

Word on the Hill

What is your favorite Disney Movie?

By Drew Logsdon



"I love Mulan."

Alyssa Carter
psychology
sophomore



"The Lion King. I loved Simba when I was younger."

Zack Conroy
business
administration
sophomore



"Aladdin. Jasmine is my favorite Disney princess."

Susannah Willhite
biology
junior



"Beauty and The Beast. I loved it when I was little."

Shannon Varney
nursing
junior



"Jungle Book or Peter Pan. They have the best music."

Jamie Garrard
music
junior



"Lion King. It was the first Disney movie I ever saw in the Philippines."

Jason Maisog
education
senior



"Beauty and The Beast. I love the love story."

Sarah Morton
digital arts
senior



"Pocahontas. They're in touch with nature."

Dallas Leonard
business
junior



"The Little Mermaid. I love the music."

Kelli Bunnell
nursing
senior



"The Jungle Book. Mogli was my favorite character out of all of them."

Daniel Kuhn
sports management
sophomore



"The Emperor's New Groove. It talks about friends that will stand by you through anything."

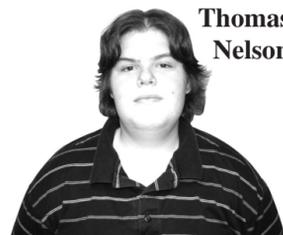
Albert Ong
biology
sophomore



"Fantasia or Jungle Book. I used to wake up and watch when I was little while eating cereal."

Joel Alejandro
music
senior

Christmas Season honors traditions



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My family always puts up our Christmas tree the weekend after Thanksgiving. It's the only time we can all get together and my mom likes the tradition of everyone pitching in and helping. As we were decorating it last weekend, my four-year-old niece asked an intriguing question, "Where do Christmas trees come from?"

My brother cleverly responded in a cheerful sarcastic manner, "Santa's head elf delivers them to all the families who celebrate Christmas. But in order to get one all the children have to go to bed at 8:30."

In response, my niece said, "Okay, I'll go to bed right after you do." (My brother is 18.)

This made me think, "Where does the tradition of Christmas trees come from?" In school I learned a little bit about the history of Santa Claus, but I have never learned anything on the history of the Christmas tree.

The tradition has roots as far back as the ancient Egyptians who worshipped evergreens during the winter solstice. Egyptians brought green date palm leaves into their homes to symbolize life's triumph over death.

Ancient Romans celebrated winter solstice using greens. They held a festival called Saturnalia in honor of Saturn, god of agriculture. They decorated with greens and lights and exchanged gifts. They gave coins for prosperity, pastries for happiness, and lamps to light one's journey through life.

Skip several hundred years and you get the origins of the modern Christmas tree. It dates back to Germany and Scandinavia where people placed evergreen trees inside their homes or just outside their doors to show their hope in the forthcoming spring.

While there is controversy surrounding it, legend has it that Martin Luther began the tradition of decorating trees to celebrate Christmas. On Christmas Eve, about the year 1500, he was walking through snow-covered woods and was struck by the beauty of a group of small evergreens. When he got home, he set up a little fir tree indoors so he could share this story with his children. He decorated it with candles, which he lighted in honor of Christ's birth.

The Christmas tree tradition most likely came to the United States with Hessian troops during the American Revolution, or with German immigrants to Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The tradition spread slowly, partly because the puritans banned the celebration of Christmas. Even as late as 1851, a Cleveland minister almost lost his job because he allowed a tree in his church.

Ironically enough, 1851 is also the year that the Christmas tree market started. Mark Carr hauled two ox sleds of evergreens into New York City and sold them all. By 1900, one in five American families had a Christmas tree, and 20 years later, the custom was nearly universal.

Christmas tree farms flourished during the depression. Nurserymen couldn't sell their evergreens for landscaping, so they cut them for Christmas. Cultivated trees were preferred because they are more symmetrical than wild ones.

Six species account for about 90 percent of the nation's Christmas tree trade. Scotch pine ranks first, comprising about 40 percent of the market, followed by Douglas fir which accounts for about 35 percent. The other big sellers are noble fir, white pine, balsam fir and white spruce.

Personal Column

Sexually transmitted diseases can be avoided



April McCormick

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We've all heard it before. "The best way of prevention is abstinence." But how many of us actually practice abstinence?

Most of us have had a sex-ed class of some sort in middle school or high school. Through

those classes and through our parents, we've heard about sexually transmitted diseases. But just how serious are they?

In 2001, the National Institutes of Health found that more than 65 million people in the United States are living with an STD, the majority of which are incurable viral infections.

Many sexually transmitted infections can cause adverse pregnancy outcomes including, but not limited to, miscarriage, still birth, intrauterine growth restrictions, and prenatal (mother-to-child) infections, according to

a study, Scientific Evidence on Condom Effectiveness for Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention (SECESTD), done by the national Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Health and Human Services in July 2001.

"Some STDs are associated with infertility among women and one, the human papilloma

virus, can cause cervical cancer among women."

According to the Center for Disease Control, there are two primary ways that STDs can be transmitted.

Human immunodeficiency virus, as well as gonorrhea, chlamydia, and trichomoniasis, the discharge diseases, are transmitted when infected semen or vaginal fluids contact mucosal surfaces (the male urethra, the vagina, or cervix).

In contrast, genital ulcer diseases such as genital herpes, syphilis, and chancroid – and

human papillomavirus are primarily transmitted through contact with infected skin or mucosal surfaces.

STDs can be prevented. Risk reduction approaches include abstinence, mutual monogamy with an uninfected partner, use of condoms, and engaging in sexual activity that does not result in the transfer of bodily fluids or cell-to-cell transmission.

Although, research is underway to develop them, the only vaccine marketed for the prevention of STDs is the hepatitis B vaccine, according to the SECESTD study.

Although most young adults use condoms, condoms are not sure-proof.

The SECESTD study found, as a quality assurance step, condom manufacturers sample each lot of finished packaged condoms and visually examine

them for holes using a water leak test.

FDA recognizes domestic and international standards that specify that the rate of sampled condoms failing the water leak test, for each manufacturing lot of condoms, be less than 1 in 400.

The surest way to avoid transmission of sexually transmitted diseases is to abstain from sexual intercourse, or to be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and known to be uninfected.

If one night stands are a must, use a condom. If sexual intercourse in a relationship is a must, you and your partner should get tested for STDs.

If at all possible, abstain from sexual activity. Should you have an STD, have the decency to tell your partner.

Christianity has become flabby

Would you want to join a health club where nearly every member who has gone there for the past several years is still seriously overweight?

Why then would a non-believer want to consider Jesus when so many of his followers are so unconvincing?

There needs to be a sense of authenticity about Christians. Two and a half weeks ago was the Week of Witness. If we are to be witnesses for Christ, we have to be witnesses all the time.

We can't be witnesses just when we are feeling good, not just when we go to Chapel, not just for a short period of time after Bible study.

What I have to say applies towards the Christian population.

Christians have become spiritually flabby. We are lacking in sincerity and discipline. Sure, we go to church every Sunday, to Chapel on Wednesday, and we find time for a Bible study occasionally, but there is a disconnect. We tend to forget about

God during our "days off."

It's funny how easy it is to forget God. He is creator of the universe and rock of our salvation, yet we forget about Him. I say "we" because I also am dealing with the same problem. I rarely sit down and study the Bible daily.

I have only one Bible verse memorized, and sometimes it's hard for me to even remember to pray.

I'm ashamed, but I'm not excusing myself from my own criticism.

There has come to be a lack of spiritual discipline among Christians. This hurts not only our relationships with God, but also our relationships with others.

Christians need to be able to pull out scriptures from memory at any point in time. Jesus Himself even did this.

If we don't read the Bible and know what it actually says (and not just what we assume it says),

then we can't apply scripture to our lives.

If we don't do that, then having any sort of meaningful relationship with God becomes difficult. But it takes discipline to sit down and focus and read the word of God.

What others see as Christianity in the United States is often an ugly caricature of what it actually is. The message is obviously not the problem.

Gandhi even said, "Oh, I don't reject your Christ. I love your Christ. It's just that so many of you Christians are so unlike your Christ."

People want to be set free from the misery of sin and not knowing God. But they also don't want to be held responsible for their actions.

You'll notice people say things like, "All religions are basically the same," or "World religions are just different paths to the same God."

Jesus calls us to follow Him and only Him. If we aren't careful about how we spread the

Gospel, then we'll end up fitting into the ugly caricatures that the world has made for Christians.

It's time for Christians to get out of the flabby funk that we have sunken into.

It isn't easy. Christians have many things working against them like stereotypes and an unreceptive audience, yet we're expected to somehow share Christ's love. These are simply the challenges of our time.

Let's strive for authenticity and spiritual discipline. 2 Peter 3: 17-18 (NIV) says, "Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen."

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—Play from page 1

communication junior, will also film the show in the Little Theatre. Cook is directing the filming. He said, "The biggest challenge will be capturing the audio because of the location and number of people on stage.

I met with Roger Moon three times to talk through shots. We mapped everything out before hand, so we had a good game plan." To reduce the glare during filming from the white tiled floor, new black flooring had to be placed in the Little Theatre.

New costumes will be used

for the performances. Many costumes were created before 1950. The theatre department created new ones as the old ones became unusable. Moon said, "This year the new costumes will be artistically coherent."

Attendance is free. However, reservations need to be made

through the performing arts office. To make a reservation, contact Lou Tharp, faculty assistant at lou.tharp@sckans.edu or at 620-221-7720.

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—Play from page 1

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