ISSUE 49 - 4 || December 2013

Link



Awesome 5 Christmas Cocktails

STAR WARS "A NUDE HOPE"

Exclusive review from the *Rio* burlesque show that was "out of this universe"

+PLUS

THE BOOK THIEF

FASHION NOIRE

EMINEM

COMICS

AND MORE!

SAVE THE HOLLYWOOD!

PIPELINE PROTEST

DRUNKOREXIA

ON SET WITH SETH ROGEN

CONTENT

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR
Onwards and Upwards

NORTHERN GATEWAY 03
A pipeline protest with Rodney Dickinson

SAVE THE HOLLYWOOD 04
The push to preserve an iconic Vancouver theatre.

LIQUID LUNCH 05
Sarah Gray confesses to "Drunkorexia"

IN THE FRAME

STAR WARS: A NUDE HOPE 07
Shannon Walters discovers "Nerdlesque"

ON SET WITH: SETH ROGEN 09
Behind the scenes of "The Interview" with Thomas Molander

#BCIT 'GRAMS 10

THE COMMONS

LISTEN/WATCH/READ 11/12

TOP 5 HOLIDAY COCKTAILS 13

FASHION NOIRE 14
W. MICHELLE NORTON

"The Walton Casino" pt. 2 15

IT'S A BURD 16
COMIC BY CARLO PUCHE

UPCYCLING OLD RECORDS 16









// Letter From The Editor

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

Let's talk responsibility.

It's not something I'm especially happy to take if I've accidentally bumped my car into a pole or into a human. It's even less appealing to take responsibility when your fuck-up is public.

For example, I was live on TV a few weeks ago, and I forgot ALL my lines. Instead of calmly or coolly handling the situation, I chose to take responsibility in another way: With a deer-in-headlights look, I told the camera, "I can't remember. I have gone blank." Cut back to very confused anchors, who thought they'd be getting a detailed analysis about BC's pipelines.

That little turd has over 1,000 views on YouTube. I'm also wearing way too much lipstick.

Sarah Gray,
Senior Editor

Another thing I must take responsibility for are the changes to The Link. Well, some of the responsibility. Last month's issue saw mistakes, both large and small [insert Dr. Seuss rhyme here].

Some students were angry, and man, did my inbox (and by extension: my feelings) suffer their wrath.

What maybe forgotten when a reader is drumming up an expertly critical email is how those responsible for a stinker feel – we know it could have been better. What we can promise is that it will be better.

There will continue to be changes as we find our way. Publishing a magazine is extremely different from publishing a newspaper (or at least that's what my new boss tells me), and I'm a total noob.

But,

BCIT, please know: we care. We want this magazine to be something you're proud of – something that reflects your life both on campus and off.

So this issue features a pretty wide range of topics: we a dip into the world of nerdlesque, which combines geeks and boobs. Alex Neff gave us some cool tips on how to turn old records into functional art. And if neither of those interest you, how about details from an internship on Seth Rogan's latest film set? If it happens in your life, it happens in The Link. So keep reading, send in submissions, let us know how we're doing on social media. Because at the end of the day, we want to print what you want to read.

Link

Thursday, December 5th 2013
Volume 49. Issue 4

ABOUT THE LINK

Link is the British Columbie Institute of Technology's student voice. Published monthly by the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA), Link is distributeed among five campuses and to over 46,000 students, faculty, and staff.

THE LINK
Room 304 - Building SE2
3700 Willingdon Ave.
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2

PHONE
604.456.1167

ADVERTISING SALES
Andrea Lekei
sales@bcitsa.ca
604.453.4072

PUBLISHER
Michael Berg

SENIOR EDITOR
Sarah Gray; news@linknewspaper.ca

NEWS EDITOR
Neetu Garcha; news@linknewspaper.ca

CULTURE EDITOR
Olsy Sorokina; culture@linknewspaper.ca

WEBMASTER
Spencer Kotowick; webmaster@linknewspaper.ca

THIS WEEKS CONTRIBUTORS
Matt Landels, Shannon Walters. Thomas Molander, Simon Little, Alex Neff, Ria Renouf, Carlo Puche, Michelle Morton, Michelle Sayers

The views expressed iLink are not necessarily those of BCIT, the BCIT Student Association, Link editorial staff, or the publications manager.

As a member of Canadian University Press (CUP), Link adheres to the CUP code of ethics and will not publish any material designed by the editors to be sexist, racist, homo/heterophobic, or in poor taste.

NO NORTHERN GATEWAY

written by:
Rodney Dickinson

Drums echo across False Creek. A huge crowd has gathered at Science World on a chilly, overcast Saturday in November. As I approach on foot I see tents and dozens of colourful signs. A group of protesters in kayakers floats under the watchful black prow of a police boat. Everyone is focused on the gazebo where speakers are lining up.

Shoulder-to-shoulder with folks young and old, I listen to the strong words of powerful speakers: local and provincial politicians, indigenous and community leaders, concerned citizens. Some of it scares me; visions of an increasingly dark future of dirty energy. But today the challenge is a call for action, a thousand voices united

"NO. PIPELINES. ON STOLEN NATIVE LAND."

Only three days earlier, attending a demonstration was not on my radar when I saw a woman passing out "Stop the Pipeline" handbills in BCIT's great hall; I imagined she was getting a chilly reception from students at this vocational school. In my trade program, oil careers loom large; many of us will graduate and be looking for the highest wage we can find.

Protesting BC's most controversial oil mega-pipeline isn't high on the to-do list if you're actively considering a career with a company profiting from oil or gas – but maybe it should be.

Being opposed to the Northern Gateway pipeline doesn't necessarily mean you are against all oil, just as hating Budweiser doesn't mean you hate all beer. But you'll agree that some beers do taste awful, give you a bad hangover, waste your money, and leave nasty stains if spilled. Obviously we still need oil, but there's no ethical reason to support the accelerated exploitation of a dirty resource.

It's hard to believe a company that brags about job creation when the long-term forecast isn't so rosy. After initial construction, there might only be a few hundred permanent jobs left over—a drop in the provincial employment bucket. The bigger question is: should we be cheaply exporting a finite raw resource (oil), when the real money (and jobs) could be created processing that resource domestically? It's not like people will stop buying oil anytime soon, so we should make it last and profit wisely.



Aren't you a little bit worried about Enbridge's track record when it comes to pipelines? The bitumen they want to ship is so thick they have to dilute it with natural gas to get it to flow in a pipeline. Enbridge spilled over 3.0 megalitres of it into a river in Michigan in 2010, and is still cleaning it up. Picture tanker ships the size of the Eiffel Tower, filled with millions of gallons of oil, navigating the rocky BC coastline in the rainy dark.

Over 130 First Nations in the province have signed an agreement opposing the proposed pipeline through their territory.

They eat the fish, drink the water, live with the land, and want to be able to keep doing so. Currently, indigenous groups are providing the strongest resistance to pipelines and they could really use support. Many cities, like Vancouver and Burnaby, are formally opposed to the Northern Gateway project.

So why would politicians like Christy Clark and Stephen Harper continue to support this unpopular pipeline?

Who really stands to benefit from this project?

On account of these strong reasons to oppose the Northern Gateway pipeline, I invited some friends and we went to the demonstration. My career-focused student mind was shaken from its rut by strong words and the sight of so many people united, forcing me to really think about the greater future. More pipelines and oil exports do not necessarily mean more jobs for us, but do present a real risk to our environment. Our actions now can help ensure BC remains a great place to both live and work.

What are your thoughts on the Northern Gateway pipeline? Tweet @LinkBCIT , post your opinion on our Facebook wall, or write to us: editor@linknewspaper.ca

SAVE THE HOLLYWOOD

The push to preserve an iconic Vancouver theatre

written by:
Simon Little

Supporters of Kitsilano's Hollywood Theatre are working against the clock to come up with a plan to preserve one of the city's cultural landmarks. The Hollywood first opened its doors in 1935 operating as an independent movie theatre until 2011. Since 2012 it's been used as a church, but now the property owners, Bonnis Properties, have put a development application in with The City of Vancouver to turn the historic theatre into a fitness centre.

Vancouver city council approved a motion by Councilor Adrianne Carr in early November which extended protection of the theatre for 75 days. About a dozen people came to speak in favour of the motion, including heritage buff Terry Martin who said the theatre's unique history and design deserve to be saved. "It was, I'm told, the longest running family owned theatre in North America," Martin divulged. "The neon sign there was the first purpose built neon sign in Vancouver, so the importance of that is huge." The theatre is also home to one of the city's last 35mm projectors.

Though heritage is not the only thing on the mind of Hollywood supporters. Councilor Carr highlighted the theatre's past (and potentially future) community and cultural role. According to Carr, the closure of the Ridge Theatre earlier this year has left Vancouver's West side with few community meeting places."[The Ridge] did provide some of that real social nexus and now the Hollywood is the only one left," she said.

It is this potential role as a community hub that forms the backbone of Hollywood supporters' strategy to try and preserve the theatre. In mid-November, a group of supporters who call themselves the Save the Hollywood Coalition held a public meeting.

Group organizer Mel Lehan said the meeting drew about 300 people and the focus was to find a realistic way to keep the theatre in operation. "Our plan is to come up with a business plan to make sure that we can run the Hollywood Theatre," Lehan said. He also acknowledged that in today's market, single screen theatres just can't compete.

"We are not trying to recreate a single screen theatre. We are trying to create multipurpose community and cultural space." Lehan hopes that a revitalized Hollywood could house concerts, theatre, film nights, and amateur shows, much like the Rio Theatre in East Vancouver. Supporters of the Hollywood cause are now reaching out to cultural groups across the city, like the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Film Festival, looking for partneships and potential tenants. The coalition has also lined up two potential buyers, but Lehan said that the owner doesn't seem interested in selling the property. The group respects that position, and wants to make sure the owner gets a fair deal, but that if they can't buy the property, the coalition will push for other avenues to keep the theatre in the community.

"If he's not going to sell it to us, we're going to insist that he lease it to us and not to some gym, and we're going to put a lot of pressure on him and city council to do that," explains Lehan. With the January deadline approaching fast, expect to hear a lot more about the Hollywood story as supporters try and bring that pressure to bear.





Liquid Lunch

confessions of a DRUNKOREXIC

written by:
Sarah Gray

It's only Wednesday, but I've got Friday on my mind. I'm looking forward to drinking wine and seeing friends but I'm already bothered by the niggling thought of squeezing myself into skinny jeans or a pencil skirt, and the influx of unwanted calories from cocktails du jour isn't helping.Knowing that I'll be doing time in a weekend prison of smaller clothing, I spend the rest of the week balancing punishing runs with rabbit food.

Come Friday, any ingestion will likely be liquid, until 2am when Istumble drunkenly into Fresh Slice for eight slices and Ranch dip. These self-imposed diet restrictions combined with alcohol-laced frivolity have but one narcissistic purpose only: to jam my legs (inherited from my muscular father) into my outfit of the night. There's no way I'd let an inopportune food baby named Spaghetti Cake Gray damage my spandex silhouette. The added bonus to my personal hunger games is the quick-n-cheap intoxication that takes me from zero to sixty in a nine-ounce glass.

Recently though, I've discover that this routine, where weekend plans invoke a few days of malnourishment spinning into drinkable dinner, is called drunkorexia.

Science says it's a problem: A #firstworldproblem.

Daniella Sieukaran, a developmental Psychology Graduate Student and a member of the Weight and Eating Lab (WEL) at Simon Fraser University told me, "Young adults who engage in drunkorexic behaviour believe that they are being healthy by staying within an acceptable daily range of caloric intake, but the methods – restricting their diets and using their calories for alcohol – are unhealthy."

Totally.

But the thing is, since freshman year, I've known many women who plan their meals around events. The events themselves may or may not involve the calories of a bottle of wine, but they all involve smushing into semi-uncomfortable outfits we wouldn't typically wear – then feeling like shit if yesterday's croissant isfolding over the waistline of our jeans. How can I be blamed for feeling an overwhelming pressure to look mediocre to downright acceptable?

We are inundated with glamorous celebs gushing about the benefits of juicing, cayenne-spiced water (only… for a week) and insane workout regimens to prep for the red carpet. Some high-profile A-listers even proudly trumpet their love of bones.

According to Chanel's mastermind Karl Lagerfeld, who was a fatty himself before an extreme diet, we're all too chubs for his high-class clothes.

In a recent issue of Harper's Bazaar he said, "The body has to be impeccable… that helps a lot. If it's not, buy small sizes and eat less food." And who wouldn't listen to that white-haired peanut?

There's this association between being thin and being healthy and happy, but I say, if you can't remember your last piece of cheesecake, how the hell can you really be happy?

So, we now know that "drunkorexia" is happening, and that it's understandable in the face of societal pressure, and that no one can be happy if they're hungry all the time. But despite claims that drunkorexia is an emerging trend, I call false. Women have worried for years about looks: we are neither the first nor the last generation to take (sometimes desperate) measures to pursue a manufactured ideal. My diminishing youth continues to entangle me in diet fads, fashion trends, and anything shiny, meaning
drunkorexia will likely remain a facet of my life. That is, until my first pair of mom jeans is purchased and my vanity retreats, tail between legs. Maybe middle age will be my prime time for incorporating drinking and a delicious meal into the same Friday night.



FREE SANDWICH

Buy any sandwich and receive a second sandwich of equal or lesser price free!
With the purchase of 21oz drink and chips*.

*bcit staff or student card required

SUBWAY™

NEW Burnaby location
just a few minutes walk
from BCIT campus.

BCIT SA STUDENT ASSOCIATION





- Preventive & Basic Exams
- Gum Surgery & Oral Surgery
- Laser whitening
- Nobel Biocare™ Implant
- Invisalign® Braces
- Additional 20% Network Discount for all students!

(604) 987 - 3545

For Emergency (604) 727-8746
info@FamilyCareDentalClinic.com
www.FamilyCareDentalClinic.com
Online Booking!

1200 Lonsdale Ave. Suite 205
North Vancouver, BC V7M 3H6

Family Care Dental Clinic
Dentistry with Concern & Clinical Excellence

"A Twerking Darth Vader, a Speedo wearing, split-tastic C3P0, and a chorus of storm troopers in finger bras"

Nerdlesque is a hugely popular subset of the booming burlesque genre. It usually involves a send-up of an aspect of 'geek' culture—video games, graphic novels, anime series' – pretty much anything you can think of that has nerdy appeal.

written by:
Shannon Waters



If you've ever wanted to see Thor do something else with his hammer, or wondered what a strip Pokémon battle would look like, you'd probably enjoy yourself at a nerdlesque show.







I was really excited to see The Geekenders' latest work, Star Wars: A Nude Hope. When I heard that online tickets had sold out nearly a week in advance, I immediately began planning to be at The Rio early in order to be sure to get a couple of the 50 tickets being released. I thought 90 minutes would be enough lead-time. I was wrong. By the time we arrived, there was a line reaching to the corner. I wasn't the only one to misjudge the popularity of this show. Both nights sold out well in advance and more than 300 people were turned away at the door.

Fairlith Harvey (or Trixie Hobbitses, as she's known in the burlesque community) is the brains behind the show and also played the role of Princess Leia. She's Vancouver's acknowledged nerdlesque queen and has been producing geeky events through her company, The Geekenders, for more than a year. The Geekenders crew hosts monthly shows featuring nerdlesque performances as well as costume and trivia contests. Trixie says it was a love of musical theatre that led her to the idea of a full stage production that would retain burlesque's cheeky, irreverent sensibility. "When I was looking for a subject, I asked myself: what has a universal appeal?" Trixie explains. "Star Wars was it."

The subject was not just universally appealing for the audience, but also for some of the performers. Lisa Simon was a member of the show's ensemble with roles that included: the letter T in the opening sequence, a rebel fighter,and the Death Star, among others. She says A Nude Hope was her first foray into burlesque, but it won't be her last. "I really loved it. Being on stage like that was really freeing."

Simon, who has a background in dance, heard about the production through The Geekenders' Facebook group. "When [Trixie] posted that they needed someone for Star Wars, I got really excited," she says. "I made some awesome friends who are like my Star Wars family now. It was a really special experience to be involved in."

Both Trixie and Lisa were blown away by audiences at the show. "It was like a rock concert," says Trixie. "I think the audience was a bit unsure of what to expect at first, but as soon as the first line in the opening sequence rolled up on the screen, we got a huge response.

Lisa was particularly impressed by the warmth of the crowd saying, "They were supportive and awesome, and at the end of the show, when I went out to greet people, they were so friendly."

LouShawna Kegler was a member of that audience on Friday night. She and her boyfriend waited for three hours outside the theatre to buy their tickets. "I couldn't miss a show like this," she said. "I've been attending Geekenders since the first show." According to Trixie, a lot of regular Geekenders attendees came to the shows, as well as burlesque enthusiasts and those who just wanted to see Star Wars on stage.

A Nude Hope featured a twerking Darth Vader, a Speedo wearing, split-tastic C3PO and a chorus of Stormtroopers in fringed bras. These were LouShawna's favourite. "As soon as I saw them walking down the aisle, I got super excited," she said. "I knew it was going to be great."

The success of A Nude Hope surprised everyone, and few more than its producer. "I'm stunned," said Trixie, when I asked about her feelings on the sold-out shows. Live performances are always expensive and time-consuming to produce, and there is little certainty that the show will break even, let alone make money. This means that productions are often a labour of love, both for the producer and the performers. A sold-out show is a rare achievement and yet it's one that nerdlesque shows see often. My own troupe, The VanDolls, have produced two video game-themed burlesque shows. All sold out two weeks before the first show.

Trixie thinks it's all about the loyalty of the geek community. "The geeky community is very passionate about the things they love," she says. "They get really excited when they see people taking what they love and treating it respectfully. And they show up."

That enthusiasm is contagious. Nerdlesque shows are some of the most energetic events you can attend. The excitement from the crowd, combined with their knowledge of and passion for the material, mixed with the charisma and sass from the stage makes for an unforgettable evening. So if you're like me and missed the first two Star Wars: A Nude Hope shows, get your ass in gear and grab some tickets for December 14. They WILL sell out again – don't say I didn't warn you.

Tickets for Star Wars: A Nude Hope are currently on sale online at theriotheatre.ca

//ON THE SET WITH SETH ROGEN

A day on the set of *"The Interview"*



written by:
Thomas Molander

I'm sitting in a control room watching an actor play a news anchor on dozens of monitors. It's 6:30AM and the film crew is guzzling coffee. There's only three weeks remaining to finish a film that's slated for release next year. The man on screen is reading fictional stories about North Korea, and struggling to control the teleprompter with his feet. To my immediate right is Seth Rogen.

Also present in the room are: two guys controlling the cameras via some kind of computer software, a guy who identifies himself as a writer who seems to be tweaking the script on a laptop, and a woman in a pantsuit who is assertively friendly.

On screen, the actor announces that North Korea is acting dangerously, and that the future of the world is looking grim. After a few blunder-filled moments, he nails the take. "Beautiful," bellows Rogen. "That's news baby!" Then he breaks out in his trademark belly laugh.

The general atmosphere is relaxed. Every time I walk near someone and they hear my footsteps approaching, they look up with warm smiles on their faces—prepared expressions in case I'm Seth Rogen, or maybe James Franco. Instead, they're gazing upon a hungover intern, though most are still kind enough to shoot a more subdued version of the smile at me.

A man walks up to where Seth is sitting and asks him how long they've booked the studio to get their shots. "We've got like an hour and a half," he says. The man asks what happens if they don't get their shots in time. "If we don't get them today, we don't get them today," Rogen answers surprisingly Zen-like (perhaps through herbal means).

And things do take a while. Each time the actor makes a mistake, he and most of the crew laugh heartily-self-deprecation is a common theme. The actor changes ties a total of seven times, and changes shirts three or four times. He does takes over and over again, with vaguely modified dialogue each time, as it seems undecided how dramatic they want these scenes to be. His face is constantly powdered, his hair endlessly sprayed and combed. After two hours, he's performed all his lines to Rogen's approval and he fist-pumps. Someone actually shouts, "That's a wrap" and everyone starts packing up.

As the crews are leaving, I glance around, feeling like I should be helping somehow. I offer to help with take-down or something. I was contacted, asked to come lend a hand on this set, and I enthusiastically accepted. But there is nothing I can do to help, they tell me, so I walk out of the studio, past the burly security guys, reflecting on that bizarre kind of epiphany one has after seeing the human side of the ridiculously famous.

TOP 5 HOLIDAY COCKTAILS

1. SPIKED EGG NOG

The definition of liquid Christmas spirit.

Eggnog Mix
Spiced Rum

Directions: Mix away! No measuring required - some like more rum than others.

2. CANDY CANE COCKTAIL

No explanation needed: It's simply a festive party in your mouth!

1 ounce vanilla vodka
1 ounce white chocolate liqueur
½ ounce peppermint schnapps

Directions: Chill your glasses ahead of time. Put everything into a cocktail shaker and shake like your life depends on it. Pour and enjoy!

3. POINSETTIA

With its dark red color, it's the perfect touch to any brunch or dinner party

Champagne
½ ounce Cointreau
3 ounces cranberry juice

Directions: Mix the Cointreau and cranberry juice in a chilled champagne flute and top the rest of the way with your favorite champagne. For extra punch, add a shot of vodka or tequila.

4. APPLE JACK

Just what it sounds like. Two simple ingredients mixed together form an easy drinking beverage.

2 ounce Jack Daniel's Whiskey
4 ounces Apple Cider
Cinnamon Stick (optional)

Directions: Simple and easy. Just mix them together and drink over ice.

5. SUGAR COOKIE MARTINI

Tired of baking but still up for drinking? This is a true dessert cocktail that blends creamy Irish cream with a hint of vanilla and butterscotch.

1 crushed sugar cookie
2 ounces Bailey's Irish cream
1 ounce vanilla vodka
1 ounce butterscotch schnapps

Directions: Coat the rim of the martini glass with water then dip your cookie crumbles into it. Shake everything in a cocktail shaker as hard as you can for 30 seconds. Your drink awaits!

//FASHION NOIRE

Whether you have a high fashion style or prefer to keep it casual, the versatility of an all-black outfit will compliment your image.

written by:
Michelle Morton





WOMEN:
Fall fashion demands warm colours and a mix of textures. The cold will seem less daunting with new trends such as leather leggings, knit layers, and faux fur accessories.

Back in Black
The classic uniform trending right now is head-to-toe black. Not only is this look flattering for any body type, an all-black ensemble acts as a canvas, to style as you please while being a versatile option for any event. It's perfect when you're in a hurry, or unsure of what to wear.

A Touch of Texture
Have contrast with texture to add edge to your black attire. Leather leggings and cozy knits, a black skirt styled with a leather jacket, or go casual with chucks and ball cap – these are just a few of many ways to rock the Chanel-inspired style.

MEN
Gentlemen, you have been stepping it up with slick haircuts and cool, two-toned shoes, and women are noticing. With that said, if you feel you are a "guy's guy" and would like to amp up your look, let's start with the basics.

Wayfarers
Need I say more? There is a reason these shades were resurrected from decades ago. Not only do they add a little mystery, you can rock them with anything from jeans and a t-shirt to a black tie ensemble and still look sharp. Don't wait for the summer – these babies look sexy all year.

Black leather shoes
A well-known staple. However, they don't always need to be paired with a suit. Dark denim with a rolled-up hem (remember: black/dark dress socks only), topped with a warm knit sweater, or if you're feeling a little more GQ that day, add a cool blazer and bow tie.

Pea coat
Or a coat with a structured collar and clean lines is versatile for any environment. School, pub or going to the game—the pea coat will dress up any look in a snap.





// TIPS + LIFESTYLE

The holidays are quickly approaching and it is that time of year to be looking out for great gifts to give to loved ones, but as you probably already know, this task is not as easy on a college budget. Here are a few ways to create a gift while making something old, new again. It is very affordable and easy! All it takes is a trip to an antique store, or if you are lucky, the attic.

Old vinyl records can be up-cycled in many ways. The most common ways to repurpose them are by making bowls, book-ends, clocks, or even just wall decorations. This is a project that you can be very creative with so use your imagination and make something fun.

Here are the steps for you to make your own vinyl record crafts:
1. Preheat your oven to 400 °F (204 °C).
2. Place a bowl on a cookie sheet.
3. Center your record on the bowl.
4. Place your objects in the oven.
5. Take the record out as soon as it begins to sag.
6. Shape your record the way you want to using oven mitts.
7. Let your record cool and harden.

If you want to create a more intricate bowl use a pencil, pen, or wooden dowel and wrap the edges of the record around it as you mould it into shape.

If you are looking to make a book-end, find a large object with a 90° edge and press your record against it. Also, be sure that the label is parallel with the edge so you can still read it once the book-end is on display.

If your record didn't turn out the way you wanted it to, that's okay. Go back and do it again or just use it as a wall decoration.

Finally, if you are really in the holiday spirit, use an old 45 single and melt it into a Christmas tree ornament!

Good luck, have fun, and enjoy the holidays!





COMIC BY CARLO PUCHE



//READ. WATCH. LISTEN.



A House in the Sky
Amanda Lindhout and Sara Corbett
(Simon and Schuster)

A House in the Sky is a must-read for anyone who was once (or perhaps still is) reckless, young, and convinced of their own invincibility, or for anyone with regrets they are slowly trying to forgive themselves for. Amanda Lindhout, along with co-author Sara Corbett, gives readers a poignant look at an ordeal that is nothing short of terrifying, but handled with striking bravery.

The story is a memoir, and accordingly the major plot points have not been kept under wraps. A simple Google search, or decent recall of news headlines, will reveal that Amanda Lindhout is a Canadian journalist who was kidnapped and held for 15 months by Islamic extremists in Somalia. That's where familiarity with her story ends though, and readers will be stunned by the horrific and lengthy abuse Lindhout suffered at the hands of her captors.

The prose is laid out plaintively and chronologically, with months flashing by in single sentences. Lindhout details moments of abuse, and does not shy away from sharing her feelings of fear, desperation and, at times, hopelessness. Despite the atrocities she underwent, Lindhout still manages to capture the humanity in each of her abductors, and these are perhaps the strongest moments in the book. Her ability to empathize and forgive makes this a story about strength, endurance and character, set in one of the most dangerous countries in the world.

- Kelsi Furlong



The Book Thief (2013)
dir. Brian Percival
(20th Century Fox)

Brian Percival's big screen adaptation of Markus Zusak's novel of the same name, tells the story of a German teen Liesel Meminger (Sophie Nélisse) as she navigates life in Germany during World War II. Observed by Death (Roger Allam), who narrates Liesel's journey and supported by adoptive parents, Hans Hubermann (Geoffery Rush) and Rosa Hubermann (Emily Watson), Liesel tries to understand the events in Germany against the backdrop of Hitler's rise to power and discovers reading as a means of coping; something frowned upon by the Nazis.

The film serves as an example how World War II movies can be done tastefully, bordering between art and realism. Refreshingly, the violence in the film was illustrative and not simply for pure shock value. However, this might not sit well with those who find this portrayal of Germany too gentle. While these moments are important to create context for this story, The Book Thief itself does not focus on them; instead, accentuating these parts of history without overwhelming the plot.

The dialogue is charming and the lines are filled with life. The subtle jokes are refreshing, while moving moments provide the viewer with an opportunity for self-reflection. The story champions reading and writing as a way of living; indeed, it would have been preposterous if the movie's writing did not parallel such thinking.

Especially delightful were the performances of Sophie Nelisse and Geoffery Rush. The two worked well together navigating Nazi Germany – albeit in different



The Marshall Mathers LP 2
Eminem
(Aftermath/Shady/Interscope)

It's been over 10 years since the first Marshall Mathers LP but it was worth the wait. Frequent production collaborators (Dr. Dre) and familiar guest artists (Rihanna, Skylar Grey) embellish Eminem's efforts to both provoke and inspire. True-to-self Eminem storytelling rap, combined with today's electronic production are reminiscent of The Eminem Show (2003). While some lyrics could benefit from a 2013 upgrade (mainly the track "Rap God," where Eminem brags how he, "Made a living and a killing off it/ Ever since Bill Clinton was still in office/With Monica Lewinsky feeling on his nut-sack"), humorous and relevant lines in songs like "So Far..." and "Love Game" make up for these outdated references. His standard rap ballad makes an appearance in "Stronger than I Was," and while emotional, doesn't pitch the same heart as "Mockingbird" or "Like Toy Soldiers" off of Encore (2004). Marshall Mathers: The LP 2 proves Eminem is still a real Slim Shady and that he's as willing as ever to be real and raw.

Best Tracks: "So Far..." and "Monster"

Biggest Surprise: "Rap God" (he may have broken a speed rapping record on this track)

- Ria Renouf

//The Arabian Desert

Mitchell Sayers

Iraq, 1968

The Iraq sun set amid the backdrop of a hazy sandpaper sky.

Ajaai bent down and shuffled some loose sand between his knuckles. Dismayed, he wiped off his moistened brow with his forearm. Beads of sweat escaped, dripping down on his worn leather sandals.

It was tough to say exactly how long Ajaai had spent searching, but he knew this location felt right. His dusty wrap showing signs of wear, his face worn and weathered from the unrelenting sun; he had been on the search for seven months. After all the studying and researching, he had painstakingly plotted a 500-yard radius. This would be his last shot – if he couldn't produce results, his expedition would be disbanded.

Just then, Ajaai looked up and saw a dozen clothed men on horseback charging over the horizon. Rushing like an incoming wave, the gallop of their Arabian horses pounded the sand, creating a smoky cloud as they dashed forward. They swept over the dunes like a whirling hurricane of movement.

There was no mistaking them. Ajaai had heard the stories. The "اياقب صوصللا" –"Relic thieves," as they were called. Bandits who caught wind when an Archaeologist was on the verge of a great find. Their thievery and brutal killings read like something out of a horror tale. But as they galloped closer, it became all too real for Ajaai.

He turned to make a dash for his horse tied to a stick lodged in the sand. It snarled and snorted, anticipating the adrenaline-surged dash it was about to make. He quickly loosened the straps holding the throbbing muscular shoulder blades and mounted the horse.

A harsh scream from one of the Arabian men interrupted Ajaai's wandering thoughts. He immediately dug his cracked heel into the horse's side, intruding the sinewy ribs and propelling the horse into a full-out trot.

He dared not look back, but he just had to. He needed to know just how much ground they were gaining. He swung his left shoulder back and craned his neck. To his astonishment, the men had stopped riding and were in fact being intercepted by a single rider from the east. Ajaai couldn't make out who that figure was, but the group was huddled around the lone person. But what exactly were they focusing their intention on? The question burned in Ajaai's head, hotter than the sun on his back.

He decided to stop completely and turned his horse around, facing the posse so he could observe them completely. He noticed a few of the horsemen begin to break apart and head south, in the opposite direction of where he was stationed. He waited another few minutes until the group had completely dispersed. He had observed that one of the riders rode east alone, opposite of the rest of the pack. Was this mysterious figure the group had circled around?

Ajaai rode back to his excavation site slowly; he wanted to make sure the bandits hadn't set up a diversion and possible ambush. To his surprise, the only movement he could see was the slight shifting of the sand, the wind sweeping and peppering the dunes in the distance. As he rode closer, to his amazement, it appeared his camp was completely untouched. His leather canvas satchels were still dangling from the half-buried shovels. His water flasks were still tucked away neatly inside his cot. As the mystery grew for Ajaai, something at the corner of his eye had caught his attention. A glimmer ever so slight, ever so promising.

He swung to his right and fixed his gaze in the direction of the distraction. Sure enough, not more than ten feet outside his excavation site, something was teasing his sight with its shimmery metallic coat. His blood started to rush. His head began to pulse. He ran over and started to dig with his hands, moving large amounts of sand. Astonishingly, he began to see the shape of the impossible. A Sumerian metallic cylinder. As he lifted the object into the sunlight to observe the finer details, something dropped from the bottom of the cylinder.

A crinkled note written on paper much too modern to be associated with the millennia-old artifact he was holding. Ajaai reached down and picked up the letter. His quivering hand caused the letter to shake its sandy coating, which fell slowly back down to join the rest of the desert. He unfolded the letter and began to read:

Dear Ajaai Hamoed,

It is with great pride that I am sharing this find with you. If there was ever an archaeologist worthy, it would be you. Share the knowledge of your once great civilizations with your people of Iraq, and continue to cherish your rich and prosperous history. God speed.

Sincerely,
Henry Goldcliff

Who is Mr.Goldcliff?