Have something on your mind? Want to just share a laugh? Frustrated about something? Here's your chance. A forum is available online at w3.sckans.edu/forms/collegian for you to post your thoughts. It is 100 percent anonymous, so say anything you

•Regular naps prevent old age...especially if you take them while driving **•Why do we choose from just two people for president and 50 for Miss America?** •Since Americans throw rice at weddings, do Asians throw hamburgers? **•Strange! No one ever says "It's only a game," when their team is winning** •WHY DO THEY REPORT POWER OUTAGES ON TV? •What do you do when you see an endangered animal that is eating an endangered plant? **•What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?** •Is there another word for synonym? •If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation? •If a mute swears, does his mother make him wash his hands with soap? •*How can there be self-help "groups?"* **I hear that people are having their passwords changed on facebook so they can't get on it during finals week. What happened to self control people?** •A good superhero would be "Delayed Reaction Man" •I talk in my sleep, so I'm going to marry a woman who talks in hers. That way we can have interesting conversations while snoozing **•Carrots don't really seem like they have a very good personality compared to the other vegatables** •*I wonder what will be the next human feature to evolve* • Raw hamburger? Why not! **•Barak Obama is officially President of the United States!** **• Next time your sitting at the lunch table with all of your friends, call a chair a rose and see what they say** •What's so great about the Dakotas that lets them get two states?

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Death of small businesses caused by Walmart virus

Brian Nelson
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A virus escaped from the woods of Arkansas in 1962. The exact location of this virus is traced to Rogers, Ark. What started as a good idea to Sam Walton would terrorize the world. Yet few acknowledge this terror. In 1962, Sam Walton found the virus known as Wal-Mart.

My grandfather opened a hardware store in my hometown in 1960. He knew his customers by name. Business was prosperous and he eventually passed the keys on to his two sons. Then in 1985, a Wal-Mart opened. Business dried and blew away with the wind. The hardware store closed in 1995. The cause: Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart stores spread like a virus. They claim the best prices, and entire communities flock to their automatic doors, while small businesses hang "Out of business" signs in their windows. No one notices the death of independent businesses, businesses that are extinguished after being passed father to son and so on. No one knows your name at Wal-Mart. No one cares if you can't find a jar of golden honey. No one cares if a little girl is stung by a scorpion, lurking in the watermelons. And no one cares about the young man who is trampled to death by cattle-like shoppers the day after Thanksgiving. After all, Wal-Mart has the best prices, always.

Is the best price really worth trampling a Wal-Mart worker in Valley Stream, N.Y. to death?

Personal Column

I despise Wal-Mart, or as the new slogan states "Walmart." Little by little, Walmart chokes out small businesses and small towns. When a man buys a woman a fresh rose from a local florist, his money circulates in the town. He is supporting his community. When a man buys a wilted rose from a Walmart freezer, his money flies away. If only all the Walmarts in the world would close, small businesses and small towns would bloom after a 50-year drought. Walmart, however, is possibly the world's largest private employer. A Walmart shutdown would put a lot of people out of work. Thus, Walmart has become an eternal virus.

Yet, what if no one bought that wilted rose in the Walmart freezer? Walmart would still employ, while Main Streets across the U.S. would flourish, and small business would again prosper.

Want to do something about the current economy? Shop at the small hardware store, find a fresh jar of honey at the local farmer's market and buy a rose from the neighborhood florist. Buy a rose, Main Street will bloom.

Music video doesn't need 'Second Chance'

By Matt Webb
Staff Reporter

Everyone has been given a second chance some time or another, except in the song "Second Chance" by Shinedown. "Second Chance," from the new album, Sound of Madness, became a top 100 hit. The music video for this song is clever, but may not catch the viewers' eye due to the vague storyline. The lyrics of this song save the video. It starts with a young girl and her brother who at first is a bit confusing because it almost seems as if it's her son. Remember she's only a in her teen's. Her parents begin to argue and it shows her dancing ballet. She then wishes to go to a ballet school. Her mom denies this and she runs away. This explains that she doesn't give her parents a "second chance."

Music Review

The song seemed to represent the military and those presently serving Iraq and Afghanistan. This is concluded with lyrics "By the way I made it through the day," and "By the way I'm leaving out today." Lyrics may seem confusing, but are made clear in the video. The lyrics aren't depressing or expressing anger. Instead the lyrics express hope. The song inspires listeners by giving them hope that something good will happen in their lives. The song also expresses that life can be much worse. Routinely, the band aims to feature lead singer Brent Smith, who does an excellent job. However, "Second Chance" sounds very similar to other songs on the album. Both Zach Myers, on guitar, and Barry Kerch, on drums, come through in a clutch performance, bringing the song together along with Smith's performance.

Normally rock music blares and the lyrics are hard to understand. This is how Shinedown differs from other rock bands. They lead in soft with an acoustic guitar and gradually pick up. This form is becoming more common in rock bands, but again, Shinedown differs from other rock bands because Brent Smith's vocals are understandable.

This song is recommended if you like rock music, but if you're into another genre such as reggae, country, big band, or classical, think twice before buying this album. Overall "Second Chance" was in no need of a second chance when it debuted in September.

Matt Webb is a junior majoring in communication. You may e-mail him at matt.webb@sckans.edu.

Resolutions can be made (and broken) anytime

By Anthony Cook
Editor In Chief

So much for the first vacant moment.

Why not wait until the new calendar becomes available?

That's the creed we live by. And that's how the start of a new year has turned into a celebration of personal improvement.

Such is the New Year's resolution. It's a fad that stays no matter what year the calendar reads.

Weight problems? Smoking habit? Drunk dialing the ex-whoever? What about getting the desktop of our computer rearranged? All are fashionable around Jan. 1 every year.

There is a pattern we have developed. These problems, they run in circles. They start to become apparent to others first. Those who spend time with us daily begin to notice our jeans not fitting right as winter ends.

Soon enough, we will take note of our shortcomings ourselves.

During the summer months we might start to figure out we need to be spending more time with our families. But why take care of that on a beautiful June day? You have six months to daydream about what it will be like when you do take care of your problem.

And so the pattern continues. Every year a new, or a recycled, problem in our life comes to the forefront, and we must use the beginning of the new year to dispose of our nasty little habit.

But they will likely come back.

We aren't doomed to fail from the beginning of our resolutions. Willpower must prevail in some cases. Indeed, it does.

However it doesn't happen that often.

So why do we fail so often on our attempts to better ourselves?

It's because we set ourselves up to do just that.

A problem doesn't remain stagnant. It's an interesting fact about all things unsightly. They are either getting better or they are getting worse.

On any hot day in June we might figure out it's time for a change. But if we don't feel like doing it right that instant, it might become a turning point in our lives.

Editorial

By that time we get done pushing it back to the new year we find out it's much harder than anticipated.

Sure that first week goes by tremendously. We are militant and follow regimen to a T. A pass on second helpings or a smoke break is no match for us.

But life happens, and we lose focus of our goals. We get caught up in the lightening fast transition from holidays to the fast lane of life and forget about all the ambitious ideas we had to begin with.

When we ignore that initial problem, or put it on hold, it turns into a habit. That's much harder to break.

For this new year, let's think long and hard about the habits we've gained. And let's pay close attention to the ones we are picking up as we go along.

Why wait until a mountain is made when you can topple above it in its early stages.

Nobody is perfect. That much will always be true. But we can always try to be a bit better than we are right now.

That's not something to put off.

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