A short story by Matt Handzel

Kal-El

The Reckoning

October 24th - Family Feud
(Sign up in Campus Life Office)

October 31st - Halloween Party
**Best costume at party wins a prize**

November 7th - Novelty Night

November 14th - Soccer Tournament

November 21st - Ornament And Coffee Mug Decorating

November 22nd - Secret Santa
My name is David Lincoln. I'm a reporter for the Daily Planet in Metropolis. Or at least I was before the city was ended yesterday. I think I'm the sole survivor of the attack, but I feel like the title "survivor" is for people who chose to live on, whereas I was selected. I am alive right now only because Superman, the Man of Steel, wanted someone to bear witness to the catastrophe that just happened, and live to tell the story as a message to all men that his patience has run out. It needs to be said that I am not on his side. I would rather have died in Metropolis than live as a walking tombstone. However, Superman has chosen me to live, and maybe this story can save us from what we've done.

I guess this story starts ten years ago when Superman made a public announcement to the press. He was always big on speeches and yet something was off with him this time. He seemed irritated by us. Even though he seemed well-rested and perfectly healthy, being that he's practically immortal, he said very little and never smiled. In fact, his face more resembled that of a disappointed father. His speech was nothing more than a warning to everyone in the city. After tirelessly saving our city from us again and again, he would no longer guard us. I was instantly reminded of the old pagan saying, "The gods will not do for men what men will not do for themselves." He would give us ten years to rise above our savagery, promising that if he returned in ten years it would be because of our failure, and on that sad day we would know his anger.

So, he left. For ten years no one in the world saw or even heard from Superman. In his absence, we reacted to his ultimatum the way humans have always reacted to warnings like global warming, nuclear war, or any impending crisis. We did nothing. We did what we do whenever anything warns us of the consequences of our actions. We ignored it. We told ourselves that he'd come around. Our comedians joked about him and said he needed to lighten up, as if The Man of Steel's vow was just an idle threat. We conned ourselves into believing that something too terrible to imagine is too terrible to actually happen. And for a decade, we lived our lives as though he had never existed. Except me. I became something of a joke around the office, as the paranoid doom sayer, faithfully writing articles about how we needed to be mindful of his return. I knew that most people didn't take my writing seriously, but I always had this underlying suspicion that Superman was reading.

Ten years later most people had forgotten his promise or just simply didn't care, I walked into the office of the Daily Planet that day to see a crazed gunman in the office threatening to kill our photographer Jimmy Olsen. Apparently this man felt he had been wronged by the press somehow and wanted payback. He took Jimmy to the roof warning all of us to stay back. After a moment, we followed hearing the gunman threaten to throw Jimmy off the building. I guess the gunman felt that Jimmy falling to his death was poetic justice, as Jimmy had been saved from that so many times by Superman. We rushed to the top of the building to see Jimmy Olsen falling over the side of the roof. As the police restrained the gunman, we looked down to see Jimmy plummeting down. And then it happened. Superman flew in and saved Jimmy just at the last second. As he flew to the sky with Jimmy in his arms, the crowds on the street started cheering for our returned savior. Superman must've saved hundreds of falling people before but for some reason the crowd acted as though this was a first. We all thought to ourselves, “Kal-El, son of Jor, has returned.”

Yet something wasn’t right. Even from the distance of 50 meters I could see he wasn’t happy, but why? Before my pondering could go any further, he began to fly to an even greater height. Then he stopped. Superman had that same look on his face that he had when he warned us ten years ago of his return. I could hear inaudible speech coming from Jimmy, then a single high-pitched scream from the crowd as Superman dropped Jimmy to his death. The crowd instantaneously went from cheering to being stricken by utter horror. Superman hovered there looking down upon us as the crowd fell silent. In that silence every man women and child shared the same thought with such harmony as to be audible from the other side of town. “What have we done?”
I looked to my side to see my editor Perry White begging Superman not to continue. Superman swooped down and took off holding Perry in his clutches. Once he ascended to a massive height he turned around and zoomed towards the street. Perry was screaming defiantly and then Superman, after building tremendous velocity, released this human projectile into the street like a plane would release a bomb. What happened to Perry’s body, as it impacted is too horrific for details.

The police on the rooftop aimed their guns at Kal-El, but at the same time knew that firing at him would be less than useless. Instantly, the cops were disintegrated into mounds of ash by the caped “hero’s” laser vision. Superman then landed on our rooftop. He killed four of my colleagues with his bare hands in less than a second. I turned to run away only to see him standing right in front of me. He grabbed me by the collar and lifted me off my feet. He looked me straight in the eye, and in that stare it dawned on me that he had indeed been reading my work. After letting me go, he took off to unleash his wrath upon the entire city, and I sat on that roof realizing that he had spared me only to have me watch as Metropolis was sent to its grave. I cursed the articles I wrote, once I figured out that because of them I would now have to be the chronicler of Metropolis’s destruction.

I then began to watch as the living god we had all known as the embodiment of justice and morality buried a city alive. More powerful than a locomotive, he flew to the bridges only to fly THROUGH the bridge’s support structures. As the columns were taken out from underneath, the bridges began to crumble into the water, and it became clear that no one was exempt from his judgment. The Daily Planet had a great commanding view of the city. From there I could see the son of Krypton in the distance flying over the city. Loud explosions echoed through the streets as the lasers from his eyes began targeting gas stations. He went underground to destroy the subways. From the roof, all I could hear was the massive collisions and pulverizing of steel trains. He emerged from the subways to finish off the surface. Faster than a speeding bullet, he used his body as a high speed wrecking ball. All I could see was a blue and red blur rushing through building after building, scored only by the screams of the people he had once sworn to protect. In only a few minutes. Metropolis was destroyed with every inhabitant in it, with the Daily Planet left as the only standing building. He landed on the rooftop of The Daily Planet, that towering building once an integral part of my great city reduced to a monolith of a no man’s land. With his laser vision he burned into the top side of the globe, the giant sculpture atop the building, the city’s epitaph, “Here lies Metropolis. A warning to humanity and testament to my will.” During the whole attack, he said nothing. Not a single word, until after he burned the writing into the globe, when he said to me, “Learn from this, Lincoln.” He flew off into the sunset just as he had done thousands of times before, and in that time I did learn what we all should’ve learned the very moment this son of Krypton entered our lives, “No being so powerful could ever tolerate our existence. He’s not a bird. He’s not a plane. He’s our reckoning.”
Let’s talk about the essentials to life; food, water, and shelter. Actually let’s just talk about food. Well more specifically let’s talk about college food. And by college food I mean Sodexo. It’s the food of choice for most of us here on campus mainly because it’s the only thing to eat other than what we get from various care packages or shake out of the vending machines. Sodexo, as most of you know isn’t too impressive. With Yaks constantly referring to extended periods of time spent in the restroom and talk of overpriced and undercooked food, Sodexo is clearly disliked across campus. This has to do with the association of Sodexo and prisons, as well as the slew of bad press that Sodexo has received over the years. From reports of food containing horse meat to allegedly sacrificing the quality of the food to increase their profit margin these controversies show that no one is perfect and that we all make questionable mistakes. So what should we do? Should we keep eating this food and complain that we’re running out of wildcat dollars and toilet paper on the social network? Or should we be proactive about our situation? Obviously we should be proactive about this. If one were to visit the Sodexo section of the SUNY IT (POLY, PI, whatever) website you’ll find the following quote: “Our goal is to exceed their expectations by providing innovative menus, comprehensive facilities management services, and friendly faces that improve the quality of their everyday experience.” Now before most of you call bullshit please read the next quote: “Suggestion boxes are located in the Campus Center Dining Hall and Café Kunsela. We reply to and post all comments received. A food service manager or supervisor is on duty at all meals. Never hesitate to approach us during the meal period with any immediate concern.” What this all means is that the reason why Sodexo isn’t up to your standard of what food should be is because you don’t give them any feedback. So I urge you all to let them know that they’re burning the pizzas, or that your buffalo chicken quesadilla wasn’t cooked all the way. They’ve basically stated that they’ll meet us halfway; it’s now up to us to put in a little effort so that we can reach a point of satisfaction with our food service provider. Get involved and make a difference.

S.A. Meetings are on Thursdays at 12:30 in the Student Center

Tweet @SUNYITDining

Get Involved.
Have Your Say.
Make A Difference.
WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT THE MERGER?

Some would say that there has been a recent cloud of fear over SUNYIT, or rather, the Utica campus of SUNYPoly. Change has a polarizing effect on people. Indeed, there are pockets of conversation and debate on just what the merger means. There is no exception with the change brought by SUNYIT/CNSE. There are those who find comfort in the new power, as nobody knows who to trust. The wrong words can get a person in hot water, and these rumors only grow stronger. Yet, with the fear that surrounds the new hierarchy, discussions are taking place in hushed tones for fear of seeming too rebellious. While most do not dare to discuss the new hierarchy, Convocation, or anything higher than a loud whisper. It is natural to assume the new heads of power are part of the plot.

Davis Handzel

First, make your nerves work for you. Everyone says not to be nervous but it’s impossible. I say, be as nervous as possible. Start shaking like Kirstie Alley’s second chin at a Krispy Kreme convention. While you’re at it, sweat copiously as if you took an Ice Bucket Challenge backstage and try looking paler than the inside of a chicken nugget. The audience will soon be too concerned with your medical condition to even pay attention to your speech. “How brave” they’ll shout, astonished that you even made it to the podium. At the very worst you will be the hero that somehow caught mad cow disease and polio and still made it on stage, at the very best you won’t have to do your speech at all as they carry your stretcher out of the building to the sounds of a cinematic slow-clap and rowdy applause.

The second key is based on your knowledge of your material. Do not bother remembering any of your material. Leave the memorization to the computers. This material is why they were invented. The human brain works best as a blank canvas for your creativity to flourish. Have a ballpark idea of what your topic is and let your creativity do the rest of the work. Do you think when President Thomas Whitmore famously said, “We will be united in our common alien extermination,” he had memorized any of that? He spoke from the heart, and so should you.

Never let yourself get in your way on the path to success. A smart person might tell you that it’s okay to be nervous as long as you speak emotionally and don’t let your mistakes derail you. A smart person might say that memorizing your material allows you to flow freely between points and further bolsters your rhetorical articulation and magniloquence. A smart person might even say that having empathy towards your audience and treating them as friends will help calm your nerves and boost your confidence and overall demeanor but just remember, this is public speaking for idiots.

They say people who study the sciences, for all their brilliance, cannot conduct themselves in front of a crowd. My experience as a Homelessness advocate on the mean streets of New York City gives me a chance to change this stereotype. Whether you choose to believe it or not, I will have to talk in front of a crowd of people. Your wedding toast, your presentation at work, and your Oscar speech are nothing but small moves to alleviate this in the near future.
Developer Frogwares alongside publisher Focus Home Interactive have pushed out the latest game in the Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes series. This latest entry, titled Sherlock Holmes: Crimes & Punishments, has launched on almost all non-Nintendo platforms including PC, PS3, PS4, Xbox 360 and Xbox One. Crimes & Punishments is Sherlock’s first appearance on our new current gen systems, and what an awesome experience it is.

Crimes & Punishments plays out over the course of six different cases. Each case will take roughly two to three hours to complete and are each unique in their own way. The cases can range from solving murders to uncovering thefts to investigating burglaries. You are Sherlock Holmes: the greatest detective around. Crimes & Punishments places you in charge of uncovering all of the clues, using the clues to create deductions, and eventually using the deductions to solve your case. The gameplay is played out in a way very similar to that of L.A. Noire. Though Crimes & Punishments isn’t quite as open world as L.A. Noire was, it’s still open, enabling you to freely roam any of the available locations for that case. You’re free to look around for clues, talk with people and interact with items scattered about all to help uncover new information. This formula is one that really succeeds. In Crimes & Punishments all locations are well designed and fun to explore, and while most clues are in plain sight, it’s still nice running through such different locations on the hunt to finding new clues. Occasionally you will even get to switch out from playing as Holmes and get to enjoy playing as Dr. Watson, and even their dog, Toby. Dr. Watson may not have actually changed gameplay much, but it was always nice to find clues while following scent trails as a dog.

Crimes & Punishments is also filled with plenty of mini games and puzzles. From cracking into a safe, or lock picking a door, to building molds, to doing chemistry there are mini games all over. Most are relatively simple to solve, though I did often encounter an issue. When connecting lines, in uncovering an image or picking a door lock, the lines would need to line up perfectly. If the lines weren’t perfectly straight the game would not set through as completed. This can get very frustrating at times, but the developers had a fix right there. If you’re stuck on a puzzle or simply don’t want to bother doing it you can press a skip button which will automatically do the puzzle for you. This feature was a life saver because when a puzzle got too frustrating I’d have the ability to just say “screw it” and move on with the case.

Crimes & Punishments is also an incredibly beautiful game, and one that really feels like it belongs on the current gen platforms. All characters look incredible and are given amazing little details like light bruising, scratches and other unique traits. Obviously these are helpful in learning about people in the actual case, but in a sense the differentiations and great design of each character is a real accomplishment. They not only look amazing but they truly feel different. The characters are not alone in their beauty though. The environments are all very well designed and are absolutely gorgeous. The vast detailing that went into each location stands out and the environments cannot help but feel like real life locations, either currently lived in or abandoned.

It seems to be the small things that really make the game work. From small details on the skin of the character to smaller more unknown features. Crimes & Punishments gives the user the ability to switch between first and third person modes whenever they want to. Additionally, a user can use a sixth sense type mode in which certain locations, or during certain events, should the player activate it they can play out what happened, helping to put clues together. At the end of a case, once you’ve uncover the truth, you are also given the ability to make a moral choice of how to handle the situation. Turn someone in to the police, knowing they will be hanged, or was their crime not that bad and let them off the hook? The choice is yours and it actually adds a lot to the experience.

Overall, I went in to Sherlock Holmes: Crimes & Punishments with very low expectations, and I was extremely surprised. Crimes & Punishments is a very good looking game, and a very fun playing game. It’s really a case of all the care and small details its developer put in working together to create an amazing experience that players will enjoy and will end up finishing the game only to want more.
It’s hard to believe that we are already more than a month into the semester. With that said it has been about 6 weeks since fall sports have started here at SUNYIT. It has been a wild start to the season for all the sports teams here including the men and women’s soccer teams, the men and women’s cross country teams and the women’s volleyball team. All these teams have logged several games and all show potential to make noise in the ever approaching NEAC tournament. Let’s go over the progress that these teams have made this season.

The SUNYIT Men’s soccer team has had a rough start to the season. A down year was slightly expected with the loss of key members Diego Montaleza and Malick Faye, however, with a talented group of freshman and a few veterans of the program it seems that this team has a great chance in the NEAC conference. With a record of 4-5-2 as of September 23 you can’t say that it has been an awful start. However, with a controversial loss to Purchase College in the home opener and another debatable tie to Utica College in the following game, you can’t say it has been a smooth start for the team coached by Peterson Jerome. Several lineups and strategies have been used but the perfect game plan for this team of guys is still being searched for. The overall record of this team does not reflect their success in the conference, with a record of 5-0-1 in the conference it seems that good times are up ahead for this group of young men.

The women’s soccer team has also had a shaky but promising start to the season. With a small team of girls it has been a good showing for this team, however they have lost a few too many close games. 3 of their losses have been by 1 point which is difficult to suffer, but with their commanding domination of St. Elizabeth (13-0) this team shows a lot of potential. With a conference record of 3-2 this team can do some work when the NEAC tournament comes around. Coach Erin Schurr is doing a very good job with taking over the team. Their 3-2 record shows that they are in the middle of the conference but the team’s NEAC Women’s Volleyballathletes of the week Megan Will and Erika Reakes show that the team has a lot of talent on their roster. As the season starts to wind down this team will start to truly hit stride and reach its full potential as one of the better teams in the conference.

Lastly, the women’s volleyball team has had a good start to the season. Even though this team lost a lot of its senior power from the prior year, they started the season with a 9-10 record which is good for a team with a lot less members and a new coach. Coach Dan Liberto is in his first year of coaching here at SUNYIT and is doing a good job with taking over the team. Their 3-2 record shows that they are in the middle of the conference but the team’s NEAC Women’s Volleyballathletes of the week Megan Will and Erika Reakes show that the team has a lot of talent on their roster. As the season starts to wind down this team will start to truly hit stride and reach its full potential as one of the better teams in the conference.

It may have been only about a month into the season but the SUNYIT Wildcats are doing just fine. Last year 3 teams in the fall won NEAC championships and this year we have a chance to do the same thing again. This school has a stellar group of student athletes that show real promise and can earn All Conference Honors at the end of the season. Their coaches know what it takes to do this and are working on with their athletes so that they can be the best that they can be. This is going to be an interesting fall for SUNYIT sports and I can’t wait to see how it ends.
CONTEST: COMMUNITY CREATIONS

Have a short story, poem, piece of artwork or anything else print worthy? Factory Times wants to see what the students of SUNYIT are doing with their free time! Send your submission to factorytimes@sunyit.edu for a chance to win a MasterCard gift card.

First Place - $50
Second Place - $25
Third Place - $10

I'm going to write a short story about the Wildcat!

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 31
CAB Fall 2014 Activity Schedule

10/20 - Smarter than a Freshmen (Game Show) @9pm Student Center MPR
10/29 - Pat Killbane @9:30pm Student Center MPR
10/30 - Cayo Industrial starting at 7pm off campus
11/3 - 11/5 - Guardians of the Galaxy. Movie shows on all three days @ 9pm SC Theater
11/18 - Gone in Seconds (Game Show) @9pm Student Center MPR
White space is your FRIEND.