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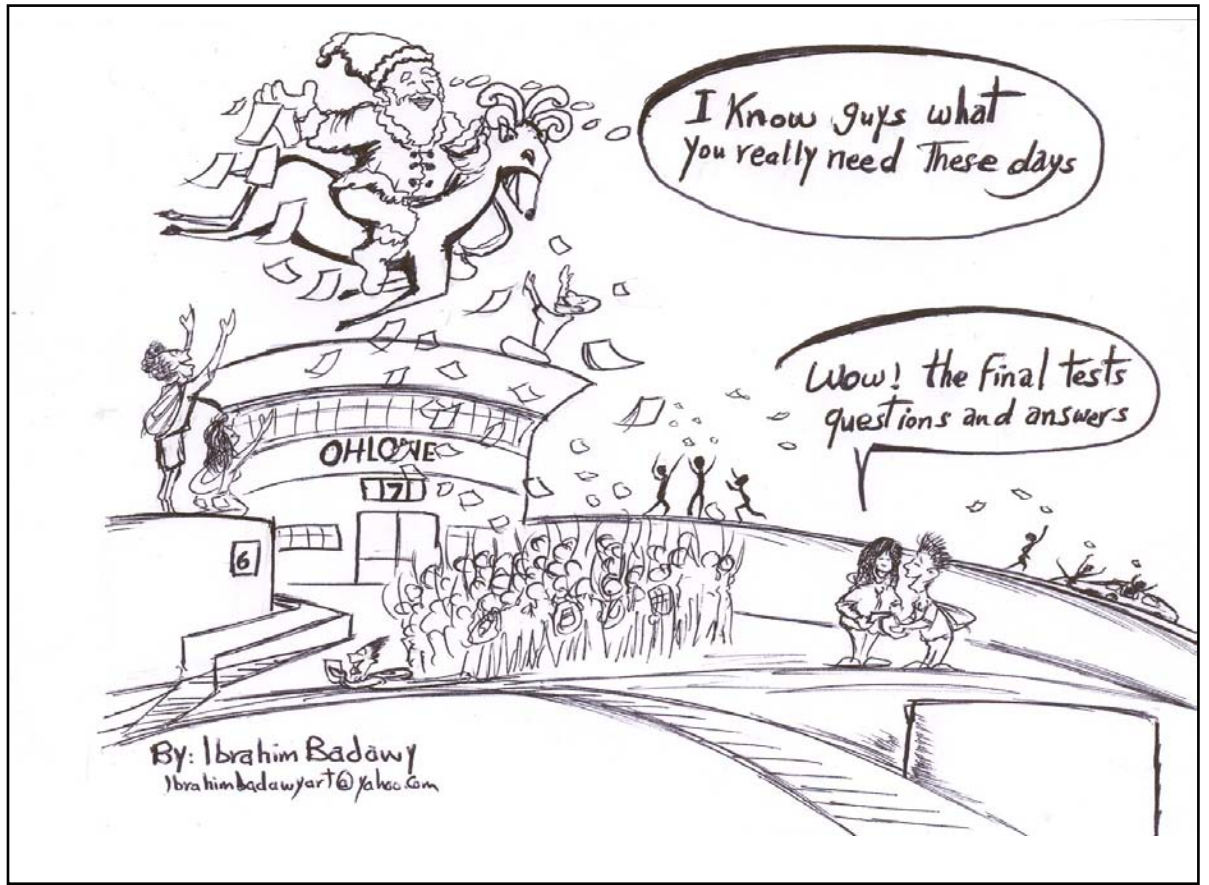
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OPINION

2009, a year in review from the top of the hill

By MANIKA CASTERLINE
Opinions editor

Obama

The end of 2008 ushered in the promise of political change with the victory of Barack Obama and he began '09 by uniting us under his message of hope during his inaugural address in January. He was even honored with a Nobel Peace prize this autumn. However, Greg Mortenson, author of "Three Cups of Tea" was more deserving of it, in my opinion.

But, that is not to say that his

presidency has been an easy ride in his first year. We still are involved in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the economy is still in the process being stimulated by the economic stimulus bill and (seriously) this summer the GOP presented the scare tactic of "death panels" regarding health care policy.

If Canada can achieve universal health care, why can't we?

Vampire everything

The Twilight saga and True Blood. But, most importantly are you on Team Edward or on Team

Jacob?

I honestly wish Buffy Summers would just come back and slay those suckers.

Rihanna

Seriously dude, how do you get away with domestically abusing Rihanna, Chris Brown? Rihanna is one of the rare talents out there right now.

And then Brown's song "Forever" goes on to be featured in a YouTube video that has garnered a bunch of hits.

It is an injustice. It really is.

Television

The breakout hit of the year has been Fox's "Glee," which premiered in May after the season finale of "American Idol" and it is a shining star in the world of television. I am sick of hearing how every other fangirl wants to (insert rhymes with Puck here) with Puck though. I'd rather do that to "Glee" actor, Matthew Morrison.

World Series

The N.Y. Yankees won. It is not that surprising. Not that I really know anything about baseball.

But, really it is not. Big freaking whoop. I'm just including this to appease our Editor-in-Chief, Jeff Weisinger. Let's pretend we are in an "Empire State of Mind" for his sake. Otherwise I really could not care less.

Deaths

It was not a good year to be a celebrity. Michael Jackson, the music. Farrah Fawcett, the flip. Sen. Ted Kennedy, the last brother. Walter Cronkite, ultra journalist. Patrick Swayze, the dirty dirty dancing. Bea

Continued on Page 6

Make my wish come true, all I want for Christmas is you

By MANIKA CASTERLINE
Opinions editor

I must strongly empathize that there are not many things that fill me with glee during this time of the year. Take into account that I work in retail, however, instead of being the Grinch who stole Christmas, I opt to be Rudolph and spread at least some seasonal contentment.

After Christmas sales

Hello, we are in a global economic recession. As it is, I'm an extreme shoppaholic. The only other excuse is that I don't get paid that

much and I have always been a discount shopping Asian. Some items are investment pieces, okay. Or at least that is my justification.

Mistletoe

In this case, it is less about the mistletoe. It is more about who you hope to get kissed by. It is a moment that is built up to and bound by the obligation of tradition.

Now that is something to "tweet" about you social networking birdies.

A kiss underneath the mistletoe is an act of fearlessness for those of us who the rest of the year are the

ones that are defined as reliable, trustworthy, and as detail oriented book worms.

The only exception to this and there is apparently an exception, the mentality of whatever it takes. Sometimes there is only one way to the top. And that is to be on top. I'm just saying.

But, in the frosty air lingers the question that given the option who would you kiss underneath the mistletoe?

The safe route is to pick a celebrity. As if you were actually going to hook up with them. That would be a Christmas miracle.

The only possibility of that occurring is if they were seriously intoxicated, which if Amy Winehouse is your choice then by all means "yes you can."

That is not to say that my personal preference is not an idealistic wish like the prospect of peace and good will for all mankind.

However, a mistletoe initiated makeout ought to be a legitimate act of desire rather than one of being under the influence of substances.

It should be reserved for the individual who you have spent months falling in love with. The person that

puts a sparkle in your eyes when they enter a room. The person who despite the flaws that they are the first to recognize and vocalize, they are still someone special to you.

And hopefully not a person who needs to be shaken by the shoulders in order to realize what kind of couple the two of you have the potential to be.

Starbucks

It is red again, right? The cups are the first indication of change. This year the tagline is, "Make your spirits bright. Wish."

Continued on Page 6

CAMPUS COMMENT >>> Who would you kiss underneath the mistletoe?



Anibale Corte
BIOCHEMISTRY
"Brad Pitt."



Princeton Faure
OPTOMETRY
"Alicia Keyes"



Marshall Lyons
ARCHEITECTURE
"Megan Fox."



Kirstie McCune
FORENSIC ANTROPOLGY
"My girlfriend."



David Orluck
WILDLIFE
"Anibale!"