

VOLUME 44 - EDITION 3

The Clarion

Produced by Students, For Students



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PG. 16**



DECEMBER 1 - JANUARY 10

FREE!

NAUGHTY OR NICE? (STAFF LIST)

EXECUTIVE EDITOR/CREATIVE DIRECTOR

JERI HENSLEY

MANAGING EDITOR

HARLEY JOHNSON

REPORTERS

SARA COLLINS

DIANE SIKORA

ALEX CUTLER

DESIGNERS

JULIO PITALUGA JR.

ANTHONY DIETZ

MATHEW FLANAGAN

DANIELLE WILLIAMS

PHOTOGRAPHERS

ALIYAH BING

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

RACHEL ROSEN

MARKETING

LURA LANDOLL

INTERNS

JAMARIO BROWN-TOLLIVER

NICK THOMAS

MARQUIE PEYTON

ADVISOR

JESSICA GRAUE

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

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DECEMBER EVENTS: DAYTON/SINCLAIR

Sinclair December Events

Sinclair Talks: Holidays Around the World

Dec. 1, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Building 8 stage or Zoom

Winter Wonderland

Dec. 2, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sinclair Dayton Campus Building 8, Gymnasium

In-Person Secure Your Future

Dec. 2, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Sinclair Dayton Campus

Exhibit: American Indians: Where'd They Go?

Dec. 7- Dec. 9

Library, Room OL721

Tartan TOPS Open House

Dec. 13, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Building 3, Room 142

Dayton December Events

Holiday Art Jumble

Thursdays through Sundays, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

An Evening with David Sedaris

Dec. 1, 8 p.m.

Victoria Theatre

Angel Night: An Evening of Song & Celebration

Dec 2, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Location: 1625 Calvary Dr., Calvary Cemetery

St. Helen Christmas Bazaar

Dec 4, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

5086 Burkhardt Road

United Rehabilitation Services Annual Telethon

Dec. 5, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WDTN-TV Channel 2

Christmas Vacation - Dayton Dinner Theater

Dec. 5, 6 p.m. to 9:10 p.m.

905E 3rd St

Holly Days at the Dayton Arcade

Dec. 7 through Dec. 9, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

35 W. Fourth St

Deed Carillon Concert

Dec. 7, 10 a.m.

Carillon Historical Park

Bach's Lunch at The Loft Theatre

Dec. 10, 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

126 N Main St

Dickens of a Christmas in St. Anne's Hill: Holiday Tour

Dec. 10 through Dec.12.

817 McLain St

Mistletoe Magic Holiday Marketplace

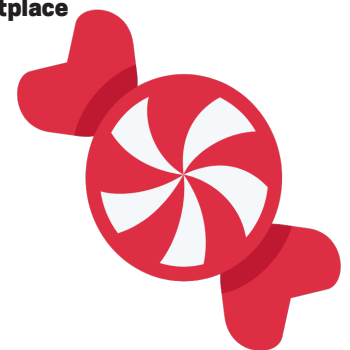
Dec.11 through Dec.12

645 Infirmary Rd

Cirque Dreams Holidayze

Dec. 24, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Victoria Theatre



FOOTBALL AND CHRISTMAS

NFL games on Christmas don't happen every year. The first game on Christmas was in 1971 when the Dallas Cowboys faced off against the Minnesota Vikings and won 20-12. Since then there have been only 20 games played on Christmas Day. Here are some of the more notable Christmas Day games.

"Not many games are played on Christmas each year but when they are, I am definitely surrounded by family watching the games," said Joey Greene, a football fan.

The first game was when the Philadelphia Eagles played the Dallas

Cowboys in 2006. The Eagles and the Cowboys are a top rivalry in football. The Eagles were able to beat the Cowboys 23-7 and after the game, as Jeff Garcia was running off the field, he stuck his tongue out at all the Cowboys fans in the stands. This game helped the Eagles get into the playoffs.

The second game was a matchup of the Kansas City Chiefs versus the Denver Broncos in 2016. This game was a divisional battle, meaning that there is a little rivalry here too. The Chiefs dominated that game, beating the Broncos 33-10. The tight end for the Chiefs, Travis

Kelce, had a record-breaking performance with 11 receptions, 160 receiving yards, and one receiving touchdown.

The third game was the Los Angeles Chargers versus the Tennessee Titans in 2009. This matchup ended up being a battle of the running backs. In 2009, the Chargers were still in San Diego. The Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson had 61 scrimmage yards and two touchdowns, and their other running back Darren Sproles had three touchdowns (two rushings and one receiving). The Titans running back Chris Johnson had 142 rushing yards and one touchdown. In the end, the Chargers won the game 42-17.

The fourth game was between the Minnesota Vikings and the Cincinnati Bengals in 1989. In this game, there were two Christmas Day records set. The Bengals quarterback Boomer Esiason threw for 367 passing yards and the Vikings defensive end Chris Doleman had four sacks. The Vikings pulled

off the victory with a score of 29-21.

The fifth game was a battle between the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears in 2011. This is another game between two divisional teams. Aaron Rodgers of the Packers set a record for most touchdown passes on Christmas Day, with a total of five. With that record, the Packers won the game 35-21.

This year there happens to be two NFL games on Christmas. The first game is the Cleveland Browns versus the Green Bay Packers at 4:30 p.m. and the late game is the Indianapolis Colts versus the Arizona Cardinals at 8:15 p.m.

Nick Thomas

Intern



SINCLAIR PRESENTS: CHARLIE BROWN

This December Sinclair Theatre is presenting “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” a retelling of the classic holiday TV special.

According to Sinclair’s Theatre page it was, “first shown as an animated television special based on Charles M. Schulz’s Peanuts characters in 1965, this faithful stage adaptation features Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the rest of the gang as they grapple with the meaning of Christmas. With colorful costumes and scenery, this 40-minute production is quickly becoming a family holiday tradition and offers a perfect introduction for young children to LIVE theatre.”

Gina Neuerer, Sinclair’s Theater Department Chair, said Sinclair has done the show for 6 years and she loves how it gives back to the

community. They have never raised the price from an affordable \$8, and it is free for people who live in adult care homes to make it as accessible as possible. They also have sign language shadow interpreters on stage standing next to the actors, for select performances.

There are eight showings of the play on the following days, also any show with an asterisk next to it indicates it’s an American Sign Language interpretation performance:

- Thursday, Dec. 2 at 12 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 3 at 12 p.m.*
- Saturday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.*
- Sunday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m.* & 4 p.m.*

Tickets are on sale now, and can be purchased at sinclair.brushfire.com/events/.

Rachel Rosen

Reporter/Social Media Coordinator



YOUR VOICE: HOLIDAY WISHES

Everybody usually has a New Year’s resolution along with plans for the holidays, especially now that COVID is numbers are going down. Here are some of the resolutions of Sinclair Students.

What are your Christmas Wishes/ New Year’s Resolutions?

Josh Drinnon: Art Major

“So as far as Christmas wishes, I would have to say I always want to make sure my friends and family are happy and healthy. I also want them to know how much they mean to me and how important they are to me. I also always wish for a million dollars, even though that is a given. Then, for New Year’s resolutions, I always resolve to lose weight and try to be healthier. I also always try to be a better family member and a better friend. Lastly, I resolve to

try and win a million dollars.”

Laurie Guirand: Bachelor of Science in Accounting Major with an Associate of Arts

“This one is silly but for one of my New Year’s Resolutions I would like to always put my debit card back in my wallet, it would save me so much stress putting things back where they belong. Another resolution is I would like to go to the gym two to three times a week on top of journaling to make myself aware of my body and feelings. My last resolution is I would like a promotion at my job. While working here, I’ve learned that I’d like to work on being

promoted to a full-time banker and while doing that and in school, I’d like to finish off working within Fifth Third’s marketing team which is based in

Cincinnati.”

Sydney Watkins: Social Work Major

“My Christmas wishes this year are to spend as much time with my family and make memories with my three-year-old daughter by trying elf on the shelf and coming up with good ideas to keep her imagination going, and for my new year’s resolution I want to be able to buy a new car this year along with completing my first year of college.”

With the semester coming to an end, there is still plenty of time for people to come up with their resolutions in time for the New Year.

Marquie Peyton

Intern

HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS TREES

When it comes to the origins of Christmas trees, most people would assume it was a tradition that goes back to the Bible, but this is indeed false. Christmas trees date back to Germany in the 1500s. Germanic tribes would use them for their pagan rituals but there have been claims suggesting the Christmas trees go back to Latvia. Some claim that Saint Boniface created the very first Christmas tree in the early seventh century.

Pagan Roots

Christmas trees have a pagan origin. During the

centuries before Christ, various cultures would bring evergreen trees, plants, and leaves into their houses during the winter solstice which occurs between Dec. 21 and Dec. 22.

The Egyptians took great value in evergreen, seeing them as signifying life's triumph over death. They would also take green date palm leaves into their houses during the winter solstice.

During the mid-1500s, the Germans started utilizing Christmas trees as a meaning of hope for the beginning of spring. The practice possibly slowly evolved

from pagan rituals to the Christmas tradition.

Timeline of Christmas Trees

In 1510, the first record of a decorated tree was in Riga, Latvia. Men from the local merchant's guild would decorate a Christmas tree with a man-made rose then dance around it in the market area, setting the rose on fire.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, this practice was used for many years and is determined to be an insignia for the Virgin Mary.

By the 1600s, there was a practice in Germany to decorate Christmas trees with apples. This tradition was considered a holdover from the 14 and 15 centuries when evergreen boughs hung with the apples in what was known at the time as miracle plays. The plays were used as a form of biblical education to Germany's

illiterate population.

In the 1800s, Christmas trees were brought to the U.S. by German immigrants. A man named Franklin Pierce is given credit for being the first individual to bring the first Christmas tree to the White House in the 1850s.

Earlier in the late 1800s, the first glass decorations were brought to the country by the Germans. The first ornaments were glass balls, and later in coming years, it would be chains of these glass balls, then toys and figurines becoming the norm.

Jamario Brown-Tolliver
Intern



THE RACE AGAINST THE CLIMATE CRISIS

For the past couple of years, the world's population has heard of the so-called "climate crisis" and how it has already been affecting nature, ecosystems, and human life. The climate crisis has gone by other names throughout the years like "global warming" and "climate change" but in reality, it is all the same thing; a race against time before everything on Earth as people know it faces irreversible damage, to put it briefly.

The climate crisis has been around for years, but as another year goes by the crisis has gotten worse. Effects of the climate crisis are rising temperatures and sea levels, changes in weather patterns, droughts and heatwaves, stronger hurricanes, and melting ice caps, but this is only the beginning.

Many of these effects are

slowly becoming more of a reality in today's society but scientists predict that Earth will cross a dangerous heat threshold as early as 2027. These high temperatures can be extremely dangerous for not just humans, but wildlife.

In fact, the effects of climate change are affecting every country in some way. For instance, Madagascar is already seeing effects on not just humans but also wildlife due to the effects of climate change. The biggest effect being a nationwide climate-induced famine. The climate has gotten so bad for the environment that it's disrupting ecosystems.

Terms like "climate change," "global warming," and "climate crisis" have been around for a while, and while many know the meaning of these terms and potential threats, not everyone believes in them.

According to a poll ran by VICE News and Guardian, 45% of Americans don't believe that humans have had any cause in climate change. This means that 45% of Americans don't think there is any correlation between human activity and global warming.

The thing is, this isn't a problem that affects just Americans, but people from all countries. This may be why people are starting to hear more about country leaders attempting to address the problem.

From Sunday, Oct. 31 through Friday, Nov. 12, the United Nations (UN) held the 2021 Climate Change Conference, where many country leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, attended, to talk about the effects of climate change and come to an agreement on what needs to happen in order to prevent any further damage.

Biden, who has made promises on fighting climate change in the past, made many points during the conference about how it shouldn't be a problem for future generations but instead one that needs to be tackled today. He also stated his plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions "50-52 percent below 2005 levels in 2030." These are just a few of the things in Biden's plan to fight climate change.

The thing is, people can't just rely on Biden and our governments, both state and federal, to help stop the effects of climate change from getting worse. There are many things people can do that, while they may be small, can have huge effects.

- Limiting pollution in the air - either carpool to work, use public transportation, walk, ride a bike, or switch to a hybrid or electric car.
- Limiting land pollution - recycling is the easiest thing to do for this or switching to more sustainable products like a reusable water bottle or a bamboo toothbrush.
- Consider a vegan or vegetarian lifestyle.
- Plant a tree.

Climate change is becoming more of a threat to Earth each day, but if everyone plays their part, it can be a fight we can win.

Harley Johnson
Managing Editor



THE TRUE MEANING OF HANUKKAH

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is arguably the most well known Jewish holiday there is. I have even been asked if it is the only Jewish holiday when, in fact, it is a very minor one. My non-Jewish friends rarely wish me a happy New Year on Rosh Hashanah, it's hard enough to get the day off school or work, but I can guarantee that everyone will be wishing me a "Happy Hanukkah" days after the holiday has already ended. For example, Hanukkah begins early this year on Nov. 28 and ends on Dec. 6.

Every year, always beginning weeks too early, much of the Western World is chock-full of Christmas decorations, holiday marketing campaigns, fairy lights, Santa Claus, and an entirely specific genre of music. More and more you will see a little bit of Judaism sprinkled into this; an electric menorah here, a dreidel pillow there, a small section of blue and white decorations in a store of red and green. Some may consider this progress and inclusivity but in reality, it goes against the meaning of Hanukkah itself.

In the first century BCE, the Greek King Antiochus IV had control over the Kingdom of Judea, AKA Jewish people. He outlawed Judaism and made the religious practice a criminal offense. Jews

were forced to worship Greek gods. Antiochus built an altar to Zeus in the Jewish Holy Temple that stood in Jerusalem and sacrificed pigs, an un-kosher animal, on the altar. These horrible offenses to the Jewish people and their religion resulted in a revolt led by Matisyahu the Maccabee (the English version of his name is Mattathias), and later his son Judah. The Maccabees were the Jewish rebels. After two years of warfare, the Maccabees were able to defeat the Greek army.

Legend has it that when the Maccabees returned to their temple, they only had enough oil to light the menorah for one night but it miraculously burned for 8 days.

Hanukkah commemorates a historical event that took place two centuries after the events that commemorate other Jewish holidays, which are taken from the Torah (the Jewish Bible).

The real meaning of Hanukkah is fighting for your religion from people trying to take it away from you. It is about resisting assimilation, which is the process of a minority group shedding their traditional customs, traditions, and beliefs in order to fit into the mainstream majority. Assimilation is often

done in order to avoid discrimination and even persecution.

As you can see, gift-giving plays no part in the story of Hanukkah; there were no such things as Hanukkah presents until the 1900s. When American Jews saw the rise of the custom of gift-giving on Christmas, they did not want their own children to feel left out. Plus, what better way to celebrate an 8 day-long holiday than to give a gift every night? So Jewish people assimilated to the Christian tradition of giving gifts every winter. There is a definite irony there, and the perception of Hanukkah for non-Jewish people became sort of a Jewish version of Christmas.

Now blue 'Hanukkah lights' are hung and dreidels are sold alongside Christmas ornaments, when it makes no sense to celebrate Hanukkah this way. The true meaning of the holiday has been lost. Hanukkah is a beautiful holiday outside the context of Christmas. Christmas is fun and its own thing; many Jews enjoy taking part in Christmas traditions, including myself. Hanukkah is about finding light in the darkest time of year, remembering the long and beautiful tradition of the Jewish people and how we have prevailed, again and again, over efforts to outlaw our religion, end our

traditions, and even murder us.

It is frustrating when Rosh Hashanna, Yom Kippur, and Passover are not recognized or given any attention at all by non-Jews, but Hanukkah is. I don't want ugly Hanukkah sweaters or plush menorahs; I want to be able to take days off in September to go to synagogue without shame and misunderstanding. I want teachers and organizations to take the Jewish calendar into consideration when scheduling tests, due dates, or events. All of the fanfare around Hanukkah essentially means nothing when there is no real understanding of the holiday or Judaism itself.

So if you are making a note to wish your Jewish friends a Happy Hanukkah this year, please make sure it's actually during Hanukkah, and remember that we celebrate holidays throughout the entire year--just like everyone else.

Rachel Rosen

Reporter/Social Media Coordinator

HISTORY OF KWANZAA

Every year people all over the world celebrate the holiday season in different ways. Kwanzaa is just one of the many holidays celebrated.

Kwanzaa is celebrated every year from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 and has only been around since 1966 after being invented by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chairman of Africana Studies at California State University.

It is a holiday used to express African American culture and heritage and participating in a gift exchange with loved

ones, along with a dinner.

Kwanzaa has seven different core values, or what is also called “Nguzo Saba.” The first one is to aim to maintain unity among friends and family, the second value is self-determination. The third core value is collective work and responsibility, the fourth is cooperative economics which is defined as: “To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together”.

The fifth value is the purpose which

is defined as: “To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.” The sixth value is Kuumba, or creativity. Kuuumba can be described as “To always do as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.”

The last core value of Kwanzaa represents Imani or Faith, which translates to: “believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.”

Since Kwanzaa lasts seven days, there are seven core symbols that get incorporated into the weeklong celebration.

Kwanzaa’s seven core symbols include: Mazao or what Americans know as crops, Mkeka or place mat, Muhindior or an

ear of corn, Mishumaa Saba or The Seven Candles, Kinara or the candleholder, Kikombe Cha Umoja which translates to the Unity Cup, and the final core symbol is Zawadi or gifts.

Each one of the symbols has a meaning behind them and why they are important to not only the holiday but also to African culture.

A key custom during Kwanzaa is the daily lighting of the Kinara. There are seven candles that get lit each day of the holiday celebration. The candle colors are black, green, and red which all represent the symbols previously mentioned.

Marquie Peyton

Intern



CLASS TO MAKE EXHIBIT ON OHIO NATIVE AMERICANS



Professor Heidi Arnold and fourteen students from her small group communications class will be putting on a new exhibit in honor of America's Native people. The exhibit will be made up of three different parts created by three groups from the class. The exhibit will have both maps and

artifacts from Native American culture.

The first of the three groups will be doing a broader scope on tribes across the Americas. Four signature components will be making up this first segment of the exhibit. Three maps: 1890s to today, the map

of regression of Native American regions, and the original regions and trade routes. The fourth component will be a timeline to go follow the maps provided.

The second of the three groups will be providing more maps on a smaller perspective of tribes around Ohio. This group will have two maps to show the difference between the current day and the past. They are also hard at work to provide information on how unrecognized tribes are trying to become recognized again in Ohio.

The final group will be showing the life of the Native American woman before colonization compared their lives today. This group will be doing a powerpoint and have photos along with their timeline.

While this looks like a lot of maps, photos, and timelines, there will also be artifacts that are being donated for the three-day exhibit by Victoria Tyler. Victoria Tyler is a part of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

Professor Arnold will also be contributing to the exhibit: "I will be providing some of the United States Poet Laureate's poetry as she is our first Native American Poet Laureate." The Poet Laureate of the United States, since 2019, is Joy Harjo.

This exhibit will be on campus Dec. 7 through Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the library room OL721.

Sara Collins
Reporter



BEST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN DAYTON

With the holiday season in full swing, it is the perfect time to celebrate by taking part in one of the world's most cherished Christmas traditions: looking at Christmas lights. If you or your family are looking to check out some lights in the Dayton area, here are some worth checking out.

Clifton Mill

One of the most famous Christmas light fixtures around, Clifton Mill has been a mainstay for many Ohio families for years. The mill, built all the way back in 1802, has a rich history of its own besides the lights. Their website states that they are one of less than 100 water-powered grist mills still in use today. To create their beautiful display, more than 4 million lights are put up to decorate the buildings, bridges, and even a 100-foot waterfall. Starting Nov. 26, the light display runs until Dec. 30, so make sure you don't miss this

event. Admission is free for anyone under the age of 3 and is \$10 for anyone older. You can find the Mill at 75 Water St, Clifton, OH 45316.

Carillon Christmas

Starting Nov. 23 and running until the end of the year, Carillon Historical Park has another major Dayton event in celebration of the holiday season. Their website boasts they have over 15 miles of Christmas lights, some of which decorate the iconic Deeds Carillon tower. Alongside the lights, families can visit Santa Claus, eat a ton of Christmas treats, and see "The Steadfast Tin Soldier Puppet Show." You can find the park at 1000 Carillon Blvd. in Dayton. The price for admission is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children.

drive-thru event runs from 6-9 p.m. nightly.

These are just a few of the many Christmas lights events held all around Dayton, Ohio. If none of these events catch your eye, your family can drive through your own neighborhood and look at all the amazing light displays people put out every year.

Alex Cutler

Reporter

ParkLights at Caesar Ford Park

For those who are hesitant to attend crowded in-person events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are still options for you and family. One of these is the Parklights at Caesar Ford Park, located at 520 South Stringtown Road in Xenia. This free event runs all December long, and anyone can drive past the fixtures the park has to offer. This



HE SEES YOU WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING: KRAMPUS

Everyone knows about Santa Claus, and how he gives good boys and girls toys but what happens to the naughty children? That responsibility falls to Krampus, Santa's evil counterpart. Half goat and half-demon, Krampus punishes the naughty children of the world around Christmastime, according to old European legends. He became associated with Christmas and Santa Claus, as much as the Catholic church tried to ban him. Krampus is said to beat bad children

with sticks and branches, but some myths have him eating them or taking them to hell. The myth states that naughty children are visited by Krampus on Krampus Night or Krampusnacht, on December 5. His name is derived from the German word *krampen*, meaning claw. He has horns like those of a ram, and a snake-like tongue.

There are various festivities surrounding Krampus, such as the *Krampuslauf*, or Krampus Run, where people dress as creatures and parade through the streets, often being chased. This event usually involves alcohol. These events became increasingly popular in the late 20th

century as an effort to preserve cultural heritage in Germany and Austria. The Krampus Run may get its origins from the pagan ritual known as *Perchtenlauf* which was a procession in which people would dress up as a two-legged goat figure known as Perch.

Krampus is said to be the son of Hel from Norse mythology. Other iterations of Krampus include Belsnickle and Knecht Ruprecht in some Germanic regions, and Hans Trapp and Pere Fouettard in France. Krampus is thought to be the balance to Santa Claus, punishing those on his 'naughty list' in response to the 'nice list'. During WWII, many found Krampus to be the creation of Social Democrats. Krampus's popularity died down for a while, but now many people are once again bringing him back to the limelight. Part of this has to do with the general mood that often

surrounds the holidays, a 'bah humbug' sort of mood in which many do not want to partake in the typical celebrations.

Some have even gone as far as creating 'greeting cards' featuring Krampus, although the messages on them are far from cheerful. Some depict Krampus beating children while others depict women beating men, or having Krampus defeated by a woman. Some even depict a woman as Krampus.

In the US, celebrations like the Krampus Run are becoming more popular, as well as Krampus himself. Pop culture has brought him to relevance through movies and T.V. shows as well.

Jeri Hensley

**Executive Editor/
Creative Director**



CLARION MOVIE POLL

We polled Sinclair students across various social media platforms to find out their favorite animated and live action Christmas movies! Do you agree with the results?



THE GREAT CHRISTMAS DIE HARD DEBATE

Affirmed - Die Hard IS a Christmas movie

What makes a Christmas movie a true Christmas movie? Is it the snow, family imagery, gifts, or the impending birth of a child? If you thought yes to any of those previous points, then "Die Hard" is undeniably a Christmas movie. The numbers back this idea up as well. Annually 1.6 million Americans watch "Die Hard" as a Christmas movie, that is more than "Home Alone," "Miracle on 34th Street," and "Santa Clause" combined. This is backed up with a continuous pattern of watch patterns. Most classic action movies are seen year-round with most peaks in the summer, and most holiday movies seeing their highest viewership during the winter months (most notably December), "Die Hard" follows the pattern of classic holiday films. While some may point to the violence as a disqualifier the level of violence to unnamed and unimportant minions does not compare to a teenager mortally wounding, burning and irreparably traumatizing two named recurring characters. Morality aside, the director of Die Hard himself claims his movie about a father fighting to see his family on Christmas day is a holiday classic.

Die Hard as a Christmas movie is reinforced by the mentioning of the word "Christmas" more than "Die" and "Hard." Between the obvious statistical correlation, advertisement of the holiday within the movie, and plot centering around the reconnection of family; "Die Hard" is a Christmas movie.

**By: Cade McDonald,
public speaking student**

Negated - Die Hard IS NOT a Christmas movie

Die Hard starring Bruce Willis is a good movie. It is a redemption story about a couple whose relationship is on the rocks. In a turn of events the husband must save his wife and her coworkers at a company party as they're taken hostage during a bank heist by a group of terrorists. There is action, drama, love, and redemption, and it all just so happens to take place on Christmas Eve. If it was up to the setting of a story to be the criteria to qualify movies as a Christmas Movie, then there would be hundreds of movies that have nothing to do with Christmas in the Christmas genre. Not thinking about it too hard, Rent the movie/musical based on the opera La Boheme comes to mind. Just because Christmas is a part of the setting does not make a

movie a Christmas movie. The idea of what makes a movie a Christmas movie is tackled in an article by the Hollywood Reporter, "The most important element is a meaningful use of Christmas in their storytelling." To which there is no resolution of Christmas cheer, Christmas blessings, or arc for any character the need to believe, which is a Christmas theme. The only time Christmas is used as a plot device in Die Hard, is at the beginning with John McClain flying to see his wife for the holidays, Christmas, and New Year. The story is about a man rescuing his wife from terrorism and restoring his marriage. Give Bruce Willis's character any other reason to see his wife on any other day, like Valentine's Day, her birthday, his birthday, their anniversary, and the series of events of a possible bank heist

performed by a terrorist group could happen then just as well. The fact is, if the storyline is divorced from Christmas eve the same series of events can still take place. The director, John McTiernan, even said in an interview with NME Magazine, "We did not intend it [Die Hard] to be a Christmas movie." That same article even has quote from a 2018 interview with the movie's star Bruce Willis, "Die Hard is not a Christmas movie. It's a Bruce Willis movie!" Die Hard does not satisfy meaningful usage of Christmas in its plot, and important creators and artists agree Die Hard wasn't made to be a Christmas movie.

**By: Andrew Wingert,
public speaking student**



HOLIDAY RECIPES

Canning Jar Cakes

This is the perfect gift for sending to loved ones and friends. You can choose any flavor cake or quick bread to make.

Ingredients:

1 boxed cake mix of your choice (prepared as directed)

6 pint size mason jars with bands and seals

1 baking sheet

spray oil for jars

scraps of fabric

rubber bands/ribbon

Glaze

1 cup pounded sugar

1/4 cup milk

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Instructions:

Prepare the cake batter as directed on the box.

Scoop the cake mix into the clean jars, filling to the 1 cup line or about halfway.

Bake for about half the time as directed on the box or for about 25 minutes.

While the cakes are baking you can prepare the glaze topping by mixing the powdered sugar, milk, and vanilla together.

Use a toothpick to test for doneness.

Use a metal straw or a wooden skewer to quickly make holes in the cake so the glaze will soak in.

Pour the glaze evenly between the six jars.

Quickly put the seals and bands on the jars while they are hot, this is how the jars will seal.

When cooled, decorate, or eat.

Peanut Butter Buckeyes

Ingredients:

1 cup butter softened

2 cups creamy peanut butter

4 cups confectioners' sugar

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

4 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions:

In a large bowl mix together the softened butter and peanut butter.

Add the sugar and vanilla. Mix well.

Make one-inch balls out of the dough and lay them on a cookie sheet.

Now we need to melt the chocolate baking chips. I melted mine in a small bowl in the

microwave. You can melt the chocolate in a double boiler if you like. It is easier to dip if you use a small bowl. Do not overheat the chocolate in the microwave. Watch it closely.

You can keep reheating the bowl of chocolate when it gets cool and clumpy. Usually after every couple of peanut butter balls.

Using a toothpick, roll in the chocolate.

Set them on a cookie sheet to dry.

You can freeze Peanut Butter Buckeyes for up to three months.

Super Cheesy Lasagna

Ingredients:

8-ounce lasagna noodles cooked

1 pound ground chuck

1/2-pound ground sausage

1 large jar of your favorite marinara sauce

2 15 oz cans organic diced tomatoes

15-ounce ricotta cheese

1/2 cup parmesan cheese

2 cups mozzarella cheese

2 eggs

1 tsp parsley

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350° F.

In a medium bowl combine ricotta cheese, parmesan cheese, 1 cup of mozzarella cheese and eggs. Mix well.

In another bowl add the ground meat to the pasta sauce and tomatoes, mix well.

Spread sauce on the bottom of a 13 x 9-inch pan.

Place 3 lasagna noodles on top of the sauce.

Spread 1/2 of the cheese mixture, top with 1/3 of the meat sauce.

Repeat layering. Top with noodles, meat, and slices of mozzarella.

Cover with foil and back for 55 minutes. Uncover and cook for an additional 10 minutes or until brown and bubbly.

Let stand for 15 before you cut into pieces and serve.

Diane Sikora
Reporter



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is a good time to let that intrepid Aries temperament take charge. Your strong leadership will help settle those still-unresolved situations. Support comes from a surprising source.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your problem-solving talents shine as you move to cool down heated emotions. You also inspire trust in all parties when you act with careful consideration of their feelings.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) That long-delayed commitment begins to look better to you. But there's still a crucial fact or two you need to know about it. A health problem needs to be taken care of.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't waste time trying to learn why someone you relied on is wavering in his or her support of your stand on a workplace issue. Move on with the help of more steadfast allies.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Relationships enter a brighter period, both at home and in the workplace. Prospects also look good for single Leos and Leonas, who can expect a welcome visit from Cupid.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Those mixed signals that were complicating your life are giving way now to clear, definitive guidelines. This makes it easier for you to weigh your options and make decisions.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Ask your partner for an explanation of what seems to be a sign of strain in your relationship. The sooner you understand the problem, the sooner you can both act to resolve it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A new challenge in the workplace holds an exciting promise for the future. But be aware of the fact that you haven't been told about all the demands you might have to meet.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your financial picture brightens as you get into sorting out realistic goals and those that are not reachable at this time. "Caution" remains your fiscal watchword.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're deep into your new project, and that's just fine. But don't neglect your family and friends. Spending time with people you care for is always a wise investment.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Past feelings are suddenly reawakened. This could make you emotionally vulnerable. Be careful about decisions you might be asked to make at this time.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You've come to a place where you'll be facing important decisions that can affect your future. Rely on your strong moral compass to guide you toward making the right choices.

BORN THIS WEEK: You're gifted with both natural wisdom and wit — a good combination for success as a writer or teacher and, most importantly, a parent.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



Check out the website for the answers to the two puzzles!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Up to
- 4 Platter
- 8 Scoop holder
- 12 Olympics chant
- 13 Sicilian resort
- 14 Dryer fuzz
- 15 Sandal type
- 17 Pub potables
- 18 Computer whiz
- 19 Dog tags, e.g.
- 21 PC key
- 22 Excellent
- 26 Expire
- 29 Present location?
- 30 Med. plan option
- 31 Perry's creator
- 32 — Aviv
- 33 Hotel worker
- 34 From — Z
- 35 "Science Guy" Bill
- 36 Segments
- 37 Kanye West's music
- 39 Moonshine vessel
- 40 Japanese sash
- 41 Narcotic
- 45 Volition
- 48 Sound of hoofbeats
- 50 Tom Joad, for one

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15		16						17			
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34					35			36			
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45	46	47					48	49			
50										52	
53											55

- 52 Onassis nickname
- 9 Tin Man's need
- 32 Not out of the ordinary
- 53 Marries
- 10 SSW opposite
- 33 Wizardry
- 54 A deadly sin
- 11 UFO crew
- 35 San Francisco's — Hill
- 55 Moment
- 16 Stage
- 20 Ten, in Dijon
- 36 Thing on a string
- 1 Clump of grass
- 23 "— she blows!"
- 38 Bagel features
- 2 Capri, e.g.
- 24 Skip
- 39 Unites
- 3 Secular
- 25 Spacecraft compartments
- 42 Regrettably
- 4 Sully
- 5 Cove
- 43 Rent
- 44 Grand tale
- 6 — -Cat
- 26 Wife of Jacob
- 45 Dazzle
- 7 Domed building in Washington D.C.
- 27 Intro studio class
- 46 White House nickname
- 28 Fall into a soft chair
- 47 Cover
- 49 Baseball's

Tartan Spotlight.

DANNY KNIFE



Danny Knife via LinkedIn

For this Tartan Spotlight, Sinclair alumni Danny Knife has a record of accomplishments. Sinclair was always a school that perfectly fit Knife's needs.

"Mainly as an adult student, the flexibility of the online classes and living in Montgomery County were big things to me, but with having kids, the online class they offered towards my program was a big part of it," said Knife, General Manager of Tri-Cities North Regional Wastewater Authority.

When he first attended Sinclair, Knife knew exactly what he was going to major in.

"Because I started at Sinclair when I was in my thirties, I knew exactly what I was going to do. I had already started my career; I just need the schooling to advance," said Knife.

According to his former

communications instructor April Schmidlapp, he was an effective public speaker, but Knife said he still had more to learn.

"I knew I was good at public speaking; I took the class because it was a requirement, but it really helped me dial in my skill. I've used it a lot since I took the class," said Knife. "In terms of how I felt, I was really nervous taking a public speaking class."

When you look at his LinkedIn, most of his experiences involve city work.

"To be honest, I was young, I was in my early twenties, and I was just looking for a direction. I wasn't sure what I was going to do with my life, so I landed in water and waste, water and treatment, and what I found was there's just a myriad of opportunities in public utilities. I just really carved my own path through state certifications and now with my degree that I'm going to get this semester at Sinclair," said Knife. "So, I really enjoyed public utilities, I enjoy serving the public, and we really have a lot to offer in water treatment. There are essential services everyone uses."

When it comes to working for Tri-Cities,

Knife has reason to keep working there.

"I had worked for Tri-Cities early in my career as I was climbing the ladder, and when the general manager position came open it drew me back," said Knife. "I loved working here and I was drawn to come back and lead this facility. It's close to home and I live in the community, so I kind of have some skin in the game, but I was just drawn back here because I love the facility."

Serving the public and making a difference is something that Knife enjoys about his career.

"What I like most is serving the public, making a difference, and helping provide essential services to our communities," said Knife.

Recently, Gov. Mike Dewine came to Vandalia to thank Knife. His initial response was shock and excitement.

"When his office called me, I was shocked. I was proud and I was excited and it was a career moment I'll never forget," said Knife. "I thanked the governor, I told him that this was the day I get to tell my grandkids about someday when I'm an old man."

Knife had some advice for Sinclair students on

how to be successful after graduation.

"You have to do the hard work, you have to stay motivated, and you have to concentrate on your goals," said Knife.

He said what he liked most about Sinclair was, "The flexibility of the online schedules that they offer. The array of degree programs and all of the assistance that Sinclair offers. They've done a great job through the pandemic staying in touch with the students. The communication at Sinclair is phenomenal."

During the pandemic, Knife operated as usual.

"In public utilities nothing changed, we showed up every day. We have to provide water, electricity and gas and things never stopped, so for me, nothing changed. I showed up to work every day to make sure those utilities were still provided to our communities," said Knife. "We did stagger our work staff in-and-out a little bit more. We started the social distancing and masks. Other than that in terms of public utilities, nothing changed."

Knife graduated from Sinclair in 2021.

Jamario Brown-Tolliver

Intern