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Northwest University's Student Magazine

TALON



'Twas The Night Before Finals...

Rewriting a Classic

Christmas Mad Libs

Grab a Pen for Some Whimsical
Fun!

**7 Ways To Do
Christmas On A Budget**

Cross-Cultural Connections

Faculty Voice: Dr. Autumn Witt

DECEMBER 2013



Slice Of Life
The White Elephant
in the Room

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pg. 9

photo credit: Matthew Zwicker

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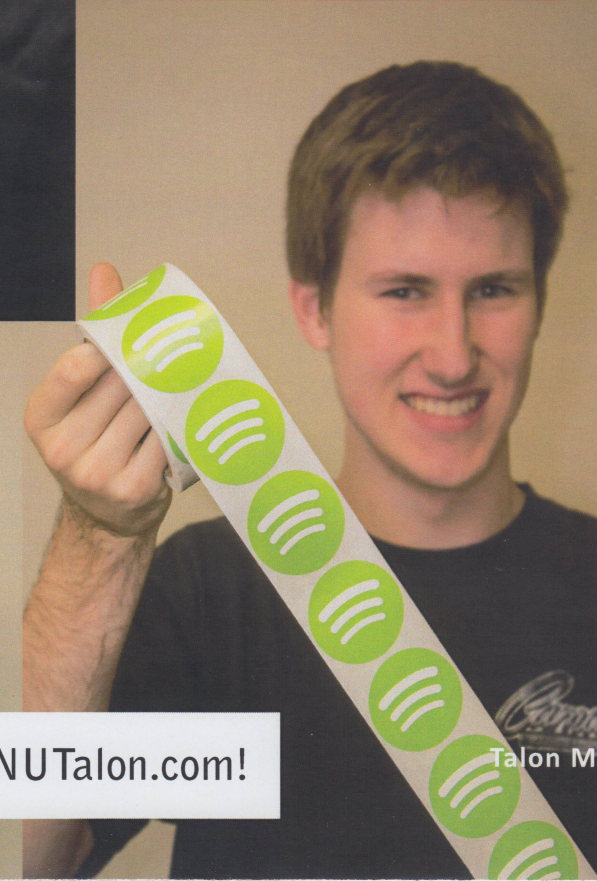
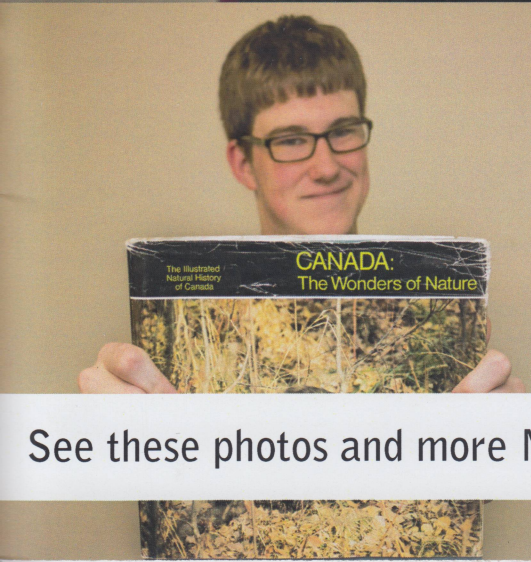
From the Editor:

Have an issue that you want our writers to debate? Grievances with the way we handled an issue? Praise for an article you enjoyed? Send your suggestions and comments to me through email at TalonEditor@northwestu.edu or via Facebook ([/NUTalon](https://www.facebook.com/NU_Talon)) or Twitter ([@TalonMagazine](https://twitter.com/TalonMagazine)). Then look for your letter in the next issue! I look forward to hearing from you!

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What is the best white elephant gift?

A white silhouette of an elephant on a red background.

See these photos and more NUTalon.com!

NUpdate

What's Senate Up To?

NU Senate has been working hard this semester to approve funding requests for different clubs and events. Weekly meetings on Thursdays at 5pm in Hurst 110 are a perfect opportunity for students to propose new clubs. PAC meetings happen periodically and are the best way for students to make their voices heard and to hear what Senate is doing for our campus. Senate will discuss and vote on several projects at the end of this semester and the beginning of spring semester including extending weekend dorm visitation hours, putting an ATM on campus, changing Caf hours and meal plan structures, and creating an outdoor amphitheater/bonfire space on campus. Contact Senate Chair Calvin Horne (calvin.horne10@northwestu.edu) with questions or keep an eye out for more updates!

Mark Your Calendars!

As the semester comes to an end, there are some important dates to remember before going home for the holidays. For students planning on staying on campus for winter break, Christmas housing applications are due by Dec. 6 to the Housing Office. Christmas housing begins on Dec. 14 at 5 pm. Winter break officially begins on Dec. 16, and classes resume on Jan. 13, 2014. If you live in the dorms, both the residence halls and the Caf reopen on Jan. 10. University offices will be closed Dec. 24- Jan. 1. Find additional information on Eagle. Enjoy the holiday season!

Breakfast, Anyone?

It's that time of the year again, and Midnight Breakfast is right around the corner! Take a study break and come to the Caf on Monday, Dec. 9 at 10 pm for a complimentary breakfast served by faculty and staff. Enjoy some food with friends before the late night cramming for finals really begins. You won't want to miss out!

IS Responds to Recent Tech Issues

Recent tech issues on campus have caused frustration when the internet stops working, and panic ensues when NU students can't submit their papers. The IS Department recently defined their mission statement: "Supporting the NU community with excellence in technology and extraordinary service." The department is working hard to fulfill this mission to make the use of technology on campus more enjoyable. Tech issues will come up from time to time, but IS wants to be available for students at anytime. Students are encouraged to email help@northwestu.edu, stop by the Barton office, or call (425) 889-5310 when issues with NU technology or personal tech items arise.

photo credit: Cameron Moore



Cross-Cultural Connections with Dr. Witt



I just returned from two amazing weeks in Korea and China. The connections between NU and Asia are about to get stronger, and I hope my enthusiasm will be contagious!

In Korea, we visited our partner institutions in Seoul. The director from Gachon University, one of our sister universities, planned a dinner for NU alumni and was shocked when 22 students signed up with just a few days' notice. Our students hugged and high-fived and said, "I can't believe we haven't hung out again since we came back." And then the questions and stories started, over the steaming, bubbling Korean hotpot soup: "Tell me how is Suzan. Did you know Paul and Keumna are still dating? Did you know we met Sharon and Ashley in Seoul, too? How is Kristin? She had her baby?! Oh, I want to go back to my life at NU!" Everyone shared advice to the new students coming to NU: "Practice your listening! Make friends! Don't be shy!" Everyone agreed, "You're so lucky, I want to be going, too." My heart was exploding seeing the community experience that NU gives to students.

The next day, we met with the advisor at another sister university, Ewha, and told her about our dinner. "They must love you! I can't even get two students to come if I give them a month's notice."

Students, be proud you attend a small university! We can form relationships with each other and between students and faculty in ways that are difficult at a large university.

We next went to China to initiate contact with a number of potential partners. After a few dusty days in Beijing, we spent three hours on a train and stepped out into Shandong province and the city of Changle (Shang-Luh). The crowds, bustle, and smog forgotten, I finally got to experience small town China. At last, a town with less than a million people! Changle has just 800,000...but trust me: it feels like a small town!

Li Lowry, International Student Services Coordinator, and I were visiting to identify Teach Abroad opportunities for NU grads. When we arrived at the school, we got to join the welcome lunch for their two new foreign English teachers.

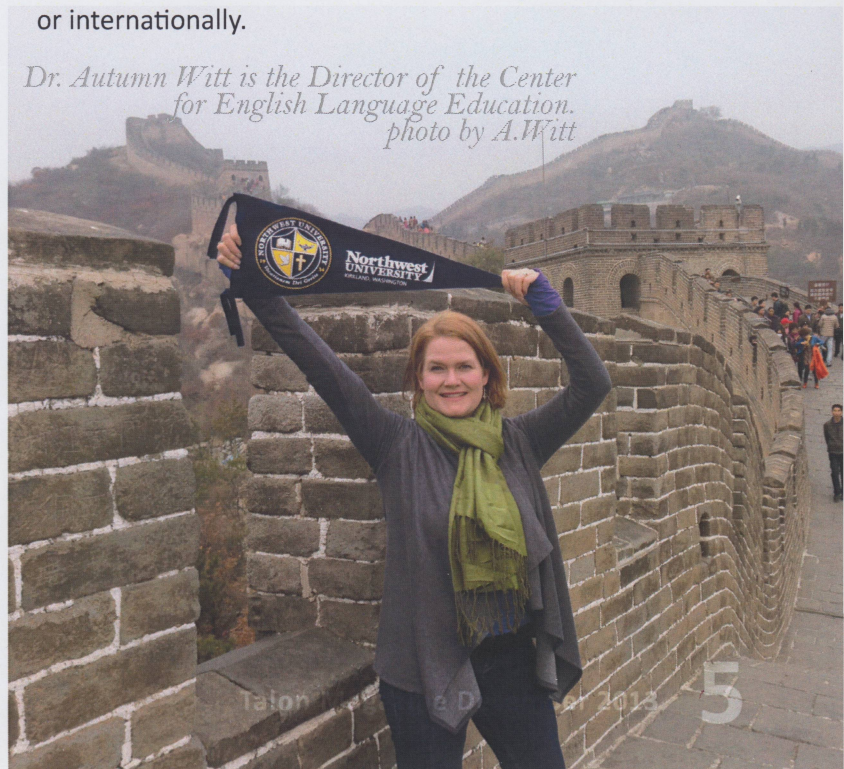
One other teacher met us for a moment to give her regrets for not coming: "I'd really love to come, but my neighbor is going to cut my hair, and after that, the grandmas in my neighborhood are cooking a special

"Being Christian makes a tangible impact on our interactions with each other."

fish for me." I know this was a professional misstep on her part, but I also understood. It immediately took me back to teaching in a small town in Japan and so many kind families who opened their homes so their kids could practice English with the foreigner in town, to show off their apple crop, to test if I could eat the local delicacy, or even to teach me how to properly arrange flowers. Teaching in Japan through the JET Programme was a formative experience in affirming my career path and sending me to grad school. I am so excited that we will now have direct partnerships with elementary and high schools in China for NU students to have a similar opportunity.

In China, I learned to be proud that NU is genuinely, distinctly Christian. Being Christian makes a tangible impact on our interactions with each other, and I know our work is a part of a bigger plan. Learning starts here, but consider how you will grow when you put yourself in cross-cultural situations locally, nationally, or internationally.

*Dr. Autumn Witt is the Director of the Center for English Language Education.
photo by A.Witt*



A photograph of a decorated Christmas tree. The tree is covered in warm white lights, red and gold ornaments, pinecones, and red and gold ribbons. It is set against a plain, light-colored wall.

An NU Twist on
Clement Moore's
"A Visit from
St. Nicholas"

'Twas the Night
before Finals...



Twas the night before finals, when all through NU
Not a student was stirring, no, not even you;
The books were spread across floors and on chairs,
In hopes a snowpocalypse would cancel finals there;
The freshmen were nestled all snug in their beds,
While seniors' and juniors' hearts filled with dread;
Nursing students in scrubs and business majors in
 slacks
Had just collapsed for a short, study-break nap.

When out on the green there arose such a clatter,
Students complained from their beds, wondering what
 was the matter;
Away to the window students' feet they did drag,
Tore open the blinds, and kicked their book bags.

Rebecca Black's "Friday" sung on the field of new
 fallen snow
Gave confusion and anger to students below,
When, what their wondering eyes should see,
But a man from the South, and eight faculty.
With a distinguishable accent, so lively and merry,
They knew in a moment it must be President
 Castleberry.

As rapid as eagles the professors they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by
 name:
"Now, Bacon! Now, Diede! Now, Charette and
 Christensen!
On, Drivdahl! On, Embry! On, Ziefle and Jacobson!
To the top of Perks! On top of the halls!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"
As fast as chicken nuggets from the Caf on Fridays do
 fry,
The professors jumped off the roofs, up the hill they
 did fly;
So up to the Aerie the professors they flew,
With their punch cards and wallets, and caffeine
 cravings, too.

And then, in a twinkling, students heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each dress shoe.

As they picked up their sleepy heads, and were turning
 around,
Down the hallway President Castleberry came with a
 bound.
He was dressed in a suit, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with mud and soot;
A bundle of books he had flung on his back,
And for just ninety-nine cents, you could buy from the
 sack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! His accent how
 merry!
His laugh was like banjos; he was craving the Aerie!
The drawl from his mouth was easy to hear,
He was a southern St. Nick in need of some cheer;
The stain of coffee upon students' teeth
And the smell of espressos far from weak
Made President Castleberry rub his belly;
He ordered a peppermint mocha and a pastry with
 jelly.

Dr. Ziefle was dressed as a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of Dr. Embry's eye and a twist of his head
Soon showed to all that they had much to dread;
Charette spoke not a word but went straight to his
 work
And with Bacon filled all the stockings with papers and
 homework;
Dr. Diede, laying her finger aside of her nose
And giving a nod, corrected everyone's prose;
Castleberry sprang to his feet, to his team gave a
 whistle,
And began they all lecturing like a Pauline epistle.
But I heard him exclaim, as a piece of advice,

*"Happy Christmas
to all, and buy my
book on Amazon for a
discounted price."*

Uncle's: The Name of the Game

With the holidays approaching and Christmas break on the horizon, Uncle's Games in Bellevue has the Monopoly™ on fun-for-the-family game night.

The seemingly small and simple shop turns into a haven for board game and card enthusiasts once you walk through the doors. With games stacked floor to ceiling, Uncle's offers hundreds of choices for their patrons, making them the largest Operation™ for games this side of Washington. From the classic Candyland™ to the more specialized Settlers of Catan™, there is truly a game for everyone.

Think that shops are just for commerce? At Uncle's this idea is Balderdash™! Since 1978, the employees and founders of Uncle's have wanted to create a store where the product was more than merchandise. When the founders sat down to Brainstorm™ what they wanted their enterprise to become, they decided to take a Risk™ and make their shop interactive.

That's right. Interactive! This means that nearly every game the store has to offer can also be played and enjoyed in store! Nearly every game they sell, they also have a spare copy for play. At Uncle's, games are a way of Life™. Saturday nights at Uncle's exemplify this mentality, and the store stays open until midnight for what they call 'Open Play.'

Saturday Open Play makes fun more than just a Trivial Pursuit™. On these nights, groups can come in, grab a table, and enjoy the cozy and comfortable feel of the store. As if the draw to hundreds of gaming choices wasn't enough, there are dozens of venues for gamers that feel like a Hungry Hungry Hippo™ as well. A stone's throw from the food court, Uncle's breaks convention and encourages gamers to feel at home and enjoy a bite to eat as they play through the night.

Need another reason to Say Go™? If you are looking to buy a game, patrons are offered a 15% discount on all products purchased for those who come and play. Since people are the purpose, Uncle's makes sure your play day doesn't ruin your Pay Day™, and with the holidays on approach, this policy makes games more affordable and easier to Acquire™.

So if you are racking your Cranium™ for something to do this Saturday night, get a Clue™ and Scrabble™ on in to Uncle's. Wise or Otherwise™, all ages can find something to enjoy. So give it a shot! If the fine people at Uncle's have anything to say about it, you won't be Sorry™!

Uncle's is located in the Crossroads mall in Bellevue. To learn more about any of the games mentioned above, go online to <http://www.unclesgames.com/>

photo credit: John Swayne

7 Ways To Do Christmas On A Budget

Kalynn Martell Student Life
photo credit: Artgeek3K



This year, I hear more and more people feeling embittered about Christmas because of the commercialization and emphasis on spending money, making those of us without money feel a combination of guilt and resentment.

What if I told you that Christmas doesn't have to be about all those things unless you let it? There are so many ways to make Christmas special without spending gobs of money. Here's a list to make this Christmas meaningful without breaking the bank:

1. Take advantage of NU's plethora of festive activities. Kick off the season by going to the Christmas Traditions Concert at Benaroya Hall in Seattle. Put on some fancy clothes (preferably red or sparkly) and allow the music to awaken your Christmas spirit—for only \$14. NU also has other concerts, movie showings, and Christmas readings for free.

2. Decorate! Make snowflakes with printer paper, Santa from toilet paper tubes, and Christmas trees from duct tape! (Pinterest, anyone?) Don't forget to decorate your door and refrigerator!

3. Bake ALL THE THINGS. The more you bake, the fewer presents you'll feel obligated to buy. Decorate a paper bag and fill it up with cookies. Voila! Christmas presents for all your friends!

4. Do not leave the house on Black Friday. You'll spend too much money, and the Grinch will find you and destroy your Christmas spirit. If the temptation is too much for you, just hold out for Cyber Monday.

5. Take time to tell people how much you care about them—maybe write them a note on their festive cookie bags! A heartfelt note means more to most people than a gift that you scrambled to buy.

6. Invest in a Christmas sweater from a second-hand store. What you wear influences your attitude.

7. If you are going to spend money, spend it on something that will make the world a better place, whether that means gifts for family, making a shoebox for a child, or participating in another charity.

Christmas is about celebrating the love of Jesus, and that's why Christmas is so wonderful. So pull off that Grinch face and make the world a better place!

In the words of Kid President, "The world's so big, and we're all so small. Sometimes it feels like we can't do anything at all. But the world can be better, in spite of its flaws. Yeah, the world can be better, and you'll be the cause."

Some Pep, Please?

NUSG Considers Pep Position

With the first annual Pack the Pavilion pep rally and the christening of Swoops, the newly named NU Eagles mascot, NU is taking a fresh look at spirit on campus. NUSG hosted a naming competition for the mascot, and the university used the Microsoft Surface RT prize to build excitement for the rally. Clearly, this year's NUSG team has a passion to see students get excited about attending NU and supporting athletic activities on campus.

"Basketball games have the largest audience," said Mariah Savage, NU freshman who attended the Pack the Pavilion rally and shares NUSG's passion to involve students in supporting NU athletics. NU students have room to improve, and she noted that a good way to support the pep effort is have one person or an entire group begin cheering. "At my high school, a specific group would cheer as a group and this would allow the audience to jump in."

The "focus of building community around athletics is stronger this year," said Emilee Larsen, NUSG treasurer. Athletics still does not take precedence at NU like it does at many other schools, but

Larsen holds that school spirit and support of athletic programs helps to form a structure which community can be built upon.

"We are looking at the new structure for the upcoming NUSG officers," she added. Larsen suggested that NUSG could be looking into establishing a new individual or group position for school spirit next year. However, there is still nothing official regarding new positions.

"[We want] to collaborate with other organizations beside Rec Sports and athletic programs," said Larsen. NUSG has been working with Student Development and Residence Life to brainstorm possible changes.

Northwest University is a community. One of the best ways to build community it to show support for those that represent us. Our athletes represent us to other schools, and they deserve support from their peers. So whether you encourage the athlete that lives next door in the dorms or deck out in blue and gold war paint for the next basketball game, show some school spirit and let our athletes know that you appreciate them.





This month's Top Shots



| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Men's Basketball | W5 L2 |
| Women's Basketball | W4 L2 |

Congratulations to both Men's and Women's soccer for making it to the CCC Championships!



See more online at www.nutalon.com

Christmas Mad-Libs

You read our version; now it's your turn to try your hand at a clever poem! Grab some friends. Fill in the blanks. When you're finished, read it aloud with a *boisterous* voice! Have fun!



photo credit: Cameron Moore

Jolly Old Saint NU Professor

Jolly old saint _____, lean your _____ this way.

NU Prof Part of face

Don't you _____ a single soul what I'm going to _____.

Present-Tense Verb One-syllable Verb

_____ is coming soon; now, you dear old _____,

Holiday Noun

Whisper what you'll _____ to _____ -- _____ me if you can

Future-tense Verb NU Prof Verb

When the _____ is striking _____, when I'm _____,

Noun Number -ing Verb

Down the _____ broad and black, with your _____ you'll creep.

Place at NU Item a Prof Carries

_____ wants a pair of _____; _____ wants a _____;

NU Student Plural Noun Friend's Name Noun

_____ wants a _____; _____ thinks _____ are folly.

Prof Name Noun Pronoun Plural Noun

As for _____, their little brain isn't very bright;

Name of person filling in these blanks

Choose for them, old _____, what you think is right.

Name of Prof from beginning

'Twas the Night Before an NU Event

Peter McMurray

Entertainment

photo credit: vhasen



'Twas the night before _____, when all through _____
NU Event Location on Campus

Not a _____ was _____, not even a _____.
Noun -ing Verb Animal

The _____ were hung by the _____ with care,
Plural Noun Location on Campus

In hopes that _____ soon would be there.
Name of NU President who can impersonate Johnny Cash and has a book available for \$0.99

The _____ were _____ all snug in their _____,
Plural Noun Verb ending with -ed Location

While visions of _____ danced in their _____.
Plural noun that makes you happy NU-Appropriate Body Part

And _____ in her _____, and I in my cap,
NU Female Article of Clothing

Had just _____ our _____ for a long winter's nap
Past-Tense Verb Plural Internal Organ

When out on the _____ there arose such a clatter,
Location on Campus

I _____ from the bed to see what was the matter.
Verb reminding you of a basketball player

When, what to my wondering eyes should _____,
Boring Verb

But a miniature _____, and eight tiny _____.
Vehicle Plural noun of people in an occupation

With a little old driver, so _____ and merry,
Adjective ending with -ly

I knew in a moment it must be _____.
Last Name of NU President Previously Mentioned

More rapid than _____ his coursers they came,
Plural Animal

And he _____, and _____, and he called them by name!
Past-Tense Verb Past-Tense Verb

"Now _____! now, _____! now, _____ and Vixen!
NU Prof NU Prof NU Dean

On, _____! On, _____! On, _____ and Blitzen!
NUSG Member NUMA Member NU Student

He sprang to his _____, to his team gave a whistle,
Vehicle

And away they all _____ like the down of a thistle.
The most amazing past-tense verb you can think of

But I heard him _____, 'ere he drove out of sight,
The most amazing PRESENT-tense verb you can think of

"Happy _____ to all, and to all a good-night!"
NU Event from beginning

No, not really.

- Zach

Many Christians complain about modern Christmas, calling it a holiday centered on consumerism and materialism. Many claim the Christ has been ripped straight from the day's meaning, replacing our Savior with a big man in a red suit

Those who have studied the origins of both Christmas and Christ, however, may find that there is absolutely nothing wrong with the modern view of Christmas.

The claim that Christmas is about Jesus' birth has been disproven by numerous historians, and most speculation points to a March or September birthday. Christian leaders in the early 4th century started celebrating the birth in December to combat a Roman holiday called Saturnalia, which promoted all kinds of morally depraved behaviors including rape and human sacrifice. Obviously something had to be done, so the early Catholic Church substituted sinful indulgence and murder with gift giving!

It is tough to argue that Christians have lost sight of what Christmas is all about when its actual origins are not quite as glamorous as we once thought. Christmas, regardless of its name or incarnation, has always been a holiday with different meanings for everyone. The only shared themes across all versions of Christmas seem to be generosity and family togetherness, which our modern traditions still have at heart.

Christians who want a Christ-friendly Christmas can still take solace in modern traditions. Gift-giving is reflective of Christ's selflessness and sacrifice. Feasting has always been a symbol of celebration in the Bible, and a large family dinner can be reflective of the times Jesus gathered his disciples to eat. Even Santa, a man with wondrous gifts offered to everyone on earth, can be seen as a parallel to the availability of salvation through Christ to anyone who wants it.

In the end, mindset is what is most important. Give gifts generously, not to receive something in return. Feast with family to be together and love each other, not just to fill up as much as possible before the drive home. There has never been anything wrong with the way we celebrate Christmas, just the way we think about it.

Stay safe this winter, Northwest. And celebrate the holidays in whatever way makes you feel the best!

Zachary McGuirk a senior Communications major with an emphasis in media. In his spare time, he enjoys playing and reviewing video games and baking Christmas cookies.



photo credit: Colton Brown





Has Christmas Lost Christianity?

Yes, indeed.

Siobhon McManus is a sophomore English major with a passion for writing. When not writing for the Talon, she spends her time reading the thickest Christmas-themed books she can find in Hurst Library.

There is something so disarming about the holiday season. An elated atmosphere, the streets a little brighter, and strangers more welcoming – this time of the year we celebrate our world’s ever-radiant, silver lining.

Yet, for all its magic and inspired humanity, modern Christmas seems to thrive in a cultural vacuum, the great escape into a season of gilded glory. Conflicted, we fall for scintillating images and dreamlike feelings that have already been prepared for abandonment. We know that by winter’s end, December’s childlike wonder becomes nothing more than an affair to remember.

It is tragic that the cyclic nature of modern celebration perpetuates cheapened, seasonal benevolence. No matter how authentic our experience, it seems that the moment we bind hope and joy to stagnant representations, we shirk our responsibility to let this beloved Christmas persona exist beyond the holidays.

Maybe as Christians, we feel we are exempt because, after all, we understand the true meaning of Christmas, right? We cannot possibly be susceptible to the same, fleeting nature of our secular counterparts! Au contraire, my friends. As a community of believers, we continue to limit reflection on Christ’s glorious incarnation to a single holiday, setting deadlines on our genesis of hope. But divine truth that does not take hold is futile. Rekindled belief then becomes as durable as Wal-Mart wrapping paper.

This Christmas, let us trade in holiday delirium for a time of pensive rest. When our homes no longer smell of peppermint, and shopkeepers take down their tinsel-laden placards, may emptied pews still ring with truth.

- Siobhon



TALON DEC 2013

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photo credit: MeiTeng

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 Concert Choir Performance Benaroya Hall 7:30pm | 4 Christmas Chapel | 5 End Scene Improv Christmas Show! | 6 Fall Graduate Chapel Women's Basketball 5:30pm Jazz Concert 7:30pm | 7 Women's Basketball 5:30pm Christmas Party 8pm |
| 8 | 9 Last Day of Classes Choralons Concert 7pm Midnight Breakfast 10 pm | 10 Normal Schedule TR or MWF @ 8 or 8:30am TR or MWF @ 10 or 10:30am TR or MWF @ 12:30 or 1pm TR or MWF @ 3 or 3:30pm T, MW, or R @ 5, 5:30, or 6:30 pm | 11-12 Finals Week | | 13 Finals Schedule 8-10am 10:30a-12:30pm 1-3pm 3:30-5:30pm 6:30-9:30pm Women's B-ball 6pm | 14 All students must be moved out by 5pm! Women's Basketball 5:30pm |
|  <h2>Christmas Break</h2> <p>December 14 - January 13</p>  | | | | | 10 New Student Orientation | 11 Move-In |
| | | | | | 12 Move-In | 13 Spring Semester First Day of Classes |
| 19 | 20 MLK Day - NO CLASSES | 21 | 22 | Coming soon... | | |
| <h1>TALON JAN 2014</h1> | | | | | | |