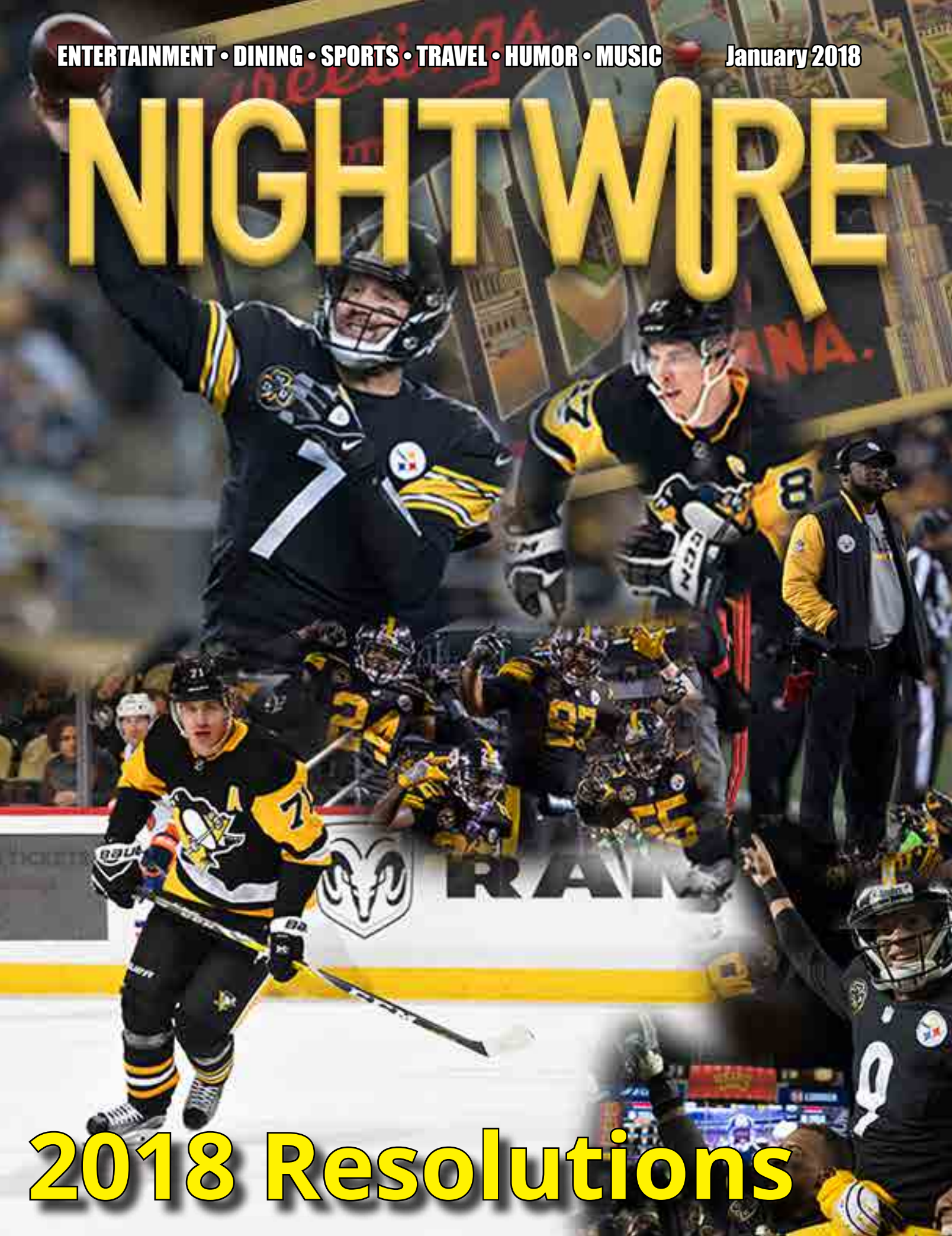


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January 2018

NIGHTWIRE



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SPORTS:

2018 Resolutions

by Stacy Kauffman, Sports Editor, Nightwire Magazine
Photos ©2017 Pittsburgh Steelers / Karl Roser, Pittsburgh Penguins/Joe Sargent

Another year has come and gone. Pittsburgh experienced the full spectrum of emotions throughout their sports teams' seasons in 2017. From the highest of the high, thanks to a second consecutive Stanley Cup championship, to the lowest of the low, courtesy of a second consecutive losing season from the Pirates, not to mention a rocky coaching debut from Pitt basketball's Kevin Stallings.

With the changing of the calendar comes reflection and resolution. Here's what teams around the city should resolve to do in 2018.

Another division title for the Steelers is in the bag and the playoffs are here. After falling in the AFC Championship game last season, it's Super Bowl or bust. What does that mean? Getting past New England. The team must resolve to get the Patriots out of their head. And figure out a way to stop Rob Gronkowski for a full 60 minutes. It's totally doable. The Steelers basically won the Week 15 matchup at Heinz





Field – until they didn’t – so the confidence to beat their nemesis should be there. Now it’s time to follow through. But don’t sleep on Jacksonville, either.

The Penguins need a third wind. A sluggish start has the two-time defending Stanley Cup champs hanging out near the bottom of the Metropolitan division. Resolving to find a spark and ride its rays of momentum will help this tired yet talented team find it’s groove. After leading the NHL in scoring last season, the Pens aren’t sniffing three goals a game. Could be time to inject some life into the ice by calling up Daniel Sprong, who’s nearly a point per game player at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. GM Jim Rutherford has said Sprong needs to round out his game to be ready for the NHL. But the Pens only have two players with a positive +/- to this point, so why not?

For the Pirates, what can you say? A bunch of baloney buzz words like management and ownership? Nah. Not here. The



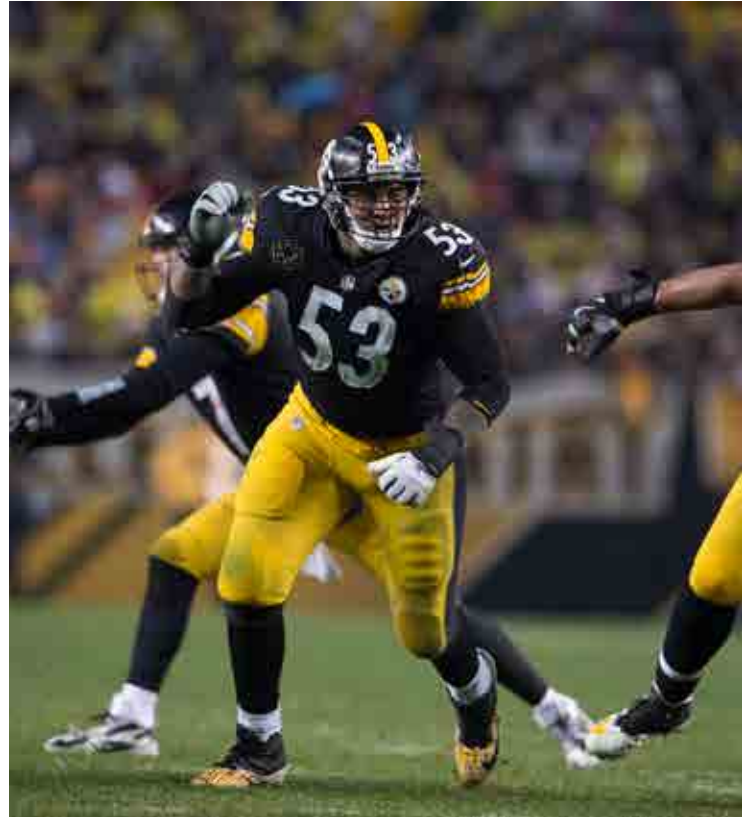
Bucs should resolve to stop blowing smoke up their fan-base's behind. Seriously. Actions do not match the words coming out of anyone's mouth in that organization. Their fall from grace has been swift and of their own doing. Deciding to supplement a 98-win team with Ryan Vogelsong and John Jaso in the offseason was a slap in the face to the attendance breaking crowds. What was that? If you come to the ballpark, we'll spend that money on payroll and improve the product on the field? Lies. Doing nothing to remedy the losses of Jung Ho Kang and half a season of Starling Marte last year?



Stacy Kauffman, Sports Feature Writer for Nightwire Magazine can be heard weekends on CBS Sports Radio 93.7 The Fan, and has appeared on numerous sports media outlets including Fox Sports Pittsburgh, CBS and ESPN Radio. She can be reached on Twitter @SportsnWhatnot or at sportsnwhatnot@gmail.com

Cheap. At least \$50 million will be handed to Bob Nutting from the sale of a digital media company started by an investment from the 30 MLB owners. What will you do with it, Bob? Season ticket sales are sinking and the Pirates are once again an afterthought in this city. It doesn't have to be that way.

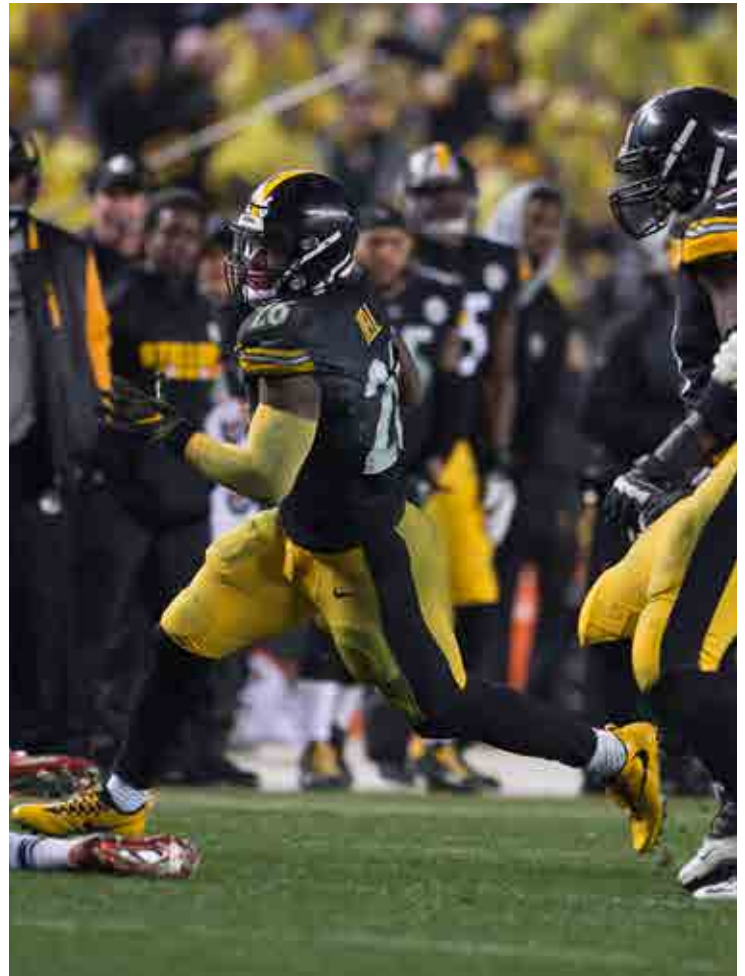
Resolving to find some consistency is what Pitt Football needs this year. Athletic Director Heather Lyke has gotten the ball rolling in that direction by signing head coach Pat Narduzzi to a seven-year extension. The quarterback position has lacked stability with Narduzzi turning to transfers four out the past five seasons, but not this year. There's no question who will be under center with Kenny Pickett impressing down the stretch, throwing for a combined





435 yards in a near upset of No. 25 Virginia Tech and the take down of No. 2 Miami. The Sophomore signal caller will be fun to watch.

For Pitt Basketball, the list of resolutions is lengthy. Some of which aren't controllable. Like time. Steeling yourselves to the inconsistency, poor decision making and forehead-smacking moments that can only be remedied through years of experience will try any coaching staff. And fanbase, of course. But what they can control is patience. It is a virtue in every sense of the word when it comes to this team. There's talent. There's togetherness. So, they need time. They also need to shoot better from the free throw line, but that's nothing new. Overall too, being ranked 193rd in field goal percentage overall ahead of ACC play. And who can forget turning the ball over more than 14 times a game? While you have that time, why not work on some of that stuff. Go ahead, take your pick and roll with it, Pitt.





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Movie Reviews

NIGHTWIRE - FILM REVIEWS by FIORE

THE SHAPE OF WATER

Guillermo Del Toro makes visually extravagant movies. His latest, *THE SHAPE OF WATER* is no exception. It is being heralded among the minion condescending critics in the two letter cities as his greatest work. It is not. *PAN'S LABYRINTH* is still Del Toro's piece d' resistance. Still, *THE SHAPE OF WATER* has much to offer.

Michael Shannon is excellent. It is difficult to find a film where Shannon does not shine. His portrayal of a hard-nosed meticulous rule leader is engrossing. Alexander Desplat offers an engaging score. He is one of Tinsel Town's premiere composers, and he is in top form here. But the true star of the show is Cinematographer Dan Laustsen. *THE SHAPE OF WATER* looks beautiful. While most of the film is shoot in subdued light, the colors are vibrant, and Laustsen's framing is textbook perfect.

THE SHAPE OF WATER is an adult fairy tale that reads on familiar ground. A gill man, played by Doug Jones, is captured off a tributary of the Amazon River. He is brought to a military lab, with the hope that the creature's unique two different breathing systems can aide America's space program. Shannon, as the operation commander, treats the gill man as an animal, to be experimented on, and then eventually vivisected.

Sally Hawkins plays one of the labs cleaning women. She discovers the gill man is intelligent, and capable of communications. To save the creature from the autopsy table, she and fellow maid Octavia Spencer, purloin the gill man to spare his life and return him to the sea. It's like the theme reverse of Universal's *THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON*.

THE SHAPE OF WATER has glaring flaws. The story, which offers nothing new of films of this ilk, is quite predictable. Despite the obvious plot points, Editor Sidney Wolinsky stretches each sequence to unbearable lengths. The film plods along, moseying, like an old man at the mall. In addition to borrowing from *THE CREATURE*, *THE SHAPE OF WATER* also appropriates from Tom Hank's *SPLASH*, so the entire movie has a been-there,

seen-that mien. Jones' gill man is nearly a carbon copy of Abe, his gill man character in Del Toro's *HELLBOY* series. There are tweaks to the costume and make-up, most notably warning frills like the Dilophosaurus in *JURASSIC PARK*, but basically, it's the same creature.

Why then, is so much praise being lauded on *THE SHAPE OF WATER*? Perhaps more comfortable with the Hollywood ideology, Del Toro fills his story with all its current cause celebres. It is a virtual carnival of diversity and political commentary. The main characters are handicapped, homosexual, supportive of cross-species coitus and racially harmonious, given the time period. There is strong anti-government and anti-military sentiment; and of course, collusion with the Russians. These are all themes the pandering propaganda purveyors bathe in, so it is no surprise the film is garnering accolades.

Any knowledgeable viewer will be frustrated with the film's unfolding and readily discern the movie's messages. Still, *THE SHAPE OF WATER* is worth a view, for the stellar performance of Shannon and the stunning visuals of Laustsen.

THE POST

How do you create a film about a subject no one cares about, and still make it worthwhile? Those in the Millennial and X Generations, who all believe the world began with their birth, care nothing about the government scandals of the 1960's. Indeed, government scandals of today, such as sexual harassment charges, collusion with terrorists, covering up a murder spree in Benghazi, selling nuclear material to Russia, et.al. make the scandals of the past seem mundane. So, to answer the question posed, you can make a film dealing with a topic no one cares about worthwhile, by utilizing the best cast and crew possible. This is what Steven Spielberg does with *THE POST*.

While *THE POST* boasts box office headliners Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep, the true star of the film is Michael Kahn. Kahn is one of the best, if not the best cutter in Tinseltown. He takes





THE POST and entwines it like a macabre spiderweb. The intricacies of his editing are superior to the purloining of the Pentagon Papers. Kahn's teammates in this game are John Williams as scorer, Ann Roth as costume designer and Janusz Kaminski as cinematographer. Like I said, use the best.

Make no mistake why THE POST was made and released at this time. The media, by and large, have been revealed as advocates for progressive ideologies, rather than reporters of news. Newspaper sales are in decline, and the very existence of the medium is currently in peril. THE POST attempts to restore lost magnificence, not only to dinosaur publications, but also to attempt to resurrect the crucified perception of journalists.

For those illiterate of history, Daniel Ellsberg, played by Matthew Rhys, pilfered top secret government papers in an attempt to start a revolution against the Vietnam War. The papers detailed massive corruption spanning four presidencies, but most contained in the John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson years. Those who served in the war know it was a proverbial golden goose for Johnson, who profited millions off the war effort. Ellsberg leaks the papers to the New York Times, and when the Nixon Administration seeks an injunction against their publishing, the Washington Post runs with the ball.

At the time, the Post was considered a local paper, and was in dire financial straits. Owner Katharine Graham (Streep) is a socialite who arranges parties and decorates rooms and wants no part of the newspaper business; yet she is forced into it by the untimely death of her husband. She relies heavily on her editor Ben Bradlee (Hanks), but does not share his enthusiasm for pushing the envelope, nor his deep-seated hatred of President Nixon. She despises even more her chief financial operator who talks to her with disdain. She sides with Bradlee, to spite the banker, and for this, is heralded in THE POST as a champion of women. There is even a ludicrous scene with Streep leaving the courtroom and throngs of groveling women awing her as slaves did Lincoln. No such scene happened in reality.

The Pentagon Papers were an embarrassment to Democrats and liberals. It is not too surprising therefore, that before THE POST reaches its mid-point, the villain shifts from Kennedy-Johnson to Nixon. It is blatant anti-Republican propaganda and

writers Liz Hannah and Josh Singer should not have been so overt in their bias.

With so much going against it, lack of interest and historical distortion, what makes THE POST worth watching? Again, the film though problematic, is assembled beautifully. If you watch it as fiction, and not historical, it is quite enjoyable.

MARSHALL

There is a lot to be said for MARSHALL, even though it is a story that was told many times before and presents nothing new to the tale. This version is notable, primarily for the acting of Josh Gad, who shines.

MARSHALL is a snippet of the life of Thurgood Marshall, first Negro appointed to the Supreme Court, and the man responsible for the famous (infamous) Brown vs. the Board of Education decision, which still greatly affects the public school system. This film concentrates on the early part of Marshall's career, when he was a lawyer for the NAACP, hearing cases around the country involving racism. The particular case presented in this film concerns an accusation of rape by a white socialite against her black chauffeur in Connecticut.

Chadwick Boseman plays Marshall, and his performance is the weakest of the cast. He struts like a proud peacock through the part, bringing an almost superhero smugness to the role; like he's already read the script. Perhaps he was still in character from his upcoming stint as BLACK PANTHER.

Gad is the man who makes this film. He plays Sam Friedman, a simple civil lawyer who is hoodwinked into taking the criminal rape case with Marshall. Kate Hudson plays Eleanor Strubing, the woman crying rape and Sterling K Brown is her chauffeur, Joe Spell. James Cromwell is Judge Foster, who oversees the courtroom and Dan Stevens is Loren Willis, the prosecutor.

Cromwell and Hudson offer fine performances and Stevens is second only to Gad in his portrayal of an attorney convinced race and propriety will win out over the truth. Brown provides yeoman duty. In a brief cameo role, Keesha Sharp appears as Marshall's wife. She currently plays a stronger character in

continued on page 24



North Country Brewing

by Brian Meyer



While it may not be the easiest brewery to find on a map thanks to calling the small college town of Slippy Rock, PA home, North Country Brewing has been brewing consistently great beer for more than 10 years and counting.

Since opening their doors in February of 2005, owners Bob and Jodi McCafferty have focused on never relying on half measures. Instead, they've made it standard operating procedure to do everything they can be make North Country Brewing outstanding and to that end they have been very successful indeed. The North Country brewing team makes consistently great beer while the food side at both the brewpub and the Harmony Inn make some of the best food you'll have at a beer-centric location.

Speaking of food, much of the food and even some of the beer ingredients are grown and raised on the family farm, also known as North Country Cattle Company. Here they raise Scottish Highland cows, Irish Tamworth pigs, and even grow lavender, berries, apples, and harvest maple syrup that's used in their beers, too.

The McCaffertys opened their first location in downtown

Slippy Rock in a building that prior to housing their brewery was home to a tavern, inn, furniture shop, and even a funeral home and the town coroner's office! The foundation to the building was actually laid in 1805, giving the building quite the history, some of which can be found in the brewpub itself including the door to the brewery which is very plainly the original coroner's door.

The brewpub started with a 7-barrel brew system that's still working in its original location. The system is absolutely the largest that can fit into the area that houses it, and is good for around 1,500 barrels per year. All total, the original brewpub took nearly nine years from inception to opening for business.

Since then the McCaffertys have opened two additional locations including their production and canning facility as well as taking ownership of the well-known Harmony Inn. The production facility utilizes a 30-barrel brewing system that Head Brewer John Barnes brews on 3-4 days per week with his Assistant Brewer (and son) Austin. Each batch of beer the father/son team brews ranges anywhere from 15-60 barrels depending on the beer being brewed.

The production brewery opened for business on Repeal Day (December 5th) in 2013 with Firehouse Red having the honor of first beer brewed on the new system. The Harmony Inn opened under its new ownership in 2014, but has been in business for over 30 years.

Bob and Jodi have a special connection to the Inn, since it was where they first met, fell in love, and learned how to work side by side. North Country is such a family business that the Inn was even purchased from the current head brewer John's father. If you make your way to the Harmony Inn make sure to look for the large mirror behind the bar, it's a relic from the original owner's first bar in Colorado.

North Country's Beer Lineup

Food and history are great, but the beer is where it's really at. Thankfully North Country delivers here in strides, too. As with just about every other brewery open today, North Country features both seasonal and year-round beers. Unlike most breweries however, the Slippy Rock brewery has utilized aluminum cans for their beer since they first started selling beer other than draft at the brewpub.

Today they continue to sell beer solely in cans thanks to aluminum's infinite recyclability, safety, and easier ability to ship. All in all, cans are the absolute best thing for beer and show North Country's dedication to making and selling great beer.

Year-Round Beers

Firehouse Red – The first beer brewed by North Country is still one of their most popular beers. This American red ale uses specialty malts blended with Fuggle hops from the UK and American Centennial hops to give you a malty, slightly hoppy beer that's ruby in color and balanced in taste.



Firehouse Red comes in at 5.5% ABV, making it perfect for pairing with a meal or a few more beers. Best of all, 5% of draft sales at the brewpub and Harmony Inn goes to local fire departments. Next time you're at the brewpub in downtown Slippy Rock, make sure to ask the staff why this beer's name was briefly changed to "Parking Tickets Make Me See Red."

Buck Snort Stout – Not all stouts have to be low in bitterness, and a prime example of this is North Country Brewing's Buck Snort Stout. This West Coast-Style Stout comes in at 7% ABV and relies on its hop profile for most of the character in this beer. Unlike many stouts, this beer features a prominent hop profile instead of the more common coffee, chocolate, and roasted malt character. While there are some roasty malt

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flavors on the finish, this beer is all about the hops for sure.

Paleo IPA – Every brewery has an IPA that’s good enough to be made year-round, and for North Country that’s none other than their Paleo IPA. This India Pale Ale has a solid malt backbone that helps support the resinous, grapefruit-forward American hops used in this beer. Coming in at 6.2% ABV, this beer somehow achieves a level of balance even though it is so very much hop-forward. This makes the beer great for hopheads and those less hop-inclined as well.

Stinky Hippy – Wait, you can actually tie-dye a can? While the science behind tying a can into knots and dyeing it psychedelic colors still eludes me, what I do know is that the beer inside this can is equally as impressive. The beer in question is none other than Stinky Hippy. This American pale ale comes in at 6% and has all the dankness you’d expect to come out of something this...colorful. Practice some peace and love of your own and give this one a try.



Seasonal Beers

Liquid Love - One of the tenants of a good Valentine’s Day is chocolate, and while we’re still a little bit from the most loved and hated holiday on the calendar, a close second to this would be, in my book, alcohol, so why not combine the two into a stout that is part chocolate, part beer, and all amazing? Liquid Love Stout is brewed to be the perfect balance of chocolate and dark stout not only for those of us fond of chocolate, but for anyone else looking for a great dark beer with overtones of dark chocolate. When it comes to chocolate stouts, a little goes a long way, which is why this beer is so great. The beer is well balanced with enough bitterness paired with the toasted malt to support the chocolate and make this 6.5% ABV beer extremely drinkable and infinitely enjoyable, but make sure to find it on draft, as it’s the only way you’ll find it this year.

Jack Frost – Originally brewed in 2005, Jack Frost Winter Warmer Ale from North Country Brewing is a great example of what a winter warmer should be. Coming in at 7.7% ABV, this malty beer focuses on the malt body, allowing only enough



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spice into the beer to hint at their presence.

You'll find some hop flavor in Jack Frost, but not much of the bitterness you'd expect along with it. In short, this is one great malty beer that uses a touch of spice to give you a beer that's perfect for a cold winter night, and best of all it's available in cans!

Dedication to Quality

North Country Brewing is dedicated to making the best beer possible while having fun in the process. While I was at the brewery doing...research.... bright and early on a Monday morning I noticed a temporary, mobile canning line in place and a pretty big number of canned beer on pallets sitting off to the side of the brewery. I thought it may be just increased production for the holidays but it turns out that all those pallets were actually beer that North Country recalled before it could be sold.

The story behind it is fairly simple, and made me appreciate their dedication to quality even more. It seems that their canning line had an air leak that was allowing oxygen into the cans before being filled. While this doesn't seem too important, it greatly reduces the shelf life of the beer and can give it oxidized flavors that nobody wants in their craft beer.

When North Country found out, they immediately shut their

canning line down and recalled any and all beers that may have been affected before it could hit the shelves. While they sort out the issues on their line, they contracted a mobile canning company to come out and help with their mad dash to replace the thousands of cans of beer they voluntarily recalled.

It's dedication to quality like this that makes me love craft beer, and appreciate the dollars that breweries like North Country dedicate to making consistently great beer.



Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Fasten your togas as Ted Pappas directs and choreographs one of the funniest musical comedies ever written.

Fasten your togas as Ted Pappas directs and choreographs one of the funniest musical comedies ever written.

Pittsburgh Public Theater continues Ted Pappas' grand finale season with *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. This riotous musical comedy features music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Burt Shevelove & Larry Gelbart, and direction & choreography by Ted Pappas. Forum runs January 25 – February 25, 2018 at the O'Reilly Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater's home in the heart of Downtown's Cultural District. For tickets call 412.316.1600 or visit ppt.org. The production is Presented by PNC.

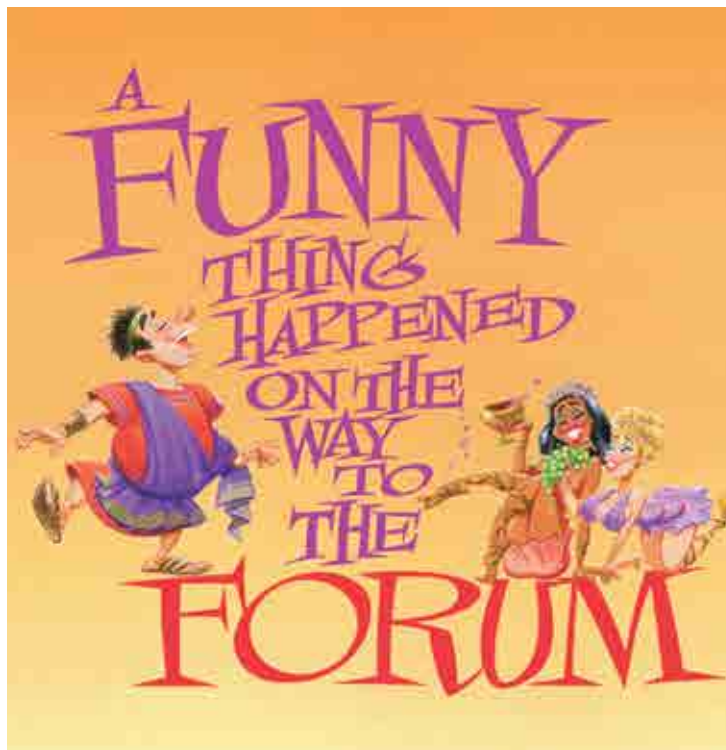
To create their sly mix of Broadway and Burlesque, book writers Shevelove and Gelbart mined the archives of ancient Roman funnyman Plautus, the father of contemporary farce. The plot includes mistaken identity, pratfalls, innuendo, cross-dressing, double takes, and punchy punch lines. Add to this the exuberant music & lyrics of Sondheim, whose opening number, "Comedy Tonight," is legendary. Returning for Pittsburgh Public Theater's production is Music Director F. Wade Russo, who will conduct a live orchestra.

Because Forum is set in Rome 200 years before the Christian era, everyone is allowed to behave with pagan abandon. The story revolves around the slave Pseudolus (Jimmy Kieffer), who is promised his freedom if he can help his master Hero (Jamen Nanthakumar) to woo the virgin Philia (Mary Elizabeth Drake). The household of Hero includes his parents Domina (Ruth Gottschall) and Senex (Stephen DeRosa), and their slave Hysterium (Gavan Pamer). Next door is procurer Marcus Lycus (Jeff Howell) and his captivating courtesans: Tintinabula (Stephanie Maloney), Panacea (Monica Woods), Vibrata (Jessica Walker), Gymnasia (Elyse Collier), and the Gemini Twins (Brooke Lacy and Andrea Weinzierl). Also hilarious are the pompous warrior Miles Gloriosus (Allan Snyder) and Erronius (James FitzGerald). The Proteans (Jonathan Blake Flemings, Andrew Pace, and Mark Tinkey) help to tell the outrageous tale.

The design team for Forum is James Noone (Scenic), Martha Bromelmeier (Costumes), Kirk Bookman (Lighting), and Zach Moore (Sound). Carol Schuberg is the Associate Choreographer, Pamela Brusoski is the Production Stage Manager, and Phill Madore is the Assistant Stage Manager.

Ted Pappas first staged *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* for Pittsburgh Public Theater 20 years ago as a guest director. Now he's chosen it as the last musical he will

direct as the company's Producing Artistic Director. "Everyone is looking for a good laugh these days," he says, "and no musical provides more belly laughs, line for line, than Forum."



Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
January 25 – February 25, 2018

Performance Schedule

Tuesdays at 7 pm.

Wednesdays thru Saturdays at 8 pm.

Saturdays at 2 pm (except Jan. 27 & Feb. 3) plus 2 pm on Thursday, Feb. 22.

Sundays at 2 & 7 pm.

Opening Night is Friday, Feb. 2.

Ticket prices:

\$30 - \$75.

Tickets for students & age 26 & younger: \$15.75.

Discounts for groups of 10+ are available by contacting Casey Helm at 412.316.8200 ext. 704 or chelm@ppt.org.

Ticket prices are subject to change.

For tickets call 412.316.1600, go to ppt.org, or visit the O'Reilly Theater Box Office

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's January Gallery Crawl In The Cultural District Will Feature Free Visual Arts Premieres, Comedy, Dance, Music, And More - For All Ages!

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District on Friday, January 26, 2018, from 5:30pm to 10:00pm, will offer attendees a variety of activities to enjoy throughout the evening. Over 20 venues will be participating in the Crawl, offering visual arts, music, dance, performances, comedy, and activities for all ages, and more. Gallery Crawl events are free and open to the public. Crawl After Dark begins at 10:00 p.m. and attendees are invited to extend their stay in the Cultural District while enjoying these ticketed events. The Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District is held quarterly and is a production of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

The January Gallery Crawl will provide everyone in the community an opportunity to enjoy an evening in the Cultural District and a few of those activities include the following events.

Wood Street Galleries features Ryoichi Kurokawa and *Novi_sad: works: unfold.alt* and *constrained surface* by Ryoichi Kurokawa and *Sirens* by Ryoichi Kurokawa and *Novi_sad*. *unfold.alt* is an audiovisual installation that renders a star formation into eight minutes of looped audiovisual composition through projection and surround sound. *Sirens* is an impressive body of work comprising five audiovisual pieces that explore the aesthetics of data.

SPACE will feature *The Long Run*, guest curated by Brandon Boan. *The Long Run: painting out of time* - is an exhibition of contemporary painting. Through cultural sampling, mathematical amalgamations, and hybridized abstraction - seven artists present a working duration that attempts to respond to the surface of things.

On view at 707 Penn Gallery is *On Looking*, work by Kristen



Letts Kovak. *Wandering through a museum, we see relics of artists' perceptions; heightened under spotlights and preserved behind glass for our contemporary enjoyment. "On Looking" reconstructs the co-mingling of context and content by reducing the artifacts to catalysts for painted color and light.*

709 Penn Gallery will feature *White Noise*, work by Kristen Letts Kovak. A white noise is the consistent hum of animation. This collection of drawings hovers between objects and atmosphere creating a volume so loud as to become deafeningly quiet.

Trust Arts Education Center will feature works by Randall Coleman. *"What Brings Us Together"* is an exhibit that showcases how human beings utilize common resources and skills to relate and learn from each other. The posed question will be answered throughout the exhibit through the use of photographs and activities, highlighting the many resources used to teach and create. Activities reflecting the purpose of the exhibit will give attendees a sample of what Trust Education programming is all about. The photos used in this exhibition includes images from the Trust Arts Education Department's 10-day arts and culture study seminar in Israel with Classrooms without Borders.

Attendees can also enjoy Crawl After Dark ticketed event performance by Chantae Cann at the August Wilson Center. Ms. Cann is a jazz and soul vocalist who has performed with various artists and whose recordings reached #1 on the iTunes Jazz Charts and #7 on the Jazz Billboard.

For more information, visit: www.TrustArts.org/Crawl or call 412-456-6666.

America's Castle in the Sky

By Suzanne Ferrara

It's a 150-year old castle in the sky for those seeking both refuge and the stunning natural glory of the Hudson Valley.

The Mohonk Mountain House is one of the few remaining 19th-century mountain resorts and, for that matter, one of the last of the grand hotels left in the country. Adding to its rarity: this world-renowned oasis has been owned and operated by the same family--the Smileys-- for five generations! This historic American resort sits atop the Shawangunk Ridge (a glacier ridge also known as "the Gunks") in upstate New York in New Paltz; it's just a 90-minute drive from Manhattan and is surrounded by 40,000 acres of virgin forest and protected wildlife.

Before delving into this matchless natural setting that leaves thousands of visitors awestruck every year, a look at its historic man-made architectural jewel is a must. The massive gable-framed, Victorian-era hotel is adorned by several whimsical towers made from local stone, chimneys, and long porches with rows of rocking chairs. (Fact: Mohonk Mountain House began when Albert Smiley purchased 280-acres and opened a



10-room inn in 1869). Inside, the resort drips in antiques, and there are plenty of cozy nooks for sitting and relaxing while you gaze through windows and take in the stunning views.

Mohonk is known worldwide as one of the globe's finest hotels, and is truly a getaway that offers unparalleled luxury. Among its many accolades: Mohonk made the Conde Nast Traveler's 'Gold List' as one of The World's Best Places to Stay (2013) and in 2017, the Smiley Family was awarded Legendary Family Historic Hoteliers of the Year for the Historic Hotels Awards of Excellence. The likes of Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Andrew Carnegie and Arturo Toscanini are among the many notables who've stayed at Mohonk.

The 259-room Victorian resort is perched on a stunning mountain cliff which is skirted by the pristine crystal blue glacier Mohonk Lake. The cinematic scene is unforgettable with its white quartz cliffs and majestic hemlock trees. Exploring and immersing oneself in nature, reigns supreme here!

With magnificent and endlessly lush woodlands, extensive gardens and 85-miles of hiking trails with stunning views at every turn, Mohonk will certainly renew your mind, body, and



spirit. 8,000 acres of Mohonk Preserve extends from the resort and is a Smiley family vision; it's considered one of the most important natural sanctuaries in the northeast. The preserve is one of the most-visited climbing destinations in North America and offers nature-lovers mountain ridges, forests, streams, ponds and fields. There are miles upon miles of hiking trails, all with varying degrees of challenge and ease, and whatever path you take, you will get lost in the stunning views.

Be sure to take the Copes Lookout trail toward Trapps Mountain, which attracts rock climbers from around the globe. Perhaps one of the most popular paths in the Mohonk Preserve is the three-mile Skytop Tower trail, a fairly easy hike which will bring you to Skytop Tower, a man-made observation tower that offers 360-degree views and is a historical



landmark. You can also choose to take the much more challenging hike via the Labyrinth Trail, where hikers have to navigate through limestone crevices, crawl under rocks, and climb a steep ladder. (Tip: You can also enjoy the preserve aboard a mountain bike, in snowshoes, on horseback and in cross-country skis).

Several gazebos called 'summer houses' are strewn

throughout the trails and around the lake, and each offers breathtaking views. Many of these gazebos have been refurbished and are in the same spot as placed by the Smileys a century ago.

You will not run out of things to do at Mohonk Mountain house; in fact, these activities range from guided nature walks to tomahawk throwing to a plethora of water activities, and they are all-inclusive. Perhaps some of the most beneficial offerings are those rooted in health, wellness, and mindfulness; there are classes such as Mindfulness and Ocean Wave Meditation.

How about Forest Bathing? The Forest Bathing experience is in the Mindfulness in Nature Walk with Nina Smiley, Ph.D., co-author of *The Three-Minute Mediator* and the resorts' Director of Mindfulness Programming. You will be guided through the



wooded trails, alongside cliffs, and the crystal clear lake, and the goal is to get a sense of well-being while embracing the senses.

You can also get lost in the wonderment of nature on the soothing waters of the pristine Lake Mohonk; there are paddleboats, kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards. Mohonk has a stunning sandy lake beach where you and yours can relax or

take a dip in the refreshing glacier lake.

Need more to do? How about a carriage ride through the gorgeous Hudson Valley landscape, a tour of the resort's impressive greenhouse and gardens, a round of golf, or ice-skating at the pavilion. There are even bird watching walks in the Mohonk Preserve and lectures given by authors and scholars inside the resort.

You will certainly be transfixed as you step back in time walking through the Mohonk Barn Museum. Fascinating artifacts dating back to the inception of the Mohonk Mountain House and beyond fill this museum. A slew of Victorian-era carriages, antique farm and kitchen equipment, and a 1929 Model-A Ford Station Wagon are among a plethora of items in fantastic condition and many have intriguing histories. Here you will also find ongoing demonstrations like blacksmithing by curator Jim Clark.

After a day full of activities or simply exploring, you will certainly be ready for a good night's rest, and that's just what you'll get in Mohonk's inviting, luxury accommodations. Guest rooms and suites are filled with antiques and are cozy with wood trim; depending on which room you choose, there are



private balconies to enjoy the view of glistening Mohonk Lake or the Catskill Mountains. (Big Tip: Tower rooms have original Victorian woodwork, wood-burning fireplaces and private balconies with Mohonk's signature rocking chairs). You may find that there is something extra peaceful about your room experience; there are no televisions and thus only gorgeous views of the wondrous backdrop (although wi-fi is available for a fee).

Three meals a day are included in your stay, and most of the resort activities are complimentary to guests. Rest assured that the award-winning fresh cuisine is fit for royalty, with endless offerings of farm-to-table cuisine using seasonal local ingredients. (Fact: Nearly two-dozen local Hudson Valley farms supply Mohonk with fresh seasonal produce, cheeses, and more).

Breakfast and lunch are both buffet-style, but you can order from the menu; dinner, meanwhile, is a formal affair and includes wine pairings from Mohonk's award-winning wine cellar. The stunning Victorian-era main dining room has soaring ceilings and massive windows that bend in a crescent shape across the stately room. Save room for their



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mouthwatering desserts that are classically prepared in-house with fresh berries and sauces. Be sure to order a refreshing signature, hand-crafted nightcap or a special after-dinner drink of sherry, brandy, wine or cognac.

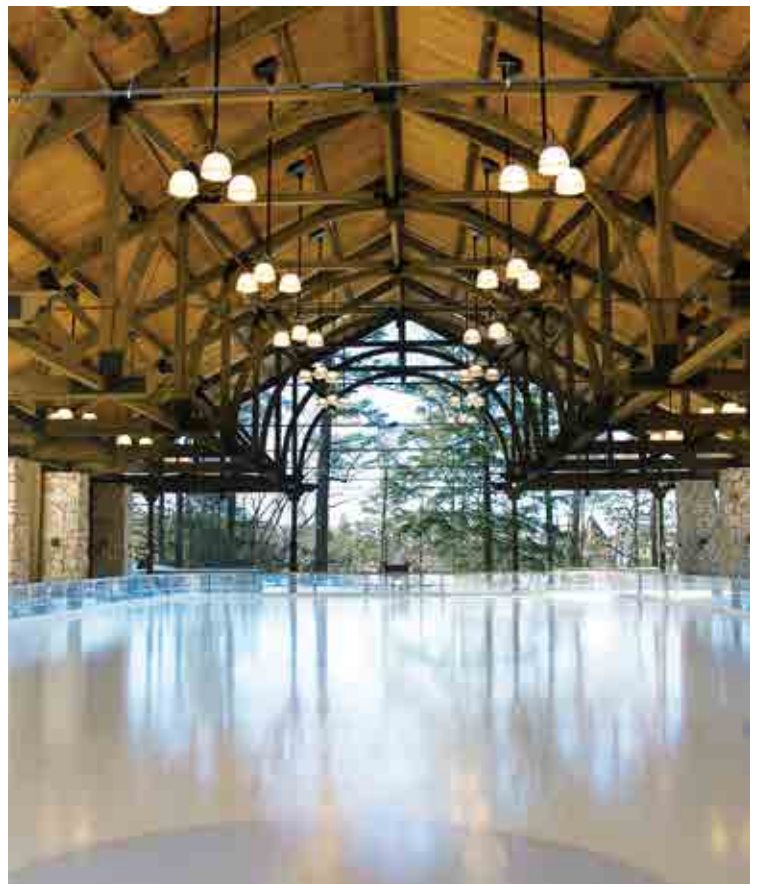
For a distinctive culinary experience, make a reservation for the Chef's Table and dine in the heart of Mohonk's fast-paced kitchen. The culinary team prepares an eleven-course tasting menu with wine pairings and an unforgettable dessert culmination; the Chef's Table events are only held on Fridays and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. While you are out enjoying dinner or any activity, you can leave your children with the resort's Kids Club or use the hotel's great babysitting service.

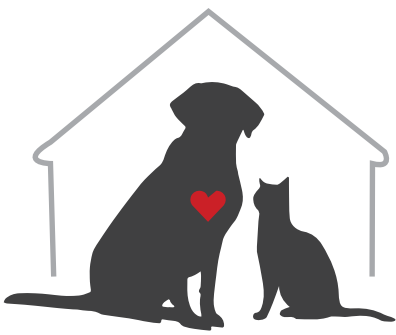
The 30,000-square foot Spa at Mohonk Mountain House is the #1 spa in America (according to Conde Nast Traveler) and #6 in the world (according to Travel and Leisure). Once you experience this tranquil oasis-- its relaxation verandas, and solarium with a fireplace-- you will wish you discovered it the moment you arrived. Perhaps one of the most tranquil experiences is soaking in the outdoor heated mineral pool; the resort also has an indoor heated pool right next to the spa,

and has hours for adults, kids and families. (Tip: One of the most popular massages is the Mohonk Red Massage, called that because of the witch hazel that grows on resort grounds. Massage techniques including Swedish, Hawaiian Lomi Lomi, and Thai stretches are used to de-stress the entire body).

Upon leaving Mohonk, you will wish you had more time to discover, contemplate life, and enjoy this cinematic scene courtesy of Mother Nature. For this reason alone, thousands of people who've visited Mohonk return to bask in her glory.

For more information go to: <https://www.mohonk.com/>.





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Movie Reviews

NIGHTWIRE - FILM REVIEWS by FIORE

movies continued from page 11

TV's version of LETHAL WEAPON as the wife of Damon Wayon's character, Roger Murtaugh.

On the technical side, the soundtrack is supplied by jazz bassist Marcus Miller. The screenplay, by Michael and Jacob Koskoff, is well paced, but does present a story told frequently, and better, in the past; especially by Walter Mosely and his Easy Rawlins detective novels. The Koskoff's version, though it deviates conveniently to accommodate the film's mien, offers nothing novel in the retelling. As such, there is no tension in the courtroom scenes, as the unfolding of events is largely predictable. Director Reginald Hudlin supervises the production seemingly complacent with its mediocrity.

While MARSHALL is not a film worth repeat viewings, it makes for an entertaining pastime, preferably with an adult libation, solely on Gad's performance. He is consistently stellar in his on-screen appearances and seems poised to break the glass ceiling placed on homely, overweight actors.

This film is for folks looking for another interpretation of familiar events, or for those immersed in the cultural misconstruction of white guilt who want to foster their illusion.

THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE OF EBBING MISSOURI

THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE OF EBBINGS, MISSOURI is probably one of the more unwieldy titles given to a serious, big studio film. You will pardon me, dear reader, if I reference the film only as THREE BILLBOARDS from this juncture forward.

Title aside, THREE BILLBOARDS is a good movie, crafted for adults. Its humor is exceptionally dark, and occasionally borders on the psychotic. It's the type of film that will make you laugh, and simultaneously feel bad for laughing at the subject matter.



I was first introduced to Writer/Director Martin McDonagh in 2012 with the release of SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS. I thought the movie was deliciously evil. McDonagh incorporates half the cast of SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS in THREE BILLBOARDS. While Willem Dafoe and Christopher Walken are gone, Francis McDormand is added. Look for her, and especially co-star Sam Rockwell to earn acting accolades at year's end.

Seven months ago, Mildred's daughter was raped and murdered. The police have no suspects. Mildred, chagrined over the lack of results, leases three billboards just outside of town, bringing shame to the local sheriff and keeping the wounds of the crime in the forefront of the small community.

Woody Harrelson is solid as Sheriff Willoughby. His performance serves as the glue adhering all the other characters. Caleb Landry Jones (another of the dreaded three name people) is Red, the upstart who heads the town's advertising agency. Rounding out the cast are: Kerry Condon; Abbie Cornish; and Darrell Brit-Gibson.

On the technical side, Ben Davis provides his best cinematography when the billboards are the subject matter. He utilizes low-angle, cant and extreme close-ups to provide character qualities to the signs. Carter Burwell and Jon Gregory provide yeoman duty on the score and editing, respectively, though the film does slow a tad before the concluding reel.

THREE BILLBOARDS is a fun movie, even though the theme is morose. Solid acting, and a strong script with exceptional dialogue combine to make this one of Hollywood's stronger offerings this year.

New Year's Eve One Liners

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

My new year's resolution is to be more optimistic by keeping my cup half-full with either rum, vodka, or whiskey.

New Year's Eve is the only acceptable time to wear body glitter without being mistaken for a stripper.

My New Year's resolution is 1080p I'm getting drunk just thinking about tomorrow night.

My New Year's resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask me about my New Year's resolutions.

If your born in September, its pretty safe to assume your parents started out the New Year with a Bang!

I have only one resolution. To rediscover the difference between wants and needs.

May I have all I need and want all I have. Happy New Year!

If 2017 was a person, I'd sue him for pain and suffering and lost wages.

This New Year's I resolve to be less awesome since that is really the only thing I do in excess.

People treat New Year's like some sort of life-changing event. If your life sucked last year, it's probably still going to suck tomorrow.

I'll remember 2017 like it was yesterday Dear Luck,can we be friends in 2018 Please?

In 2018, may your neighbors respect you, troubles neglect you, angels protect you, and heaven accept you.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year resolutions?

I hereby resolve not to catch fire while riding a flaming hoverboard....again.

Dear God, my prayer for 2018 is a FAT bank account and a THIN body. Please don't mix it up like you did this year.

I want to get so drunk that if vampires bit my neck they'd get a Bloody Mary.

Remember you can reset your resolutions on January 14th (Orthodox New Year) and February 8th (Chinese New Year). After that, no one can't help you.

I wanna kiss you on December 31st from 11:59 pm to 12:01 am, so I can have an amazing ending to 2017 and a beautiful beginning into 2018.

Many things can be preserved in alcohol this New Years Eve.



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DIGNITY is not one of them.

Every year I make a resolution to change myself..... this year making a resolution to be myself!

I'm planning on finding new and interesting things to hate about my job in 2018.

Just heard that in 2018 there will be a new device that can turn thoughts into speech. I have had that for years, it's called alcohol.

My New Year's Resolution is to break my New Year's Resolutions....That way I succeed at something!

Anyone who says that alcohol is a

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depressant isn't drinking enough of it.

Keep the smile, Leave the tear, Hold the laugh, Leave the pain, Think of joy, Forget the fear. Be joyous, because it's a New Year.

New Year's is just a holiday created by calendar companies who don't want you reusing last year's calendar.

I'm actually feeling pretty okay about not accomplishing anything this year.

My 2018 resolution is for everyone else to gain the 50 pounds I refuse to lose.

It's officially New Year Eve, you only have a couple of hours to do all the things you will resolve not to do in the new year.

There have been many times in 2017, when I have annoyed you, disturbed you, irritated you, and bugged the hell out of you....today I just wanna tell you I plan to continue in 2018!

Funny New Year one liners

My New Year's resolution is to help all my friends gain ten pounds so I look skinnier.

My resolution was to read more so I put the subtitles on my tv.

My wife still hasn't told me what my New Year's resolutions are.

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the New Year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

Can't wait to start my New Years

resolution in 2019!

New Years Eve forecast: Mostly drunk with a slight chance of passing out.

What do you call always having a date for New Year's Eve? Social Security.

How you elect to spend New Year's Eve will depend on you:

1. age
2. Remaining levels of optimism
3. Threshold of pain

Every New Year's I have the same question: "How did I get home?"

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

On New Year's, just remember: if your cup runneth over, you've probably reached your limit.

Heartwarming Miami tradition: Asking people not to shoot guns into the air on New Year's Eve.

Wait a second, there's ANOTHER year? I have to do it all over again???

I love when they drop the ball in Times Square. It's a nice reminder of what I did all year.

I like New Years. The confetti covers up my dandruff.

Every New Years I resolve to lose 20

pounds, and I do. The problem is that I gain 30.

My brother's New Year's resolution is to move out of my parents' house. You'd think after 49 years he'd try another one.

I think it's great to make your first date a New Year's party. That way, you're at least sure you'll get to first base.

My grandparents had resolutions like donating more time & money to charities. I've decided to make my own coffee once a week.

Every New Year's I celebrate making it through another holiday season without killing my relatives.

My new year's resolution is to get better at pretending to know the words to Auld Lang Syne.

New Year's Eve, when auld acquaintances be forgot. Unless, of course, those tests come back positive.

This New Year's I'm going to make a resolution I can keep: no dieting all year long.

Women get a little more excited about New Year's Eve than men do. It's like an excuse: you drink too much, you make a lot of promises you're not going to keep; the next morning as soon as you wake up you start breaking them. For men, we just call that a date.

My New Year's resolution is to eat better, so from now on, I'm going to only date guys who can afford to take me somewhere other than McDonalds.

If you make a New Year's resolution to eat a healthy diet, and you keep it, you won't actually live longer, but it will seem longer.

Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to.

This New Year's I resolved to lead a better life. Now all I have to

do is find someone who will trade lives with me.

May you find the strength to write, "Who is this?" to all the strange numbers that text you "Happy New Year!" tonight.

Who has time to party on New Year's Eve? It takes me all evening to set my clocks ahead a year.

My new year's resolution is not to shovel snow. Since I'm gonna be in Florida, I feel pretty good about it.

New Year's parades have a lot in common with Santa Claus. Nobody is awake to see either one of them.

Every New Year is the direct descendant, isn't it, of a long line of proven criminals? This New Year's I was going to make a resolution never to be late again, but I didn't wake up until January 2nd. "Out with the old, in with the new" is a fitting expression for a holiday that is based on vomiting.

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Usually my main goal at a New Year's party is to remember who I came with.

Deer readers, my gnu year's resolution is to tell you a gazelleon times how much I caribou you! Sorry. Bad puns. Alpaca bag and leave.

My New Year's resolution is to try to remember why I've walked into a room.

I see no need to make more New Year's resolutions when the ones already on the books aren't being enforced.

My New Year's resolution is to take all the Christmas lights down by Easter.

Miami asks residents not to celebrate New Year by shooting into the air, because the bullets will come back down.

As the year draws to a close, happy revelers jam New York's Times Square to watch the traditional dropping of the

illuminated ball, while in Denver a mellower throng gathers to ring in the new year with the lighting of the 200-Foot Doobie.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BUT PROBABLY DON'T

1. Money isn't made out of paper, it's made out of cotton..
2. The Declaration of Independence was written on hemp (marijuana) paper.
3. The dot over the letter i is called a "tittle".
4. A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.
5. Susan Lucci is the daughter of Phyllis Diller. That's incredible!!!!!!
6. 40% of McDonald's profits come from the sales of Happy! Meals.
7. 315 entries in Webster's 1996 Dictionary were misspelled.
8. The 'spot' on 7UP comes from its inventor, who had red eyes. He was albino.
9. On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents, daily.
10. Warren Beatty and Shirley MacLaine are brother and sister.
11. Chocolate affects a dog's heart and nervous system; a few ounces will kill a small sized dog.
12. Orcas (killer whales) kill sharks by torpedoing up into the shark's stomach from underneath, causing the shark to explode.
13. Most lipstick contains fish scales (eeww).
14. Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
15. Ketchup was sold in the 1830's as medicine.
16. Upper and lower case letters are named 'upper' And 'lower' because in the time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the upper case' letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the smaller, 'lower case' letters.
17. Leonardo DA Vinci could write with one hand and draw with





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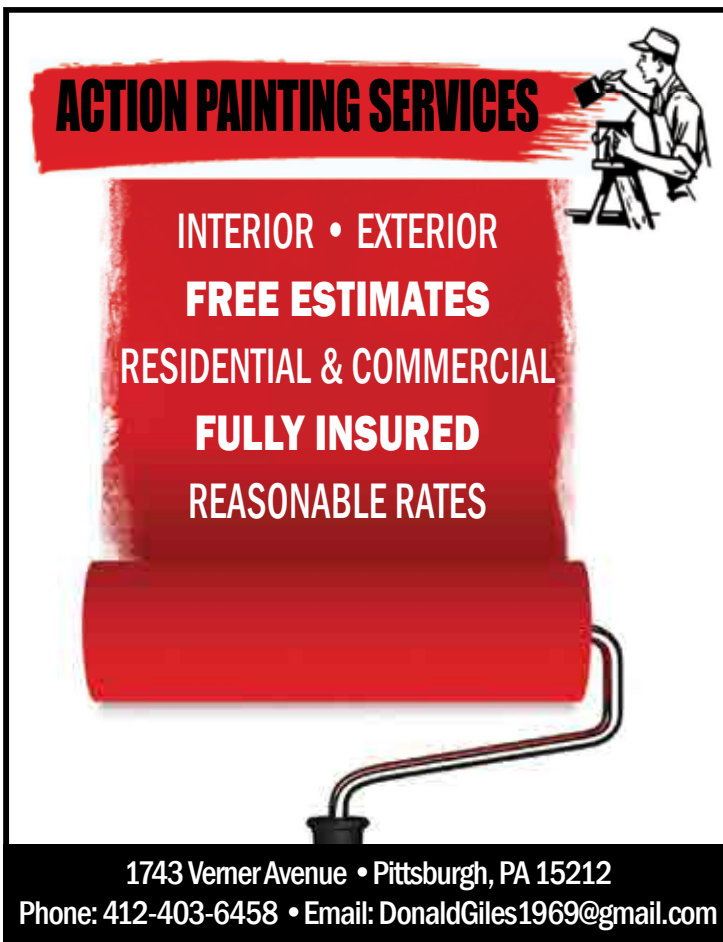
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the other at the same time, hence, multi-tasking was invented.)

18. Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.
19. There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.
20. The name Wendy was made up for the book Peter Pan; there was never a recorded Wendy before!
21. There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with: orange, purple, and silver!
22. Leonardo DaVinci invented scissors. Also, it took him 10 years to paint Mona Lisa's lips.
23. A tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion will make it instantly go mad and sting itself to death. Someone actually was bored enough to find this out,, and I thought I was bored.....
24. The mask used by Michael Myers in the original "Halloween" was a Captain Kirk's mask painted white.
25. If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have \$1.19 You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a

dollar (good to know.)

26. By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you can't sink in quicksand (and you thought this list was completely useless.)
27. The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law, which stated that you couldn't beat your wife With anything wider than your thumb.
28. The first product Motorola started to develop was a record player for automobiles. At that time, the most known player on the market was the Victrola, so they called themselves Motorola.
29. Celery has negative calories! It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with. It's the same with apples!
30. Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying!
31. The glue on! Israeli postage stamps is certified kosher..
32. Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from Public Libraries.
33. Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a space suit damages it.



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Elderly Humor:

- Two elderly residents, a man and a woman, were sitting alone in the lobby of their nursing home one evening.
- The old man looked over and said to the old lady, "I know just what you're
- wanting, and for \$5 I'll have sex with you right over there in that rocking chair." The old lady looked surprised but didn't say a word.
- The old man continued, "For \$10 I'll do it with you on that nice soft sofa over there, but for \$20 I'll take you back to my room, light some candles, and give you the most romantic evening you've ever had in your life."
- The old lady still says nothing but after a couple of minutes, starts digging down in her purse. She pulls out a wrinkled \$20 and holds it up. "So you want the nice romantic evening in my room," says the old man. "Get serious!" she said, "Four times in the rocker."

MORE SENIOR HUMOR:

It was entertainment night at the Senior Center and the Amazing Claude was topping the bill. People came from miles around to see the famed hypnotist do his stuff. As Claude went to the front of the meeting room, he announced, "Unlike most hypnotists who invite two or three people up here to be put into a trance, I intend to hypnotize each and every member of the audience." The excitement was almost electric as Claude withdrew a beautiful antique pocket watch from his coat. "I want you each to keep your eye on this antique watch. It's a very special watch. It's been in my family for six generations." He began to swing the watch gently back and forth while quietly chanting. "Watch the watch, watch the watch, watch the watch." The crowd became mesmerized as the watch swayed back and forth, light gleaming off its polished surface. Hundreds of pairs of eyes followed the swaying watch, until, suddenly, it slipped from the Hypnotist's fingers and fell to the floor, breaking into a hundred pieces. "SHIT", said the Hypnotist. It took three days to clean up the Senior Center.

PUNS OLD AND NEW:

The ability to make and understand PUNS is the highest level of language development. Here are the 10 first place winners in the International Pun Contest:

1. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, sir, only one carry on allowed per passenger."
2. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says, "Dam!"
3. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
4. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies "Yes, I'm positive."

5. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.
6. A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?", they asked as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."
7. A woman has twins and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Ahmal." The other goes to a family in Spain ; they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal."
8. A group of friars were behind on their belfry payments, so

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they opened up a small florist shop to raise funds. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. He asked the good fathers to close down, but they would not. He went back and begged the friars to close. They ignored him. So, the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to "persuade" them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed their store, saying he'd be back if they didn't close up shop. Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that only Hugh can prevent florist friars.

9. Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him a super calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

10. And finally, there was the person who sent ten different puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

AN INTERESTING THOUGHT:

"Mom, why are wedding dresses white?" The mother looks at her son and replies, "Son, this shows your friends and relatives that your bride is pure." The son thanks his Mom and goes off to double-check this with his father. "Dad why are wedding dresses white?" The father looks at his son in surprise and says, "Son, all household appliances come in white."

GRANDMA'S BOYFRIEND

A 5-year-old boy went to visit his grandmother one day. Playing with his toys in her bedroom while grandma was dusting, he looked up and said, "Grandma, how come you don't have a boyfriend now that Grandpa went to heaven?" Grandma replied, "Honey, my TV is my boyfriend. I can sit in my bedroom and watch it all day long. The religious programs make me feel good and the comedies make me laugh. I'm happy with my TV as my boyfriend!" "Grandma turned on the TV, and the reception was terrible. She started adjusting the knobs, trying to get the picture in focus.

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Frustrated, she started hitting the backside of the TV hoping to fix the problem. The little boy heard the doorbell ring, so he hurried to open the door and there stood Grandma's minister. The minister said, "Hello son, is your Grandma home?" The little boy replied, "Yeah, she's in the bedroom bangin' her boyfriend". The minister fainted.

\$2 Bill at Taco Bell

On my way home from work, I stopped at Taco Bell for a quick bite to eat. In my billfold are a \$50 bill and a \$2 bill. I figure that with a \$2 bill, I can get something to eat and not have to worry about anyone getting irritated at me for trying to break a \$50 bill.

Me: "Hi, I'd like one seven-layer burrito please, to go."

Server: "That'll be \$1.04. Eat in?"

Me: "No, it's to go." At this point, I open my billfold and hand him the \$2 bill. He looks at it kind of funny.

Server: "Uh, hang on a sec, I'll be right back." He goes to talk to his manager, who is still within my earshot. The following conversation occurs between the two of them:

Server: "Hey, you ever see a \$2 bill?"

Manager: "No. A what?"

Server: "A \$2 bill. This guy just gave it to me."

Manager: "Ask for something else. There's no such thing as a \$2 bill."

Server: "Yeah, thought so."

He comes back to me and says, "We don't take these. Do you have anything else?"

Me: "Just this fifty. You don't take \$2 bills? Why?"

Server: "I don't know."

Me: "See here where it says legal tender?"

Server: "Yeah."

Me: "So, why won't you take it?"

Server: "Well, hang on a sec."

He goes back to his manager, who has been watching me like I'm a shoplifter, and says to him, "He says I have to take it."

Manager: "Doesn't he have anything else?"

Server: "Yeah, a fifty. I'll get it and you can open the safe and get change."

Manager: "I'm not opening the safe with him in here."



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"Server: "What should I do?"

Manager: "Tell him to come back later when he has real money."

Server: "I can't tell him that! You tell him."

Manager: "Just tell him."

Server: "No way! This is weird. I'm going in back."

The manager approaches me and says, "I'm sorry, but we don't take big bills this time of night."

Me: "It's only seven o'clock! Well then, here's a two dollar bill."

Manager: "We don't take those, either."

Me: "Why not?"

Manager: "I think you know why."

Me: "No really... tell me why."

Manager: "Please leave before I call mall security."

Me: "Excuse me?"

Manager: "Please leave before I call mall security."

Me: "What on earth for?"

Manager: "Please, sir."

Me: "Uh, go ahead, call them."

Manager: "Would you please just leave?"

Me: "No."

Manager: "Fine -- have it your way then."

Me: "Hey, that's Burger King, isn't it?"

At this point, he backs away from me and calls mall security on the phone around the corner. I have two people staring at me from the dining area, and I begin laughing out loud, just for effect. A few minutes later this 45-year-oldish guy comes in.

Guard: "Yeah, Mike, what's up?"

Manager (whispering): "This guy is trying to give me some (pause) funny money."

Guard: "No kidding! What?"

Manager: "Get this... a two dollar bill."

Guard (incredulous): "Why would a guy fake a two dollar bill?"


Manager: "I don't know. He's kinda weird. He says the only other thing he has is a fifty."

Guard: "Oh, so the fifty's fake!"

Manager: "No, the two dollar bill is."

Guard: "Why would he fake a two dollar bill?"

Manager: "I don't know! Can you talk to him, and get him out of here?"



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Guard: "Yeah."

Security Guard walks over to me and...

Guard: "Mike here tells me you have some fake bills you're trying to use."

Me: "Uh, no."

Guard: "Lemme see 'em."

Me: "Why?"

Guard: "Do you want me to get the cops in here?"

At this point I am ready to say, "Sure, please!" but I want to eat, so I say, "I'm just trying to buy a burrito and pay for it with this two dollar bill."

I put the bill up near his face, and he flinches like I'm taking a swing at him. He takes the bill, turns it over a few times in his hands, and says, "Hey, Mike, what's wrong with this bill?"

Manager: "It's fake."

Guard: "It doesn't look fake to me."

Manager: "But it's a two dollar bill."

Guard: "Yeah...?"

Manager: "Well, there's no such thing, is there?"

The security guard and I both look at him like he's an idiot, and it dawns on the guy that he has no clue.

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turns out that my burrito was free, and he threw in a small drink and some of those cinnamon thingies, too.

This all made me want to get a whole stack of two dollar bills just to see what happens when I try to buy stuff. If I got the right group of people, I could probably end up in jail. You get free food there, too!

\$500 Loan

This may seem like a joke, but it really does make a lot of sense... business sense, horse sense and common sense ~~~~ An old Native American wanted a loan for \$500. The banker pulled out the loan application. "What are you going to do with the money?" he asks the Indian. "Buy Silver, make jewelry, and sell it," was the response. "What have you got for collateral?" "Don't know collateral," replied the Indian "Well that's something of value that would cover the cost of the loan. "Have you got any vehicles?" "Yes. 1949 Chevy pickup," replied the Indian The banker shook his head, "How about livestock?" "Yes, I have a horse," replied the Indian "How old is it?" the banker asks. "Don't know, has no teeth," replies the Indian Finally the banker decided to make the \$500 loan. Several weeks later the old man was back in the bank. He pulled out a roll of bills, "Here to pay." he said. He then handed the banker the money to pay his loan off. "What are you going to do with the rest of that money?" the banker asks. "Put in hogan", replied the Indian "Why don't you deposit it in my bank," the banker asked. "Don't know deposit," replied the Indian "You put the money in our bank and we take care of it for you. Whenever you want to use it, you can withdraw it." The old Indian leaned across the desk and asks the banker... "What you got for collateral?"

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- In 1900, if a father put a roof over his family's head, he was a success. Today, it takes a roof, deck, pool, and 4-car garage. And that's just the vacation home.
- In 1900, a father waited for the doctor to tell him when the baby arrived.
- Today, a father must wear a smock, know how to breathe,

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and make sure a new tape is in the video camera.

- In 1900, fathers passed on clothing to their sons.
- Today, kids wouldn't touch Dad's clothes if they were sliding naked down an icicle.
- In 1900, fathers could count on children to join the family business.
- Today, fathers pray their kids will soon come home from college long enough to teach them how to work the computer and set the VCR.
- In 1900, fathers shook their children gently and whispered, "Wake up, it's time for school."
- Today, kids shake their fathers violently at 4 a.m., shouting: "Wake up, it's time for hockey practice!"

- In 1900, a father gave a pencil box for Christmas, and the child was all smiles.
- Today, a father spends \$800 at Toys 'R' Us, and the kid says, "But I wanted an X-box!"
- In 1900, a father came home from work to find his wife and children at the supper table.
- Today, a father comes home to a note: "Jimmy's at baseball, Cindy's at gymnastics, I'm at gym, Pizza in the fridge."
- 'The one thing children wear out faster than shoes is parents.'

7. No news is..... impossible.
8. A miss is as good as a..... Mister.
9. You can't teach an old dog new..... math.
10. If you lie down with dogs, you'll..... stink in the morning.
11. Love all, trust..... me.
12. The pen is mightier than the..... pigs.
13. An idle mind is..... the best way to relax.
14. Where there's smoke there's..... pollution.
15. Happy the bride who..... gets all the presents.
16. A penny saved is..... not much.
17. Two's company, three's..... the Musketeers
18. Don't put off till tomorrow what..... you put on to go to bed.
19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and..... you have to blow your nose.
20. There are none so blind as..... Stevie Wonder.
21. Children should be seen and not..... spanked or grounded.
22. If at first you don't succeed..... get new batteries.
23. You get out of something only what you..... see in the picture on the box.
24. When the blind lead the blind.....

1st Grader Answers

A first grade teacher had twenty-five students in her Clarkston, MI class. She presented each child in her class the first half of a well known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are just 6-year-olds, because the last one is classic... although sad to see it said!

1. Don't change horses..... until they stop.
2. Strike while the..... bug is close.
3. It's always darkest before..... Daylight Saving Time.
4. Never underestimate the power of.... termites.
5. You can lead a horse to water but..... how?
6. Don't bite the hand that..... looks dirty.

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get out of the way.

And the WINNER is... the last one...

25. Better late than..... pregnant.

2 Doilies

There once was a man and a woman who had been married for more than 60 years. They talked about everything. They kept no secrets from each other... except that the old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she cautioned her husband never to open it or ask her about it. For all these years he had never thought about the box, but one day the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would never recover. In trying to sort out their affairs the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it he found 2 beautifully crocheted doilies and a stack of money totaling over \$25,000. He asked her about the unusual contents. "When we were married," she said, "my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was

to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doily." The little old man was so moved, he had to fight back tears. Only two precious doilies were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with joy and happiness.

"Sweetheart," he said... "that explains the doilies, but what about all this money? Where did it all come from?" Oh," she said, "that's the money I made from selling the doilies."

25 Pearls Of Wisdom

1. If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out.
2. Age is a high price for maturity.
3. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.
4. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
5. If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you have never tried before.
6. My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.

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7. Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
8. It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
9. For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.
10. If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
11. Bills travel through the post at twice the speed of checks.
12. A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
13. Eat well, stay fit, die anyway.
14. Men are from Earth. Women are from Earth. Deal with it.
15. No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
16. A balanced diet is a biscuit in each hand.
17. Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
18. Middle age is when broadness of mind and narrowness of the waist change places.
19. Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
20. There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
21. Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.
22. By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.
23. Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
24. Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.
25. Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.

96-year-old Bank Note

The following is an actual letter that was sent to a bank by a 96 year-old woman. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the New York Times.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my check with which I endeavored to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his depositing the check and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honor it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly transfer of funds from my modest savings account, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only thirty-one years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank. My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to re-think my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has recently become. From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by check, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate. Be aware that it is an offense under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact Status form which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but

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in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof. In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modeled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Please allow me to level the playing field even further. When you call me, you will now have a menu of options on my new voice mail system to choose from. Please press the buttons as follows:

Press 1. To make an appointment to see me.

Press 2. To query a missing payment.

Press 3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.

Press 4. To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.

Press 5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.

Press 6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.

Press 7. To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated to you at a later date to the Authorized Contact.

To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7. To make a general complaint or inquiry. The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call. Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee of \$50 to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. Please credit my account after each occasion. May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous, New Year.

Your Humble Client...

(Remember: This was written by a 96 year old woman)

Story from a Kansas State Highway Patrol officer:

I made a traffic stop on an elderly lady the other day for speeding on U.S. 166 Eastbound at Mile Marker 73 just East of Sedan, KS. I asked for her driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance. The lady took out the required information and handed it to me. In with the cards I was somewhat surprised (due to her advanced age) to see she had a conceal carry permit. I looked at her and ask if she had a weapon in her possession at this time. She responded that she indeed had a .45 automatic in her glove box. Something---body language, or the way she said it---made me want to ask if she had any other firearms. She did admit to also having a 9mm Glock in her center console. Now I had to ask one more time if that was all. She responded once again that she did have just one more, a .38 special in her purse. I then asked her what was she so afraid of. She looked me right in the eye and said, "Not a damn thing!"



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Animal Jokes

A Russian scientist and a Czech scientist had spent their lives studying the grizzly bear. Each year they petitioned their respective governments to allow them to go to Yellowstone to study the bears. Finally their request was granted and they immediately flew to New York and on west to Yellowstone Park. They reported to the ranger station and were told that it was the grizzly mating season and it was too dangerous to go out and study the animals. They pleaded that this was their only chance and finally the ranger relented. The Russian and the Czech were given portable phones and told to report in every day. For several days they called in, and then nothing was heard from the two scientists. The rangers mounted a search party and found the camp completely ravaged, with no sign of the missing men. They followed the trail of a male and a female bear. They found the female and decided they must kill the animal to find out if she had eaten the scientists because they feared an international incident. They killed the female animal and opened the stomach to find the remains of the Russian. One ranger turned to the other and said: "You know what this

means, don't you?" The other ranger responded: "Of course... The Czech is in the male."

One day in the jungle a chimpanzee invented some tools to eat his dinner. One tool was a flat stick sharpened along one edge, this he used to cut his food. The other was a stick with four smaller sticks attached to the end each sharpened to a point. He used to spear his food and place it in his mouth. The chimp was very proud of his inventions which he called his one point tool and his four point tool. One day he awoke to find that the four point tool was missing. The chimp was distraught. He ran around the jungle trying to find his precious tool. First he came upon the lion. "Lion, Lion!" he cried, "Have you seen my four point tool?" "No" replied the lion, "I have not seen your four point tool." Then the chimp came upon the gorilla. "Gorilla, Gorilla!" he cried, "Have you seen my four point tool?" "No" replied the gorilla, "I have not seen your four point tool." Then the chimp came upon the jaguar. "Jaguar, Jaguar!" he cried, "Have you seen my four point tool?" "Yup!" replied the jaguar, "I've seen your four point tool." "Well where is it?" inquired the chimp. "I ate it" said the jaguar, smugly. "Why would you do that?" cried the chimp. "Because" replied the big cat, "I'm a four point tool eater jaguar!"

A man was driving along the motorway when he saw two penguins standing in the hard shoulder. They looked lost, so he picked them up and put them in the back seat of his car. He then goes to the petrol station to fill up and whilst he is there the attendant notices the penguins in the back seat. He says to the man, "What are those two penguins doing in the back of your car?" The man says, "I found them on the road and they looked lost, so I picked them up" "You should take them to the zoo," replied the attendant. "What a good idea," said the man, and then paid for his petrol and drove off. The next day he went to the same petrol station and the same attendant serves him and notices the penguins are still in the car. He says to the man, "I thought I told you to take them to the zoo?" The man replies, "I did... they loved it... and now I'm going to take them to the movies!"

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Two cows were standing next to each other in a field.

Daisy said to Dolly: "I was artificially inseminated this morning."

"I don't believe you," said Dolly. "It's true, straight up, no bull!"

Bugs Bunny was shopping at the supermarket and a sales assistant said to him: "If you can tell me what 19,866 times 10,543 is, we'll give you free carrots for life." Immediately, Bugs responded: "209,447,238". The sales assistant was astonished and asked: "How on earth did you do that?" Bugs replied: "If there's one thing rabbits are good at, it's multiplying."

Da Cajun, his name Jean Paul, moved to Arkansas and bought him a donkey from an old farmer for \$100. Da farmer agreed to deliver da donkey da next day. Da next day, dat farmer drove up and said, "I'm Sorry, but I have some bad news... the donkey died just last night." "Well, den, just give my money back, yeah." "I can't do that Sir, I went and spent it already." "OK, den. Just unload him right dar." "What are you gonna do with dat dead donkey?" "I'm going to raffle him off." "You can't raffle off a dead donkey, you dumb Cajun!" "Well dats where you wrong. You watch you an you learn how we Cajuns so smart!" A month later the farmer met up with the Cajun and asked, "What happened with dat dead donkey?" "I raffled dat donkey off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars apiece and made \$998." "Didn't anyone complain?" "Just dat guy who won. So, I gave him his two dollars back."

Little Nancy was in the garden filling in a hole when her neighbor peered over the fence. Interested in what the youngster was up to, he asked in his friendliest way, "What are you up to, Nancy?"

"My goldfish died," replied Nancy tearfully, without looking up, "and I've just buried him." The neighbor commented, "That's an awfully big hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Nancy patted down the last heap of earth and then replied... "That's because he's inside your lousy cat."

A rich man was trying to find his daughter a birthday gift when he saw a poor man with a beautiful white horse. He told the

man that he would give him \$500 for the horse. The poor man replied, "I don't know mister, it don't look so good," and walked away. The next day the rich man came back and offered the poor man \$1000 for the horse. The poor man said, "I don't know mister, it don't look so good." On the third day the rich man offered the poor man \$2000 for the horse, and said he wouldn't take no for an answer. The poor man agreed, and the rich man took the horse home. The rich man's daughter loved her present. She climbed onto the horse, then galloped right into a tree. The rich man rushed back over to the poor man's house, demanding an explanation for the horse's blindness. The poor man replied, "I told you... it don't look so good."

Two friends were walking through the woods when they thought they heard something. They turned around and saw a big black bear coming towards them. Both men started to run when one of them stopped to change into tennis shoes. The second man said 'You don't have time to change shoes. You can't outrun that bear!' The first man said, 'I know I can't outrun the bear. I only have to outrun you!'

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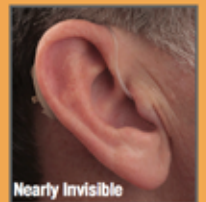


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