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# The *Clavion*

Produced by Students, for Students

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# Sinclair Bell Tower Rings In a New Semester

Samuel J. Claude  
*Managing Editor*

Since 1973, the bell tower of Sinclair Community College has stood proud over campus in Dayton, Ohio. It was originally dedicated by the Sinclair Alumni one year after the Dayton campus was built in 1972, however it didn't always chime on the quarter hour the way it does today. There was a time when the bell tower served a different purpose which it still actively serves to this day. A purpose many students may be unaware of.

Upon construction, the tower was originally designed as a smokestack to safely expel the exhaust from Sinclair's boiler system. It essentially acts as a chimney so to speak.

"We had to have a way of exhausting the boilers at the time." HVAC Systems Technician Adam Williford said, "the bell tower was actually designed to be a smokestack, not a bell tower per say." Despite popular belief, there actually is no true bell in the bell tower of Sinclair.

"There's not actually bells up there, there's a sound produced from a microsoft tablet and an amplifier."

Williford himself was there when the most recent speakers were mounted at the top of the tower, which is roughly 100 ft from top to bottom. For years, squirrels have scaled the tower and gnawed at the wiring connected to the speakers.



The Sinclair Bell Tower.

Source: Flickr/Sinclair

Williford's team took extra precaution when installing the latest speaker.

"When we put this system in some years ago, and those other guys went up to the top, I was sure to inclose all the wire inside sealed tight and weather-proofed enclosures so no weather nor animals could get to anything," Williford said.

The system in particular is the

touchscreen Verdin Sonata Carillon. With this touchscreen, Mr. Williford possesses access to every song and chime students hear echo from the tower. He organizes the order of songs as well as which are played. Classic tunes of old are played such as "Faith of Our Fathers," "Battle Hymn of The Republic" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee" to name but a few.

There have even been times where

the bell was rung in memorial or commemoration. In 2011, the bell was tolled for each of the 2819 victims of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

As stated above, the 'bell' rings on the quarter hour, however each ring has a certain meaning. Every four chimes represents 15 minutes. For example, at 12:30 p.m. the speaker will chime eight times. At 12:45 p.m., the speaker shall chime twelve times.

While the 'bell' of the tower itself may not serve a particular purpose other than to act as a glorified grandfather clock, students and staff seem to enjoy its quarter-hourly chimes and tunes. "A lot of folks on campus see it as a comforting sound," Williford said "It makes them feel a little more at home at Sinclair."

The chimes can take on several meanings varying from person to person. "I'm usually ok with it," writing student Kevin Healey said, "it's usually like when I'm about to go home."

Mr. Williford personally finds the bell chimes to be quite delightful. "I find it comforting," Williford said "The music that we play a lot of the times is the old style songs that you might hear in an old western or something like that."

# 13 Hour Stand-Off at Briarwood Apartment

Aysha Middlebrooks  
*Associate Editor*

On Friday, Jan. 3, The Dayton Police Department released a series of tweets advising locals to stay away from Briarwood Avenue and all its surrounding areas as a standoff between a man and multiple SWAT units remained in motion.

Beginning at 11 a.m. and ending at 12:15 a.m, the suspect, Derrick J. Lewis, held a woman and two children in his home as hostages while possessing an unspecified firearm. The woman is the mother of both children, one of which being Lewis' own son. The precise relationship between Lewis and his hostages remain unknown to the public during the present, as initially police officers were summoned to the apartment due to a weapons complaint.

Upon arriving to the 400 block of Briarwood Avenue, the officers attempted to take Lewis into custody. However, he used his weapon to fire at them. The shots were not returned by the police.

Afterward, Lewis then took the woman and two boys as hostages which prompted the SWAT response. Throughout the standoff, negotiators worked to get Lewis to release the hostages. Additionally, parts of Smithville and Radio Roads were closed throughout this duration of time while other apartments located in the area were evacuated with the assistance of RTA buses to transport them to safety.

Those inside the 400 Block were advised to stay in their homes or call the Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center for assistance in evacuating. All the while, The Dayton Police Department continued to inform other citizens of the situation through twitter usage.

The Dayton police went on to describe that an incident occurred which caused SWAT to enter the apartment in an attempt to try rescuing the hostages. Information on what this incident consists of has yet to be released, as they have only stated to Dayton Daily News that the situation escalated to a point where it was believed the three captives

were in imminent danger.

Dayton Police Major Christopher Malson also spoke to this outlet. He explained that when children and hostages are involved, SWAT units must be very careful to not provoke a violent response.

"It's a very tragic situation for them, especially the children, because they don't understand everything that's going on," said Malson. "They're with family, but they don't understand the danger of the situation."

Lewis was detained and the hostages were removed from the apartment without any injuries, but the Dayton Police still had a medic and psychologist

on scene to care for them.

As of Monday, Jan. 6, Lewis continues to be held at the Montgomery County jail for a bond of \$1 million. He is charged with having a weapon under disability, inducing panic, domestic violence, discharge of firearm charges, as well as felonious assault and kidnapping. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 14.

Malson acknowledged that this is one of the longest standoffs he has ever taken part in. The only one that lasted longer occurred 16 years ago for a total length of 18 hours.



A glimpse of the standoff as it took place.

Source: WHIO/Youtube



# Student Completes 150 Mile Cycling Adventure



Theodore Hale as he embarks on his journey.  
Source: Theodore Hale

Henry Wolski  
Associate Editor

Nora Stanger  
Contributing Writer

rock formations and coal mines, and reflected on it in an essay and powerpoint presentation.

“I came up with the idea for the journey during the second week of the course, when we were learning about American environmentalist John Muir, who walked from Indiana to Florida to personally connect with nature,” Hale explained, “I realized that while it would be much too difficult to follow Muir’s exact route, I could still connect with nature on a smaller scale, while incorporating my favorite hobby of bicycling.”

After waking to a 20-degree morning on Nov. 9, Hale left his home in Kettering and rode to Cincinnati. At 3:30 a.m. Nov. 10, he caught the Amtrak train from Union Terminal in Cincinnati to Prince, West Virginia arriving at 10 a.m. Although an avid cyclist, Hale had never ridden such roads as the winding mountainous region offered him. At one point the incline rose 1100 feet over a three-mile span.

“Although the climb lasted a seemingly interminable 45 minutes, I successfully completed the steep ascent without ever dismounting from my bicycle!” Hale states.

He then cycled past the small towns of Mount Hope and Glen Jean, before pedaling through woodlands to the small village of Thurmond, West Virginia. With a population of five people, Thurmond is marked with merely a post office and a visitor center. Once in Thurmond, Hale began backtracking his trip following the same roads to Prince.

Along the way Hale noted the extremes in the environment he was experiencing. He was surprised by the rough-hewn train tunnel that cut through the mountains and shocked by viewing the coal mines in action.

From the breathtaking beauty of the New River Gorge Bridge and the astonishment of the ‘falling rock’ caution signs, Hale was inundated with new experiences from a state he had never before visited.

“The neatest thing I saw on the journey was the gorgeous New River winding sinuously through the valley below the surrounding mountains,” Hale said.

Hale rode the Amtrak train from Prince back to Cincinnati arriving in the early morning of Nov. 11. After a brief nap at the home of a friend, Hale once again mounted his bicycle, riding from Cincinnati to his home in Kettering.

Hale considers traveling by Amtrak for the first time, a desire he’s had since early childhood, the feelings of accomplishment that came from climbing the mountainous terrain and earning credit for the class for all of the cities he cycled through as the highlights of his journey.

“Theo is a young man who exemplifies the tenacity and persistence of the Appalachian spirit,” Nora Stanger, Appalachian Outreach Coordinator said. “We here in the Student Affairs department are proud of you!”

While Hale enjoyed the journey and wouldn’t mind repeating it in the future, he plans on a whole new adventure for

August 2022, using his knowledge and experience of the Amtrak.

This time, he aspires to travel with Glenn Stoops, one of his closest cycling friends, to Independence Pass near Aspen, Colorado. Independence Pass is the highest paved road in the entire United States, towering at over 16,100 feet in elevation.

“The main purpose of the trip will be to allow Stoops to achieve his lifelong dream of cycling Independence Pass,” Hale explained, “and for us to commemorate the 10 year anniversary of our cycling friendship with an experience of a lifetime.”

“The neatest thing I saw on the journey was the gorgeous New River winding sinuously through the valley below the surrounding mountains...”



A photo of the New River winding through the mountains.

Source: Theodore Hale

Theodore Hale, a sophomore criminal justice major at Sinclair, combined his love of cycling and love for nature to develop an Honors Experience Project for HUM 1135: Environmental Ethics. Hale mapped out a 150-mile bicycle excursion through southwest Ohio and along the New River Gorge National River of West Virginia. He calculated the cost for the two-day trip to be \$200, then raised the funds on his own to complete the trek.

“I selected West Virginia not only because of its close proximity to Ohio, which made the journey much more viable, but also because West Virginia offers some of the most amazing scenery and backcountry in the United States,” Hale said. “I also selected West Virginia because of the ability to travel aboard the Amtrak Cardinal directly from Cincinnati, the closest passenger rail station to Dayton.”

The opportunity for Hale to connect to nature helped connect the journey to his class. He cycled past a wide array of natural resources, including rivers, trees,



# New Year, Same Fight: A Hong Kong Update



A sign stating one of the slogans of the protest.

LeAnne McPherson  
*Reporter*

The citizens of Hong Kong remain concerned regarding the removal of their civil liberties within their country. After weeks of relative calm, on Wednesday Dec. 31, the planned peaceful New Year’s Day march turned to violence within hours.

It was the second large-scale demonstration that the police authorized. Thousands of people had begun the day marching at Victoria Park in a protest named “Stand Shoulder to Shoulder.” They chanted “five demands, not one

less” and “liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times.”

They want the Carrie Lam administration to accept their demands; the biggest being an independent probe into police actions and universal suffrage. Hong Kong used to be a British colony that was promised different freedoms from the rest of China, though Britain returned the city to China in 1997.

The Civil Human Rights Front (CHRF), the event’s organizer, said over a million people had marched. The police estimate was lower, suggesting only 60,560 people had marched, causing official numbers to be unknown. Hours after it began, the police rescinded their permission, saying “thugs” had thrown bricks and petrol bombs, set fires, damaged banks and shops during the demonstration.

At least five people were arrested for vandalizing both a glass door and ATMs at two branches of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), a large pro-China bank in the city. It had recently shut down the Spark Alliance’s \$70 million account.

The CHRF told Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) that they condemned the officers for “forcing” them to end the march, saying that the police were “full of lies” about what was happening and, “aim

to separate Hong Kongers.” They say that after police arrested people “it was quite peaceful,” until they say the officers “simultaneously deployed tear gas.”

They called the police’s decision “absurd” and accused them of escalating tensions by firing tear gas at the crowd.

Protesters built barricades out of umbrellas and stones as the riot police shot water cannons and pepper spray. CHRF made a statement that until the protesters’ demands were met, “Hong Kongers shall not back down, and peace shall not resume with ongoing police brutality.”

Once night fell, protesters built more barricades, lit fires and fought the riot police. Several dozen people were arrested by the police in the Causeway Bay area; witnesses had said some of the people were just bystanders.

The world watches, wondering if the protesters have the strength to continue against their government which still says it won’t concede to the demands for democracy. It also wonders if Hong Kong itself can survive.

In November 2019, Hong Kong voted in electing pro-democracy politicians in a show of support for the protests. It was a strong rebuke to Communist Party officials in China. The vote caused the

long period of calm.

In a media briefing, Senior Police Superintendent Ng Lok-Chun stated that about 400 people had been arrested. Their charges included taking part in an illegal assembly and possessing weapons. He said the police had revoked the march’s permission because some protesters had “hijacked the procession” and “threw a petrol bomb at an officer.” He also stated, “the police were reluctant to terminate the march.”

This march intended to enlarge the movement’s scope, calling on people to both join labor unions and plan ahead for future strikes, as well as for educators who have links to the movement to resist in the face of adversity.

Hong Kong’s chief executive, Carrie Lam, has attempted to calm the protest to please her superiors in Beijing. On New Year’s Eve, Lam addressed Hong Kong in a video message.

“Let’s start 2020 with a new resolution, to restore order and harmony in society. So we can begin again, together,” she said. “We must handle the problems at hand and acknowledge the shortcomings in our systems as well as the deep-rooted problems and conflicts that have been accumulating for many years in our society.”

# United Methodist Church Split on LGBTQ Issues

Kayleigh DeLaet  
*Reporter*

On Friday, Jan. 3, the United Methodist Church announced a proposal to separate from the Traditionalist Methodist denomination over LGBTQ rights.

The proposal was prompted after a session of the church’s general conference February 2019, when 53% of church leaders voted to keep the ban on same sex marriage and LGBTQ clergy. Church officials also introduced harsher punishments against clergy who disregard these rules, including a one year suspension for the first offense and dismissal from the clergy for the second. The ban on same sex marriage and LGBTQ clergy has been a debate since

the founding of the United Methodist Church in 1968, but the measures introduced at the conference were enough to anger many progressive church members who feel all people should be represented and find acceptance within the church.

The proposal was first signed in December after conflicts within the church became unmanageable.

This proposal, signed by 16 church leaders from around the world, would enable the United Methodist Church to repeal the ban on same sex marriages and LGBTQ clergy. With the traditionalists separated from the church, they would have a real chance at enacting change.

“This would allow us to put a controversy to rest,” said Reverend

Tom Berlin, a pastor at the Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon, Virginia who signed the proposal. “The controversy itself has been a stumbling block toward our larger mission.”

The proposal will be voted on at the church’s general conference in May 2020.

The nine page proposal mostly focuses on the distribution of financial assets. Under this legislation, the church’s General Council on Finance and Administration would provide \$25 million to the newfound Traditionalist Methodist denomination over four years.

Additionally, if any new denominations were formed during this time, another \$2 million would be issued.

“Every other mainline denomination in the United States has faced this conflict,” says Reverend Keith Boyette, president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association who signed the proposal to represent the Traditionalist Methodists according to WUSF, out of Tampa Bay. “This agreement models how a conflict can be addressed in an amicable way.

The separation would be bittersweet, but each faction could move forward

unhindered by the other.”

By the end of 2024, local churches would have to decide if they wish to join the new denomination or remain part of the United Methodist Church. Any church who wishes to join a denomination separate from these two choices would maintain their assets and liabilities. Though the proposal has not yet been voted on, an Ohio clergyman serves as a beacon of hope.

Reverend David Meredith, an openly gay pastor at the Clifton United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, has withstood countless attempts to get him out of the church.

“When my husband and I made it legal, suddenly they had this piece of evidence, my marriage license, to get me.” Meredith told NPR.

However, Meredith is well loved within his church—both his supervisors and congregation are happy to have him. Though the Reverend may be constantly under investigation, together he and his community are fighting it.

“The United Methodist Church post-separation will be a place where the injury and harm of LGBTQ clergy and of LGBTQ couples, their families, their congregations and their communities will be removed.” Meredith told NPR, “part of that begins immediately.”



A street view of Floris United Methodist Church

Source: flickr



# After Missile Strike, No Side Pushes to Escalate

Quinton Bradley  
Contributing Writer

Following the missile strikes aimed at American bases in Iraq by Iran, in retaliation for the drone strike death of Iranian commander Maj. Gen. Qassim Suleimani, resulted in zero American or Iraqi casualties, both the U.S and Iran have announced that no further attacks are to be expected.

Shortly after the missile strike on the American-occupied Iraqi bases, Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif stated on Twitter that “We do not seek escalation or war, but will defend ourselves against any aggression,” and that “Iran took & concluded proportionate measures in self-defense...”

During a speech Wednesday morning, Trump said that in response to the attacks, further economic sanctions would be imposed on Iran but he assured that no military action will take place, saying that “The United States is ready to embrace peace with all who seek it.”

However, tensions still remain after this apparent cease-fire. On Thursday morning, in an effort to keep Trump’s military power in check in order to avoid further conflict, the House led a vote to require the president

to receive congressional approval before engaging in any further escalation with Iran. The vote was approved by 224 to 194 in the Democrat-led House.

Republican members of Congress were soured by the measure, with some of them characterizing the restriction on Trump’s military strength as “dangerous” and “unpatriotic.”

“...The introduction of this resolution,” said Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), “...sows doubt about America’s [military] resolve and makes war more likely.”

However, not all Republicans are entirely pleased with the President’s authorized assassination of Suleimani, as a classified

briefing presented on Wednesday by officials from the Trump administration left a few members of the GOP upset at the fact that lawmakers weren’t involved in the decision-making process in addition to the abrupt, out-of-the-blue nature of the drone strike.

““Drive-by notification or after-the-fact, lame briefings like the one we just received aren’t adequate,” said Utah Senator Mike Lee, who appeared angry after leaving the briefing.

With the threat of all-out military conflict on the horizon, the question of “What now?” remains on the minds of many. A report saying that the Ukrainian

plane crash on Wednesday was caused by an Iranian missile—with American and allied intelligence officials stating that the attack was most likely an accident, which suggests that the incident was a tragic by-product of the U.S.-Iran conflict—along with concerns about Iran potentially waging a cyberattack, still have many U.S. officials and their foreign allies on edge.

*Quinton Bradley is an Ohio-based writer. He runs a blog called Hammers and Papyrus and can be followed on Twitter @QBAbstract.*



A photo calling out the apparent Crisis of Iran.

Source: CNN/YouTube

# New Year, Same Drugs, Higher Price

Hannah Shafer  
Reporter

Within the first couple days of 2020, prescription drug prices have made their way up to just below a 10% increase in cost, with the average rise being 5%. A 5% increase may not seem like much but when people are already going deep into debt as well as dying over these prices, it adds up. While it is normal for the year to start with an increase in these prices, it’s important to ask whether these increases can be humanely justified.

The increase in cost for prescription drugs affects everyone differently. It depends on the type of insurance, type of drug, brand name, as well as urgency. According to Alex Azar, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, “drug companies claim that the annual list price hikes do not really matter” due to the rise being on the list price which is before the middlemen come in such as “pharmacy benefit managers and health insurers.”

Despite drug companies saying that the increases will not affect consumers, some insurance deductibles reset at the beginning of the year which is the same time as the price hikes.

What is the reason for these price increases? For starters, without there

being competition in the drug market, drug companies are able to charge virtually whatever they want considering people have to buy them anyway.

Cardiologist Dr. Kevin Campbell stated in an article in U.S.News that “in the case of insulin, the three name-brand makers actually filed a lawsuit to halt the development of generic bioequivalents.” These companies do not seem to be

concerned about the well being of the patients in desperate need of insulin, but rather how to make as much money as possible.

Another reason behind the price increase is that it allows pharmacy benefit managers direct profit. Pharmacy benefit managers decide which drugs are covered by certain insurance plans. They tend to cover drugs with a higher list price. Drug companies

make higher rebate payments on drugs with a higher list price. Rebate payments go to pharmacy benefit managers. If they choose to cover higher priced drugs, they make more profit.

The American healthcare system has largely become a business and it is shown through the creation of monopolies and desire for profit over wellbeing of consumers.



Prescription drugs such as these could be influenced by the increase of price.

Source: Flickr



# OUTBACK IN CRISIS: AUSTRALIA FIRES RAGE ON

Henry Wolski  
Staff Writer

The Australian bushfire season has seen 12 million acres burned, 2000 homes destroyed and 25 people and at least 480 million animals (estimated number by The University of Sydney) dead in the continent-spanning blaze that began in Sept. 2019 and doesn't appear to be ending soon.

There are 150 active fires with 64 of them uncontrolled in the state of New South Wales (NSW) according to its rural fire service center.

The fires have tinted southeastern skies an orange color and Melbourne, a city more than 100 miles away from the nearest fires, saw the skyline blanketed in smoke on Monday, Jan. 6.

The fires rage during a year where droughts were common in the country and a new temperature record was recorded twice, with an average of 41.9 C (107.42 F) recorded on Dec. 18.

Under these conditions, some fires in the area create enough heat to develop their own weather systems such as fire-generated tornadoes and thunderstorms.

While the bushfire season is typically devastating, scientists note that climate change is a factor in the rise of their intensity, allowing them to spread faster and cast a wider net throughout the country.

In addition, authorities have taken action against 183 citizens for fire-related offenses, including 24 people charged for allegedly deliberately lighting bushfires, a crime punishable by up to 21 years in prison in Australia.

The Insurance Council of Australia states that insurance claims reported have reached \$700 million Australian dollars (\$485 million U.S.) as of Jan. 7.

Currently, professional firefighters

and thousands of local volunteers fight to contain the blaze, though it is easier said than done. Bushfires spread rapidly and if proper

**Over 3,000 koalas have been injured or killed**



boundary lines aren't dug in its path, the ground the firefighters have to cover grows exponentially. Crews must also be diligent in

mopping up the flames, as an unchecked smoldering area can be reignited by the wind days or weeks after the initial blaze.

Additionally, the U.S., New Zealand, Canada and other countries are sending their firefighters for the

cause. Australian army, navy and air force reservists continue to aid those fighting the bushfires.

A navy ship was sent to rescue stranded residents of Mallacoota, a coastal town in the Australian state of Victoria, were cut off for days by fires that forced around 4,000 people to shelter on beaches over the weekend of Jan. 3.

On Jan. 6, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the creation of a \$2 billion (\$1.4 billion U.S.) bushfire recovery fund. Residents,

businesses and farmers will be compensated for the devastating losses suffered, such as destruction of property or livestock that were killed (the country's Federal Agriculture Minister estimates 100,000 sheep and cattle will perish).

"Whatever it takes, and whatever it costs, we will ensure Australians get the support they need to rebuild and recover from these bushfires," Morrison said, courtesy of NPR.

Morrison faces criticism for his handling of the situation, with accusations of not doing enough to help state officials, anger over his recent vacation trip to Hawaii and reluctance to take preventive action regarding climate change.

## Jeri's Jackpot: YOU'RE A MEAN ONE, MR. GRUNCH

Jeri Hensley  
Reporter

No, that's not a typo. While you might be thinking of the green hairy creature from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," we're instead going to talk about a different green creature. Imagine a Chupacabra. Then imagine that a canine-looking Chupacabra mated with a weird giant lizard and the Grunch is their baby. Sounds weird right? Well that's what makes the Grunch so interesting.

Formally known as the Grunch Road Monster, the Grunch is a legend of New Orleans. His origin story can vary based on who you ask. However the most common story is that during the creation of the city now known as New Orleans, the dwarves and albinos and other 'evil creatures' thought to roam the thickly wooded areas, retreated to live under a bridge. The group, unable to live amongst normal society, began to inbreed and thus, the Grunch was born. A creature of

pure rage and terror.

Eventually, the road became known as Grunch Road and for a long while everyone forgot about the creatures there. Then, farm animals and people began to go missing, as well as reports of strange creatures popping up and low and behold, the Grunch was blamed!

There's a rumor that if you travel along Grunch Road, you may find an injured deer. If you get out of your car to help the animal, the Grunch will attack you and drain your blood and devour your body.

A completely different origin story links the Grunch to Marie Laveau and the Devil Baby. The story goes that she accidentally created the Grunch when she castrated the Devil Baby to stop him from reproducing. The testicles became sentient and turned into a male and female Grunch, which then attacked the VooDoo Queen. When she awoke, the Devil Baby and the Grunches had disappeared.

Another tale states that anyone

bitten by the Devil Baby will turn into a Grunch when a full moon appears, much like a werewolf.

The Grunch is said to be very goat-like in appearance, with leathery scales and spines along its back, measuring in at roughly three to four feet tall, and has eyes that glow either reddish orange or bluish green, depending on the source. It drains its victim's blood and possibly organs through a single hole.

It's said that the Grunch can use tools, open doors and emits a low wolf-like howl or sometimes, a banshee-like scream. Some reports have said it can even talk in a low growl. The Grunch has an odor much like

Bigfoot as well.

Sightings of the Grunch can be traced back to the early 1800's with a drop off in the 1980's. It was revived in the 2000's, after Hurricane Katrina. People claimed to see them in droves after the Hurricane, eating from trash cans and chasing cats. One woman claimed it ate her neighbor's dog.

So does the Grunch really exist? No one may ever know. But a word of warning, if you ever go to New Orleans, keep your eyes keen for the wicked beast of green.





# TOP 5 FAVORITE FILMS OF 2019



Source: Flickr

**Richard Foltz**  
Executive Editor

## 5. Jojo Rabbit

Making a comedy about Hitler and the Nazis isn't exactly a "new" idea. Arguably the most famous silent film actor, Charlie Chaplin, did it right at the birth of WWII. That being said, Chaplin's film, "The Great Dictator," was seen as pretty controversial and radical at its given time.

Since then Hitler and his marching brigade have become the closest thing to pure evil on planet earth from a cultural standpoint. So then, to make a comedy about an obsessed Hitler fanatic who also happens to be a kid in grade school seems like a terrible idea.

Couple that with the resurgence of xenophobic ideals and Nazism, ala "the alt-right," and events like those at Charlottesville, San Antonio, among others, and in the modern culture suddenly Jojo, a young boy who's obsessed with history's most famous racist, and...well, yeah, it's kind of a hard sell.

But acclaimed director Taiki Watiti has long proved his ability at turning terrible ideas into some of the best films of their respective years; what with his New Zealander take on "Napoleon Dynamite's" middle-America schlocky weirdness, or a mockumentary about one of horror's most wrung-out antagonists, vampires, or making Thor, the most boring of the characters in the MCU genuinely likeable and quite hilarious.

The movie doesn't write off Jojo, or his racism. It definitely pokes fun at the ignorance and short-sightedness of such unfettered hatred, but it also explores why a young kid would flock to such messages with a reason that is inherently human.

That being said, the film doesn't let

the racism of any of the characters exist without some form of suitable punishment, but for its attempt at exploring the human side of hate, and the walk back from it, I think it does a better job than many other movies on the subject.

The film bursts with creativity and is a suitable antidote to the times and of the racism that has swept up many young men in the name of identity and a place to belong.

## 4. Parasite

"Parasite" is a movie that should be entered into without prior knowledge to the plot, beyond the surface level. The plot, although rather simple in its concept, is filled with twists and turns, both in terms of plot and characters.

For it is hard to know, at times, who to root for. A story about class, the film begins with a family in a basement apartment, a small slit of light shining into their apartment and their struggle to trick and swindle their way into jobs working for a wealthy family atop a hill.

I would delve further into the plot, as I think there are moments in the film that, despite their grotesque nature, are some of the year's most satisfying, especially in terms of their comment of social class structure and the frustration of the lower class but I don't want to spoil anything.

From his early genre work, Bong Joon-ho, the Korean-born film's director has made one great film after another with "Memories of Murder," "The Host" and "Mother" and then to his foray into English-language film with "Snowpiercer," and "Okja," Bong Joon-ho has had a nearly perfect career.

His film "Parasite," a taut, tense thriller with big important things to say about class and the ignorance of the other half is perhaps among his finest.

## 3. Midsommar

Breakups are hard. They're really, really hard and coming to the conclusion that somebody is bad for you is incredibly painful experience.

So, from Ari Aster, the man who made family tragedy ala the death of a grandparent/mother and the death of a sister/daughter feel like the most soul shatteringly frightening thing since the dawn of cinema, comes a movie about love and the agonizing exit at the end of a long-term relationship.

There is so much to say about this

movie that I'd love to say but I fear that revealing too much might soften the excruciating body blows that this movie lays on its viewer.

"Midsommar" is uncomfortable to watch, it's at times physically distressing and somehow it's also kinda cathartic and yet it does all of this in the bright of the midday sun, a rarity for horror films, something that somehow adds to the otherworldly, uncomfortable nature of everything.

I can't say much more about the film, it's like cleaning out a festering wound but somehow, by the film's end, I found myself smiling while holding back tears.

## 2. Knives Out

This feels like the type of movie Rian Johnson has been dreaming about making ever since he made a black and white short about a golf ball that murders people. (Yes, that is real.)

Knives Out is a whodunnit in the vein of all of the best of Agatha Christie but with a modern spin and flare that makes it feel somewhat timeless.

The characters, played by an amazing ensemble cast, are all well-drawn and can be summed up with considerable detail, a tough feat for a film with that many characters, some of whom share only a handful of minutes of screen-time.

There's been considerable backlash aimed at Rian Johnson as of late, particularly for his foray into a certain franchise that I won't mention here; a film in which I frankly enjoyed how it diverged from established canon and tone.

That being said, Rian Johnson has a particular style that is all his own. It's a bit uncanny, like Wes Anderson-lite, and somehow that serves the long but played out mystery genre well.

Plus, as an added bonus, "Knives Out" comments about our particular political climate in a clever, satisfying way that affected me considerably by the film's end.

## 1. Paddleton

The first day I watched Paddleton, I watched it twice. And no, this isn't the movie about the dapper British bear, it's the Netflix exclusive that was released last winter starring Mark Duplass and Ray Romano.

The film presents itself as a buddy travel-comedy, much in the vein of "Tommy Boy" or "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles." However where the movie succeeds and what

makes it one of the best films of the year is in what it has to say about friendship, true friendship and how utterly painful it can be to lose a friend.

Duplass plays a man with terminal stomach cancer who asks his friend, Romano, to accompany him on a trip to get the meds that will kill him, as they're sold quite a bit away for moral reasons.

It seems like a grim, depressing premise, and it is at times but it's also incredibly funny as Duplass and Romano, neighbors at an apartment complex who bond over kung fu movies and a game they've created called "paddleton" are genuinely likeable and feel like real, genuine friends who care for each other deeply and who are fun to be around.

Duplass and Romano play off each other well, switching from genuine playful joking to annoyance, to affection in such a natural way that their friendship is easy to sympathize with. This in turn makes you feel as if you're privy to the close emotional bonding of two people who genuinely need each other.

I won't say that the movie isn't hard to watch. When I first watched it, it hit me hard, especially the ending but it is an enjoyable movie and somehow, despite knowing the ending, it's considerably hard not to enjoy the ride up to that point, which makes the ending, all the more emotional.

The film goes to great lengths to create two likeable characters who have a truly genuine bond in order to express, perhaps better than I've ever seen, how important it is to have friends and how much of a weight humanity has on a given person.

*\*For a full top twenty "favorite films," plus honorable mentions, check out our website at <https://www.sinclairclarion.com>\**



Source: Flickr



# Sinclair Cares Counseling

Being in a relationship can bring wonderful and happy times. Unfortunately, sometimes they aren't happy and sometimes it's hard to know if something is a problem.

Healthy relationships help us feel good about ourselves. So why do many people end up in unhealthy relationships? We need to know what we want in a relationship and things that we do not want also.

Learn to look for Red Flags (warning signs) and Green Flags (positive signs) in any relationship and learn how to walk away from a relationship that is not healthy for you.

Join us on Thursday November 14 at 11am on the Building 8 stage to learn more about healthy and unhealthy relationships, signs to look for in relationships, and how to manage problems in healthier ways to have rewarding relationships in your life.

If you feel like you need to talk to someone about a relationship in your life, please come see us in Counseling Services. We offer free and confidential counseling to students. Most people can benefit from having someone to talk to outside of their friends and family. We are located in Building 10 Room 424 and our phone number is 512-3032.

*Counseling Services are available to help you with that. You can stop by our office at Building 10, Room 424 or call us at 512-3032 to set up an appointment.*



Contributed by Emily Hudson

# Ombuddy Corner

The Ombuddy welcomes you to spring term 2020. As the new year begins, let's remember to apply the 8 rules for a civil life:

- 1. Slow down and be present in your life.
- 2. Listen to the voice of empathy.
- 3. Keep a positive attitude.
- 4. Respect others and grant them plenty of validation.
- 5. Disagree graciously and refrain from arguing.
- 6. Get to know the people around you.
- 7. Pay attention to the small things.
- 8. Ask, don't tell.

The Ombudsman advocates for fair processes. To learn more, visit [www.sinclair.edu/ombudsman](http://www.sinclair.edu/ombudsman).

*The Ombudsman is your student advocate! To learn more, visit [sinclair.edu/ombudsman](http://sinclair.edu/ombudsman)*



# Your Voice

“What are you New Year’s Resolutions”



Photo by LeAnne McPherson

“

“Be more positive on the outlook of my future and to live every day without looking at the future too much.”

-Cheyenne Miller

Nursing

”



Photo by LeAnne McPherson

“

“Study a bit more”

-Lovie Anderson

Electrical Engineering

”

“

“Be more focused and patient and confident, especially in clinical.”

-Sam Hamilton

Nursing

”



Photo by LeAnne McPherson

“

“I don't really have a New Year's thing going on.”

- Amber Stone

Undecided

”

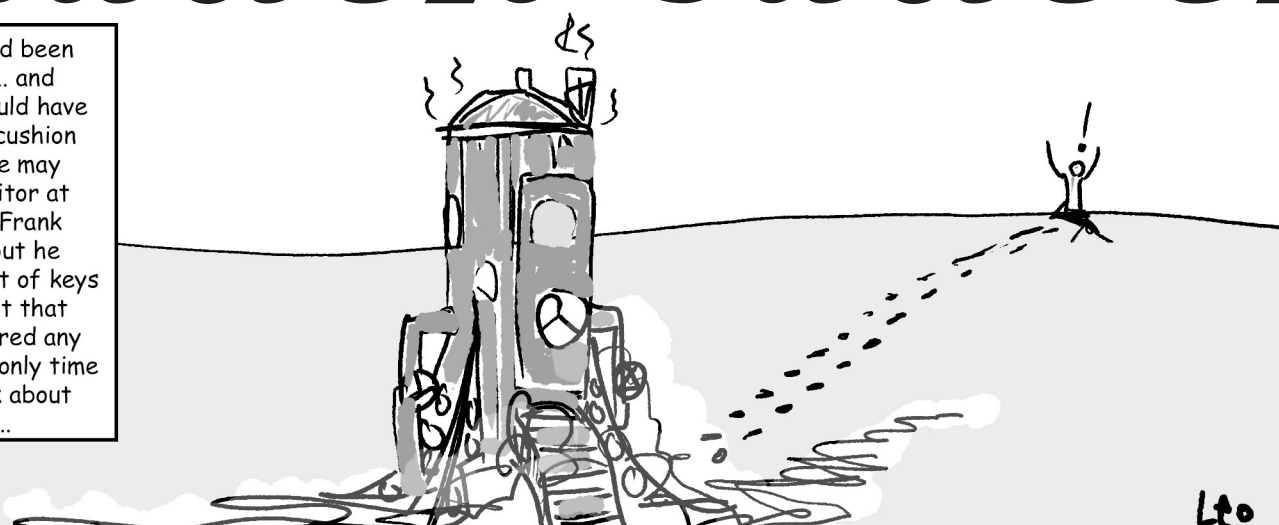


Photo by LeAnne McPherson



# Clarion Cartoons

Frank knew, he had been bested... by Gene... and that he never should have put that whoopie cushion on Gene's seat... he may have been the janitor at the cryogenic lab Frank was in charge of but he had a complete set of keys to the facility. Not that any of that mattered any more... there was only time for Frank to think about what he had done...



**A Prank too Far**

**Created by:  
Leo Walter**

## My Voice: New Year's Resolutions

Nikki Neumann  
Reporter

As the new year progresses, the resolutions everyone has once again promised themselves are getting harder and harder to manage. Many times people create new goals and resolutions at the end of the year to better themselves in the upcoming months. Creating goals gives individuals an idea of their desired future and what actions they have to take in order to get there.

Some people make a promise to themselves that may be a little extreme, like to lose 100 pounds or to not spend money on themselves. While others have low expectations and choose a goal they know they won't have to push themselves to reach.

In order to progress into a healthier and more positive lifestyle, everyone needs to keep their goals be realistic and attainable. Many goals that were once stated with positivity and high hopes in mind, have been banished to the bin of "try again next year." Many people don't understand that goals are made to be reached and can be updated once achieved.

Goals work best when there are silver linings. Once a small goal is reached there is a reward and a new goal will replace the previous goal that has been surpassed.

Creating achievable goals will have a better impact and will improve the desired lifestyle. The forgotten goals everyone once had at the beginning of January should be brought back to their attention

but modified into something that may be more achievable.

Creating achievable goals and easy goals are not the same thing. Creating a goal that has already been reached or can be reached without trying is not pushing the

individual but holding them at a standstill.

This will result in little to no progression. Creating goals is a fantastic idea and allows everyone the chance to feel accomplished and better about themselves. Achieving the desired goals will give

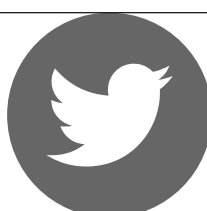
everyone a sense of accomplishment and creates a positive attitude within a person, making the accomplishment of future goals feel more achievable but be careful and be realistic with your goals or you'll only be hurting yourself.



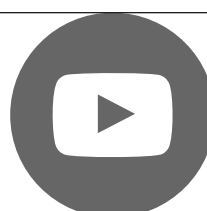
Source: Unsplash



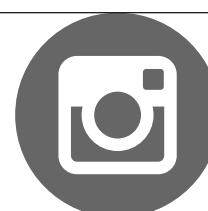
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King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Cleans the floors

5 Pouch

8 One of the Three Bears

12 Admitting customers

13 Time of your life?

14 Change for a five

15 Draped dress

16 Sailor

17 Western state

18 Deceptive

20 Melody

22 Lengthwise, to 16-Across

26 In spades

29 Actress Farrow

30 Mai – (cocktail)

31 Exceptional

32 Corral

33 Check

34 Film trickery, for short

35 One of the Brady Bunch

36 Cartoonist Trudeau

37 Everywhere

40 Surround

41 Attachments

45 Blunder

47 Rowing need

49 Help in crime

50 Padlock fastener

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
			22			23					24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37			38				39					
		40					41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

**DOWN**

1 Rolling stone's lack

2 Colorful fish

3 Graceful woman

4 Cold symptom

5 Attendant of Bacchus

6 – Khan

8 100 pence

9 Enemy of an "army"?

10 Shade of green

11 Shade of blonde

19 Plaything

21 Actress Merkel

23 Make corrections

24 Equitable

25 Wee

26 St. Louis landmark

27 Creche trio

28 Annoyingly proper

33 Numbers to be crunched

35 Cookie container

36 Deity

38 Ballerina in "Fantasia"

39 Ginormous

42 Last write-up

43 "Finding –"

44 Flight component

45 That girl

46 Fond du – , Wis.

48 Have something

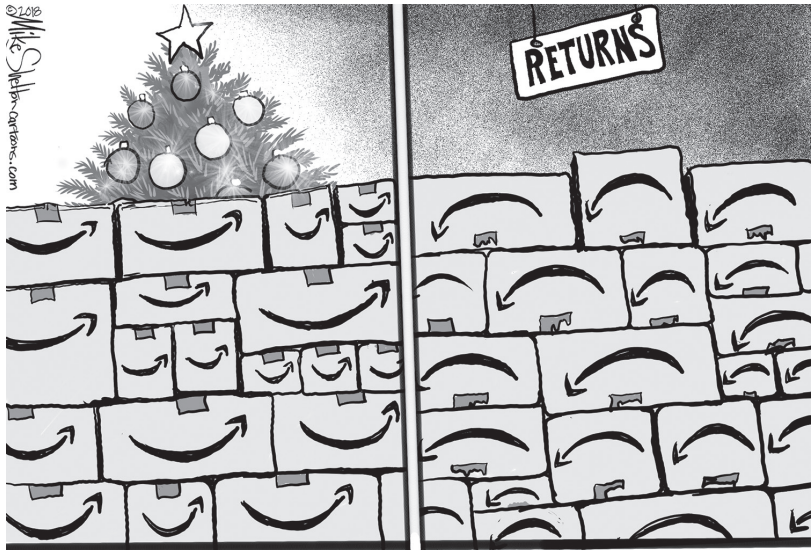
Poetry Pick

The Clarion is accepting student poetry submissions! Send us an email at [clarion.central@gmail.com](mailto:clarion.central@gmail.com) to submit your work.

Risk

And then the day came,  
when the risk  
to remain tight  
in a bud  
was more painful  
than the risk  
it took  
to blossom.

By Anais Nin



The night before Christmas... and the day after.

MAGIC MAZE ● SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME

R K H E B Y V N S P M N J H E  
B Y V T Q O L M O I G I D P B  
Y W T N Y R I P M N K L O I F  
D B K Y I E R W U S N R Q O M  
S T E P H E N F O S T E R K I  
F D R D D N T T B E D B L Z X  
W U N N I W H S R E G E E S S  
Q O O L O N A K N A L Y D L J  
S W P H F D C V A R C Y W V T  
N O M I S S E Q P N E C L K I  
J H F E C R B Z Y W V B M U S

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
- |           |          |           |                |
|-----------|----------|-----------|----------------|
| Anka      | Dylan    | McCartney | Sondheim       |
| Berlin    | Gershwin | Porter    | Stephen Foster |
| Bernstein | Joplin   | Seeger    | Wonder         |
| Denver    | Kern     | Simon     |                |

top ten

Google searches 2019

1. Disney+  
2. Cameron Boyce  
3. Nipsey Hussle  
4. Hurricane Dorian  
5. Antonio Brown  
6. Luke Perry  
7. "Avengers: End Game"  
8. "Game of Thrones"  
9. iPhone 11  
10. Jussie Smollett

Source: Google

Weekly SUDOKU

4				5		3		
	1		7		2		9	
		3			4			7
3		7		8			5	
	2		4			6		
1					5			2
	6			2			8	
		9			8			5
8			9			2	7	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.



# Horoscopes

## Capricorn: Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

Someone close to you might have a financial problem and seek your advice. If you do decide to get involved, insist on seeing everything that might be relevant to this situation.

## Aquarius: Jan. 20 – Feb. 18

A personal matter takes an interesting turn. The question is, do you want to follow the new path or take time out to reconsider the change? Think this through before deciding.

## Pisces: Feb. 19 – March 20

Moving into a new career is a big step. Check that offer carefully with someone who has been there, done that, and has the facts you'll need to help you make your decision.

## Aries: March 21 – April 19

Use that Arian charm to help make a difficult workplace transition easier for everyone. News about a long-awaited decision can be confusing. Don't jump to conclusions.

## Taurus: April 20 – May 20

Although you might well be tempted to be more extravagant than you should be at this time, I'm betting you'll let your sensible Bovine instinct guide you toward moderation.

## Gemini: May 21 – June 21

An opportunity for travel could come with some problems regarding travel companions and other matters. So be sure you read all the fine print before you start packing.

## Cancer: June 22 – July 22

Make an effort to complete your usual workplace tasks before volunteering for extra duty. Scrambling to catch up later on could create some resentment among your colleagues.

## Leo: July 23 – Aug. 22

A financial matter could have you rethinking your current spending plans. You might want to recheck your budget to see where you can cut back on expenses until the situation improves.

## Virgo: Aug. 23 – Sept. 22

One way to make your case for that promotion you've been hoping for might be to put your planning skills to work in helping to shape up a project that got out of hand. Good luck.

## Libra: Sept. 23 – Oct. 23

Be careful about "experts" who have no solid business background. Instead, seek advice on enhancing your business prospects from bona fide sources with good success records.

## Scorpio: Oct. 24 – Nov. 21

Standing up to support a colleague's viewpoint — even if it's unpopular — can be difficult if you feel outnumbered. But you'll win plaudits for your honesty and courage.

## Sagittarius: Nov. 22 – Dec. 21

While progress continues on resolving that recurring problem, you might feel it's taking too long. But these things always need to develop at their own pace. Be patient.

# Answers

## Trivia Answers

- One for all, and all for one
- Duane and Gregg
- Five
- Kuala Lumpur
- Vermont
- 1,000
- Sedimentary
- Gerald Ford
- Seven
- Seneca

## Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

4	7	2	8	5	9	3	6	1
6	1	8	7	3	2	5	9	4
5	9	3	1	6	4	8	2	7
3	4	7	2	8	6	1	5	9
9	2	5	4	1	7	6	3	8
1	8	6	3	9	5	7	4	2
7	6	4	5	2	1	9	8	3
2	3	9	6	7	8	4	1	5
8	5	1	9	4	3	2	7	6

## King Crossword

### Answers

### Solution time: 25 mins.

M	O	P	S		S	A	C		P	A	P	A
O	P	E	N		A	G	E		O	N	E	S
S	A	R	I		T	A	R		U	T	A	H
S	H	I	F	T	Y		T	U	N	E		
			F	O	R	E	A	N	D	A	F	T
A	M	P	L	Y		M	I	A		T	A	I
R	A	R	E		P	E	N		R	E	I	N
C	G	I		J	A	N		G	A	R	R	Y
H	I	G	H	A	N	D	L	O				
		G	I	R	D		A	D	D	O	N	S
S	L	I	P		O	A	R		A	B	E	T
H	A	S	P		R	I	G		T	I	M	E
E	C	H	O		A	L	E		A	T	O	P



1. **LITERATURE:** What is the motto of "The Three Musketeers" in the 19th century novel?

2. **MUSIC:** What were the first names of the Allman brothers?

3. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** New York City is divided into how many boroughs?

4. **GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of Malaysia?

5. **HISTORY:** Which was the first U.S. state to be admitted to the union after the original 13 states were admitted?

6. **MATH:** What is the first number in which the letter "a" appears in its spelling?

7. **GEOLOGY:** What kind of rock likely would form at the bottom of a river?

8. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president once worked as a fashion model?

9. **MOVIES:** How many people were killed in the 1996 movie "Scream"?

10. **AMOUS QUOTATIONS:** Which ancient Roman philosopher once said, "Every new beginning comes from other beginnings' end"?

"If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success." - James Cameron

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# 20 Years in the Making: ‘This is the XFL,’ Again



Vince McMahon making an XFL announcement.

Source: YouTube/ESPN

David Jacobus  
Staff Writer

“This is the XFL!” was the first statement shouted by WWF/E (World Wrestling Federation/Entertainment) promoter and XFL owner Vince McMahon before the debut game of the XFL in 2001. The XFL was a 50-50 venture created by NBC & WWF/E which the two set to combine and revolutionize football. NBC at the time was once the leader of sports and entertainment, but lost the rights to cover the NFL. The XFL was a football league created in 2000 which promised to be the polar opposite of the NFL (National Football League) by bringing the hard-hitting, smash-mouth football to America. However, what it brought was vulgarity, scandalous women and poorly played football which ultimately led to the demise of the XFL in 2001. Since Vince McMahon announced the XFL will relaunch in February 2020, speculation has begun regarding the probability of its success or failure. Will the XFL overcome their history and overcome the stigma that was created in 2001?

In February 2000, the XFL was announced to launch in one year’s time. There was no TV deal, no teams, no players but the announcement went forward. Wrestling fans know exactly who Vince McMahon is and the craziness he can bring. However, on the other hand, football fans who know nothing about wrestling or Vince began wondering how this outrageous idea was really going to be able to compete right away with the NFL? As time ticked on towards the first kickoff, the XFL continued to create headlines, sometimes not in the best ways. For example, during the 2000 AFC Championship Game in Oakland, the XFL flew a blimp over the game attempting to create attraction from the NFL audience. However, the XFL Blimp became the center of attention, by crashing into a restaurant. Nobody was injured during the accident but this gave an omen for the future of the XFL. The XFL would go on to establish teams and rosters: N.Y./N.J. Hitmen, L.A. Extreme, S.F. Demos, Las Vegas Outlaws, Birmingham Bolts, Orlando Rage, Memphis Maniax, and Chi.

Enforcers. The teams had a little over four weeks to practice before the first game. The XFL promised to bring the fun and excitement that the NFL was failing to bring. The first game brought in a record 9.5 rating on NBC which skyrocketed Saturday night’s primetime ratings by 86% at the time. The excitement and anticipation reached an incredible high. With the up and close action the XFL brought with the skycam, on-field cameras and the players having live microphones, the XFL introduced the world to new technologies that revolutionized the game of football. However, the gaudy cheerleaders, the dangerous mentalities, a bizarre rivalry between announcer Jesse Ventura & coach Rusty Tillman and lackluster football were all things that could not keep the ratings up. From the week 1 kickoff, ratings plummeted over 50% week 2 and continued to fall as the season went on. The XFL attempted to draw ratings with scandalous acts like sending a cameraman into the cheerleader’s locker room, but it was all an act.

The season concluded with the Million Dollar Championship game which the L.A. Extreme defeated the S.F. Demons 38-6. This was to this date the last XFL game in existence. The XFL shut down operations at the end of the 2001 season and the WWF/E and NBC both lost over \$50 million. 17 years later in January 2018, Vince McMahon and Alpha Entertainment resurrected the XFL. This XFL is a complete transformation from the first go round with a new: staff, roster, coaches, rules, locations and teams. The new teams are the: St. Louis Battlehawks, Seattle Dragons, N.Y. Guardians, Houston Roughnecks, Tampa Bay Vipers, Dallas Renegades, L.A. Wildcats and D.C. Defenders. The teams have had much, much longer than a month and a half

to practice with their rosters. The XFL has also gained TV rights to air their games on Fox Sports, ABC and ESPN starting February 8. The XFL has drawn much anticipation and suspense heading towards the inaugural kickoff. Will the people change their view of the XFL from nearly 20 years ago? Will the new XFL create a new image and lead to a year two?

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