extra hard to keep the most important news coming to you deserving readers, and thank you for giving us the chance to write for a newspaper that will do Southern New Hampshire University proud!



Like to keep up with
the news?

Try writing some
for the Observer!
We're always looking
for new writers.

Contact the
observer@snhu.edu

The Southern New Hampshire University Observer is a news publication produced by Southern New Hampshire University students and funded largely by the Student Government Association of the University. It is our responsibility to inform the SNHU community about events on and around campus. The Observer will print any material found to be factual and in good taste by the editorial staff of the paper. The views published do not necessarily reflect the views of Southern New Hampshire University. The Observer is published biweekly during the academic year and is printed by the Foster's Daily Democrat of Dover, NH. To contact the newspaper, please e-mail us at
observer@snhu.edu.

News

Expand Your Horizons! Study Abroad!

Michelle Diaz
Staff Writer

Machu Picchu, Stonehenge, The Pyramids of Giza, The Eiffel Tower and the list goes on... Ever wonder what it would be like to actually visit these historical landmarks instead of having to read about it in a textbook? Studying abroad is an exciting opportunity that too many students often shy away from due to fear of paying too much and in some instances, culture shock is a major put off. Sound familiar? Well no need to fear fellow SNHStudents!

Southern New Hampshire University offers many programs for those seeking to embark on a study abroad journey. Tiffany Lyon, study abroad coordinator, speaks about the preparations, which are made for students getting ready themselves to study abroad. Tiffany says, "We host a mandatory pre-departure orientation and invite family to sit in as well. Speakers of

Wellness talk about health, stress and anxiety.

Debbie Donnelly does a presentation on culture-shock as well as reverse culture shock and Public Safety talks about safety measures which all students should take when abroad." As far as the cost goes, Tiffany comments, "On average it costs about the same as it does at SNHU. The difference can be of up to two-thousand dollars but that depends on the program."

Still not convinced that studying abroad is right for you? Well consider this, many employers when looking for potential employees seek students who not only have the degree but are well rounded as well. Think about it, globe trekker isn't such a bad thing to have on a resume.

Think about those times you may have heard from those who passed up the opportunity to study abroad during their collegiate years and have regretted it. Senior Alora Heffernan will not

be a student with regret. Having gone to England during her junior year, she says, "I adored it!" She raved about her amazing experiences in the U.K. and when asked what she did to remedy the homesickness she said her favorable approach was, "Skype, lot's of pictures and my stuffed animal was a lifesaver!"

Are you getting excited about the possibility of studying somewhere across the world? Tiffany says to make sure that students plan at least six months ahead and contact her via email when ready to start the study abroad process.

Ever wondered what it would be like to take your classes in China, England or even the Netherlands instead of Robert Frost? Take the opportunity to cross this off your bucket list and be on the lookout for the Study Abroad table at Club Day on January 25th from 2-4 at the Dining hall. Happy Traveling!

It's Tax Season! Come to SNHU!

Marissa Twombly
News Editor

Every year many people become stressed out by tax season. However, at Southern New Hampshire University the SNHU-VITA tax preparation program will be open from January 28, 2012 through April 7, 2012, so bring your taxes!

Interested in learning about the tax program? Then sign up for ACC 350 and earn three credits (pre requisite ACC 201)! The program is under the supervision of Dennis C. Shea-Program Director.

What does this program entail? What the tax program offers is more than classroom experience, "you gain practical experience outside of the classroom" states Shea. Each student will have initial training on software. The IRS run program meets for a three hour block each week. One of the unique aspects of the program is that students learn how to file non-resident returns. Accounting & Taxation Department and International Student Site Coordinator Dawn Sedutto works as a supervisor to work with students so they learn it.

Students benefit greatly from

this program. "Students are able to talk to people and gain great communication skills and real world experience" says Shea. While students are learning about taxes they are also provided with community service and volunteering to help prepare taxes. If you bring your taxes to SNHU to be filed, the students are the ones doing it to gain experience. Students rotate jobs from greeting customers to performing the taxes. This is great on your resume! And at the end of the program there is a party!

The program supports those with moderate incomes of less than \$54,000 in the Greater Manchester area. "The program is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30-6:00, Friday from 11:00-1:30 and Saturdays from 9:00-12:00" states Shea. What needs to be presented is a social security card, card for any dependants, tax documents (e.g. W-2) and direct deposit information. All returns are filed through the IRS electronically and can expect a 10-14 day return.

For more information call 603-668-2211 X2017, or e-mail d.shea@snhu.edu for further information or visit our website at <http://acadwebsnhu.snhu.edu/vita>.

Internet Blackout

Continued from page 01

nation's cyber security." Yahoo soon after quit the Chamber of Commerce because of their support for SOPA.

Bora also says that it is virtually impossible for the Attorney General to screen all user driven websites, and scour every inch of the Internet for infringed material. Every single Facebook account, every YouTube channel, and any file sharing website will be watched carefully and will promptly be censored by the government if copyrighted materials are found.

"Enough people use the Internet for sharing, work, and recreational purposes that would be affected," says Kailey Bento,

a freshman at Southern New Hampshire University, "that would affect a lot of teachers because they use images, quotes and videos in class." Teachers all over the country use the Internet as an effective resource for students, and even getting teaching ideas to use. Even taking a picture from a copyright holder to use in a presentation is considered infringement, and SOPA wants to protect its copyright holders by putting a stop to all of it.

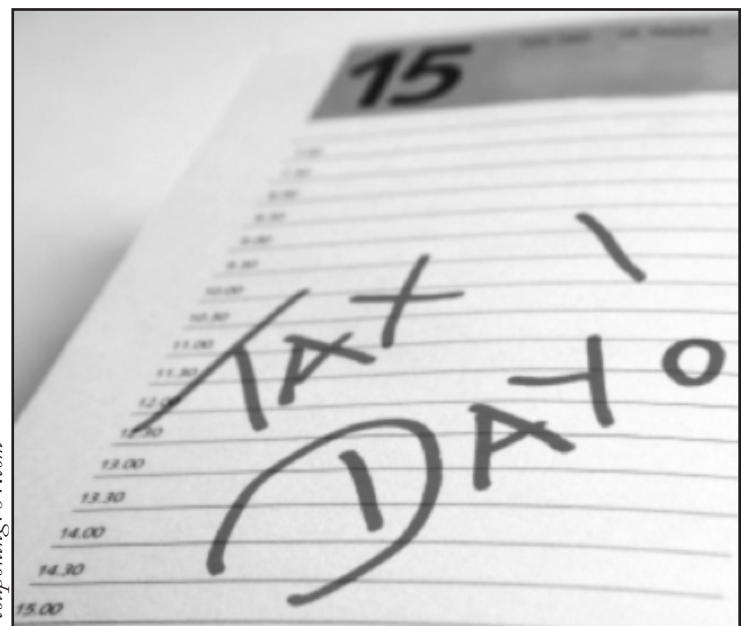
"I personally think that if they think that this is going to stop all [infringement], it won't; people can still do it. If [Congress] can see that most of the country doesn't like it, then it's not in the best interest of the

people" said Erin Morrow, also a freshman at SNHU.

SOPA and PIPA don't just affect the U.S., but other countries will not be able to view the targeted websites based in the United States and protestors say that other countries will follow suit with the acts. Websites based outside the U.S. will suffer because they will be blocked and may eventually fall into bankruptcy due to the extreme loss of U.S. revenue.

On January 24, the Senate Judiciary Committee will vote on the Protect IP Act and the House Judiciary Committee is hoping to approve the Stop Online Piracy Act in February.

couponing101.com



Opinion

Work with Time

Barnabas Oparaugo
Staff Writer

As we begin the new semester and, of course, the New Year at SNHU, it will be interesting to reflect on the Chinese proverb that says; “No amount of gold will buy you time that has passed.” Most of us must have missed opportunities and failed in accomplishing the goals we set last year due to poor time management. Time is something that you can never take back. Nothing in history can be changed. We can change anything that has already taken place and counteract the measures we have taken to prevent future occurrences if they are unfavorable. Meanwhile, there is no more effective way to stop the damage than preventing it. There is a common notion that prevention is better than cure. Alan Searing once said; “Time is very important because it never comes back or rewinds like a video tape.” This quote is most often used in terms of illness; however this can also be done for future mistakes. Time management is a form of prevention.

Most people miss opportunities to excel because they feel that they are too busy or too engaged with activities. But if one should make a proper schedule of one’s time, he or she will find out that even in almost crowded schedule, there is still time to do whatever he/she really wants to do. When you are confronted with something of great importance, you find out that you can reshape your program and cut out some activities that are of serious importance but eventually are not. People who engage in procrastination lack the zeal to face challenges.

To overcome this habit of postponement is to eliminate all the reasons and excuses for not taking immediate action. Have a

time budget, and this begins with a plan. Plan your day and work out your plan. Of course, we may have frustrating times, only to have unforeseeable interruptions. As a result, we may be tempted to give up and begin each new day without a plan. This will make you spend your time in non-constructive ways. To avoid this risk, make a written list of what you would like to achieve each day. Make this list in a tripartite form; that is what you can do today, what you would like to do today, and what you must do today. This priority list will help you create more time for the things that you think must come first. Discipline yourself against the temptation to top your priority list with what you would like to do instead of what you ought to do. Strong self-discipline is required as you work out your day. Be disposed to say “no” to yourself and to others who might want to spend your time unwisely. You may have to turn off your mobile phone when necessary and avoid unnecessary frivolities.

As you work on your time schedule, make out sometime for delays and interruptions. Many people fail in time management because they didn’t budget time for unavoidable emergencies. Take for instance, if you have an appointment by 10am, plan your movement in such a way that even if you have a flat tire on the way, you can still meet the appointment despite the delay. This would mean moving out in time, which will enable you ply your way with ease and avoid the notorious last minute rush. In your daily schedule, discover which hours of the day are best for you to carry out certain functions. This may vary depending on climate, profession and season. For assignments of serious importance, carry them out in your most appropriate time of the day. Some creative people have discovered that the early morning and the late hours

are their best hours to engage in mental work. According to R. Schuller, this may be due to the fact that their subconscious mind is relaxed since it anticipates no interruptions. Creative minds produce the most useful thoughts in periods of deep relaxation.

In order not to give room for procrastination or delay in carrying out a task in a specific time, creating time pressure will be of great help. Time pressure here would mean situating a particular function within a specific time frame. This will enable you to be more focused and to avoid unnecessary frivolities. Without time pressure unaccountable loss is inevitable. Those who are not time conscious, hardly accomplish a goal. The truth is that you may have to follow concrete steps to force yourself into action.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Set a deadline for reaching your goal.
2. Make your intentions known to your mentor or somebody who can encourage you. The fear of letting yourself down if you do not make your goal will help you keep your schedule.
3. Once you have picked the goal, set a timetable for its accomplishment, and by relating it to somebody you hold in high

esteem, you have created pressure on yourself, and this will help you get the job done if not exactly in the announced time, then shortly thereafter.

Remember, time cannot be stored. Everyone no matter how rich or poor has 24 hours each day. It neither speed up for the rich nor slows down for the poor. Time management is equal to wise usage. This may be the difference between fame and failure.

Value your time. Each and every one of us has eighty-six-thousand-and-four-hundred seconds each day. Imagine with Jim Westergreen having a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What will you do if such condition is given? Draw out every dollar each day of course! Each of us has such an account. Its name is TIME. It credits you with eighty-six-thousand-and-four-hundred seconds everyday. And at the end of the day, it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day’s

deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. You must live in the present; on today’s deposit: invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success. To value your time, check your time. The clock is ticking. Make the most of today by appreciating time. Note the following: they are true: To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade. To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a solely dependent teacher who didn’t get his month’s salary. To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper. To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask a factory worker who is paid hourly. To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a businessperson who missed a flight schedule. To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who nearly got involved in a motor vehicle accident.

You can exchange money for an item, you can exchange an item for money but you cannot exchange money for more time. Hence, David B. Norris comments, “How you spend your time is more important than how you spend your money. Money mistakes can be corrected, but time is gone forever.”



morgan.edu

Can We Just Discuss: Alone Behind the Screen

Chad Marden

Copy Editor and Opinion Editor

This semester marks the first time that I have preformed my duties, both in the classroom and in the offices of The Observer, from the comfort of my countryside home. Yes, I've begun online classes here at SNHU and I would be lying if I told you that the transition is going smoothly. I miss my friends, the one-on-one interactions I got on campus and even the weight of an actual pencil or textbook in my hands. However, due to financial troubles

or difficulties commuting, it's the only option some of us have. So, here's a guide to surviving the digital classroom for those planning to transfer to or currently attending online classes.

First, learn how Blackboard and MySNHU work. Your success in these classes requires that you know your way around these and any other sites and programs your professors will use. Take time to learn the layout of the sites and don't be shy about asking your professor or other students for help. I myself have needed help with Turnitin on more than one occasion.

Next, memorize your schedule. Your professors will

expect you to do more in a shorter period of time (Continuing Education classes only run for eight weeks instead of sixteen), so you need to meter out the time you devote to posting on discussion boards and working on papers. There's nothing more embarrassing than dropping a letter grade or two because of a post you forgot to make. It also helps not to procrastinate; you never know if Blackboard will be down for maintenance when you try to submit that big project due at the last minute.

Finally, part of your schedule should include your social life. Just as you must devote fair

amounts of time to both work and play on campus, you must do the same with online classes. The only difference is that, being stuck in your house instead of the classroom exposes you to the dangers of seclusion or

"Cabin Fever." If you have the option, try to do your work in a public place with free Wi-Fi from time to time. Also, don't neglect contact with friends and family; they need you just as much as you need them.

Keeping the Internet Open: Why I'm opposed to SOPA

**Congressman Frank
Guinta**

Contributing Writer

If you're researching a paper or doing work for class, chances are you will jump on the Internet at some point. The World Wide Web is a vital resource for students and professionals alike. But a bill introduced in Congress could change that. I want to keep the Internet open and available for all of us to use and enjoy. Let me tell you what's at stake.

The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), H.R. 3261, was introduced in Congress last fall by Representative Lamar Smith of Texas. SOPA's primary purpose is to stop the theft of intellectual property from foreign-based websites.

Although the bill is well intentioned, many people have raised legitimate concerns about the way SOPA would achieve its goal. They say it is unworkable and includes many unintended and dangerous consequences.

I also have serious reservations with the legislation and am opposed to it in its current form.

One of SOPA's main problems is it would force Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to block access to websites that are accused of facilitating copyright infringement. Blocking access would slow down Internet connectivity while eroding the necessary trust the system needs. It would also set a dangerous precedent of allowing our government – and others – to filter domains. Fortunately, all sides have signaled this provision should be dropped.

Furthermore, the legislation would place a tremendous legal burden on websites accused of third-party copyright

infringement and would cause them to be removed from search engines. Even if they made an honest mistake, they would be faced with litigation from the U.S. Attorney General. Fighting those accusations would cost an enormous amount of time and money, and would force smaller sites out of business. Private lawsuits could also be brought against websites. That would create the potential for massive lawsuit abuse – even though the vast majority of online piracy occurs in a small number of websites.

While the federal government does have a role in protecting intellectual property rights, it should do so in a way that does not weaken Internet security, disrupt growth, or restrict free speech and your First Amendment rights.

As the debate on this legislation continues, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure the needs of copyright protection are balanced with the First Amendment rights of all Americans. Currently H.R. 3261 remains in the House Judiciary Committee. While I do not serve on this committee, I'm following developments very closely in case this legislation, or a similar bill, come up for a full House vote.

It's an honor to represent you in Congress. Your suggestions are always welcome. Please contact my Washington office at (202) 225-5456 or the district office (603) 641-9536. Also visit my website at www.guinta.house.gov for information on legislative issues and follow me on Facebook at facebook.com/repfrankguinta and Twitter at @RepFrankGuinta.



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Creative

"The Pink Dress: Part V"

Megan Kidder
Co-Editor in Chief

I cringed at Nash's acknowledgment of me. It was at this moment that I realized my plan had been falling apart since the moment I had stood up. Frozen, in front of the entire church, I hoped the wedding would go on without me.

"Just stay right there," Nash called out to me as I peaked over my shoulder.

Why? I thought. Why would I think stealing the groom was a good idea?

I had seen countless romantic comedies before this disaster. The formula seemed simple; girl loses guy, girl fights for guy, guy falls in love with girl again, or vice versa. I had never included future wives, churches full of relatives, or momentary lapses in verbal skills to my calculations. This predicament was less like a romantic comedy and more like a poorly depicted tragedy.

As Nash and Carla bickered quietly, I did what any normal wedding destroyer would do and channeled my inner Reese Witherspoon. I tried to coach myself through a reasonable speech to give when Nash confronted me. I was determined to make this into my own romantic comedy. If not a comedy, a damn good Nicholas Sparks book.

"...Liv." I heard the back end of Nash's conversation. I had been too busy quoting "When Harry Met Sally" in my head to recognize what he had said to me.

"Okay, you caught me," I turned around, putting my hands up in a sign of resign. "I came here today on a whim. I came here because I love you. Believe me, I've done everything to stop that feeling. But when I saw that you were getting married, that you loved someone who was not me, the feeling flourished again like that night when we went to Woodland's for that concert where you kissed me. It hit me like when you remembered that my favorite ice cream was Black Raspberry or that my favorite book is To Kill a Mockingbird. It hit me like when we moved in together, like when you and I used to talk about getting married to each other. Or like when I realized that I should have told you I loved you more often when I could have."

I deflated, no longer caring if this were a romantic movie ending. Those movies never captured pure love, the complexity of loving someone. It wasn't as easy as riding off into the sunset in a cool sport's car with your crush that finally noticed you. Real love was not always a romantic comedy. It was about Black Raspberry ice cream, meaningful conversations, and sacrifices you had to be willing to make. I knew I wasn't going to ride off into the sunset with Nash that day no matter how beautiful this pink dress was.

"The point is, I didn't. I wish today more than ever that I had."

Nash had no words to offer me. I could not tell if he was mad at me or just mildly annoyed. To him there was a difference between the two but I had a hard time deciphering.

"I'm really sorry for ruining your ceremony. It was just the idea that if I didn't tell you today, you would have never known," I said.

"I knew," Nash said. It was barely a whisper but I felt it.

"Goodbye, Nash." I walked down the decorated aisle and left the church.

"A Reoccurring Indifference"

Chris Mehu
Contributing Writer

Moods soar like clouds in your skies

A temporary change or a longer one, we see it in these eyes

If there is a cake for everyone seems I am cutting myself a piece too short

Confused at what is going on

Comfortable at the moment

Hunters do not wait in comfort I know

In the middle of this road when will I take off with speed

Surrounded by addictions and the easily addicted

Everyone here is fooling themselves that they are all settling good

At times back and forth like the ticking of a clock, In just seconds I can stay restricted

Most people with questions will remain confused

Eye for an eye even close we can at times be used

"Jazz"

Maranda Twombly
Creative Editor and Arts and
Entertainment Editor



"Close Touching The Far Bottom"

Chris Mehu
Contributing Writer

I've been here all along the way.

Waking different day by day.

On a day off what can I really start to say.

Laziness consumes one of many.

Like a storm of procrastination there is plenty.

Where was I in those days and strong nights?

I was good I tell and brag to many promised no fights.

Just all city lights.

Fishing is a game in life, lines out for fish hungry for a win.

But still no bites.

Arts & Entertainment

Movie Review: Contraband

Maranda Twombly

Creative Editor and Arts and Entertainment Editor

Rating 4/5

In this fast-paced action thriller, Mark Wahlberg keeps the audience either in a relaxed state of suspense or a nail biter on the edge of their seat. Director Baltasar Kormakur delivers good balanced parts of suspense, action, and adventure.

Contraband is a well-crafted adventure which takes the

audience along with once well-known international smuggler Chris Farraday (Wahlberg). When Farraday's brother in law makes a deal with long time smuggler boss Tim Briggs (Giovanni Ribisi), Farraday steps back into the business to save not only his brother in law but to protect the lives of his family.

In a business where trust does not exist, Farraday is forced to tackle unwanted cases in the event of trying to smuggle millions of

counterfeit bills back to the United States from Panama. The family he would do anything to protect soon become a target to reveal a riveting conclusion.

Kormakur exceeds the predictions of a January release date with an opening box office weekend profit of approximately \$24,000,000. With good performances by an extraordinary cast, this entertaining film leaves audience members knowing they did not waste their money to view.



Filmfilia.com

What Would You Hide to Protect Your Family?

Cult of the Classic: Flash Gordon (1980)

Chad Marden

Copy Editor and Opinion Editor

When I first started this column over three years ago, there was one genre of movie that I knew would shine out among all others – the camp classic. Being able to sit down for a movie you know is bad and still enjoy it is a great feeling. So today, I will share with you the film that started me on this obsession. In the words of the tagline, let's "kick some Flash" with "Flash Gordon."

Flash (Sam J. Jones) is a star quarterback on a flight back from vacation when earth is attacked by the forces of planet Mongo and their tyrannical emperor Ming the Merciless (Max von Sydow). Flash and his co-passenger Dale Arden

(Melody Anderson) crash into the observatory of Dr. Hans Zarkov (Topol), a former NASA scientist and the only man to see that the string of natural disasters happening recently are the result of Ming. Kidnapped by the doctor and forced to help him save earth, Flash and Dale must survive the weirdness of Mongo and overthrow Emperor Ming.

This show is often viewed as the prototypical "so-bad-it's-good" movie. It was produced by Dino De Laurentiis whose proud line of B-grade films include "Conan the Barbarian" and "Dune." It suffers from classically cheesy, 80's style acting and special effects and fans of the original comic may take offense to the liberties taken with the source material, but I hardly noticed

it as I was drawn into the film's main draw – a killer soundtrack produced almost entirely by one of my favorite rock bands, Queen. The film also has some classic B-grade star power in the form of classically trained Shakespearian actor Brian Blessed (Lord Locksley from "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves") and a brief appearance by Richard O'Brien (Director/Riff Raff from "The Rocky Horror Picture Show").

In short, "Flash Gordon" is to my generation what "Tron: Legacy" is to this one: a guilty pleasure light show that anyone can just turn off their brain and enjoy. The only difference is that I'm head-banging to Queen instead of robot dancing to Daft Punk – both excellent artists, mind you.

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Take note: if the hero's being played by a former U.S. Marine, it's best not to upset him.
the OBSERVER

Top 10 Single Charts

1. **Set Fire to the Rain** -
ADELE
2. **Turn Me On** (feat. Nicki Minaj) -
David Guetta
3. **What Doesn't Kill You** (Stonger) -
Kelly Clarkson
4. **Without You** (Glee Cast Version) -
Glee Cast
5. **Good Feeling** -
Flo Rida
6. **Rack City** -
Tyga
7. **We Found Love** (feat. Calvin Harris) -
Rihanna
8. **Sexy and I Know It** -
LMFAO
9. **Domino** -
Jessie J
10. **Young, Wild & Free** (feat. Bruno Mars) -
Snoop Dogg & Wiz Khalifa

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Book Review: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Megan Kidder
Co-Editor in Chief

Although marketed as a young adult novel, Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* is not just a book for the adolescent. Set in a seemingly post-apocalyptic North America, "Panem" emerges as the new United States. Panem is separated into twelve districts, categorized by the necessity their area produces. We meet main character Katniss Everdeen in her native district twelve, the coal district. The theme of survival is already prevalent in the first few chapters due to the poverty found in Katniss' district where she has to illegally cross borders in order to hunt for food for her little sister and widowed mother.

The Capitol is introduced

as the ever suppressing government figures that previously abolish an entire district (district thirteen) for uprising. The Capitol uses the Hunger Games in order to establish power and fear in the helpless citizens of Panem. Used as a form of entertainment, the Capitol requires their youth ages twelve to eighteen to enter their names, every year two children, one boy and one girl, are picked from each district to fight to the death at the Capitol. Victory is fame to the one winner and their district, riches that most citizens don't possess. More than fame is the prize of life. When Katniss' little sister is called to fight for district twelve, Katniss volunteers to save her sister's life

and enters the Hunger Games alongside Peeta, the local baker's son.

In such a fresh way of presenting a future world in ruin, the reader is presented with the frightening realization that entertainment trumps precious life. This bestselling novel challenges the views of human nature. It follows Katniss on a journey of survival at the hands of a corrupt government. Due to a twist in the plot line (hint: this year a new rule is implemented) Katniss must make decisions that account for not only her own survival.

Each character in this novel is unforgettable; the audience is captivated by Katniss' story telling techniques and challenged by Peeta's stance on the competition, is it all a game to him? Or are Peeta's feelings real? Collins creates a new world entirely, incorporating futuristic technologies and a reversion to other times of survival in human history, based upon a drastic social class system.

Set to hit theaters in March, *The Hunger Games* is being transformed into a film. It will be interesting to see Panem materialize and characters come to life but a dubious task to encompass the high packed emotions expressed in the text.

Being the first book in the trilogy, *The Hunger Games* was a great beginning. Collins' simplistic and deliberate writing style makes this an easy but enticing read. Even readers who aren't science fiction or fantasy fans should give this series a try because this novel was truly one that cannot be put down.



Alex McKenzie

The Hunger Games Series