

Word on the Hill:

What is your favorite Christmas song?

Staff Edition



“My Only Wish This Year’ by Britney Spears.”

Kenna Corley
photo editor



“Jingle Bell Rock.”

Anthony Cook
editor in chief



“I’m gonna go with ‘The Christmas Song’ by Nat King Cole.”

Nate Jones
staff reporter



“Mary, Did You Know?”

Jessica Bernhardt
managing editor



“Judy Garland’s ‘Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas.’”

Brian Nelson
staff reporter



“Do You Hear What I Hear?” by Whitney Houston.”

Cameron Siefkes
news and opinion editor



“Glade Jul.”

Inger Furholt
features editor



“Sleigh Ride.”

Paige Carswell
sports editor



“Carol of the Bells.”

Sam Gillis
features editor



“It’s so hard to choose just one.”

Stacy Sparks
faculty adviser



“Brian Seltzer’s ‘Winter Wonderland.’”

Christian Ingalls
staff reporter

Finals prove to be make or break for students

By Nate Jones
Staff reporter

It’s close now. Just a few more days until us college students have a good argument to justify staying up well past three or four in the morning. Maybe even all night depending on how many tests/presentations one has the next day. A veteran linguist could even argue all the late nights/early mornings one has gone through thus far this semester, have simply been conditioning for finals week...you’re on your own explaining the booze!

Yes, finals week. Oh it’s the most wonderful time of the year. Think about it. School is almost out for

Christmas break. That might cheer some folks up. Then again some might think the best gift they can give their parents is an above average report card. Either way finals week always seems to bring about some legendary, epic, outlandish, hail marry attempts at making the grade that the report cards won’t ever show. Yes, we love adjectives.

Ask a senior. Most of them probably have a decent to great story of a potential disaster on finals week that was averted somehow. Heck, some of them may not know how. It’s fun to tell the story but not much fun to live through.

For instance once upon a

time one very savvy junior had a huge paper due, the catch was there was no minimum on how many pages this paper had to be. A blessing, right? All the class could get out of the teacher was, “It just has to be long enough to cover the topic.” We also had it “easy” because we had the entire semester to get this paper done, along with all the research. Yeah, right. The more time college students have to do a project, the more time they put off doing it. That’s one of Newton’s laws or something, I think.

Anyway the afore mentioned junior didn’t totally slack off the entire semester,

he did a little research along the way and didn’t really feel behind. That was until two days before the paper was due. One night was spent researching and researching, the next night the student wore out the keyboard and hammered out 16 pages of only 49 percent bull. The kicker was they had to give a 10 minute presentation over their findings.

Thankfully prior classes from the same teacher had taught this student to talk for at least 10 minutes about anything they wanted. After it was all tallied, he got a B on the final, passed the class with comfort and the junior was able to become a senior! A senior who stays up way

too late writing his editorials!

So what is the key? How is disaster avoided and the grade made or maintained? It just depends on the student, but number one, don’t panic. A chicken running around with its head cut off always ends up in the oven. Get that ice water running through the ol’ veins and anything is possible.

Number two, put off those holiday dieting plans. Load up on energy drinks, Mountain Dew, and Coca-Cola. Pixy sticks are good if you can find ’em and the five doughnuts for \$2 deal at Wal-Mart is always a great choice. If one really needs to stay awake, simply drink

as much water as possible. It will keep a person going and going all night long. Better than energizer!

Number three, its hard but try to ignore the internet. Only when insanity is slipping away should one type in their Facebook password and read all the statuses complaining about finals. Inversely, instant messengers can just be kept to “appear offline.” No need to be that disconnected from everything.

Good luck to everyone as finals week approaches. Don’t stay up too late!

Nate Jones is a senior majoring in communication. You may e-mail him at nate.jones@sckans.edu.

Give the gift this season by volunteering personal time



Julie Miller

The season is about giving. However, I’m starting to wonder how much one can give without actually having to give a part of themselves first. It is becoming increasingly harder to connect with others during Christmas time.

I researched volunteering

during the Christmas season. My results turned up slim pickings. Those that did show up were opportunities for things such as a classic Salvation Army bell ringer, or dropping off a toy for an under privileged child.

I understand a good deed is better than no deed. Why can’t volunteer opportunities be more connected from one human being to another? It seems volunteer opportunities these days are still an ‘on the go’ feeling. You may drop a few coins in the Salvation Army bucket and go on your merry way. I wonder if we got to know a homeless child we are buying for

if it would help us pick out the perfect gift for them instead of buying the generic “Girl, age five” gifts. It turns out there are more connected volunteer opportunities available. I eagerly clicked on the link only to learn these opportunities were in the United Kingdom. It stunned me.

I couldn’t believe I wasn’t able to find any opportunities to sit down and learn someone’s story, to bring someone to my own home during Christmas Eve, or to even help create and personalize the perfect Christmas gift they’ve always wanted or needed that year in the

United States.

When I think about what we could do to help solve this problem the possibilities go on in my mind. Ultimately the problem is as simple as just creating opportunities that connect as one mankind throughout the world. I start to wonder how things ended up this way. Is it due to media, technology and just the sign of the times? It is a good question that only each individual may answer in themselves.

I also began to think of ideas of volunteering doing good work as structured organizations. What about on a personal level. It got to me to

thinking. Do I really need to find an organization that will let me help cook a Christmas dinner and connect with someone else? Absolutely not. This is a personal choice. Volunteering should be too.

Volunteering is an act of charity and kindness. That’s a great way of thinking. Give yourself a pat on the back if you do.

However, we should think of volunteering as just one act of helping someone just like you in a time of need. It is not volunteering. It is using our right and responsibility as one people to help each

other. I don’t need to become a registered volunteer to help someone across the street or save someone’s life by giving them water in a desert.

I shouldn’t wait for an organization to give me an opportunity that allows me to emotionally connect and help someone. We may do this ourselves. “Give and you shall receive,” is an old saying that certainly applies to this situation.

Maybe we have to give a little of ourselves in a more pure, direct and honest way to receive any knowledge of what we can accomplish as one community, state or nation starting with ourselves.

‘Four Christmases’ makes for holiday movie magic

By Cameron Siefkes
News and opinion editor

Some people will be happy to go home in about a week, while others may be dreading visiting their weird heard relatives. However, a newly released movie will have you feeling thankful for what you may think is a crazy family.

“Four Christmases” is the new hilarious holiday movie for this year. It is sure to make families come together for a rousing good time. There was not a single time throughout the whole film where I was bored or thinking about what homework I should be doing instead

Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon lead the cast. Other familiar faces include John Voight, Sissy Spacek, Robert DuVall and Kristin Chenoweth.

Though Vaughn towers over little five foot nothing Witherspoon, she still matches up in the comedy department and this movie

does not have a shortage of that.

Kate (Witherspoon) and Brad (Vaughn) are a fun couple. They go clubbing, take dancing lessons and random vacations. They both come from families with divorced parents, so getting married and having children is not something they want for their relationship.

To get out of spending Christmas with their families, the two plan a trip to Fiji. Knowing that this excuse will not fly, they tell people that they will be traveling to a far away country to help needy children. Upon arriving at the airport, they discover that all flights have been cancelled due to weather. A news reporter is on the scene and she happens to ask the two how this will affect their Christmas plans. Because they have just been on television and their secret is out, family members are not slow to dial them up to invite them to Christmas. So,

in one day they must visit all four homes.

They start off at Brad’s father’s house. Here we are introduced to Brad’s brother’s Dallas and Denver. We soon discover that Brad’s actual name is Orlando. The boys received their names from the city in which they were conceived. Their idea of h’or dourves is cheese wiz atop Ritz crackers if that says anything about the family.

Next, it’s off to Kate’s mother’s home. The house is full of over-sexual woman who all love Brad. They also spill some secrets about Kate’s past. Instead of presents, the family members sit in a circle and tell what they are going to give this season. Kate’s mom wants to give more of herself to Pastor Phil (wink wink) and her new church.

This led to one of my favorite parts of the film where Kate and Brad are volunteered by Kate’s mom to play Mary and Joseph in the

nativity play at her church.

At Brad’s mother’s home we are introduced to his best friend, who happens to be his mother’s new boyfriend.

Finally, it’s Kate’s dad who seems to be the most normal of the four parents.

Through this action-packed day,

Kate begins to discover that maybe she wants more from the relationship than just dating. However, Brad isn’t so quick to jump on the bandwagon.

There is so much more to the story, but I don’t want to give it all away. You have to go see it for yourself.

I would recommend watching this movie right after your big Christmas dinner. It was the best ab workout I’ve had in a long time.

Cameron Siefkes is a junior majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at cameron.siefkes@sckans.edu.

The Collegian Staff

- Editor in Chief Anthony Cook
- Managing Editor Jessica Bernhardt
- Feature Editors Inger Furholt
Sam Gillis
- News and Opinion Editors Cameron Siefkes
Peg Williams
- Sports Editor Paige Carswell
- Photo Editor Kenna Corley
- Circulation Managers Sam Gillis
Nate Jones
- Staff Colin Baker, Blake Carter,
Katie Gomez, Korie Hawkins, Christian Ingalls,
Ryan Kane, Amelia Lutz, Julie Miller,
Kevin Mnich, Brian Nelson, Alissa Sheppard
- Faculty Adviser Stacy Sparks

The Collegian is the official student newspaper of Southwestern College of Winfield, Kansas. It is published on a weekly basis and distributed on Wednesdays during the fall and spring semesters.
News contributions will be accepted by sending an e-mail to: collegian@sckans.edu or campus mail addressed to: The Collegian, Southwestern College, 100 College Street, Winfield, KS 67156.
Editorials are written by Collegian staff members and do not necessarily represent the views of The Collegian or Southwestern College.
Letters to the editor are encouraged. To be published, letters must be verified, either with a signature or some other means of identifying the writer. All letters accepted are subject to editing.
Subscription rates: first copy free to students, faculty and visitors to Southwestern College and \$35 per school year mailed.

