

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | FEBRUARY 2016



SUMMIT STAFF



Alyssa Blackhurst is in her third year at Grossmont, and while she has yet to decide her career path, she is content taking college classes for fun. As a lover of all things pop culture, her free time is spent reading comic books, playing video games or watching scary movies. On the weekends you can usually find her walking her most beloved companion, her bull terrier "Indy," or out at comic and anime conventions, where she displays various cosplay costumes she's designed.

Sebastian Caparelli is an English major at Grossmont with plans to transfer to Columbia University in 2017. After discovering the power of the pen in an attempt to protect the civil rights of another student, he realized journalism could be as rewarding as creative writing. He considers being on The Summit one of the highlights of college. He is publishing his first novel in a series this October under the pen name Gregory Carlos.



Octavius Hunter is a Flint, Mich., native and in his first semester at The Summit. He is heavily involved in the hip hop culture and a combatant U.S. Marine veteran, serving four years in aviation. He loves sports, especially football and basketball, and his favorite team is University of Michigan Football. Go Blue!

Sheridan Martinez is a senior editor at The Summit. She loves drinking coffee, going to the beach and writing. Her major is journalism, and she hopes to transfer to SDSU and pursue a career as a professional journalist or reporter. She loves writing special interest stories, as well as taking important aspects of the college and turning them into a more enjoyable read for students.



Rodney Ousley is a Navy vet who loves stand-up comedy, writing and the Knicks. A self-diagnosed Netflix junkie, he speaks almost entirely in movie quotes, and his favorite compliment is, "You have a great taste in movies." When he's not on the couch, you can catch Rodney playing basketball or long distance running. He also makes himself laugh...a lot.

Ashley Stout is the editor-in-chief of The Summit. Ashley loves writing and going to the beach in her spare time. She is a journalism major who hopes to transfer to SDSU or CSUN and eventually write for a big-time fashion magazine in Los Angeles. Ashley loves writing about fashion and entertainment, but also enjoys writing hard-hitting stories from time to time. She is very excited to see where The Summit takes her in her writing.



The SUMMIT

A publication of Grossmont College's
Media Communications Department.

Vol. 42 | Issue 5 | February 2016

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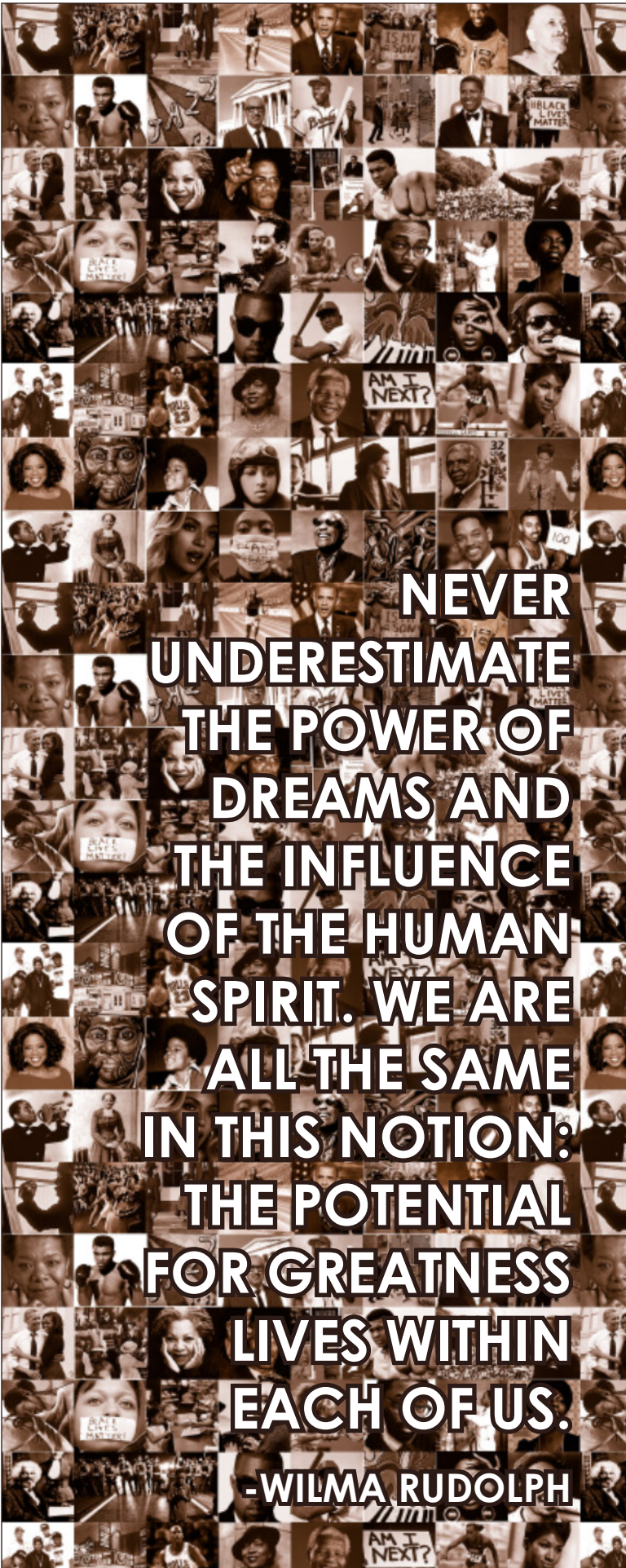
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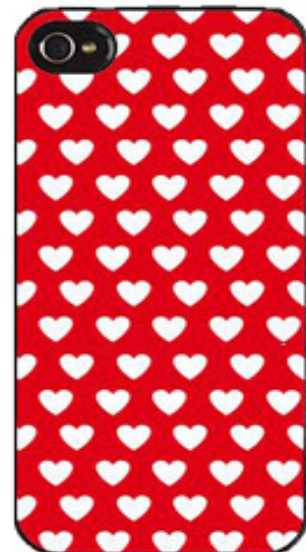
**NEVER
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-WILMA RUDOLPH

Logging Out

When it comes to relationships, online distractions come at a price.

BY SHERIDAN MARTINEZ



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Over the past few years the use of social media has become more and more popular with each passing day, whether it's Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter or even dating sites. All of these new online outlets have completely changed the way we chose to communicate with one another. Are these new technological advances for better or for worse?

All around the campus, students are glued to their cell phones. Whether they are walking around subconsciously bumping into others or crowded around a table together with their phones. With the way social media has impacted us lately, the traditional face to face engagement between two people has faded desperately. Having a face to face conversation with someone can't seem to go interrupted without a text or social media notification. Not only is it disrupting in school life, but also serious relationships with significant others are deteriorating from the buzz and distraction of the cell phone. Grossmont student Briana Morales said, "Online dating can sometimes turn out good,

but sometimes may be dangerous. The Internet can be a very helpful tool in many ways we just need to learn how to put it to good use, however social media has made us have the urge to be like everyone else and want what everyone else has."

When it comes to dating, finding a significant other online is so much easier compared to the early years of the Internet with all the new websites. Some can even match you with someone based off your personality traits and interests (like match.com), swipe left or swipe right on the notorious app Tinder, "like" a photo on Instagram or even the sad and pathetic "slide into the DM's."

The good 'ole-fashioned relationship just doesn't seem to exist anymore. You may see a couple out at dinner, but what's the first thing you see? Both people looking down at their phones, with no eye contact whatsoever. Or maybe they're even Snapchatting or Instagramming their meal. According to pewinternet.org, "25 percent of cell phone owners in a marriage or partnership have felt their spouse or partner was

distracted by their cell phone when they were together." Disruptions in real life relationships are ultimately deteriorating the authenticity of a normal healthy relationship.

The online world has also created a scapegoat for some to create relationships and date without even having to ever leave their house, in a more virtual world. Seeking love online can be more comforting for some than going out and trying to meet someone on their own. Especially when you have the advantage of recreating yourself into anyone you want to be, like some do on the popular MTV show, Catfish. According to Statista.com, 85 percent of people think that online dating is socially acceptable. It really just depends on your perspective but it doesn't hurt to try the old fashion way of dating, face to face and in person.

Nevertheless, cell phones and social media can be extremely addictive now living in such a digital age; but don't let it get in the way of a special moment with your loved ones. Focus on the big picture and what is really important.

LOVE ON A BUDGET



Survive V-Day with this
wallet-friendly guide.

BY SHERIDAN MARTINEZ & ASHLEY STOUT

Valentine's Day is time you want to impress that special person in your life.....But you just paid for 12 units, six textbooks and that parking pass. Well, here's a few tips on getting more bang for your buck and scoring with your bae this V-Day.

Presents

Pinterest.com is your best friend. The magic of Pinterest is that the ideas for Valentine's Day are endless, whether it be making a DIY picture frame with your girlfriend's or boyfriend's picture, baking a delicious pink and red cake, or writing a 100 reasons why you love your significant other. They will appreciate the creativity and personal love, and it will save you some big bucks when it comes to getting a present for your significant other.

Keep it simple and sweet. A box of chocolates and some flowers are the simplest thing in the Valentine's book. They're not too expensive, and will make your darling swoon.

Kiss and make up. Any girl will appreciate some makeup on V-day and there's ways to buy makeup without spending too much. ULTA has some good little mini makeup products by the register for \$5 to \$30. Morphe.com is also an affordable makeup brand with beautiful eyeshadow palettes for under \$30.

Soak it up. A bath bomb from Lush is a perfect gift to let your sweetie relax and take a nice, long therapeutic bath.

Dates

Ride it out. Sunny San Diego is known for its fun outdoor activities. So rent some bikes, grab your significant other and take a ride along any of our amazing beaches. Bike rentals range from \$10 to \$15 at Mission Beach Rentals in Belmont Park. Pack a blanket and some sandwiches, and relax on the beach. Enjoy the sun and the love.

Take a hike. If you have an adrenaline junkie in your life, this is the date for you. Grab a couple of water bottles and some healthy snacks, then pick from one of the many options we have. The view at Torrey Pines is absolutely breathtaking, and the hike is not too hard so it is still enjoyable. There are also a lot of opportunities to catch that perfect pic with your boyfriend or girlfriend.

Be a kid again. If you just want to have fun and have a lighthearted day, act like a child again. You can play a round of laser tag at Ultrazone in Point Loma for just \$8. Jump to new heights at Sky High Sports for \$10 with a Groupon, or get to Boomers to play mini golf and get a ride on the Ferris wheel for \$10. Fall in love each other's playful spirits.

Picnic on the beach. Instead of splurging on some expensive dinner, make your own at home and pack up a picnic basket. Grab some blankets and pillows and head down to the beach to watch the sunset. It's super affordable, fun and romantic.

Let's talk about sex.

Safe is better
than sorry.

BY ASHLEY STOUT

Grossmont Griffins, we know that Valentine's Day is right around the corner and things may be heating up with your significant other. You may be ready to take that next step with them, but **make sure that you are taking all the safest precautions.** According to statisticbrain.com, the average number of children conceived on Valentine's Day is 11,000. That's a whole lot of babies! Do you want one of those to be yours? The choice is yours, but safe sex seems like the best option to prevent pregnancies and the spread of STDs and HIV.

Grossmont's health department is here for all your questions and needs, including the most popular thing you may need this Valentine's Day: Condoms. Just stop on in, and, as Juliette Harrington, a student health services specialist said: "Condoms are available for free, and we give those out as much as we can.... We have a bowl in the office you can just grab them and go."

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, Borogo Women's Health Center will also be on campus to help with reproductive health exams, which are completely free. You can also talk to them about leveraging privacy to pay for birth control without involving insurance. "We love to bring the experts here to give what we can to the students," Harrington said.

Free HIV testing will be offered in the Health Office on Thursday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Before you go one step further in your relationship, stop in and get tested by one of the registered nurses working on campus.

Protect yourself and others. **Remember, safe sex is the best sex.** Happy Valentine's Day, Griffins!





As Black History Month unfolds, our thoughts focus on the present.

| BY OCTAVIUS HUNTER |

As we reflect on numerous events in the past year involving minorities rioting, law enforcement officials are still using extreme measures to control situations. More than 100 unarmed black people were killed by police last year, five times more than any other race. Even worse, only nine law enforcers are being charged with a crime. From Eric Garner's "I can't breathe" incident in New York to a community of angry protesters filling up streets in Ferguson, Mo., Black Lives Matter garners massive numbers of supporters and followers, yet politicians and lawmakers are not engaging in this nationwide epidemic.

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky both criticized the phrase "Black Lives Matter" as derogatory and hateful expression against white people, which is the exact opposite of the Black Lives Matter

movement. When a Black Lives Matter protester was attacked by Donald Trump supporters at a November rally, the Republican presidential hopeful said, "Maybe he should have been roughed up." Some people truly believed this movement has no rightful place in civil rights.

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So what is Black Lives Matter? It's a civil rights movement in black communities nationwide that campaigns against violence and for basic human rights. It was created

in 2012 after George Zimmerman was acquitted for the shooting death of 17-year old Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teen. Three activists—Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi and Alicia Garza—established the campaign Black Lives Matter online.

NBA stars such as LeBron James and Chris Paul voice their opinions regularly with tweets through Twitter and postings on Facebook. In fact, James and his Miami Heat teammates posed in a photo together in hooded sweatshirts before a game just days after Martin's death. Hollywood actors like Samuel L. Jackson and Jesse Williams are heavily involved in the movement by tweeting and creating challenges for awareness on police brutality. Music moguls like Jay Z, Kendrick Lamar and Prince showed their support through their music. During the 2015 Grammy Awards, Prince shocked the world when

he said, "Like books and black lives, albums matter." Kendrick Lamar's song "Alright," which was nominated for four awards at the upcoming Grammy Awards, is purely based on Black Lives Matter issues.

The movement is here in our backyards as well. On the afternoon of Black Friday, more than 70 protesters tried to change the focus from shopping to police brutality by marching through Horton Plaza Mall to the downtown courthouse chanting "Black lives matter." Locally, three black men—Anthony Ashford, Lamontez Jones and Rayshuan Cole—were all shot by police last year. Police claim Ashford reached for the officer's gun after being tazed and before being shot and killed. Police shot Lamontez Jones multiple times, claiming he had a gun, which was discovered to be fake. Rayshuan Cole was shot and killed by police who were responding to a domestic violence call in Chula Vista.

The movement is here, but that doesn't mean Black Lives Matter isn't controversial.

"It's cool that we have a Black Lives Matter platform, but all lives matter," said Eliza Jenkins, a general studies major at Grossmont.

Many people may think it's wrong or even racist to use the phrase "black" instead of "all" because it omits other ethnicities. But contrary to what people may believe, the main purpose of Black Lives Matter is to bring awareness to police brutality to unarmed African Americans.

For more information on Black Lives Matter in San Diego, visit [BlackLivesMatter - San Diego](#) on Facebook or follow @Blklivesmatter on Twitter.

RACISM IN REVERSE?

Are "black-sanctioned" celebrations helpful or harmful?

| AN EDITORIAL BY RODNEY OUSLEY |

Anyone with Internet access and five minutes to spare have come across the controversial Fox News interview where "Clueless" star, actress Stacey Dash, makes the assertion that both Black History Month and BET (Black Entertainment Television) Network are both racist and detrimental to the unification of this country.

To better understand BET and its very reason for existing, let's first examine the CMT (Country Music Television) Network. To say that country music is not fully represented in the mainstream market is a fair argument to make. In the Grammy category for Best Album, only two country albums have taken that honor in the past decade; "Fearless" by Taylor Swift (2010) and "Taking The Long Way" by the Dixie Chicks (2007).

This lack of inclusion is what created the need for CMT and its corresponding annual award show in the first place. This network was created so country artists like Trace Adkins and Lee Ann Womack, who are not household names and mainstays on the Billboard Top 40, can have their own little sector of the universe where they can receive recognition and awards for their contributions. Most importantly, these artists can easily be found by their target audience.

MTV, established in 1981, was the first and only 24 hour all-music channel at the time, and it didn't play a single music video by a black artist for nearly two years until Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" swept the nation. The reasoning of the then-executives of the network was the assumption that black music was not "rock

enough," therefore it was not marketable. Television shows featuring a predominately black cast were few and far between as well on major television networks like CBS and NBC during the late 80s and early 90s, hence the need for BET. Blacks were not being properly represented in the mainstream market, so a space had to be created.

"The topic of Black History Month is a tougher nut to crack because, as Ms. Dash has painstakingly reminded us, there is no 'White History Month.'"

The topic of Black History Month is a tougher nut to crack because, as Ms. Dash has painstakingly reminded us that there is no "White History Month." "However, there is an Irish Heritage Month, celebrated in the Month of March. Hispanic Heritage Month runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was designated for the month of May in 1992. Instead of singling out one group of people, why don't we make a better effort to celebrate all of the different cultures and ethnic backgrounds with roots that are just as firmly planted in the soil of American History?

I have no delusions that these few short paragraphs of this open letter will change the world overnight. Many will read this and will not only be unmoved, but may even come up with a few new arguing points that will continue the never ending cycle of this debate. However, at the very least, I do hope that this piece offered a greater understanding of the subjects at hand, and hopefully inspires its readers to make an honest effort to fully understand opposing points of view, instead of immediately dismissing them simply because they do not mirror their own.

PIXELATED DIVERSITY

Video games aren't always black and white.

| STORY AND ILLUSTRATION BY ALYSSA BLACKHURST |

When people see the world in “black-and-white,” they think in absolutes such as good and bad, right and wrong—without any shades of “gray” or middle ground.

Video games, in their own way, follow this principle of thinking. Minority characters are often given less impactful, less thought provoking roles, to make room for the true protagonist—the tall, slightly muscular, middle-aged white guy with dark features. He's everywhere, across all platforms, and although his story may follow a different tune, his illustration is still “black-and-white,” as his look is believed to be the absolute, the most

relatable figure for gamers everywhere.

Although it's true the most important aspect of the game should be to, first and foremost, make the main character complex and interesting, it has since become tiresome to have this similarly featured protagonist slapped onto the next big franchise.

While the amount of playable minority characters may be small, in celebration of Black History Month, here is a list of eight of the most beloved minority characters to spawn from video games, characters that prove complexity is not defined by skin tone.



#1 LEE AND CLEMENTINE, *The Walking Dead*

In season one of Telltale Games' episodic "The Walking Dead," the player controls a convicted murderer named Lee Everett, who is on his way to prison right as the zombie apocalypse starts. The outbreak effectively helps in freeing Lee from the confines of a cell, but the world, now hardened post-apocalypse, is perhaps more unforgiving than any jail may have been. By a stroke of fate, he's joined by an 8-year-old Clementine, whose parents are missing following an impromptu, if not poorly timed, family vacation.

Though player choice-oriented games rely on a sense of the player's personal morality to determine the demeanor of the main protagonist, Lee will always rise to protect his group, so long as Clementine is in his care. He cares deeply for her, as if she was his own, to the point where he strives for an obviously unattainable goal, finding her most certainly dead parents. This compelling story is helped along by Clementine's youth and uncertain upcoming adolescence, which make her the game's moral compass. The player will most certainly, whether determined to make good or bad choices, strive for a positive outcome for her. Whether they know it or not, they impact her values, as she journeys into becoming an independent, commendable and thought-provoking lead character in Season 2.

#2 AVELINE DE GRANDPRE, *Assassin's Creed III*

The "Assassin's Creed" series depicts a fictional struggle of a rivalry between the Assassins, who desire peace, and the Templars, who strive for a similar goal, but achieved it through power and authority instead. The games are set in various parts of the world and in different centuries, with actual events being altered to suit the developer's desired fictional history.

Aveline, who helped achieve another milestone in gaming by being the series' first female lead, was born in an area of New Orleans during the 18th century. Though her mother lived and died an African slave, Aveline was brought up by the French merchant who fathered her, and lived an agreeable life. Taking note of the fact she was privileged by nature, Aveline set out to pursue freedom, which was quickly noted by the Brotherhood, an Assassin association. Determined to rid New Orleans of oppression and slave-trafficking, she resolves to eliminate all Templar influence.

#3 ROLAND, *Borderlands*

In the game "Borderlands," a fabled alien vault that contains supposed advanced weapons technology leads fortune seekers to the planet Pandora. After getting instructions from a mysterious "Guardian Angel," the playable character of your choice begins to obtain various alien artifacts that help lead to the completion of the vault key.

Being a former soldier under the Atlas Corporation, which disbanded following the destruction of Pandora, character Roland seized the opportunity of his private military group depleting by rallying troops against Hyperion, promising them loot and a life their former employer could not provide. This renders him above a main character to a central character, as he is the reason the three other playable characters are there at all. His intelligence and military experience also succeed in helping him carry his central role into the game's sequel, which, like its predecessor, is a co-op centric game with quality humor you can't find anywhere else.

#4 COACH AND ROCHELLE, *Left 4 Dead 2*

"Left 4 Dead 2" is set in the aftermath of a unique zombie apocalypse, one where the disease known as the "Green Flu" mutates humans into various creatures with enhanced capabilities. Like "Borderlands," this game allows the player to choose from four immune survivors, as they journey to numerous extraction points and safe houses. Perhaps the best thing about this local and online co-op game is that two of the four playable characters are minority characters, each with atypical attributes and backgrounds for a video game. This negates them from the now overdone stereotypes, and is ultimately refreshing.

Coach is a former high school health teacher and, as his name suggests, coach for a freshman football team. He is depicted as optimistic, intelligent, warm and fatherly in a way that helps ground the other survivors, making him their voice of reason and go-to guy. Rochelle, a former associate producer on a news station, is kind, determined and sensible, thus respected and looked up to by all other characters.

#5 COLE TRAIN, *Gears of War*

The locus, a subterranean species, has breached the surface after being driven out by a disease that's consuming them. When the humans subsequently fight back, a war is declared on humanity. The "COG" army is thus mobilized to eliminate the threat, and your team is tasked with rescuing a scientist that might just have a way to win the war.

Character Cole Train, who was a football star before the war, is the powerhouse of the team. He easily shines among other playable characters, as his light-hearted banter and sportsman-esque conduct diminishes the otherwise bleak atmosphere the game has set. More than a comic relief, Train's constant smile fuels his teammates as well as the player with a great deal of determination and optimism for the future.

#6 FRANKLIN, *Grand Theft Auto V*

"Grand Theft Auto V" is a prime example of a game that is often chastised for its representation of minorities. But of the three playable characters in GTA V, Franklin Clinton is the most rounded and empathetic playable character. A repo man, albeit more associated as a gang member, Franklin is your typical enterprising youth. However, believing himself confined to the ghetto, he aspires to become legitimate. Though he has truly had little association with big crime prior to the start of the game, his attempts to avoid such a life are ruined by the appeal of bigger crime boss Michael, a former bank robber with a dysfunctional family.

The main climax sequence of the game is to perform one more bank heist to settle Michael's debt, and remain lucrative enough to settle and stay clean. Although Franklin's vision for the future is tainted by crime, his intelligence, optimism and higher sense of morality make him the most relatable character with the most rewarding goal—to have a better life for himself, a life he never got from his addict family. The end of the game is also completely player-determined, yet in the hands of character Franklin, giving him another thought-provoking event that enhances his compelling nature, and credits him the most pivotal role in the whole story.

#7 SAZH, *Final Fantasy XIII*

In Final Fantasy XIII, the Maker forms a world called Grand Pulse. After humans are created to inhabit it, the Maker decides that, to better control history, he must brand humans to be able to manipulate them. The "fal'Cie" is then formed to grant him such influence, a branding that gives humans certain powers. However, it forces them to complete various tasks, or else they fall and become monsters, called "Cieth."

Sazh, a lively man whose whole world is his son, initially contemplates sacrificing himself to protect his child from falling to the hands of the Cieth. Like him, his other playable companions all have haunting and rigorous missions to complete, which challenge their emotions as well as their most treasured relationships. Though the road is tough, Sazh's strong will and heart of gold prevent anyone from ending their journey prematurely. As the story unfolds, he offers the most realistic outlook on poor situations, and remains calm enough to give his teammates a friendly push. His love for his son is also portrayed of the utmost empathetic light, making him a character of depth.

#8 MARLENE, *The Last of Us*

In this game, Marlene is not a playable character. However, she is on this list because she not only introduces what is widely acclaimed to be a game with an incredible and impactful story, but she also lays out the setting, as well as wraps up the conclusion. Set in a deteriorating United States, this post-apocalyptic zombie horror game tells the tale of survivors Joel and Ellie as they journey across the country in hopes to find a cure for humanity.

Marlene makes up the framework of the plot in every aspect. She is an outspoken leader of the "Fireflies," a group hell-bent on fighting against the aggressive military that resembles a Totalitarian form of government, in hopes to restore order. Being friends with lead character Ellie's mother, Marlene additionally promises to look after her following her death, and raises her as if she were her own, crediting her the setting of the game. After discovering Ellie could possibly be the key to the restoration of humanity, Marlene decides to smuggle her out of the military-run quarantine zones, and makes a hard-yet-faithful decision to leave her in the care of Joel, brother to former Fireflies fighter Tommy. This pushes the main plot into motion, although it is seemingly out of her hands. Without concise spoilers, it's safe to say Marlene and her group have more control over the situation than one would think. Her inner turmoil over the final act affects the story on a high level. If not for her decision making and the actions of Joel in response, the conclusion would surely have less emotional impact.

BEST OF 2015

[Rod's Reel Referrals]

BY RODNEY OUSLEY

Are you one of the millions of Americans who could not care less about the Oscar race if someone paid you? Do you constantly find yourself trapped inside water cooler discussions about the latest movies, and you have absolutely nothing of value to contribute to the conversation? Are you embarrassed to make meaningful eye contact with your Film Analysis professor because you've never seen a single "Star Wars" film? Well, this is the reel referral for you! So soak in this short list of some of the best films 2015 had to offer, guaranteed to help you fake your way through a conversation with the biggest film geek you know.

COMEDY SPY

Directed by Paul Feig. Starring Melissa McCarthy, Jude Law and Rose Byrne.

Bridesmaids' breakaway star shines brightly in this action-packed comedy.

McCarthy stars as Susan Cooper, a woman who seems like the type that refer to her cats as her "kids," but in reality is a top CIA field agent whose ability to be utterly unremarkable is her most dangerous weapon. While her peers like the Bond-esque Agent Fine (Law) must use every tool in their arsenal to take down take out the elusive crime boss, Rayna Bayanov (Byrne), Susan is passing through high security checkpoints by simply posing as an unsuspecting soccer mom.

ACTION-ADVENTURE STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

Directed by J.J. Abrams. Starring Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Harrison Ford.

A solid mixture of old and new dominates every heart-racing second of this sci-fi adventure.

If you're one of the 13 people left who has not yet seen this movie, you're probably putting it off because you feel like you need to binge watch the entire series to understand anything happening in this film. This is not true. On its own, this movie is a completely fulfilling experience. And unless you were completely born, raised, and home-schooled under a rock, most of the throwback moments to the original *Star Wars* trilogy won't go completely over your head. It's the third highest-grossing film of all time. Chances are you'll find something you like.

DRAMA JOY

Directed by David O. Russell. Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper and Robert DeNiro.

Russell reunites his Oscar-bait dream team in an inspiring story of will and determination.

CliffsNotes review: This is a story about a woman who invented a mop. The end. It's 2016 and everyone you know walks around with minicomputers called cell phones in their pockets. Who cares? But what makes this semi-autobiographical story of inventor and home shopping media mogul Joy Mangano (Lawrence) so spectacular is how deeply human, flawed and real each and every character comes off in this film. You're going to see your sister, your mother, your father, your best friend, and maybe even a few bits of yourself in this Cinderella story about a lifelong underdog who dared to dream.



#OscarsSoWhite

Host Chris Rock will have the final funny say in the Oscars debate.

| BY RODNEY OUSLEY |

In the midst of controversy surrounding the 2016 Academy Award nominations, film-goers anxiously await the return of funny-man, Chris Rock, to the Academy Awards stage.

Barely two weeks into the new year, Hollywood experienced its first major scandal during the Oscars nominations ceremony on Jan. 14, where not one single non-white performer was nominated in any of the acting categories for the second year in a row. In response, superstar power couple Jada Pinkett Smith along with her husband Will Smith, a two-time Academy Award nominee, announced their plans to boycott the upcoming ceremony.

Within hours, #OscarsSoWhite became a trending topic worldwide on various social media sites, where directors, actors and audience members alike expressed their concerns for, as well as against, this rally for change in the entertainment industry. Even President Barack Obama weighed in on the topic during a recent press conference in which the president questioned the "artistic integrity" of the current lack of diversity.

Enter comedic legend, Rock, to offer his perspective with his tell-it-like-it-is signature brand. Months prior to this year's Oscar nominations, when asked about his personal struggles within the industry, Rock said: "My job is like an ambulance chaser. I've got to look for movies with white guys falling out of them."

Last year, Rock directed comedy it-girl Amy Schumer's first-ever HBO special, shot live at the historically black Apollo Theater. The irony of a "blonde-haired white girl" performing standup in the traditionally African-American venue in Harlem, N.Y., was not lost on the audience members as the location was scouted by Rock himself. One of his greatest gifts is the ability to express multiple viewpoints in a way that defies color lines and represents viewpoints that are relatable to almost everyone.

With his first-hand perspective of being a minority in Hollywood, as well as his biting wit and ability to make audiences think and laugh simultaneously, Rock is the perfect buffer for a situation that threatens to divide this country even further. The comedic veteran will assume the master of ceremonies duties for the second time, when the 88th Academy Awards airs on Feb. 28 on ABC.

FACING A WATER CRISIS

| BY OCTAVIUS HUNTER |

It can't be a worse time to need water than during the biggest El Niño weather event in history. But despite California having agriculture issues and entering its fourth year of drought, another city is poisoning its residents.

In Flint, Mich., people have been drinking tap water contaminated with lead for almost two years. In spring 2014, Flint officials decided to decrease the city budget by switching its water supply from Lake Huron, which is treated by the Detroit Water and Sewage Department, to the Flint River—a river filled with waste that runs throughout the city.

Hours after the switch, residents complained about the odor and taste. It wasn't until later that they discovered exactly what was in the water.

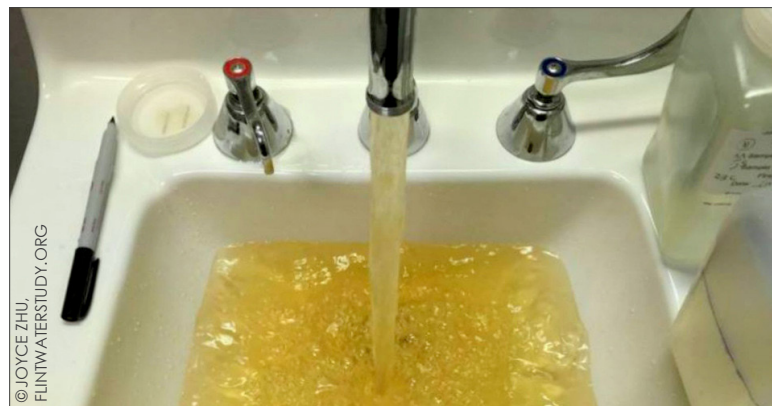
"One day before I took my shower, I turned the water on and [saw] brown water," said Debra Johnson, a Flint resident of 40 years. "The next couple days, I started noticing my hair falling from my scalp. I went to my doctor and he found traces of lead in my blood."

When the switch happened, the state Department of Environmental Quality failed to implement the required chemicals to prevent corrosion resulting in lead entering Flint River. **Anyone who used the tap water was exposed to lead, but children are more likely to get lead poisoning.**

Memorie Yasuda, Grossmont College oceanography instructor, said reputable sources indicate that lead is seriously dangerous to human health, more than many other substances: "If a child ingests lead, even if cases not fatal, they could be left with permanent learning disabilities and health problems. The water supply must be treated so that it doesn't corrode pipes."

Based on census data, **more than 8,600 children drank the city's water and have been exposed to lead**, not including unborn children from women who drank the water while pregnant. On Jan. 5, Rick Snyder, the governor of Michigan, declared a state of emergency and later deployed the National Guard to assist. Snyder also requested for a disaster declaration, but it was declined by President Barack Obama. However, on Jan. 19, Obama declared a federal state of emergency, giving Flint federal aid up to \$5 million. But while Flint switched its water source back to Lake Huron in October, the damage left by Flint River seems too great to overcome.

San Diego's water is treated at three treatment plants before entering into homes. Each plant uses several treatment processes to provide additional improvements to water quality. Every year, the Public Utilities Department releases a Drinking Water Quality Report that includes information about tap water compared to state regulations.





| BY ALYSSA BLACKHURST |

For those interested in taking theatre arts at Grossmont College, there is a wide array of classes available. Though it seems most of the different theatre branches are covered in the brochure, there is one unique class that many students don't know about—theatre mime.

Professor Jerry Hager, who teaches miming here at Grossmont, said the road to theatre mime being available as a course was “quite the tale.”

He was originally a mime at Seaport Village, from 1980 to 2006, and since he was subsidized, it was his full-time gig. He happened to take over in the theatre department for a woman on maternity leave, and has been a professor ever since.

“Miming has been a great experience for me,” Hager explained. “I’m a storyteller, and it has enabled me to always do stories. This class, essentially, embodies who I am.”

The class itself has two main foci: being able to use the body as a whole, to see how expressive movements can be, and being able to communicate using nonverbal statements, through practiced facial movements and body language that depicts various emotions.

Hager explains this is better known as “gesture,” and it incorporates influences from illusionist mimes, to clowns, to silent cinema. “Through these unique characters students learn the magic of illusion, or creating objects and settings with nothing. They can fill in holes through non-verbal storytelling.”

Oscar Hernandez, a former student theatre mime student, explained how these unique movements have helped him enhance believability in his study of film. “Clever theatre playwrights leave much to interpretation, and your body can really fill in that gap.”

Hernandez continued on the benefits of theatre mime for film students. “Say you have to use a green screen, which is all imagery. Well, you need to believe that, say, you’re fighting a dragon. So you use your imagination through your movements.”

Jinneva Santiesteban, another former theatre mime student, agreed that theatre mime is an integral class for any actor. “When you take theatre or acting classes, you, more often than not, have at least one speaking role. But it’s not always like that in film or television,” Santiesteban

explained. “Miming taught me, that when I have a non-speaking role, I can tell a story through the use of my body.”

Some might find the class an easy-A, but Santiesteban reiterates that while it is as fun as it sounds, it can be equal parts challenging. “The reason why the class can be challenging is because it’s very technical on how you’re supposed to do mime walks and mime out various scenarios.”

Since miming is a completely visual art form, students can’t exactly see what they’re doing, and don’t get instant feedback when something looks wrong.

Santiesteban explained what she did to fix her performances. “I started to get better with mime towards the end of the semester, because I started to film myself on what I was doing. If I did something I did not like, then I would fix it.”

When asked if Hernandez and Santiesteban would take theatre mime again, the two erupted with vocal praise. “Absolutely, it was the most unique class I have taken in my college career,” Hernandez explained. “Of course,” Santiesteban explained in following. “It’s truly an adventurous experience.”



L to R: James Jovanovich and Xavier Daniels practice miming. Jillian Jones holds a pose. Michaela Sprague mimes “light.” | Photos by Jeanette Calo



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GROSSMONT BRIEFING

New Campus Emergency Number

In case of emergency, Grossmont has a new phone number to keep the communication solid between students, faculty and the community. The toll-free number is **800-550-3922**. Students are urged to save the number in their phones right away. This number will also provide updates in case of a natural disaster or any other emergency situations within the campus. —*Sheridan Martinez*

Inter-Club Council Sweetheart Fair

The Inter-Club Council will be hosting a Sweetheart Fair on **Thursday, Feb. 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the main quad**. Clubs often have food and games available and are great sources of information about our campus. This is a great way for students to get to know more about these clubs and their benefits. Last semester, at the Fall Festival, one club gave away an Amazon Fire tablet, so go see what creative surprises await this time. —*Sebastian Caparelli*

Culinary Season Opens

Grossmont's Culinary Arts program is now selling tickets to its Spring Culinary Dining Season. **Enjoy a gourmet meal for only \$20 each**. Seating will begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday evenings, from Feb. 25 to May 12. Reservations required; call 619-644-7234. —*Sebastian Caparelli*

Upcoming Arts Events

"**Inside the Actor's Process-Discovery**" will be held at the Stagehouse Theatre on Feb. 5-6 at 6 and 7:30 p.m. There will also be a 2 p.m. showing on Feb. 6. Directed by Jerry Hager, this performance brings a fresh perspective of reenacting stories and bringing them to life before the crowd. Tickets are \$10 for students and available at the box office.

Grossmont's Chamber music will perform at First Lutheran Church of El Cajon on Feb. 6 at 4 p.m., and at All Saints Episcopal Church in San Diego on Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. Admission is \$5 for students, \$10 for general. —*Sheridan Martinez*



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PARTY ON A BUDGET!

| BY SHERIDAN MARTINEZ |

It's finally time to relax, grab some friends, make some killer snacks and watch a game of good 'ole football. Budgets tend to be pretty tight for college students, but you can still throw an awesome Super Bowl party without forking out a bunch of cash.

Serve up easiness. The best way to go when providing the basics like plates, napkins and cutlery for guests is to splurge at the dollar store. You could pick up all the essentials and walk out the door for less than 5 bucks! Maybe even throw in some colorful streamers of the team you want to win from the party section. Don't even bother with grocery stores; they charge an arm and a leg.

Go-to dips. Dips are the simplest and most crowd-pleasing favorite of the day. Here's a few fan favorites:

HOMEMADE GUACAMOLE: Mix five mashed avocados, ¼ cup chopped onion, chopped tomatoes, cilantro, salt, pepper and a few squirts of lime juice.

SRIRACHA QUESO DIP (via *Buzzfeed Life*): Melt 16 ounces Velveeta cheese, a scallion bunch (chopped), two tablespoons unsalted butter, one cup milk, ½ cup Sriracha and one teaspoon garlic powder in a saucepan. Voila!

INDIVIDUAL 7 LAYER DIP CUPS (via *Spend with Pennies*): Layer refried beans, sour cream, leftover guacamole and drained salsa. Top with shredded cheese and tortilla chips or fresh veggies to dip. Yum!

Serve fan-worthy cocktails. Try to customize a beverage based on the team you want to win. There are plenty of colorful drink recipes on Pinterest. You could do a bright teal cocktail if you want the Panthers or a citrus orange punch for the Broncos. Guests 21 and older can also play a Super Bowl-themed drinking game for every touchdown, field goal or interception.

Rely on your slow-cooker. A cheap way to feed your guests for your main course of the evening would be a hearty Crockpot meal like a shredded buffalo chicken recipe. Grab buns and make some cheap sliders, and everyone will be pleased.



THE TALE OF THE TAPE BY OCTAVIUS HUNTER

When the AFC Champions, the Denver Broncos faces off against the NFC Champions, Carolina Panthers, in the 2016 Super Bowl, American football fans worldwide will tune in to see this championship game.

The Denver Broncos will enter this game with a dominating defense and an offense led by future Hall of Fame quarterback, Peyton Manning. On the other side, it was a combination of a stingy defense and quarterback Cam Newton's spectacular abilities help guided Carolina's second appearance to the Super Bowl.

Between the Broncos' defense and the Panthers' Superman, this will be a game for the ages. Here's a breakdown of the Tale of the Tape.

COACHING

Broncos: Head Coach Gary Kubiak led his team with a 12-4 record, home-field advantage, and has the top ranked defense.

Panthers: On the hand, Ron Rivera has his team 15-1, home-field advantage, and the top scoring team the NFL.

Pick: Carolina. Ron Rivera knows how to relate to his players and will get them focus. He won a Super Bowl in 1985 with the Chicago Bears.

RUNNING BACKS

Broncos: The tandem of Ronnie Hillman and C.J. Anderson is very solid. Both running backs have over 700 rushing yards and average over four yards per carry.

Panthers: Jonathan Stewart is good when healthy. Cam Newton is also a threat rushing for over 600 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Pick: Carolina. Denver has better running backs on roster; however, Broncos only rushing 107.4 yards per game.

OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE LINE

Broncos: Denver's O-line is average at best allowing 2.4 sacks per game. Defensive Ends Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware, and the crew are "manchild," totaling 52 sacks this season.

Panthers: The O-line did a good job protecting Cam Newton this year with only allowing 2.0 sacks per game. Defensive line improve from last year adding veteran Jared Allen.

Pick: Push. Only if Allen plays. He was ruled out in the NFC Championship game.

LINEBACKERS/DEFENSIVE BACKS

Broncos: Denver secondary is the best pass defense in the NFL with 199.6 yards per game and has three Pro Bowlers Aqib Talib, Chris Harris Jr., and T.J. Ward.

Panthers: Luke Kuechly is the best linebacker in the game. Alongside, Thomas Davis Sr., and rookie sensation Shaq Thompson, they could be the best linebacker corps in football.

Pick: Carolina. Josh Norman and Kurt Coleman called themselves "thieves" and the boys.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Broncos: The trio of Demaryius Thomas, Emmanuel Sander, and Vernon Davis is a great core.

Panthers: Ted Ginn Jr. has emerged as the top option. Meanwhile, Greg Olsen has turned himself into a great tight end.

Pick: Denver. Ginn drops too many passes.

QUARTERBACKS

Broncos: Peyton Manning is arguably one of the greatest quarterbacks ever played. After 19 years, the sure-fire first-ballot Hall of Famer still has some gas left in the tank.

Panthers: Super Cam Newton is now the new "face" of the NFL. His over-the-top celebrations after touchdowns has galvanized fans worldwide, young and old.

Pick: Carolina. Peyton has thrown only nine touchdowns and 17 interceptions this season.



Our sunny San Diego is not looking so sunny anymore! El Niño has taken over our city, and this is something no one is prepared for. Sandbags are covering the entrances of homes on the beach, stores are flooded with people stocking up with water and food, and flash flood warnings are popping up on every television and across radio stations. San Diego has been hit with mass amounts of rain, winds at record highs. So the question is: How are we staying dry?

Here are necessities to get you through El Niño as dry and warm as possible. Show wet weather who is boss with these cute styles and trends.



Rain Boots: Nobody likes wet socks, nobody likes wet jeans, and nobody likes cold feet. Keep those toes warm and those socks and jeans dry, but in the cutest way. Target offers endless styles of rain boots for women, with styles so cute and comfy it will match any outfit. Sears also offers many rain boot styles for men as well.

Umbrella-ella-ellas: Don't be that person that is holding whatever they can find over their head to block the rain. Save yourself from getting wet and grab an umbrella. They come in all shapes, sizes and colors. The options are endless, and you can find the most affordable umbrellas at Walmart.

Flannels and Coats: Layer when you can. During these chilly days you're going to want as many layers as you can get. Flannels give you warmth and coats give you the style. Kohl's has many flannels and coats for men and women. Here's a little tip, ladies: men's flannels are more comfy and warm. They're better than any women's flannels.

So Griffins, stay safe out there, and don't forget to dress accordingly. You don't want to be that person in shorts and flip flops on a rainy day!



WATER WORKS BY SHERIDAN MARTINEZ

When facing El Niño's, it's just as important to prep our skin. For my makeup-loving ladies, here are my top-five waterproof choices to weather the storm. At the end of the day, don't forget to use a waterproof makeup remover to take it all off.



1. **Urban Decay "All nighter" setting spray:** This setting spray will completely seal your face for the day and keep you looking flawless. | \$14 to \$30
2. **Tarte "Amazonian Clay Matte" waterproof bronzer:** A lovely warm bronzer that stays on all day. | \$30
3. **Kat Von D "Tattoo liner":** This matte black liner will save your life. | \$19
4. **Anastasia Beverly Hills Dipbrow pomade:** I rave about this product because it is truly a holy grail for the eyebrows. It's waterproof for stay on brows all day. | \$18
5. **Great Lash waterproof mascara.** One of the best and most popular drugstore mascaras. | \$6



A world traveler gives the scoop on Grossmont's soups.

| BY SEBASTIAN CAPARELLI |

Traveling around the world instead of jumping right into college may not be the best plan, but it comes with one advantage the traveler brings to a classroom: Experience. Traveling requires adaptation, and diet is a big one. Having a love for new and interesting foods comes in handy when a traveler sits down to a dish called "Drunken Shrimp" in Beijing or deep-fried scorpions in Bangladesh. This traveler has tried most of them, and cannot forget the 15 pounds lost while becoming accustomed to squirming dinners.

No matter where one travels, there seems to be a common meal available to the cautious patron—a safety net, so to speak. This would be the soup. A traveler can go just about anywhere on planet earth and order soup with confidence. That is unless, of course, something is drowning in it.

Returning home and digging into college has been another adventure altogether. Through the highs and lows of higher education, soup has remained a loyal ally. Warm and nutritious, it lends comfort to finals week and recharges the body strained from attempting to remember everything there is to know about the neuron at midnight.

It was a pleasant surprise to find pleasure in the first bowl of Hearty Azteca Chicken Soup at the Grossmont College cafeteria. The flavor was amazing, and the soup full of good things. Nice chunks of chicken, rice, sweet corn, black beans, masa corn, tortillas, and jack cheese filled each spoonful. This was not what one expects to find in a college cafeteria, so the soup investigation continued. There was broccoli and cheddar, lobster bisque, one of the best tasting in this traveler's opinion. These were followed by the cream of asparagus, Mediterranean vegetable, portobello mushroom and barley, Roasted Red Pepper and Gouda, and New England and Manhattan clam chowders.

The soups are rotated every day to keep the new flavors arriving and I have yet to make it through the list despite three semesters of trying. Some of the soups are created right there in the campus kitchen with fresh ingredients by the head chef, Ulysses Mercado, including butternut squash, tomato bisque, turkey orzo and, another of my favorites, the turkey noodle posole, which is very popular when it arrives from the kitchen followed by sides of onion, lime wedges, cabbage, cilantro and tortilla strips.

These amazing soups normally come out hot at 11 a.m., though you will find me there with my bowl at quarter to the hour. For about \$3, you can experience something more flavorful and nutritious than that piece of pizza dripping shimmering grease onto your English paper.

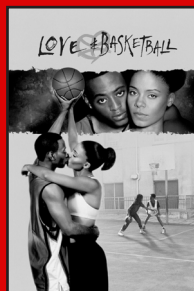
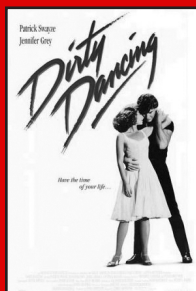
NETFLIX AND CHILL

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**This Valentine's Day, cozy up with these staff picks.
You may even want to finish watching them.**

My go-to Netflix and chill movie is pretty much anything romantic and cheesy like **"Dirty Dancing."** All you have to do is convince the girl that you've never seen it before and she'll jump at the chance to be your "first" and experience it with you. Technically you won't be lying if you play your cards right, because you'll only make it half way through the movie before the CHILL part comes into play. I still don't know if they actually won that dance contest or whatever happens at the end.

—Rodney Ousley

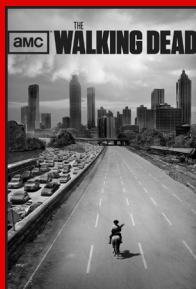


I would start off my "Netflix and Chill" night with a In-N-Out large combo, animal-style, and the movie **"Love and Basketball."** With romance for her, and sports for me, it's a win-win situation for both parties. Two kids in Los Angeles (Quincy and Monica) who live next to each other both want to play in the NBA. They were best friends in high school and dated in college, where they both played for USC. But, like every other relationship, Quincy and Monica have their issues.

—Octavius Hunter

Date-night binge on Netflix? **"The Walking Dead,"** my friends. There is nothing better than binge-watching a season of walkers with my precious zombie princess. Turn down the lights and cuddle up with some brain-popcorn and a blanket for the blood fest. Oh, you cannot forget the "Blood and Guts" cocktails: raspberry and grape Jello served over ice with two ounces of vodka, a tablespoon of grenadine and lemon-lime soda. It's the darker side of romance.

—Sebastian Caparelli



The purpose of "Netflix & Chill," is presumably to show a date a movie or series with little substance, but enough of a hook to lure them in. The opposite of this is **"Jessica Jones."** The titular character doesn't have your typical look of spandex, leotard, cape or cleavage. What you see is what you get: An ordinary girl decked out in a leather jacket, boots, and jeans, with a whole lot of attitude. As a girl gifted with powers that resulted in tragedy, Jones desperately tries to escape her past by living the quiet life of a private investigator, helping those in need often at the expense of herself. Netflix allows the show to breathe and explore the darker sides of the comic's narrative.

—Alyssa Blackhurst

My series for Netflix and chill night would have to be **"Sons of Anarchy."** I actually watched the whole series of seven seasons over this winter break. This show is an amazing combination of action drama, excitement and—last, but definitely not least—the hunky "Jax Teller" (Charlie Hunnam).

Be prepared to be glued to your couch and for some exceptionally shocking twists.

—Sheridan Martinez



My Netflix pick has to be the romantic drama **"Stuck in Love."** This movie is about how a family sees love in different views: wanting to be loved, not knowing how to love, hating love, being in love, and how it all comes together in the end. It fresh, funny and romantic, but not your average chick flick. Grab the popcorn and ice cream and get to watching.

—Ashley Stout