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harbinger@jeffco.edu

Camp Hope: Enter as Strangers, Leave as Friends

by Christina Miller

PFC Christopher Neal White, a 23-year-old marine, was killed in action on June 26, 2006. His parents, William “Mike” and Gail White, created Camp Hope, a nearly 250-acre refuge deep in the woods just south of Farmington, Missouri, as a way to honor the memory of their son. Camp Hope became a reality, and hosted three veterans their first year, 2007.

Since then, Camp Hope has provided peace, comfort, and healing, to over 100 combat-wounded veterans and active-duty combat-wounded military men and women.

The idea for Camp Hope came to Mike White when he was hunting. As his son was an avid outdoorsman, White felt a camp for wounded veterans and soldiers would be a place for comfort and healing.

The camp’s website (www.christineafarm.com) states, “The mission of Camp Hope is to allow wounded warriors the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities with dignity - to not think about what they ‘can’t’ do, only to think what they want to do. Soldiers can shoot deer, hunt turkey and deer, fish, hike, explore the country, or relax around the ever-burning fire.”

One camper at this year’s hunt, Chad Turner, harvested a 10-point buck his last day at the Camp. Turner suffers from combat-related Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and a back injury.

Turner said he found out about Camp Hope from a buddy, he met a couple other veterans at camp that had been in Iraq at the same time as Turner, and said Camp Hope and its volunteers automatically make a camper feel at home and welcome. Turner said the camp is a healing place because the veterans have other military brothers there, and they help each other out.

Turner further said, “Camp Hope is a truly healing place because you have everyone that is helping and wants to be there for you and take care of you” and also, “My favorite part of camp Hope is that they let you be yourself and every single volunteer there treats you like true family because you are. I didn’t want to leave! It’s the best place in the world.”

Another camper who enjoyed the hunt this past week is active-duty member Army Captain Joe Bogart. On the camp’s website, Bogart said, “After an IED explosion legally blinded me I knew my life would not be the same. I thought I would never be able to participate in the activities I enjoyed before fighting overseas. Then I spent a weekend at Camp Hope and now all that has changed. Thank you, Camp Hope!”

When Camp Hope first opened, the main operation was out of a tidy, but very small cabin. Entertaining the camp guests during their non-hunting downtime, as well as cooking their meals, was a challenge in the small space. Since 2011 the campers and hunters have enjoyed mealtime and downtime in a beautiful and simple 2000 square foot lodge.

The downhill of the lodge houses the camp’s laundry area, a small refrigerated storage area, as well as a recreational area where the soldiers can enjoy a drink, play ping pong, video games, or play a game of pool. Upstairs is a large common area where they can relax, visit and reminisce, as well as a kitchen and dining area.

Both the upstairs and downstairs have a completely open floor plan, with a friendly family atmosphere. The long wooden family-style dining table in the upstairs of the lodge area was made by the Perryville School High School Class and donated to the Camp.

Each of the three cabins and one bunkhouse is handicap accessible. The guest shares facilities, with the smaller cabins having a set of bunk beds and a double bed, and the bunkhouse holds several bunk beds. Each cabin has a handicap accessible shower and toilet facility, a small deck overlooking a spring fed pond, and each cabin has been dedicated to the memory of a fallen soldier. There is also a larger cabin for guides during the hunts and camping events.

There are several events throughout the year for the guests to enjoy. April is turkey hunting camp, in June, women veterans enjoy the float trip camp, October is bow-hunting for turkey or deer, and November’s big week is rifle deer hunting. There are two reunions held each year, and in August the annual Camp Hope Poker Run fundraiser makes a stop at Camp Hope.

All of the camps are free for the veteran or soldier to attend. Their transportation and hunting license costs are provided by Camp Hope, as well as lodging and food. Different groups often provide the evening meal to the campers, which is family-style dining.

Camp Hope also sponsors several veterans and soldiers to attend an annual fishing trip to Bull Shoals as well as a past opportunity to send soldiers and veterans on a fishing trip to Alaska.

Camp Hope would not be possible without the generous donations of individuals and organizations that see and appreciate the efforts, hard work, and success this Camp provides to the wounded veterans and soldiers, as well as volunteers who staff Camp Hope and help out any way they are needed.

Several veteran-related clubs and organizations make specific donations, as Camp Hope is their project.

Camp Hope volunteer, Robin Walker, active through Desoto AMVETS auxiliary, participates in many duties of helping to operate the camp, both when campers are in attendance as well as the many work days at Camp Hope throughout the year. Walker says, “I get the thrill of helping someone...knowing that it’s truly helped them. I’ve always been a person to serve others and this plays right into my role.”

Walker convinced her cousins, veteran Sam Kendrick, to join her at Camp Hope one week. Like Turner, Kendrick also suffers from PTSD and TBI. When asked what Camp Hope does for him, Kendrick said, “Being at camp hope always sooths me, from getting away from all the distractions in life and just relaxing in a comfortable place to seeing other vets that have been where you have and know what you’re going through...really makes you see you’re not alone.”

When Kendrick left the military in 2014, he was lost. Feeling he no longer had a purpose, Kendrick was contemplating suicide and made a last trip to Missouri from Oklahoma on his motorcycle to say goodbye to family. Walker and her husband, Pete, took Sam to Camp Hope the next day.

Kendrick said, “Every person that comes out there [Camp Hope] finds something there that heals them inside. I owe Pete and Robin and Camp Hope my life and can never thank them enough for all they have done for me and still do for me. I tell Mike [White] all the time he is lowering the statistics of suicide every day with what he does.” Kendrick is now an active volunteer with Camp Hope.

The sign over the lodge door reads, “Enter as Strangers, Leave as Friends”. Walker feels that is the exact sentiment of Camp Hope, and said, “One camper even said it should be changed to Enter as Strangers, Leave as FAMILY.”

For more information or to make a donation or contribution, contact Robin Walker at 636-524-5363, or Mike White, Camp Founder, at 910-599-0640. Also visit Camp Hope’s website, www.christineafarm.com
Freshman 15: Myth or Maxim

by Tommy Welch and Val Williams

Raise your hand if you’ve been victimized by the Whopper. Wherever you go in the United States, your view is likely obstructed by Golden Arches forcing their way into your line of vision. In college towns, this notion is especially prominent as the fast food industry preys upon young adults who are adept at making poor investments in quick and tasty cuisine, leading to the overhand of weight gain among first year undergrads. But how can we put an end to the convincing ways of Colonel Sanders?

In a study done by the U.S. National Library of Medicine in 2008, first year students at universities were 5.5 times more likely to experience weight gain than the rest of the population. 50% of their total test subjects gained weight and the average gain for that group of students was 7.4 pounds. Accumulating a range of weight gain from 1-20 pounds, it’s easy to see why the “freshman fifteen” is such a hot topic among colleges. Yes, 7.4 pounds does not equal fifteen pounds, but the phrase was coined in this way because it is acoustically pleasant, not because of its scientific relevance.

The fact of the matter is, first year college students gain weight not because they necessarily make bad choices, (“they’re in college, that will happen anyway”), but because they are targeted by the fast food industry and are backed into a corner when it comes to the cafeteria.

In 2006, Jack in the Box launched an ad campaign called “Munchie Meals”. In these one of these commercials, a teenager beside a small puppet version of Jack as they consider going to get food. When they agree that a late night snack would be a great idea, Jack flies out of the frame as the adolescent stare in awe. Keith Guilbault, vice president of menu innovation at Jack in the Box, was reported as saying that the commercials are “targeted at folks looking for indulgent treats… late-night shift workers and Millenial who get the munchies at odd hours.” However, I’m not sure it’s worth their advertising department got that same indication.

For the sake of argument, let’s say that Jack in the Box is targeting stoners. With a society so accepting of marijuana and its legalization, teens across the globe are using marijuana as ways to relieve their high stress levels that come with being a college student. With hungry potheads flocking to Jack in the Box, the lasting effects of Jack’s tacos take their toll on the undergrads.

So if, as president, you see that the fast food industry is dominating your university, what do you do? You push for the usage of the cafeteria so your school can utilize the money. However, in most cases, college cafeterias promote healthy eating then proceed to charge insane amounts for a salad and freshly made chicken. What college student, struggling with finances to begin with, would pay $6.50 for a chicken breast when you could get a burger, fries, and a drink for $4.95?

Look, I understand that college food is not, it’s better for you, it’s cheaper, “Because it’s [expletive deleted] whereas the healthy food is not, it’s better for you, it’s harder to get... the vegetables only grow in certain times of the year. Therefore it costs more.” She went on to say that “the diet of college students changes from the time that they that graduate high school. It’s a body change and a lifestyle change altogether.”

When I asked her about healthy eating and if she thought the college did enough to promote health, she said, “Not necessarily because personally I think that the college food is all overpriced. So no, I don’t think the college does a very good job of promoting healthy eating because of the price factor. College kids are broke. That’s real life.” She has a point. What’s the use of eating in the cafe that charges ridiculous prices for a chicken tender and fries when you could drive a mile away and get the same thing for not even half the cost at McDabs? By attempting to empty the average college students’ wallet, the JeffCo café is ultimately turning away would be devours, with college student stomachs, and ultimately losing out on a substantial amount of money that could be made if their prices were actually affordable.

With how much teens are stressed out financially and educationally, it’s easy to see why the “Freshman 15” has been such a reoccurring phrase among students. Something needs to be done so that these young adults don’t create a constant circle of poor eating habits, and it starts with eating healthy.

#420Blazelt: How Legal Marijuana Is Affecting America

by Tommy Welch and Val Williams

Dank Trees. Kush. You may have heard these words used to describe the highly controversial drug more commonly known as marijuana. States like Colorado, Washington, and Oregon have already made the plunge into legalization, but how can one little plant have such an impact on society?

Since the legalization of marijuana in these states there has been a decrease in crime rates, and increase in jobs, a significant increase in tax revenue, and a decrease in traffic fatalities. But authorities are still unsure of the health effects that the use of marijuana has on the body and the brain leading to the question of whether marijuana has an impact on society?

As the legalization of marijuana in these states has increased, so has the amount of research being done to describe the highly controversial drug more commonly known as marijuana. States like Colorado, Washington, and Oregon have already made the plunge into legalization, but how can one little plant have such an impact on society?

experience weight gain from 1-20 pounds, it’s easy to see why the “freshman fifteen” is such a hot topic among colleges. Yes, 7.4 pounds does
Photography through the Years: from Daguerrotypes to Digital

by Christina Miller

Photography. So easy, a New York rat can do it. Recently a rat in New York’s President Street subway station crawled on a sleeping pedestrian and took a selfie. Was the little guy trying to impress his little rat friends with how exciting his life was? With how far his travel adventure had taken him? With what he was doing? Eating? Not wearing?

Selfie: A photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a Smartphone or webcam and shared via social media. Photography. So easy a rat can take its own photograph. So goes photography in 2015.

Digital cameras became widely available in the 1990’s taking photography to an instant gratification level. Today the majority of cameras sold are digital and almost every single phone boasts a camera. St. Louis area architectural photographer, Richard Sprengeler, does most of his personal black and white photography using a 4x5 view camera, and his color work with a digital camera. Sprengeler says he enjoys being able to look at the big image through his 4x5 viewfinder, and he finds it easier to concentrate on composition with the 4x5 camera. However, because of the cost of color film, he does his color photography with his digital Nikon camera.

With the advancements and ease with which images can be manipulated with a variety of software, straight-out-of-camera photography is becoming rarer. Sprengeler said that photographers get sloppy when they take a not great image and then use post-processing to try and make it great. Your image “should look like you didn’t do anything to it,” Sprengeler says, adding “you can try to fix it [the image] after the fact, but a good image straight out of the camera is a good image.”

Photography has come a long way, Baby, from its beginning. Louis Daguerre was probably the first person to introduce the public to an attainable photographic representation with the daguerreotype around 1839. Photography in 1839 was quite involved. First, the ingredients: a polished sheet of silver-plated copper, chemicals to make it light sensitive, a camera in which to compose. Using a “wet-plate” method (wet-collodion-on-glass negatives), Brady could then insert the plate into the camera, which was set up, focused, and the scene recorded. Eventually the sun burned away the image on the glass “negative.”

With the advent of the daguerreotype, photography became popular and more affordable to the public, and in 1900 Kodak introduced its film camera, the Brownie, which revolutionized the industry and popularized the “snapshot.”

As the image would be wet when pulled from an instant camera, it was standard procedure to shake the photo until it dried.

Kodak’s Polaroid gave consumers the ability to take a photo and get a finished print within minutes out of the camera. Rather than a bygone luxury, photographs are made of every part of our lives today...what we are doing, what we are eating, and shared on social media without a single physical print being made. Multitudes of memories being captured and dependant on the internet’s ability to keep them safe.

Consumers, forget your large cameras, your bellows, your plate glass, your collodion, your tin, and your Potassium Cyanide, but don’t forget...Smile!

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Social Media and Teachers
by Alex Litterst

Social media is a growing source of all things entertainment, news, and information. Many young people have at least one form of social media and still many more are avid users. Professors are always evolving their teaching methods to the times and try to engage with students in a way they will understand. Social media has provided a wonderful platform for teachers to integrate their teaching with the free flow of information and access that social media provides. There are many options for social media integration outside of just Twitter, Facebook, etc. Google Hangouts, Edmodo, Second Life, etc. These can be used for various activities, like blogs, discussions, video presentations, etc.

With the use of social media, there are benefits for all sides.

• Educators: For educators, this allows for collaboration with other educators, allows for an easier access of information between students and teacher, lets communicating between students who may not have normally communicated otherwise

• Students: Students can increase their networking skills, learn more about careers, get more knowledge of technology and more general enjoyment of learning

• Parents: Makes communication between parents and teachers easier, can communicate with child about school work in a more child friendly manner, can keep up with assignments that student is working on

Social media integration also led to improved student performance. In the pilot program integrating social media in Portland, students had grades improve by 50%, reduced chronic absenteeism 1/3, 20% increase in assignments completed, and 35% increase in absenteeism by texting students “Wake Up” or “Running Late” through a program that cost the school no money.

There are many benefits to integrating social media and tech to the classroom that is continues to grow. We think integrations like this will be more widespread within the coming years.

Social Media and Teachers
by Ariel Swopes

Social media has changed dramatically over the years. Social media was originally designed to communicate with family, old friends, and for many professional reasons. Now it’s used to hide one’s identity. Many people use social media to express their feelings, whether its social ranting or trash talking the girl or guy you hate.

Facebook and Twitter are the primary platforms for trash talking. There’s no more face to face conversation and problem solving. Everyone run to social media to rant and express their opinions of others. People used their fingers as weapons to trash talk on websites.

Creating fake Facebook or twitter pages has been common all over the world. The purpose of the fake pages is to target one’s enemy, or do things that you are not brave enough to do in person. For example, a person may make a fake page to spread rumors about another person in school.

It bores me that a person’s self-esteem can be so low that they have to humiliate people through social media to make themselves feel better.

Having trigger fingers for social media can lead to many problems, including suicide. According to The American Association of Suicidology, suicide is among the 50-year-olds have grown more than 50 percent over the last three decades. The three, particularly students in grade school, who are dealing with cyber bullying may want to consider suicide and how to handle the situation.

Bullying statistics say re-venge is the strongest motivation for school shootings, and 87% of students said shootings are motivated by a desire to get back at those who hurt them, according to the National Voices for Equality, Education, and Enlightenment.

I don’t promote violence or conflicts at all, but I do encourage people to stop being cowards. Stop using the internet to rant on how much you dislike that girl or guy at school. Can’t be straight outta Compton on the internet and a church mouse in person. If you can’t be brave on your own, you shouldn’t use the computer keyboard as a shield, and you shouldn’t use your fingers as the trigger.

Trigger Fingers and Social Media

by Nathan Imlay

The Syrian refugee crisis has increased America’s fears of inflation by foreign terror- ists. While this is not a totally unreasonable fear, most of the mortal Islamic militant attacks since September 11, 2001, have been perpetrated by U.S. born or naturalized citizens. Additionally, with the recent shooting deaths of two women at the Planned Parenthood Clinic in Colorado Springs, we must be aware that all terrorist attacks are committed by Muslims.

Much media time is devoted to ‘radical’ Muslims, those that feel that everyone should follow their religion or be killed. Yet where is the talk of ‘radical’ Christians? Why are some calling for a ban on non-Christian immigrants? Are Christians never ‘radical’?

Robert Lewis Dear, the perpetrator of the Planned Parenthood attack, appears to have been motivated by religious reasons.

Dear identifies himself as a Chris- tian and Barbara Micheau, one of his ex-wives, reportedly described him as "very evangelical," although she thought that his actions often don’t seem very Christ- like. Whether one believes that Planned Parenthood is an immoral organization or not, it is clearly not a ‘radical’ Christian group to kill them in the name of religion.

This is hardly an isolated incident. Since 1776 there have been eight murders, seventeen attempted murders, 42 bombings, and 186 arson, not to mention thousands of other incidents such as vandalism. For those of you doing the math at home, that is a rate of one bombing per year and almost 5 arsons per year. When we hear terrorist in the media, it is usually connected to a Muslim.

The Boston Marathon bomb- ing happened 2 years ago now. Do you remember a bombing in the U.S. perpetrated by “radi- cal” Muslims since? Or before?

Chances are you can’t, because there have been relatively few deaths in the U.S. from Islamic terror attacks since 2001. Add- itional reports of the Islamic terrorist attacks in the U.S. have been perpetrated by native born or naturalized U.S. citizens.

In the media narrative about terrorism, one major factor in terrorist attacks gets very little attention: proximity. It is much more difficult to organize a terrorist attack from thousands of miles away. Most terrorist groups operate within a specific region, making homegrown ter- rorists more likely to be a threat than terrorist groups from across the globe.

With recent events in Paris, fears of foreign terrorist attacks are probably justified. Although foreign attackers are less likely to be a threat than homegrown terrorists, there is reason to maintain security. However, the perpetrator of the Paris bomb- ings was a Belgian national, not an immigrant from Syria.

Currently there is a system in place in the U.S. to vet Syrian refugees for potential ter- rorist connections. The vetting process takes 18 months to 2 years and involves an extensive background check. Only a rela- tive handful of Syrian refugees have been admitted to the U.S. Since 2012 only 2,174 Syrian refugees have been admitted to the United States.

This is hardly the same as the sieve that the European borders are. Europe is dealing with millions of refugees, which makes it much harder for them to commit terrorist attacks. With so few refugees being admitted to the U.S., it won’t be nearly as easy for those with terrorist connections to pose as refugees.

Despite the recent furor over Syrian refugees, there doesn’t seem to be anything more to be done to safeguard the American people. With home- grown terrorists accounting for most of the attacks on U.S. soil, there is more reason to worry about U.S. citizens than foreign nationals. Terrorism is a real threat, but the media narrative often misstates the extent and origin of the threat.

It is important to note that the Islamic State hates the refu- gees. The millions fleeing Syria put the lie to the I.S.’s claims that they are a haven for Muslims. By denying refugees, we are play- ing into the I.S. narrative. The I.S. claims that the west doesn’t care about Muslims. Why prove them right?

Terrorism: Foreign or Domestic?

by Alex Litterst

Textbooks

Textbooks can be a student’s best friend and worst enemy. If a teacher allows the stu- dent to use it on his/her assignments and takes information from the book for tests, then they are a great asset. If the teacher uses their own information and creates their own assignments, students wonder what to do with their $230+ paperbacks.

The price of textbooks has seen a significant increase over the years. According to the Bu- reau of Labor Statistics, since 1977 the price of textbooks has risen 1041%.

This rise in prices has made it difficult for students to purchase books from school bookstores and direct suppliers. Many students use websites like Amazon to purchase books at a reduced price.

The only problem with this method is that not every textbook is available on these sites, especially if a new edition of the book has just been released. This forces students to pay full price at major distributors.

Students can’t afford to do this, which can help them find another student who had the course and can loan them the book or simply try and do without.

Neither of those are guaran- teed to be successful, however. A survey done by the US Public Interest Research Group, 65% said they had decided against buying a textbook because it was too expensive.

• Nearly half (48%) said the cost of buying a textbook on how many or which classes they took.

94% of the students who had skipped buying a required book said they were doing this because it would hurt their grade in that course.

With all of the statistics it shows that the college textbook industry is clearly booming, but is it leaving it’s consumers in the dust?

The bookstore here at Jef- ferson College is one of the better places to get textbooks with all of their great deals. The bookstore has a price match system where they will sell a text book at the same price that you can find at any big retailer, such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Chegg. The bookstore also offers rentals and used books as well. Then when the semester is over you can bring your textbooks back to the bookstore and sell your books back to them.
Casinos are well known for throwing out gamblers who "count cards" at the blackjack table. This is because blackjack is a game of skill as well as chance. Those who are skilled enough can win consistently, which is very bad for a casino that is run for profit. Although the skill aspect of card games such as blackjack or poker are well known, relatively few people will argue that wagers on such games are gambling – even if the player is the one betting. A new kind of gambling has arisen. Daily Fantasy Sports (DFS). In DFS, players pick athletes to make up a fantasy team in a draft similar to that used by the sports leagues themselves. Players make a deposit, they don't call it a bet, and the player whose team out-performs the others wins the pot.

Because DFS is a relatively new phenomenon, its legality is still a matter of debate. FanDuel and DraftKings claim that DFS is a contest of skill and therefore is not gambling. If blackjack and poker are games of skill as well as gambling, why should DFS be judged differently?

Currently, the reason is legal. Sports gambling is still illegal in 43 states, so if DFS is defined as gambling on sports, DFS companies cannot operate. In 2014 the union DFS companies cite the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 which prohibits online gambling, but provides an exception for fantasy sports.

The exemption for fantasy sports was included in the law because fantasy sports were small business and run much differently than DFS. Fantasy sports began as a season-long game in which players picked their teams of athletes and "managed" them through the course of a season. Many of these early fantasy sports leagues were set up by groups of friends and coworkers and deposits to enter the contests were often small.

The exemption did not specify that fantasy sports were not gambling, it merely said that they were not illegal gambling. Yet because of this loophole, DFS sites are advertising themselves as "No gambling site." According to the letter of the law, they are gambling sites, just not illegal gambling sites.

DFS companies have changed the nature of fantasy sports. Now, it is much more common for people who have never met each other to be competing in one day fantasy contests. The deposit to enter a DFS league may be as much as thousands of dollars. DraftKings and FanDuel have carved a multi-billion dollar industry out of a loophole intended for competitions between friends and co-workers.

Perhaps DFS should be legal, but we should legislate it intentionally so that we can regulate it. History has shown that unregulated gambling often victimsizes consumers. With that in mind, it may be time to take a hard look at why sports gambling is illegal, and whether keeping it illegal is the right answer for a rapidly changing world.

One of the primary reasons for keeping sports betting illegal is the possibility that the gambling industry may compromise the sport. The 1919 Black Sox scandal, a conspiracy to fix the world series, still looms in our cultural consciousness.

But it is likely that DFS will compromise the integrity of sports? Since fantasy players are choosing athletes who are playing on different teams, in different games all across the country, there is no individual game or event to focus on in order to manipulate odds. With numbers of people gambling on teams composed of varied combinations of athletes from many teams across the country, it will be extremely difficult for bookmakers to coordinate the odds to radically change the odds.

Internet gambling is illegal in the United States, but a Google search of U.S. gambling laws turns up results that include links to offshore internet gambling sites. With this kind of easy access to offshore gambling sites, is the ban on internet gambling working as intended? If the ban on internet gambling was intended to protect consumers, can it work when consumers can, and will, get around the law so easily? Many of these offshore gambling sites have little or no consumer protections. With U.S. citizens skirting the law to gamble online, there are no measures in place to ensure fair games. Perhaps it is time to reexamine the ban on internet gambling. Perhaps if it were legalized in the U.S., it could be regulated to protect consumers from the kinds of excesses that the gambling industry is famous for.
The Walk
By Peter Lewis

2012's Flight may not have been this great and truly memorable film, but it did bring Director Robert Zemeckis' 1974 wire walk between the World Trade Centers in NYC.

So, are we ready to revisit the stories surrounding the WTC outside 9/11? Well that's no my hill to die on, but I can review The Walk for what it is.

First off, we got a film where the portrayal of Petit, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, delivers the story in a flashback and breaking the fourth wall style. Unless the character is interesting and charming, this typically can go south fast. Luckily, Levitt is great as the main character. He showcases this complex but ultimately loveable character well enough to forgive this somewhat cheesy French accent.

Levitt's breaking of the fourth wall actually ends up adding to the story as the film is so dedicated to the story of his character, that it never seems out of place and welcoming since Zemeckis uses the narrative correctly and leveled.

More impressive than anything is Zemeckis and Christopher Bowne's screenplay to let the film get to the grand event as fast as it can, but keep involvement in the build up. While Zemeckis' direction is placed solely on Petit and his "coop," once Petit gets his idea to walk between the WTC, the film goes fully focused on the stoking and anything that feels off, plays into the larger cop.

Most impressive in The Walk is that the cast list is very small and other than Levitt and Ben Kingsley, the cast is largely comprised of unknowns which plays well into character development and allowed Zemeckis to fully transform Levitt in to Petit and Kingsley into his mentor, even though he's largely absent from the film.

The Walk does not disappoint on a climatic level. When the main event comes, it's very faithful to the actual events that made it so impressive. There's no scenes where he nearly falls off or the rope breaks, rather, just Petit walking across the wire and the cops confused on how to handle the situation. It's rare when this happens, but when it does, it's incredibly refreshing to see.

Spectre
By Peter Lewis

Let's get to the point quick, Daniel Craig's final performance as 007, Spectre, the sequel to 2015's Spectre shown in Skyfall, is a disaster. Generically 007 with no major entertainment or fascinating Bond moments, Spectre continues the send film for the Bond actor to be very weak, but Craig seemed to drum the short straw, as even Quantum of Solace was a better watch than this disappointment.

Spectre is mostly action instead of any compelling storylines that Craig's Bond was shown to be capable of in Casino Royale and Skyfall, and the action that makes up the majority, is very formulaic and unexciting. Supporting characters and subplots have no real stimulating factors to them, doesn't feel forced, simply underdeveloped. Too much of the film feels reliant on the 007 tropes without playing around with it.

Despite its stylistic set pieces and MI6 imagery, Spectre disappears into itself and makes near two and a half hour runtime feel excruciating.

Returning Director Sam Mendes and the four screenwriters at times, seem to simply have given up trying to make a story line work and rush to get to the next point. The story itself feels unfinished and leaves way to many plot holes where you don't have to knit pick to find them.

However, the most glaring sin of the film is its own title and Spectre, in 007 lore, Spectre itself, was a major element in some of the best Bond films with Sean Connery. After the release of Skyfall, a film from this company dedicated to Spectre should have been magical.

But it's not.

The Spectre organization is handled so poorly and undeterred to the point of being insulting, that it's astonishing Bond was able to endure or, more importantly, the title of the film.

Spectre, the film and the organization, don't do anything remarkable or strangely enough, evil. Their endgame is confusing and their own plans don't carry any real weight to them in the long run, no matter how the film justifies 007 and M6's involvement with them, it doesn't work, there's no possible way to get invested in this.

And for anyone looking forward to Christoph Waltz as famous Bond villain, Ernst Stavro Blofeld, then I apologize in telling you the character is not only handled atrociously, but is only in three scenes.

Yes, the main Bond villain is in three scenes, and in one his face is not scene at all, while the final outcome of what happens to him is almost laughably bad.

The twenty-fourth Bond film Spectre, is evidence that such a long running series, no matter how much it has improved in past years, is still capable of failing, but this film seemed to be the nightmare scenario.

Steve Jobs

By Peter Lewis

Who was Steve Jobs? Depending on one's views of Apple and personal feelings towards the man, numerous responses will be made. Yet, the man's life, no matter how one views him, is largely overshadowed in a heavy cloud of myth and legends.

2013's Jobs, from Director Joshua Michael Stern and Writer Matt Whiteley, showcased a linear biographical look into Jobs himself, but didn't seem to want to stray from the mythos or challenge the perception of the man. The end result along with a lackluster performance from Ashton Kutcher as Steve Jobs, was an empty and dull look at the man who died just two years earlier in 2011.

But now in 2015, Director Danny Boyle, Writer Aaron Sorkin, and Michael Fassbender as Steve Jobs unite to give the true film that goes fully into looking beyond the man, the myth, and the legend.

Rather than following the linear chronology of Job's life, the film is set in a three act structure as Job's most de finitive moments: the introduction of Macintosh, NeXT Computers, and the iMac. While in the act itself, Boyle and Sorkin explore a sense of truth around who Jobs was.

And if his portrayal in these years before the explosion of Apple popularity and cult mythos, Steve Jobs is an absolute garbage human being, and Fassbender is excellent at showcasing this.

Yet rather than being a piece that defaces the legacy of Jobs, Boyle gives a great directorial vision that is obvious, even though this man is a scumbag, there is something about him that made him so interesting and in fact, someone to cheer on while hate was evident. The film calls out Jobs (on his vision and mythos), but paints him a different way that better explains the status he's received in a much better way, and does it in a way that is much more understandable than other explanations I've heard for why he's so beloved in tech and culture.

This of course is also well done with Sorkin's excellent script that pays close attention to the characters so they can provide a sense of explanation to the audience on just what they're dealing with on screen. The performances of Seth Rogan, Jeff Daniels, Katherine Waterston, and John Ortiz work well with challenging the myth of Jobs and giving lessons on work work that pays off, but Kate Winslet does this the best portraying Joanna Hoffman, Job's long time trusted marketing executive.

In large part with the structure of heavy focus on the three events, Boyle and company can truly bring out the character study faster and better, there's no empty space in the film, it's fast paced analysis and myth challenging that works very well.

Boyle has odd directorial decisions every now and then, don't get me wrong, but for every slight mistake my cynical film heart picks out, there are five incredible scenes soon after.

The Job's debates with John Scully, the trump card in the form of Steve Wozniak, the humanity discussions, and most importantly, Job's dealings with his daughter are some of the set pieces witnessed in the film that leave a impact.

At times, some scenes can have a cliché tone underneath it, but not enough to not get involved or even on the edge of one's seat, Sorkin's writing is that good.

I don't like to play the Oscar card, but this, if Sorkin is not nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay and Kate Winslet not nominated for Best Supporting Actress, than the Academy streak for numskull decisions continues yet again.

And in the end however, the question, "Who was Steve Jobs?" has an answer, but still retains the hint of legendary status, even if by the end, it's fully obvious, he's not the greatest legend out there.

And any film that challenges the Apple cult's mythos and replaces it with true reality, is a wonderful thing to see.

9.5/10

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**The Martian**

By Peter Lewis

It’s harder than ever to know what to expect from Ridley Scott. But in the case of his new film, writer Drew Goddard, The Martian is not a letdown or confusing mess. Instead, it is one of the smartest and engaging films of the year.

Based on Andy Weir’s 2011 novel, The Martian, the film is a rare sci-fi flick in that it focuses heavily upon, working hard at establishing the science rather than the fiction itself. Liberties of course are going to be needed for the art of film, but even then this is a great intelligent story of survival and science.

The Martian himself is Matt Damon, who is surprisingly for once very engaging and likable. Maybe Ridley Scott hasn’t lost all his magic?

Jokes aside, Damon is really great and fun to watch in this film. His delivery is on the spot and acts well as a main character to get invested and get behind. Damon presents himself in a way where his emotions are accepted by the audience member; if some goes right it’s hard not to feel happy with him and if things go wrong, then the worry and hopelessness is felt with him.

The remaining cast includes great talents like Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Jeff Daniels, and others, but they can’t really pull in the audience like Damon did, even though they give off great emotion and likability.

**Black Mass**

By Peter Lewis

While Black Mass is easily Johnny Depp’s best role in the past decade, the American Mob movie still has a long way to go before getting back its past prominence.

Rising talented, as well as underrated, director Scott Cooper joins screenwriters Jez Butterworth and Mark Malloch bring the story of James “Whitey” Bulger’s story of being a terror on the streets and underground of Boston as well as his time as an FBI informant.

It’s no surprise how much Depp goes into character, but in the case of Black Mass, this is the best payoff of any of his past performances. Depp is terrifying as well and cleverly pulls off the characters violent nature and criminal genius. Every scene he is involved in is wonderfully grim and an emotional ride. Depp nails the role of one of the most notorious mob figures in America, it’s easily up there with the likes of Ray Liotta as Henry Hill in Goodfella.

Unfortunately, this is the extent of what the film does. Even when it’s away from Damon, to get into the absence of the main character too long. The story and character development is great, but when the film is overbearingly gritty and this is strange as Spielberg had better to bring that magic out and what to expect from Ridley Scott.

Director Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks reunite eleven years after 2004’s The Terminal to bring the dramatization of the Rudolf Abel trials, 1960 U-2 incident, and subsequent tradeoff of prisoners between American and Soviets in East Berlin.

For The gun go, the populace excited for this of course went straight back to 1998’s Saving Private Ryan that seems to be the best example of a Spielberg and Hanks collaboration, never mind the writers, producers, editors, and supporting cast of course, it’s all those two and one else (surround). With a Cold War period piece and somewhat accurate* (I’m being generous, with that “somewhat accurate” statement on account of the things writers have to do to adapt stories into films) story, does this film overthrow Saving Private Ryan?

No. The upside of Black Mass is all right for what it does, but dwells a lot in playing it safe and the dull sequen-

**Bridge of Spies**

By Peter Lewis

The story is able to easily focus on what ever plotline it’s on while being both smart, but not overwhelming to take in. Because of the “let’s science the a** out of this” many surprises are presented. Damon’s tone is enough to keep the audience involved in what otherwise could have gone down to fast coat that.

And visually, can’t believe yet the CGI, it looks great and immersive.

Yet the problematic issue with the story, incredibly enough, is not enough Matt Damon. Three plotlines go on in The Martian. NASA problem solving, Matt Damon on Mars, and the sur-
viving members of Damon’s crew on their way back to Earth.

There’s no problem with the idea to focus on the non-Damon story on Mars, it is needed and works well. Problem is Matt Damon brings the audience so involved in the film, the film shouldn’t stray away from him for too long. Yet there are long scenes away from him that feel like they drag on and keep wanting Damon back. This isn’t the fault of the actors in the NASA and crew scenes, the film simply does Damon’s character so well that one can’t help but want more of him and keep sub-plots at a minimum or maybe even, a complete focus on him with news through his eyes.

And yes, I’m quite sure this is the first and only time I’d every say “Not enough Matt Damon” as a negative to the film.

Although, that’s a big issue, it’s not enough to destroy the film. There’s too much good going on, even when it’s away from Damon, to get into the absence of the main character for too long. The story and character development is great, but when the film is overbearingly gritty and this is strange as Spielberg had drawn this out along with the Hollywood landscape, but again, for a ten dollar ticket, this is not worth it, even for the Cold War enthusiast.

*Multiple ideas for how to make a film based on Bulger and the Winter Hill Gang, but can’t deliver a solid film that leaves the viewer satisfied.

Black Mass goes through a lot to fit Bulger’s life from the mid-70s to the mid-90s. In this time period a lot clearly is going to happen for a mobster, especially when one is an FBI informant and have people on the inside to let one get incredible information and treatment.

To the writers and Hanks credit, they make it watchable and show clear effort, but not enough to truly stand out. Lines that should have been longer while mob movie tropes, like an accordion are hilarious, clearly needed more on the actual stories of Winter Hill Gang itself to really make the situation feel tense. What is given is a lot of exposition and no actual scenes, a little exposition here and there is fine, but when it’s all exposition, then the film feels empty and disappointing, even when covering such a large era.

While performances from Joel Edgerton, Benedict Cumberbatch, Kevin Bacon, and Rory Cochrane are well done and memorable; the story of the film is what largely brings this potential great film down.

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No. The upside of Black Mass is all right for what it does, but dwells a lot in playing it safe and the dull sequences to get to the big scenes. Spielberg’s direction here is rather broken, unfocused, or flat out bad, unfocused, or flat out bad. spielberg has his usual good self, but can’t seem to get fully into the character, by that I mean you never see the character and simply see the actor, which in film terms, is a fail. There’s no way to do that.

Writers Matt Charman and the Coen Brothers screenplay is decent, but doesn’t have the special factor behind it to make it stand out amongst other films this year or period pieces in the century, this is rather hard to believe seeing the Coen’s talents at writing films like Fargo and No Country For Old Men.

The atmosphere of the Cold War is more forced than natural, set pieces indoors are absolutely ugly to look at and lit below 4/5. War themes and political tensions, interesting character shown, but performance and being the most overblown, the climax is not enough Matt Damon. Three plotlines go on in The Martian, easily the best storyline between the two together just seem not to bring that magic out and there wasn’t a clear payoff around them to make something special happen.

As a film itself, it could be viewed as a rather good one, just way too slow for its own good and watered-down as the only two major warnings. But with what we know Spielberg, Hanks, and company can do with each other, this goes beyond that as the film fails that with those standards that are save to have.

Is everyone in Hollywood entitled to that one film that doesn’t work out? Sure, not all art will be good or perfect, but it shouldn’t be that some are overpriced and some are overpriced along with the Hollywood landscape, but again, for a ten dollar ticket, this is not worth it, even for the Cold War enthusiast.

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Student Profile: Damion Futrell
by Ariel Swopes

Damion Futrell is a twenty year old sophomore here at Jeffco. His major is business, but Damion’s primary goal in life is to be an entertainer in the music business. He also wants to open up a dance studio to the local community. Damion is so determined, that every summer break he travels to Los Angeles to take dance classes, and connect with people to help him get closer to reaching his goal. Damion admires Usher the most when it comes to his career. He has hopes of working with great entertainers such as Usher of course, Chris Brown etc. Dancing isn’t just a hobby for him, it’s his life. Damion decided to come to Jefferson College because he wanted to have a backup plan, which will be his business degree. We all have dreams, and goals, but as you get older, you learn that some things don’t happen overnight. You have to learn to be patient. I always tell Damion that with patience comes blessings, and you were born a star. You just have to understand that there’s nothing wrong with seeking other directions in life, but when your time come it will be perfect timing. Damion is an incredible person, with a million dollar smile. Check out his dancing videos on Instagram. “I enjoy what I do, I truly believe I am gifted, and also follow me on Instagram to check out my videos @grilleddamion.”

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Back by popular demand!!!
The culinary arts students have been working hard creating our large selection of bottled vinaigrette salad dressings. These dressings are all made with 100% natural ingredients. All varieties are low calorie, fat free and gluten free. They are all intensely flavored and a tablespoon of dressing goes a long way. Samples are available. Try these dressings as a sauce on grilled chicken or fish. Small bottles (12.5 fl. oz.) are priced at $10 and Large bottles (25 fl. oz.) are priced at $15.

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