



try harder  
B,  
Santa





## the paper

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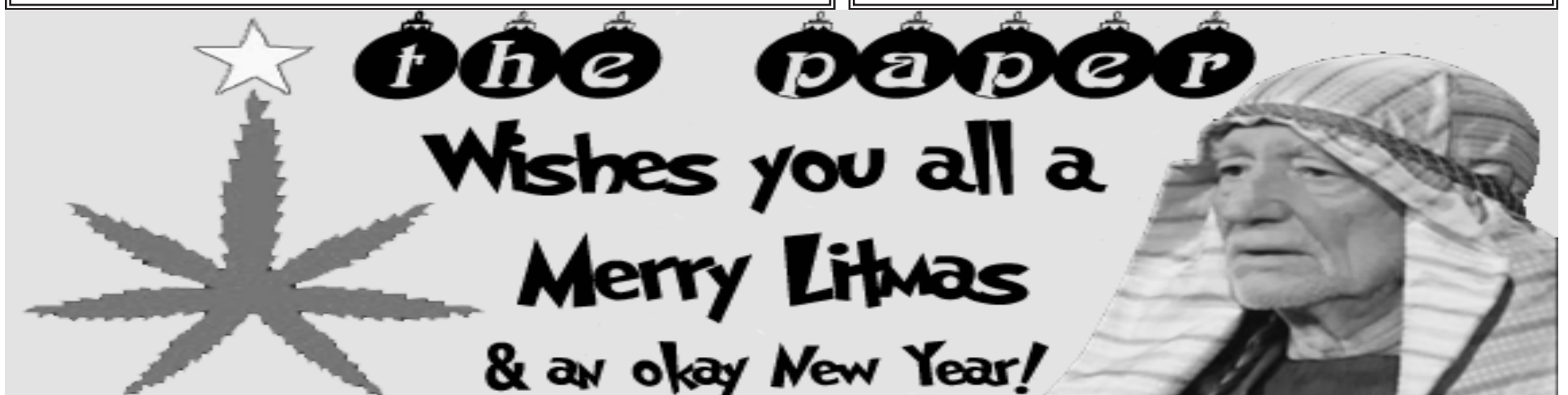
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# Good News for Once: Dakota Access Pipeline Construction Halted

by Rachel Poe

Features & List Co-Editor

It's ironic that as we celebrated Thanksgiving, which is basically about the exploitation of the Native population by White Europeans, protests continued to go on at the site of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). I covered the DAPL last issue but more and more has come out about the DAPL as more mainstream news outlets are finally providing proper coverage. For those of you unfamiliar with the pipeline and its protests, the Sparknotes version is that the pipeline is set to transport about 470,000 barrels of crude oil a day across four states in the Midwest. Protesters' issues with the pipeline come down to the route of the pipeline, which crosses the Missouri River, a clean water source for the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and countless others in the surrounding areas, and ignores treaty lines.

At the end of November, the Army Corps of Engineers set a deadline for protesters to vacate the property near the Cannonball River campsite or face arrest. Officials from the Corps said that the decision came from a concern of safety as winter rolls in and due to the confrontations between law enforcement and protesters over the past few weeks. Two days later, the Corps backtracked and said that they want a "peaceful and orderly transition to a safer location, and has no plans for forcible removal" but those who choose to stay "do so at their own risk as emergency, fire, medical, and law enforcement response cannot be adequately provided in these areas." And although the Corps doesn't plan to forcibly remove anyone, protestors would still be considered unauthorized meaning that they could be "subject to citation under

## Activists declare victory as the Army doesn't approve a key permit

federal, state, or local laws."

No surprise, the Standing Rock Sioux and other protesters aren't backing down. "We are in for the long haul,"



*Sometimes America works*

said Chase Iron Eyes, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe told CNN. Protesters believe that this additional tactic is intended to instill fear but they're preparing to dig their heels in. The camp near Cannonball, North Dakota has roughly a thousand or so protesters setting up tipis, tents, and more permanent structures made of wood in preparation for severe winter weather.

But hopefully they won't have to stay too long as finally some good news came out of North Dakota. On Sunday (it's a good thing that I procrastinated on this article as long as I did) the Army's Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Jo-Ellen Darcy, announced that the Department of the Army will not approve an easement that would allow the proposed DAPL to cross under

Lake Oahe meaning that the pipeline will stay away from the Missouri River and any possible contamination of that clean water source. Darcy said that af-

of the Interior to take steps to correct the course of history and to do the right thing." Bernie Sanders, who has been an avid opponent of the pipeline, also released a statement in which he emphasized that the exploitation of Native Americans is unacceptable in this day and age and that it is important to recognize their sovereignty. Sanders also applauded the win from an environmental standpoint.

Unsurprisingly, though, not everyone is happy with this decision. North Dakota's sole member in the House of Representatives, Kevin Cramer, a Republican, attempted to slam President Obama for the decision by calling him a "lawless president." Cramer went on to say that the decision was unfortunate as it "sends a very chilling signal to others who want to build infrastructure in this country" and called it a reward for "criminal behavior." Okay, I'm sorry but having access to clean water should not be a controversial issue (I'm looking at you Michigan- we still stand with Flint), not as a tool to throw shade at President Obama. Especially since it was made clear that pipeline construction will still continue, just through an alternate route that avoids the Missouri River entirely. The alternate routes will be determined through an Environmental Impact Statement in addition to full public input and analysis.

I'm not entirely sure why it took them so long to come to this conclusion, but I'm sure glad they did. There were countless reasons as to why the DAPL was a bad decision from the get-go. Since 2016 has been an expedition to hell and back, it's nice to see that there's still a silver-lining. Let's just hope a certain Oompa Loompa doesn't ruin this for us.

ter talking with tribal officials and hearing the concerns over how the pipeline could impact the drinking water source, it became "clear that there's more work to do." In a statement, Darcy said "the best way to complete that work responsibly and expeditiously is to explore alternate routes for the pipeline crossing."

In other words, this is a giant win for the Standing Rock Sioux and DAPL protesters. Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II said in a statement that he and the tribe "wholeheartedly support the decision of the administration and commend with the utmost gratitude the courage it took on the part of President Obama, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Justice, and the Department

# How a Donald Trump Administration Will Impact Women's Health

by Kelly Tyra  
Co-Editor in Chief

If you are not a wealthy white man, you are most likely wondering how the new leaders of our country are going to ruin your life over the next four years. Will Donald Trump violate the human rights of millions and cause mass panic with the forced emigration of undocumented families? Will his new chief of staff use his position as a platform for the white supremacist alt-right movement? Will more innocent memes like pepe the frog be warped by hate into national symbols of oppression? And if Donald Trump is impeached, assassinated, or otherwise rendered incapable of taking or preserving the office of the presidency, will Mike Pence step in to replace him?

We may not have heard much from this Indiana Governor on the campaign trail, but in the light of the surprising victory his dark shadow has grown. Mike Pence has established himself as an enemy of immigrants, educators, and the LGBTQ community. However, Pence is perhaps most famous for his extreme views on woman's health and abortion laws. Under Pence, Indiana almost adopted the most restrictive abortion policies in the nation. Pence also led the national fight to defund Planned Parenthood (and caused a government shut down in the process). During this war on women's health and wellness so many Planned Parenthood clinics closed in Indiana that an HIV epidemic occurred in Scott County. Pence recently co-sponsored a bill that would have allowed hospitals to deny women access to abortions in life threatening cases stipulating only in cases of "forced" rape (as if all rapes are not forced). Pence is also known to spout ridiculously sexist claims like his argument in the *Indianapolis Star* that working mother's absence in the home could stunt their children's emotional growth. He also completely missed the main point of *Mulan* citing the Disney movie as proof that women are ineffective military leaders and soldiers (?!?!?!).

While many of Mike Pence's destructive policies have been prevented by activists and justices, his new role as the second in command of our nation may have armed him with the political

## The Donald is bad, but Mike Pence might actually be worse

power he needs to impose these inhumane restrictions on a federal level. The battle over women's rights is still raging throughout the country. On December 19<sup>th</sup> a Texas law will go into effect that mandates funeral services for aborted fetuses. Women whose lives are threatened by their pregnancy as well as mother who suffer through miscarriages and ec-



topic pregnancies will be forced to endure further emotional trauma. The law also requires the woman to cover the cost of the cremation or burial which may raise the price of abortions services a great deal. Similar "funeral for fetus" laws are being pursued in Arkansas, Louisiana, and of course, in Mike Pence's home state of Indiana.

Donald Trump has said many times that his Supreme Court will overturn *Roe v. Wade* and allow state legislatures to determine the future of abortion laws at home. State politicians, emboldened by Pence's presence in the White House, will use this as an opportunity to restrict woman's right to choose and may even restrict access to birth control and similar health services.

Birth control access is a recently awarded right in the United States. Universal access to such services was granted only forty-four years ago in 1972, a year before the *Roe v. Wade* court decision. These family planning services have had a major impact on our nation and we are just now beginning to see clearly the positive effects of empowered women on our society. Following legalization of birth control in the seventies, the ratio of men and women enrolled in college began to move in favor of females. Now, woman outnumber their male counterparts on campuses

across the nation. Since 1972, the percentage of women with bachelor's degrees has risen from 8 percent to 31 percent. In a similar vein, before birth control was legalized no women had run a Fortune 500 company. Since then, fifty have. Clearly, restricting access to birth control and family planning services will have a direct effect on the success and education opportunities of women. And perhaps that is what the Trump administration wants.

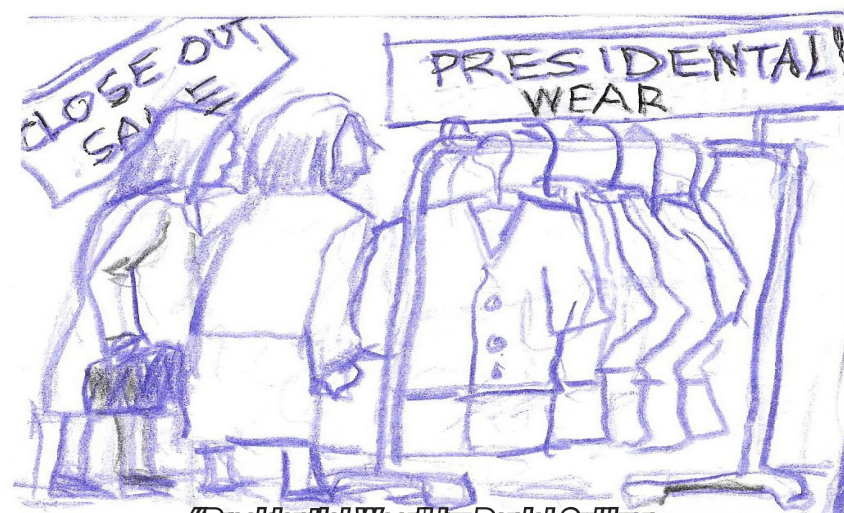
Gender equality issues have been an incredibly important topic of discussion this election cycle as many believed the United States was on the cusp of electing the first female President. Hilary Clinton was poised to become the champion of the modern women's rights movement, the woman to finally shatter the highest glass ceiling of all. She faced sexist criticism on the campaign trail as people used her gender to discount and distract from her achievements and qualifications. Not only did Trump and Pence use sexist tactics and rhetoric to criticize Clinton and her campaign, they repeatedly displayed their disrespect for all women on the trail. While Trump's antics (including implying Megyn Kelly was menstruating and bragging about his ability to sexual assault women) took center stage,

Pence's refusal to seriously discount his running mate's actions coupled with his past repression of women's rights speaks volumes.

The threat a Trump Pence presidency poses to the success of future generations of women has not gone undetected. In response, there has been an

**Not only did Trump and Pence use sexist tactics and rhetoric to criticize Clinton and her campaign, they repeatedly displayed their disrespect for all women on the trail.**

outpouring of post-election support for organizations like Planned Parenthood. In fact, the organization has received over 72,000 tongue-in-cheek donations in Mike Pence's name. These donations will allow the organization to continue their efforts to provide medically accurate information and health services for men, women, and children throughout the country. Even still, evidence suggests many women in Texas have begun to turn to do-it-yourself abortion methods to avoid the increasingly politicized health center policies in state. With Mike Pence in office, all the money in the world may not be enough to stop political oppression and in turn, lives will be jeopardized.



"Presidential Wear" by Daniel Sullivan

# The Electoral College is Weird and Old, So Does It Still Make Sense?

by Michael O'Brien  
Staff Proportionality

The Electoral College is one of the United States' most debated and controversial political systems. In the wake of the 2016 presidential election, in which one candidate claimed that "the entire electoral system was rigged" (despite winning the delegate vote), there have been many Americans who as a result have called into question the purpose and necessity of such a system. So, before you set off to debate your peers about the respective advantages and disadvantages of our electoral system, it is important to have a basic understanding of what the Electoral College actually does in our country.

When the American people went to the polls this November to vote for their next overlord, they did not vote directly for their respective candidate through their individual vote; instead, the American citizens vote is used to choose their state's electors, a group of individuals chosen by either the Republican or

## Does your vote matter if you don't live in Hamilton County, OH?

Democratic party of each state to vote for the next president in early December. The total number of electors is 538 (hence the name of Nate Silver's website) and is distributed proportionally to the total number of congressional members each state possesses. The way in which each state's delegates are divvied up depends on the state, but many states possess "winner take all" rules in which regardless of a candidate's margin of victory, they still win all of the said states delegate votes. While the elector, chosen by the party that won the state's popular vote, is usually expected to vote the same way the state did; the elector is not legally tied to any specific candidate and has the ability to change their vote at any time. This has never swayed an election, but it is possible for enough electors to vote so that the candidate that won the delegate vote is not elected.

Does the popular vote matter at all then?

The Electoral College only determines the presidential vote, other votes like those for congressional seats are solely determined by popular vote; so yes, the popular vote does matter. However, the indirect nature of the Electoral College does make people call into question the popular votes impact on the presidential nomination. The popular vote in each state determines how the 538 electors of the college should vote; however, the popular vote or the total number of people that voted for a candidate is actually not taken into account when choosing the next president in December. As a result, states with large populations (like for instance, California) can push a candidate ahead in the popular vote, while said still losing the delegate vote and therefore the election. In the case of the 2016 election, despite Secretary Clinton winning the popular vote because of densely populated states with urban metropolitan areas, she

was nevertheless unable to secure enough delegates in smaller, more rural states. As a result of this, despite California's massive population, the total number of delegates allotted to California was not enough to counter the total number of delegates from the smaller states won by Mr. Trump, these states put together still have a smaller population than California.

The Electoral College harkens back to a time when information still traveled by horse and could take weeks if not months to arrive; instead of attempting to tally every vote in the United States, it was faster and more efficient to send electors acting on behalf of the people. However, in the age of fiber optics and the Internet, it could be debated that the need for the Electoral College in its current form is completely obsolete. Only time will tell if America finally decides to drop the college, but for now, it's here to stay.

# Canadian Cops Propose Nickelback as Punishment for Drunk Driving

by Nicholas Peters  
Arts Co-Editor

If you live in Canada, especially in a town called Kensington, do not go drunk driving. Well, really never go drunk driving because that's a very risky and terrible thing to do where you could lose your life, or cause the death of someone else, and it's generally just a terrible asshole thing to do. However, if you live in Kensington, prepare to be subjected to a very special kind of hell.

If the police pull you over they will subject you to Nickelback when they put you in their car to take you to their station. The Kensington police made this announcement over Facebook because if there is one way to announce the antics of a police force, it is definitely over Facebook. The constable of the town did specify that they do not hate the band. However, telling drunk criminals that you will subject them to Nickelback as punishment communicates a pretty clear stance on their music.

Luckily, the cops haven't actually made any drunk person listen to Nickelback yet. However, it does seem that

## Chad Kroeger still reportedly crying into his pool of money

the Kensington police force is very serious about this threat. They imposed this regulation to start a dialogue about drunk driving in the area and plea that the people do not cause them to ruin an unopened Nickelback CD.

Apparently though, Nickelback did not take too well to the policy. The band issued a response to the police station, and asked that the post be taken down. In a response, the police station issued an apology, stating that their message of Don't Drink and Drive was completely lost and overshadowed by the "everyone hates Nickelback" message. They claim that the police station did not expect the story to blow up as big as it did. In their new Facebook post, they apologized to

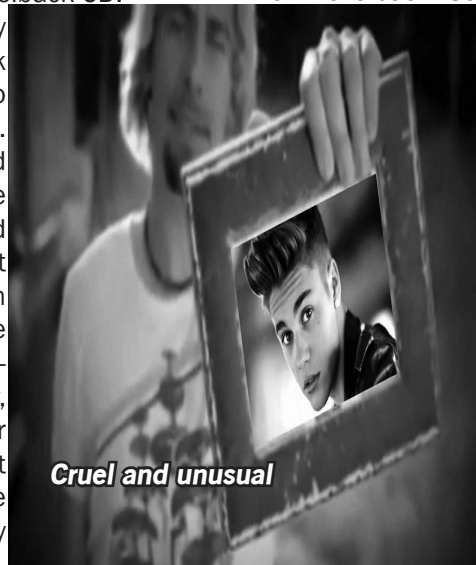
each band member directly by name. They also changed the message of their original post, now saying that when they pick up drunk drivers, they will let the person *enjoy* the office's copy of Nickelback. So you know, the same

thing, just worded more positively. The first post has since been deleted from the Kensington Station's Facebook. Interestingly enough, it sounds like Nickelback and the Kensington police might be working on an anti-drunk driving PSA song, or something.

Before you think this is just Canadians being cheeky, it is not just the Kensington police who have used music to punish people. In Wyoming, Minnesota, a police department has threatened to play One Direction covers

(and not good ones) to punish drunk drivers who are being taken to jail. To justify this use of force, they said that they were trying to be funny in a way to express their point about the dangers of drunk driving. After the department tweeted out this message, the Oxford Police Department responded to them, saying it was a bit extreme, qualifying their statement by saying that they would play Christmas music. I actually think that would be a worst sort of punishment. That's a one way ticket to insanity for me personally.

Yes, it's really funny that these police forces are using music seen as bad to punish drunk drivers, but that should not dissuade people from seeing the point of this. Drunk driving is bad, very bad. And hey, at least these officers are using interesting tactics to try to stop a major problem. To give credit where credit is due, it is pretty funny. I mean music as a punishment is not very original, but it is an interesting method to combat drunk driving. And hey, we should praise cops for trying non-violent solutions to problems.



# FAKER THAN TRUTH

By John Looby

## The Ram Goes The Way Of Cruise

Well, it was bound to happen sometime, folks. A proud and, well, somewhat noble Fordham publication has fallen to the darkness. This particular darkness being Scientology. We recently found an L. Ron Hubbard book/propaganda in the print shop and are now deathly afraid to say the least. Everyone knows that we're super easy to indoctrinate here. I mean, we literally think Donald Trump and the royal family are lizard people who run the Illuminati because, I mean, they literally do, it's a fact. I'm sorry, but science is on our side here. Having scientology here is just an egregious risk. I'm starting to worry about thetan levels and that's just wrong. More concerning though is that 85% of *The Ram* budget is definitely being paid to the Church of Scientology I mean, literally without a doubt. There's no way they're not. Have you seen *Going Clear*? I haven't, but I assume it supports all the assumptions I'm making, especially that scientologists are given final say on every single word of *The Ram's* Senior of the Week. I mean, even the conjunctions man, *even the conjunctions*. The only thing to possibly look forward to is when we run into Tom Cruise in the print shop when we accidentally say something that doesn't damage our thetan levels and he appears out of the dark room with several thousand copies of Dianetics. In the coming months you can anticipate continued coverage of the massive thetan expansion across all Fordham Campuses except Lincoln center. They're way too cool to join a cult.

# Jill Stein's Recount Adventure Spectacular 2016

by Declan Murphy  
Staff Last Hope

We're nearly a month out from the 2016 election, but the wound still feels fresh. As final results continue pouring in, the truth of two things has become definite: Donald Trump has won the Electoral College vote, and Hillary Clinton has won the popular vote. As of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hillary Clinton has officially received 2.5 million more votes than Donald Trump. That number will continue to fluctuate as vote totals are finalized.

This is part of the oddity of modern elections. In the interest of staying current and timely, most states are "called" for one candidate or the other before large portions of the votes are counted. News outlets rely heavily on exit polling, in which respondents tell researchers how they voted, and early reports from precincts. The actual process of tallying ballots takes much longer.

That's why we're still getting updates from states like California. It's also why Clinton's popular vote margin keeps increasing—more and more ballots are being counted, even this long after the election.

In all likelihood, it will not be enough to change the results of the election. Most of the ballots being counted are coming in from California, a state which went decisively for Clinton. For all intents and purposes, though final vote numbers will continue to change slightly, the state vote results are decided.

Still, the margin in certain states—in particular, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania—was comparatively small. Wisconsin's reported vote margin was around 23,000 votes; Michigan was near 11,000; Pennsylvania's was around 65,000.

It should be noted that these are larger margins than usually merit recounts. The infamous 2000 Florida recount was based on a vote margin of around

Hey maybe Russia actually interfered on this.

500 votes. Clinton's general counsel, Marc Elias, said in a public statement that the margin separating Clinton from Trump in all of the contested states is larger than has ever been overcome by a recount. In short, the possibility of a recount changing any of the state results is incredibly slim.

An unlikely architect is at the center of the vote recount effort: former Green Party candidate Jill Stein. Stein, of course, has plenty of incentive to do so:

an estimated \$125 per precinct, which in Wisconsin alone puts the bill close to \$1 million. Most of these funds will come from Stein's recount fundraising efforts, but some of it may have to come from taxpayers.

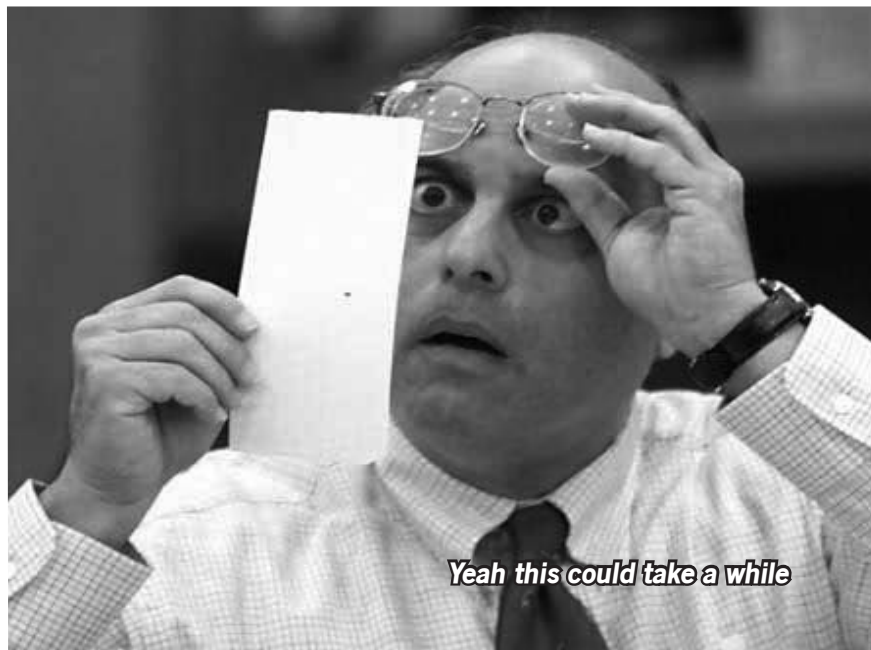
The pros, however, are not to be overlooked. In such a contentious election, a recount may restore faith in at least the fairness of our electoral system. A Clinton loss would still be hard to stomach, but perhaps supporters could

sleep a little easier knowing that the results were not directly hijacked. Besides, on the other side, Trump has declared that millions voted illegally—a claim for which he has provided no evidence. A recount would decisively show that Trump's allegations are false, and that all the votes counted were, in fact, legitimate. Especially in a year where the results of the Electoral College and popular vote diverge, it is useful to

affirm that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote fairly.

It is also important to keep in mind what voter recounts don't show. They fail to show how many voters were turned away from polls for lacking proper ID, based on voter ID laws which tend to be discriminatory. Recounts do not account for anomalies, like moved polling places, that make it more difficult for people to vote. Recounts don't account for confusing ballot order, misleading wording, or other deceitful tactics. It is far from a complete picture.

Vote recounts are perhaps beneficial. But they are, particularly in this case, unlikely to change the results of the election. The margins in Wisconsin and Michigan are quite small, but still more than a recount can change. It will help, though, to dispel the notion of foreign (i.e. Russian) interference in our elections. The integrity of our electoral system is important to maintain, regardless of results.



Yeah this could take a while

for third-party candidates, every vote they receive is important. (Although Stein is nowhere near close enough to reach the 5% vote threshold that entitles a party to federal funding.) Stein has raised an unprecedented amount of money for the recount effort, which is partly emblematic of the widespread dissatisfaction with the election results. Stein is pushing for a recount on allegations of interference. She puts the blame on electronic voting system, which she thinks are more vulnerable to interference than paper ballots. That claim is, to put it gently, dubious.

That being said, there are pros and cons to a recount, whether or not there was actual voting interference. Let's begin with the cons, which are the most obvious: voting recounts efforts take time and money, and rarely change results. Recounts take teams of volunteers and election officials to leaf through thousands of ballots, lasting days. There is also an associated cost:

# Broken Promises and Cabinet Sweepstakes

by Michael O'Brien  
Staff Drain the Swamp

\*Deep breath\*

Okay here we go.

While Trump winning did give me a depressive episode equivalent to a swift kick in the genitals, I for one am happy to confirm that despite his election, the universe didn't implode onto itself as some of my liberal peers have predicted: gravity still works the way it should, water doesn't catch on fire (just don't go to Cleveland, or Flint, Michigan), and the sun rose in the sky today, which I hear should still be going strong for another couple billion years. All in all, I think we're doing pretty good! In any case, here are a few important stories from Trump's first month in office that you should be aware of, let's power through, shall we?

**Swamp-draining is postponed.**

While I would like to give Mr. Trump the benefit of the doubt about his competency, he's not exactly filling me with confidence at the moment. It seems that Mr. Trump is woefully uninformed on how his new job is performed *The Washington Post* even noted that during a meeting between President Obama and Trump, "Mr. Obama walked his successor through the duties of running the country, and Mr. Trump seemed surprised by the scope." It seems that Trump has done the presidential equivalent of lying on his resume in order to get hired, and now that he's got the job, he suddenly realized he has no idea how to perform said job.

Nowhere is this more obvious than Trump's apparent surprise that he is responsible for hiring the entirety of the presidential staff, not realizing that President Obama's West Wing staff leaves when he does. While Trump ran a campaign based upon "draining the swamp" of Washington, cleaning out corruption and ending insider dealing; it appears that this sen-

## "What if we just hired all of Goldman Sachs?"

timent does not apply to his cabinet appointments (perhaps because Trump didn't know he had to appoint people and was caught off guard). The individuals being appointed to Trump's cabinet include everything from a Goldman Sachs executive, the chairman of the RNC, and a Right Wing media executive; all in all, the exact type of "insiders" that Trump had rallied against during his

was a main running point for much of the Republican Party, including Trump, with chants to "lock her up" constantly being heard at his rallies. Turns out, the campaign promise to throw Clinton in prison was just that, a campaign promise, meant to excite voters and nothing more. Whether it be "draining the swamp", "building the wall", or "locking her up", it appears that broken promises are par for the course in Trump's first month.



Get out of my swamp  
Donkey

campaign. Perhaps he realized that being an insider also comes with years of experience, an important trait to have when you yourself have no idea what you're doing, speaking of which.

**Hillary For Prison was just a prank, bro.**

After what I can only assume was Trump's first ever reading of federal law in his lifetime, he soon realized that, no, he cannot indict Hillary Clinton on crimes she already got acquitted for. In an interview on CNN's Morning Joe shortly after Mr. Trump's victory, spokesperson Kellyanne Conway stated that Trump would not appoint a special prosecutor to indict Mrs. Clinton, stating that the United States "needs to heal" and that Trump was putting Hillary's "crimes" behind him and the country. Despite the fact that the FBI had already closed the case on Secretary Clinton and concluded that there was no criminal wrongdoing in her handling of classified emails, the indictment of Clinton

infamous Twitter account. After the cast of the show gave a direct message to Vice-President Mike Pence regarding the direction of our country and the hate speech that has permeated it (which Pence, a real politician, took with grace), Trump went on the offensive. "The cast and producers of Hamilton, which I hear is highly overrated, should immediately apologize to Mike Pence for their terrible behavior," Trump stated about the best-selling Broadway musical. He went on to claim that "the Theater must always be a safe and special place. The cast of Hamilton was very rude last night to a very good man, Mike Pence. Apologize!" Despite winning the election, it seems that Trump still feels he has something to prove to the American people; mainly that any criticism of him or his ideas is forbidden. For a man who railed against sensitivity and political-correctness, it does seem that Mr. Trump gets #triggered quite easily.

**President Elect is a CIB (Confirmed Internet Badass)**

Throughout the 2016 campaign season and his subsequent transition period, Donald Trump has become notorious for his reputation as a keyboard warrior, attacking everything from newspapers, to TV personalities, flag burners, and even the cast of Hamilton on his

# Realer Than Fact

By Luis Gómez

**Venezuelan currency value now depends on one guy in Alabama**

Funny thing about Venezuela's economy right now: it's terrible. So terrible that the government has to just pick an exchange rate and then pretend that's what its money is actually worth. Even though it most certainly isn't.

Now, practically speaking this is not how currencies work. And, practically speaking, I should be able to tell you why this is because we've spent the last three weeks in my International Political Economy class going over currency movements and exchange rates. In reality, I am bad at this class. What I can tell you is that while the Venezuelan government set the official exchange rate at 10 bolivars to 1 US dollar, the black market rate for the currencies is actually 4000ish bolivars to 1 US dollar.

Now, obviously the government isn't going to start telling the unofficial exchange rate to people because they're trying to inflate their way through things. But, people need to know the black market rate because right now the black market rate is the only rate at which people are trading or buying stuff. So, it's now important to know that rate. Enter Gustavo Díaz and his website DolarToday. Díaz was an army officer under Chavez and eventually participated in an unsuccessful coup attempt against the former dictator, before he was granted political asylum in the US in 2005. He founded the website in order to continue his fight against the Venezuelan government and also to help the people of Venezuela because let's be real here for a second, these people need to do things like buy food and basic necessities in order to shall we say continue living. So yeah. You go Gustavo.

# A World Reacts Confusedly to the Death of Fidel Castro

by Luis Gómez  
News Co-editor

The irony of Fidel Castro dying on Black Friday was lost on nobody. The communist dictator, who for decades evaded the US in its own backyard, died at 90, leaving behind an island on the brink of liberalizing and an aging brother in charge of everything.

Castro's death was met with a nine-day period of national mourning in Cuba. Even the Ladies in White, an organization founded by the wives and mothers of jailed dissidents, called off their weekly march. Internationally, Castro's death was met with a mix of reactions. Allies from Mexico to India to Canada mourned the loss of a 'great revolutionary leader,' while President Obama offered condolences and prayers to "the Cuban people" and basically avoided talking about Fidel at all. The reactions among citizens were similarly broad - Cuban university presidents were in mourning while demonstrators in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood were demonstrably happy at the prospect of a Fidel-less Cuba. Crowds gathered around Versailles, which is a fantastic restaurant that you should definitely go to, and held up signs that said things like 'Satan, Fidel is yours.'

The reaction in the press has been equally interesting. Many a thinkpiece hand-wrung over Cuba's advances under Castro's regime, so I'll take the time here to acknowledge the fact that yes, under the Castros Cuba saw good healthcare outcomes and education levels. The island regularly topped official-type lists for healthcare costs or for primary school education rates in Latin America. But, as a *Washington Post* fact check pointed out, Cuba was in a good position to begin with on many of these issues

## As US/Cuba relations improve, the death of a dictator overshadows

before the revolution began, and when compared to other Latin American countries on calorie consumption, industrial progress, or capital



formation, Cuba lags sorely behind.

Cuba's problems will likely grow more visible as time goes on. While people tend to marvel at the preponderance of classic cars on the island, those are only there because people literally haven't been able to buy new cars since 1960-whatever. Plus, conditions in Havana are often conflated with conditions across the island - most people are still living on meager salaries and have to supplement their government incomes with black- or grey-market jobs. A small, but growing middle class bolstered by government licenses has led to cab drivers making more in a day than doctors

do in a month, which is pretty weird when you think about it. And while healthcare is free, obtaining aspirin or any sort of advanced screening tests is rare.

Make no mistake, Cuba was and is a dictatorship, and a brutal one at that. The clearest example I can offer is that of Armando Valladares, who, after working within the Revolutionary Government in the Office of the Ministry of Communications, he was falsely accused of terrorism and sent to prison for thirty years. From there, Valladares spent eight years in a tiny blackout cell with no windows, no water, and no clothes. This is what Castro did to supporters, allies, and detractors alike. Those close to Fidel and his brother Raúl were routinely purged from the government so as not to get too close to true power.

It was also an uncomfortably close

dictatorship - my father's parents both fled the island along with much of their family. Growing up around my grandmother meant a story about the one time my great-uncle stopped for a cafecito on the way to a Resistance meeting and was the only one who didn't end up getting arrested, or how my grandmother's house was stolen by the government and has gone through an interesting series of foreign owners who I would love to talk about but literally can't for legal reasons.

So, where does Cuba go from here? Much of this remains to be seen. Raúl, is at 85 and probably will not be around to lead for much longer, but little is known about his son Alejandro, who appears to be the most natural successor to the post. Then again, the post as it stands may not be around for much longer. Given the US' increased diplomatic and, critically, financial ties to Cuba, it's entirely possible that the island will face increasing outside pressure to be less, y'know, hostile to any and all forms of dissent. Many hope that eventually the people of Cuba will be allowed to start making decisions for themselves again.

And there's always the specter of President Trump, who was no fan of Castro's. His statement directly called out Fidel's atrocities plus that overlooked scandal from September where it was revealed that Trump had used a series of shell companies to evade the embargo and start business dealings in Cuba. Trump may move past the more passive form of liberalization that the Obama administration has adopted to aggressive intervention in the island.

It is up to Cuba's people to figure out where their island goes from here. A dictator is dead, his successor is aging, and the country is opening up its borders at a fortuitous time. The revolution is, for now at least, on hold.

Unlike your parents,  
this puppy will never  
be disappointed  
in you.



Puppies:  
We're better  
than humans.





## Save the Season for the Actual One; We Don't Need Christmas ASAP

By Meredith Mclaughlin

Staff Christmas Enthusiast

Christmas is the best, right? The season is just so special what with all the decorations and songs and annual Starbucks controversy. It's a time for everyone to be kind and come together in the spirit of the holiday to watch *A Christmas Story* for the 16th time. The Christmas season is the one thing that gets us into looking forward to the cold winter months. But it feels like every year, we start hopping onto the Yuletide horse earlier and earlier. Just after Halloween stores were starting to push out their Christmas themed products. 106.7 FM was already taking over the radio waves with "Grandma Got Runover by a Reindeer" by November 1. The fall season is an important transition period that has its own merits (like colorful leaves and the *Over the Garden Wall* miniseries,) and I hate seeing it end early. Look outside right now; there's still leaves on some of the trees. It's like fall is getting revenge on us for getting the red coffee cups early by making sure we're raking leaves right into December. I understand Thanksgiving isn't a universal holiday, but we used to be lucky in the states that we had a buffer holiday we needed to get to before we started the Christmas festivities. But no one anymore waits until after Thanksgiving, and honestly I think it takes away from some of the speciality of the holiday.

Does anyone remember the episode of *The Fairly Odd Parents*, when Timmy wishes that every day was Christmas, and eventually everyone gets sick of it and all the other holiday mascots try to banish Santa to the nonexistent day of February 33rd? We are getting

### Save it for December! It's time to savor the non-Christmas season

dangerously close to making that a reality. And I know, especially with this year, we want to have that warm Christmas feeling a little earlier. But think off the repercussions. One of the best things Christmas does is make

up at the end of October? The song is called "The 12 Days of Christmas," not "The 2 Months of Christmas," you know? And I don't even blame the public, because we're all just following when businesses are starting to get

Thanksgiving, because then there's nothing left to do but get pumped for Christmas. Then it's time to throw elf figurines everywhere and drink peppermint lattes.

The only real advantage I can see in starting the Christmas season early is getting your present shopping done. I'll concede that that is a stressful time and in the long run, an activity best done sooner rather than later. However, that is a necessary evil that does not excuse businesses from converting half of their stores into a winter wonderland in mid-November just so they can encourage you to blow a ton of money on presents early. Besides, no one even wants to think about the bad consumer-y side of Christmas. There aren't any news reports glorifying Black Friday as the paragon of Christmas spirit and goodwill. I know if you're reading this now, it's already December and well into the designated Celebratory Christmas Season™, but just keep it in mind for next year. We should want to keep this season special, and there's nothing that makes something less special than oversaturating the hell out of it. You don't want to just live in Christmas, you want to celebrate it! But if we start it too early, then we're just making it the norm, and then there's nothing enjoyable to look forward to. There's a reason Da Rules don't allow for people to wish for endless Christmas. Don't let any cheery commercial tell you there isn't such a thing as too much Christmas, because we are getting way too close to reaching it.



Take a break, fat man.

winter bearable, but no matter what, Christmas ends on December 25th. It's not like extending the Christmas season is going to help in February, when it's actually terrible outside. If we start Christmas too early into fall, we're going to lose out on all the great things that fall has to offer. Like I know people like to make fun of the pumpkin spice everything, but is it any worse than seeing candy cane decor start to crop

their Christmas on.

Don't let corporations use you and your holiday for their profit. Sure, the presents are materialistic and stuff but just like what every Christmas special tells us, it's not about the presents, it's about the spirit of the holiday. That's what starting too early does: take away from the Christmas spirit. I have no issue starting Christmas the day once the last relative leaves the house after

# What Better Time than the Present to Hate Everything?

By Kyle Zarif

## Staff Glass Half-Empty

Today is the best time in history to be a complete pessimist with regards to global politics. As a seasoned pessimist myself, I constantly wished my perpetual disappointment would be disproven, that we as a species would redeem ourselves in some way. And yet, here we are, trying to conform our fucked up way of life with a fucked up future, which this way of life created in the first place. After rejecting the model of empire and imperialism as a means of world organization, we seem to be silently sliding back towards this place of uninhibited exploitation. Like a teenager caught smoking by his PTA mom, we come up with increasingly convoluted explanations for why this is not the case when it so clearly is. As a pessimist, I am glad these arguments can no longer be convincingly made. I am glad Hillary Clinton can no longer advocate for free market solutions to climate change in the wake of the Dakota Access Pipeline protests and our continual slide into the hell of fossil fuel consumption driven by private industry. I am glad John Kerry can no longer say free trade is a deterrent to war and an equalizer, as decades of such trade have brought nothing resembling peace or equality. I am glad we cannot be tricked into accepting these abstractions anymore. But.....I AM ALSO FUCKING TERRIFIED!!! I was supposed to be an idiot leftist fool, constantly overstating the unequal nature of our world! I was supposed to be viewed as alarmist for calling the Republican

## As a pessimist, I think the world might as well end tomorrow

Party a fascist party! What the fuck!!!

Since the events of the past few years have sadly completely validated the pessimist's worldview, it may be helpful for those of you who were surprised at the election of a racist, orange scrotum with a wig taped on his head to the highest office in our nation for me to elaborate upon what



that view is. In short, we are gradually recreating a world we sought to leave behind. We are recreating empire, if it ever really left in the first place.

The key defining characteristic of the imperial mode of governing was the dependency of rich nations on the natural wealth and free labor of poor nations. We can pat ourselves on the back for formally dismantling this structure in the 50's and 60's and then we can fucking slap ourselves for continuing to do it in a different way. We tried to change; we came up with so many hopeful and cute ideas to make our world a less shitty place. We then completely disregarded those ideas and put all our eggs in one basket. Global free trade and unregulated capitalism would totally solve all our issues, right!? A global

trade in food meant the collapse of small agriculture in developing countries. Countries whose cultures and ways of life revolved around small agriculture. Countries whose cultures and ways of life now revolve around urban slums. It also meant an increase in global food prices, causing the number of food insecure

people to skyrocket. But urbanization and industrial agriculture are progress right? A global trade in clothing meant the outsourcing of jobs to nations formerly dependent on agriculture and, unsurprisingly with little to no union rights. But fuck it as long as our clothes are cheaper and the misery is far away, right? Cheaper clothes means progress right? Global trade generally has seen an increase in carbon emissions that is unprecedented in climate history. It has meant the complete dismantling of social programs in developing (and Western) nations. It has meant the destruction of Haiti. The destruction of Mexico, Laos, Bangladesh, and so on. The destruction of any hope for a world defined by something other than greed. But as long as you can

order some shit on Amazon and get it the next day, who the fuck cares how it got there (or what it costs socially), right? Right? RIGHT?!?!?

Wrong! So fucking wrong. And if this wasn't clear to us before the election, it should sure as shit be clear now. If you are still searching for "little victories" in an election that put a climate change denier in charge of the EPA, then I would advise you to slowly lift your head out of your own ass. If marijuana legalization made you feel better about a "man" promising "law and order" becoming the commander of our armed forces, than put on some sunscreen because you are probably too white to be out in the sun without it. At this point, we seem to be embracing free trade within a system of extreme border-protectionism. Aka, the free movement of money and goods, but not people. Pretty soon, we will have reached a point where one half of the world lives in comfort and stability while the other half suffers perpetual instability and resource scarcity. Philosopher Slavoj Zizek (ugh) calls this "a new apartheid...a systematic explosion of the number of different forms of de facto slavery..." He goes on to say that this is no accident, but a "structural necessity of today's global capitalism". I, and so many others, feel that we have been heading here for awhile revolution, though we just slammed our feet on the gas pedal. Buckle up! (or don't because at this point we probably deserve to go flying through the windshield when we inevitably crash).



# Acknowledging Your Privilege is the First Step towards Liberation

by Rachel Poe &  
 Reyna Wang  
 Features & List Editor  
 Earwax Editor

## Being an ally is not an identity; it is a process

Last year I took a sociology class called Gender, Race, and Sexuality. We talked about systematic norms and forms of oppression that, to me, were self-evident. There was nothing particularly startling about the gender wage gap, or how someone with an “ethnic” sounding name was less likely to get called to a job interview than someone with a white sounding name with the same credentials. Most of the discussions were about societal problems that I’d heard before in previous sociology classes and throughout my life. During one class, the professor brought up a Ted Talk from earlier that year by sociologist Michael Kimmel. In his talk, Kimmel recounted a dinner conversation he witnessed about thirty years ago when he was a graduate student between a white woman and a black woman. The white woman stated that “All women face the same oppression as women. All women are similarly situated in patriarchy, and therefore, all women have a kind of intuitive solidarity or sisterhood.” The black woman found this problematic and asked the other woman what she saw when she looked in the mirror. The white said that she saw a woman. The black woman responded with “I see a black woman. To me, race is visible. But to you, race is invisible. You don’t see it. That’s how privilege works. Privilege is invisible to those who have it.”

Throughout the presidential cam-

paign, it’s no secret that I and others at *the paper* found the rhetoric being pedaled by potential future leaders too condescending, problematic, and disheartening. During that year and a half, it became shockingly clear to me that many people did not care about the things that were being said about every person under the sun who wasn’t a white, straight, cis male. And



I couldn’t understand why. Is it just because there’s no human decency left in the world? I really hoped that wasn’t the case so I went back to this Ted Talk.

When people think privilege, I think the first thing to come to mind is children being born with silver spoons up their asses and trust funds so large they don’t know what to do with them. While that’s not wrong, privilege comes in various shapes and sizes and most people don’t recognize what they have. Sure, all women face oppression when it comes to our bodies, our pay, our general safety, but women of color face additional

levels that add the the complexity of their identities that white women simply will never have to go through. Intersectionality is crucial. Many white people claim that they are not privileged because they come from working class families, but socioeconomic status is only one of the many forms of privilege, and these people still have white privilege even though they do

not have a certain degree of socioeconomic privilege. Conversely, it is possible for people of color to have socioeconomic privilege without having white privilege, but it is crucial to recognize the connection between socioeconomic privilege and white privilege.

It can often be hard to have conversations about privilege with our peers without getting called out for calling people out on their privilege, but what everyone really needs to realize is that no matter how we struggle, all of our struggles are related. Some people experience more oppression than others and in different forms, but ultimately, all forms of oppression are rooted in the same capitalist system. Corporations, and the few that benefit from them in our society, intentionally pit people against each other to distract them from the fact that it is actually the corporate world that exploits all of us. For example, it is a widely held view

that Mexicans are taking the jobs of American citizens. Donald Trump has emphasized this sentiment repeatedly. However, the reality is that corporations are laying off workers to lower the costs of production, and they are hiring and exploiting undocumented workers, paying them below minimum wage and providing unsafe working conditions, in order to maximize profits. Neither citizens nor Mexican immigrants truly benefit from this situation; it is exploitative corporations that do. It’s imperative for people to acknowledge their privilege, because our personal liberation is bound to the liberation of all others, and only united can we defeat the system that oppresses us.

It is important for men, white people, and straight cisgendered people to be allies of women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ people in their struggles for liberation. However, being an ally is not an identity; it is a process. Being an ally is more than acknowledging your privilege and claiming to support marginalized people, because if you don’t take action or are silent in the face of oppression, you are showing complacency with the system that breeds this oppression. The role of an ally is to use their privilege to aid women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ individuals in their struggles for equity. Though liberation movements are built and lead by their respective marginalized communities, it is often only their allies that, for example, hold the political offices or economic means required to enact change on an institutional or widespread level.



# Three Stupid Things You Shouldn't Want for Christmas

**Anna Passero-Koennecke**

## Staff Shopper

We all know that purchase. It's flashy, cool, maybe a little expensive, but absolutely perfect for you. You must have it, so come Holiday Season you treat yourself. Then a couple weeks later, you realize you wasted your money and wish you had saved your money and bought that other super cool thing instead, or maybe actually have money for groceries. To save you some regrets, here's a list of three things you might want, and why you should save your money.

### 1. Urban Decay Vice Lipstick Palettes, \$35

So, I'm a big makeup fan, and when I saw this and it's oh so shiny packaging I was tempted. Twelve pretty lipsticks colors for the price of two and a little brush to apply them with. You can mix and match colors, creating the perfect color. What's not to love? Then I remembered something: lipstick in a pan fucking sucks. Lip products in general wear off throughout the day and need to be frequently touched up. With a normal lipstick tube you take off the

## Don't waste Santa's time asking for these items this year

cap, give it a quick swipe, and then put it back into your bag, clutch, or pocket. Want to touch up your color with this lipstick palette? Well, first say goodbye to packing light. This won't fit into a front pocket or even a clutch, better bring your full mom purse to meet your friends or to go dancing. And forget about a quick and easy swipe, you'll be sitting there for days trying to fill everything in with tiny, unpigmented brush strokes. Want to try out a different color instead of the one you just spent a fuck ton of time applying? Better wash your brush first, don't want any cross contamination that'll never come out. Not to mention you'll need to wash that cute little brush after every use if you don't want it to be clunky and gross. This might be great for a professional makeup artist, but it's just a headache for the average person. Save yourself \$35, and don't buy what will eventually become a shiny paperweight.

### 2. Apple Watch, \$269-\$299

Ok, this does have a lot of cool uses. However most, if not all, of these purposes are fulfilled by a smart phone

and a fit bit. Since the Apple Watch is not going to be replacing people's phones for a long while you are probably better off just buying a slightly cheaper Fitbit that you say will totally

**Realistically, what you're going to throw away is worth far more than what you "saved," and you'll constantly be frustrated that you can't fit that bin of junk under your bed.**

help you keep your New Years Resolution but that inevitably will end up going unused after the first week of January. On second thought, maybe hold off on the Fitbit too unless you are already an established fitness junky.

### 3. Giant Bulk Order of Anything, ???

I'm pretty guilty of buying bulk because "It'll be cheaper in the long run!" Listen, I know that siren call, and it's never worth it. Look at your situation. Most of you readers are college students, living in a tiny dorm or apartment. Where are you going to put that six by six foot block of granola bars? After you finish eating the first square foot you're probably going to be sick of them anyways. Quite frankly you're not going to finish 800 paper towels by the time you need to move, and it won't be worth the car space to bring all of the leftover towels home with you. Realistically what you're going to throw away is worth far more than what you "saved," and you'll constantly be frustrated that you can't fit that bin of junk under your bed because a box of thirty-two possibly expired Mott's Apple Juice Pouches is already there. Unless you're a parent of three, working for a charity, or have a real bad fruit leathers habit, the 5¢ you save per item isn't worth it.

# All I Want for Christmas is...Nothing. Really, nothing!

**By Claire Nunez**

## Opinions Co-Editor

I don't want a lot for Christmas, there's literally nothing I need, or want for that matter. Making a Christmas list to me is just really one of my priorities, and much to my family's dismay, it only has two things on it: a new Fitbit, since I lost mine on Halloween #RIPmysteps; and socks because O'Hare laundry machines have eaten all of mine. I don't feel the need for anything else, but I know if I don't ask for anything, I will get a lot of crap. Christmas lists are a double-edged sword for me; if I do them, I feel gluttonous, and if I don't, I get things no one needs.

To me, Christmas is really for the kids. Once I was old enough to not believe in Santa Claus, and to not want toys anymore, I had no interest in getting gifts. There was some kind of magic in believing all of the toys were built by tiny hands somewhere far away (unfortunately as I aged, I re-

## I just want to spend time with my cat eating cookies by the fire

alized they were built by different little hands than I would've thought when I was six). I began to think of Christmas as more of a time to be with my family and friends, to watch cutesy movies, and to eat an absurd amount of cookies. When you're a kid, getting a big box wrapped in green and red with a puffy red bow meant you were totally going to have a huge car race track or a Barbie Dream House. Now, all that means is a printer, which is still cool, but most certainly not as fun. It is so much more fun to rip the paper off a box to find one of those weird FurReal pets than a Loft sweater.

I would so much rather just spend time with my family and friends now. I don't get to see them as much since I live away from home, and our time together is more valuable than any random gift they could give me. It is so cheesy to say that, but it is 100% true for me. I know that my family will

buy me things though. It is inevitable. They constantly ask what I want, and I understand that they want to get me something, but really, they do not need to give me anything.

There are so many people with nothing and I come from a ridiculous point of privilege. I am currently complaining how I want nothing for Christmas and how difficult it is to find things I want, while so many people celebrate the holiday season as they would just a normal day. I asked a woman I work with what she wanted for Christmas, and she said it's the same as any other day for her. She's so far away from her family also. She never gets to see them. It sucks. Her position reminded me that I am lucky enough to have time to spend with my loved ones.

I always forget how privileged I am to have a family and friends that are close to me location and relationship-

wise. I cannot imagine life without them. I just like spending time with them and that is one of the best gifts I could ever get. I understand that they want to show their appreciation or whatever of me with materials, but all I need is them. Even when I tell them this, they still insist on buying me something-- which is nice-- I just don't need shit.

This year for the holidays, I am just going to ask people to sponsor me in an open-water swim race I am doing this upcoming July. The funds from the race go towards cancer research, which is something close to my heart. This is the best solution I could come up with to the whole "I want nothing" thing, and I think that this sponsorship is the best gift I'll ever receive.

## the paper's unpopular opinion

Everyone keeps saying that 2016 sucked, but we have a somewhat rebellious reputation at this school, so we are going to continue to promote that image and completely disagree #sorrynotsorry. While many subpar things transpired in our Fordham community, our nation, and our world we, at *the paper*, would like to dedicate this issue to all of the wonderful memories we made and shared together this year.

We began as a group made up of some strangers, some friends, and some students abroad but we ended, undeniably, as a family. We came together for our school community and for each other, creating a safe space for self-expression. No matter what this year threw at us, we were able to turn our pain into articles, our fears into features, and our tears into cheers for Estrellitas on Sunday afternoons. While the faces in the print shop may change, the support system we've created will only grow with each addition to our *paper* family.

We have been honored to work on a publication dedicated to free speech and the voices of Fordham students. The passion that pulses through this community has come across in the pages of *the paper*. We have used this passion to get through the good times and the bad and it has made our experience as Editors-in-Chief one of the best and most rewarding experiences of our lives. We know you think our love for you, our readers, our contributors, and all of our children (aka the editors), is exaggerated, but like the Grinch, our hearts have grown with love at a rapid and alarming rate. These dangerously large hearts are growing heavy with the knowledge that we will have to leave our family after this issue and our school in a matter of months. But instead of saying goodbye, we'd like to say thank you.

Thank you to our Advisor, VP Gray for helping to keep us on track. Thank you to all the members of OSI for your patience and support. Thank you to our contributors for producing diverse, dynamic content. Thank you to everyone who receives our awful emails. Thank you to our readers for making this all worthwhile. And a huge thank you to the kids who have grown as writers, students, and citizens of the world in our print shop. Your flaws may be immortalized on the roast wall but only because a list of your talents and gifts would never fit in such a small space. We love you, we support you, we miss you already but above all, we thank you.

Take that, 2016!!!



Love Always and Forever,

Kelly Tyra & Siobhan Donahue  
Proud *paper* Parents  
Deaditors-In-Chief

***Just because something is on fire, it doesn't mean that you'll get burned. For every flame that brings destruction, another flame brings warmth and light.***

# A Christmas Story: The Sacrilegious Version

Mary was set to marry her bae, Joseph. In the past week, she noticed she was getting a fatty. She thought it was just a result of puberty since she had just turned 14. However, one day, as she was resting outside, she heard a voice.

"Hey, bitch."

"Joe?" asked Mary, as she turned around.

Suddenly, Mary was face to face with an angel named Gabriel.

"I'm an angel from God, and I have a surprise for you. You're going to have a baby. His name will be Jesus. He will be the Son of God and He will be loved throughout the world for thousands of years. Later on, He will be evoked in Planned Parenthood debates," Gabriel explained.

Mary looked confused. "God, got me pregnant without my consent? That's not feminist!"

Months later, Mary and Joseph headed to Bethlehem for a census. When they reached town, Joseph approached the inn keeper.

"Do you have room for my wife and I to stay tonight? She's about to give birth to the Messiah."

The inn keeper sighed. "Listen here, boi!" He finessed. "Everyone's firstborn son is the fucking Messiah. Also, you didn't make a reservation so you can either fuck off or stay in the manger behind the inn."

Joseph, a lowkey furry, accepted the offer.

Late that night, Mary began to give birth.

"JESUS CHRIST THIS HURTS!" Shrieked Mary.

"Hey, isn't that our sons name?" Asked Joseph at a really inappropriate time.

Soon after the Son of God was born, a chorus of angels appeared to nearby shepherds to fulfill the whole "Lamb of God" motif.

Meanwhile, King Herod sent agents of the state to murder Jesus. Those agents were the Three Wise Men, who found Jesus via star. During the journey, the Magi looked at many Bernie Sanders Facebook memes. By the time they arrived at the manger, they were woke af and decided to not be implicit in Herod's problematic system of oppression.

Soon, the manger was filled with the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the Three Wise Men. A census worker walked by and counted everyone as being a citizen of Bethlehem. This certainly skewed government data.

So, how does this Christmas story end? It ends with a reminder that soon after the Birth of Christ, the Holy Family had to flee to Egypt to avoid King Herod's persecution. So, yes, Jesus was canonically a refugee. Hence, fuck you, xenophobic alternative-Right wing Christian groups.

# Love Tumps Hate: We Cannot Allow Hate Speech on Our Campus

By Devin D'Agostino  
Staff Hate Hater

**Fordham should be protecting our rights, not infringing them.**

I recently participated in a debate between the College Democrats and Republicans (before you ask what political side I was on, I would like to remind you that I am writing for *the paper*). I was assigned to address the controversy of whether a college or university should ever be allowed to ban a person from speaking on campus.

In preparation for my debate, I had many conversations with friends and classmates. One person asked me a question I initially brushed off as ridiculous: if Trump became president, would I let him speak on campus. Of course, I said no. At the time, however, the question seemed so far-fetched I barely felt the need to consider it.

And now Donald Trump is our president. After thinking this over I have decided I stand by my position: if the current president-elect was invited onto campus, I believe that Fordham should ban him from speaking.

In 2012, the College Republicans invited and then disinvited conservative pundit and provocateur Ann Coulter from speaking on campus. Coulter has been on record for saying many hateful comments. To quote a few "A lot of people are upset when I talk about Mexican child rapes, Muslims clitorectomies, Muslim honor killings...white people don't do that. America is not used to these types of crimes. We are bringing in cultures where child rape is very common."

A more recent example occurred at NYU with their revoking of the invitation to Milo Yiannopolous, a writer for the alt-right opinion site Breitbart, a man made famous by being banned from Twitter for inciting targeted abuse at African American actress Leslie Jones. Comments were aimed at her race and sex, comments that I don't feel are appropriate to repeat in a school publication. Yiannopolous has a self-proclaimed hatred and desire to stop immigrants and any other members of non-western culture, and is an anti-feminist.

This kind of hate speech has no place on a college campus. It is an attack on human dignity. It incites more hatred and violence. People argue that it is necessary to be exposed to

all views. If an opinion seems wrong, exposure to it can provide others a chance to debate and stand up for their beliefs. This is true for some opinions, ones that can be supported logically. Hate is not an idea worth sharing. Hate is said out of anger in the hopes of ostracizing and offending a specific group, hoping to disparage and humiliate said group. Hate speech does not bring about critical thinking or debate, it promotes intolerance. What place does it hold on a college campus?

My argument is that just as a person convicted of a crime is barred from certain jobs because they are considered dangerous; someone who has publically spewed hate should be barred from speaking to students. As a private institution, a college has a right to say people like Ann Coulter, Milo Yiannopolous, or Donald Trump,

invite me over to dinner, would you allow me in your house? If other people agree with me, should I be allowed to come over for dinner?

Would you like to refute the fact that there is no evidence to support the legitimacy behind the claims of hate speech?

You are not allowed to refuse service to someone based on race. You can feel a certain way about them, but you may not impede them in anyway, this is the law.. It is illegal to incite hate or violence.

If you can say that there is nothing that Donald Trump has said that should not have been said. That everything he said is acceptable, regardless of who it offended, regardless of the moral or ethical qualms it raised, regardless of the violence it incited or the people it hurt, then Donald Trump must be allowed to speak on campus.



are not allowed to speak on campus. Yes, people need to know these ideas are out there and exist, in fact we are constantly besieged by them on social media, but there are other ways to accomplish this short of promoting these speakers by giving them an audience. Allowing people who profess hate to speak gives them power, and can encourage others to follow in their lead.

A university should be a community of tolerance and learning and for it to fulfill its function, it should not allow figures who promote hate to speak on campus.

If I was to personally insult your mother, but your uncle was to later

invite me over to dinner, would you allow me in your house? If other people agree with me, should I be allowed to come over for dinner? Would you like to refute the fact that there is no evidence to support the legitimacy behind the claims of hate speech? You are not allowed to refuse service to someone based on race. You can feel a certain way about them, but you may not impede them in anyway, this is the law.. It is illegal to incite hate or violence. If you can say that there is nothing that Donald Trump has said that should not have been said. That everything he said is acceptable, regardless of who it offended, regardless of the moral or ethical qualms it raised, regardless of the violence it incited or the people it hurt, then Donald Trump must be allowed to speak on campus.

College campuses are made stronger by diversity. It is what grants us the opportunity to see from another person's perspective. Hate aggrieves diversity. It represses our freedom; it corrodes our humanity. The job of an institution is to educate, and a school cannot truly teach in the presence of hate.

I, like many others, have begun to normalize the fact that a racist, misogynistic, bigoted, anti-Semitic, tax and draft dodging, perverted, intolerant orange ape is going to run our country. Although the initial bite of the Trump presidency is gone, we need to remember who the man we elected to office is, the things he has said, the people he has offended, the lack of care he has for anyone but himself. I urge you all to read some of the things he has been recorded saying. They are repulsive, made even more disturbing by the fact that he is going to be the leader of the free world. Continue reminding yourself of the vile things Trump has said, until he proves to the country that he is not the abhorrent brute he continues to portray himself as.

In a country governed by hate, it is essential not to fall trap to those same ideals. Be gracious and courteous to your fellow American. No matter how hard it is (and it really is), do not hate. It is crucial in this bleak landscape of grief and desperation not to lose hope. We the minority, with the privilege of an education and knowledge, must use our gift for good. It is time to stop mourning and start fighting like hell.

If you acknowledge that something that has been said by our president-elect has gone too far, that it has crossed a line into violence, then you must concede that Donald Trump must not be allowed to speak on campus.

Americans have a right to free speech. It is fundamental that we not only allow people the right to speak freely, but nurture it. Hatred is meant to isolate and ostracize not unite and bring acceptance. A college campus is a community, and as a community it has the right to ensure everyone receives the same respect. If you want to hear the opinions of Milo Yiannopolous and Ann Coulter, as an indi-



# Hallmark Movies Are the Bane of Looby's Existence

by John Looby "Don't let your kids watch them!"

News Co-Editor

I imagine that Hallmark produces their holiday movies in a sweatshop, a sweatshop of cringe-worthy plots and literally the worst cinematography outside of your Snapchat. Yes, you reader, your Snapchat is probably terrible, a vertical angle unsteady panning shot of a bar is fucking art though, am I right? I assume at this point the Hallmark Christmas movies are all shot and written on iPhones. I should probably give some context for my clear familiarity with and hatred for Hallmark Christmas movies: my mother watches them constantly during the holiday season, by holiday season I mean from a week before Thanksgiving until roughly a week after Christmas. Sometimes, I think she's watching the same one again and then it just turns out that the plots are so similar that I have trouble telling them apart. Maybe I don't pay enough attention or maybe they don't put enough effort into them. I mean, I get that they're churning these things out probably once a week to air on each Friday before Christmas, but for the love of god even the D list actors look like this work is beneath them.

I can't imagine that after all these years trying to get their big break or maybe after "tragically" becoming a has-been, that these actors are super proud to now be the leading actor in what is essentially the death of film as art. Every minute spent acting in one of these films is just another minute closer to ushering in the death of their careers, my death because I assume I've

lost years of my life to these movies I imagine the agony I feel while watching them cannot be healthy.

I'm going to take this article as an opportunity to request that Quentin Tarantino direct a Hallmark Holiday movie

movies. Can Obama just do one last super cool thing and maybe, just maybe, outlaw the Hallmark Christmas movies via executive order?

Actually, you know what, make a Christmas movie that cracks a joke

network unless of course he is actually substantially less relevant than he likes to delude himself into believing he is.

Yes. This article about Hallmark movies did just somehow become vaguely political. I'm not quite sure how to be honest. Maybe it's because I'm running out of things to say and at this point, am just reaching at straws for things to write about in a desperate bid to push this article out to a full 800 words, but you've got no real way to prove that now do you, Mr. Readerman? Maybe I'm just reacting to what has become a drastically altered state of the American political sphere and that I feel it's pervasive impact in everything that I do even in just discussing a dislike for holiday movies.

So, I guess this'll be the conclusion paragraph that is typically how you end something that is written and after all, this is written. Just to summarize and make this clear, I desperately want Hallmark holiday films to stop being a thing for the sake of my sanity and hearing I can't go onward beyond this point. I've reached my limit of tolerance for this shit, ladies and gentlemen and also for whatever the hell goes on with the alt-right collective of bullshit and bigotry. I mean, what sort of group decides to resurrect the term cuck and expect to actually be taken seriously on the global political stage? All I'm saying, if not taking things seriously could get rid of them, then we would have been free of the Hallmark movies and alt-right movement quite some time ago, folks.



and yes, I do request an unorthodox level of violence for a Christmas movie on the same level as could be found in the likes of *Kill Bill*. Just constant bloodshed, I mean, feature someone be shurikened with a Christmas ornament. The soundtrack will of course include Mariah Carey's "All I want for Christmas is you." At this point, I'm just desperate for change. I want to go home for the holidays, but I also don't want to watch the Hallmark Christmas

about Donald Trump so he can tweet about it until the alt-right protest Hallmark into the ground. That's how we'll get this done, ladies and gentlemen. We'll use the currently frightening trajectory of the American discourse to help assure that my winter break is slightly less annoying. Hell, maybe we'll get that asshole Milo Yiannopoulos in on it, and he manages to ruin things all the time. I can't imagine he couldn't succeed in ruining an entire television

## EVENTS

**What:** Fordham University Holiday Week

**Where:** All Campus

**When:** Sat. Dec. 3rd- Fri. Dec. 9th.

**How Much:** Free

**Why:** CAB is sponsoring a multitude of events all week, so forget about the upcoming pain of finals by celebrating Christmas with your fellow Rams.

**What:** Check In Day

**Where:** McGinley 2nd

**When:** Fri. Jan. 27th, @2 PM-6 PM

**How Much:** Free

**Why:** College is stressful, so take the time to take care of yourself.

**What:** Holiday Break!!!

**Where:** Everywhere, Go Home

**When:** Dec. 21st -Jan. 17th

**How Much:** Free, how much it costs to go home

**Why:** Because we all need a break. I really need a break personally, and I think you probably need one today.

## Extended DVDs Stretch Bad (DC) Movies Too Far

by Scott Saffran

### Staff Extension Enemy

2016 was to be the coming out party for the DC Entertainment Universe. When the Marvel Cinematic Universe was launched with 2008's *Iron Man*, DC was still in the process of producing their box office-shattering *Dark Knight* Trilogy. DC was well behind the ball, and desperately needed to play catch-up to reach the ever-increasing returns of Marvel's ever-expanding universe of films. 2011's *Green Lantern* was the first attempt at producing a film for a DC property outside of Batman and Superman and it was absolute garbage. So, DC readjusted to give it another go in 2013 with Zack Snyder's *Man of Steel*. The end result was not for everyone and diverted significantly from historical presentations of Superman, but it was well-made and certainly fit the bill as a potential foundation for a world of DC films.

Three years later, the two first true entries in this world would be *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice* (BvS) and *Suicide Squad*. I had a lot of hope for these two films; in hindsight, I had a stupid amount of hope that promised inevitable disappointment. Suffice to say, they were quite bad. Not as bad as *Green Lantern*, but pretty damn bad. There were highlights: Ben Affleck presented the singular best movie Batman we have ever seen and the Will Smith/Margot Robbie train pulled their collective weight. But as complete movies, BvS and *Suicide Squad* fell far short of the many expectations comicbook fans had set out for them.

"Fear not!" the Warner Bros. called, "We can make it all better!"

"How?" we asked, "What could you possibly have to repair these disasters?"

"Extended Editions," they replied.

### DC doesn't stand for Director's Cut, ya know...

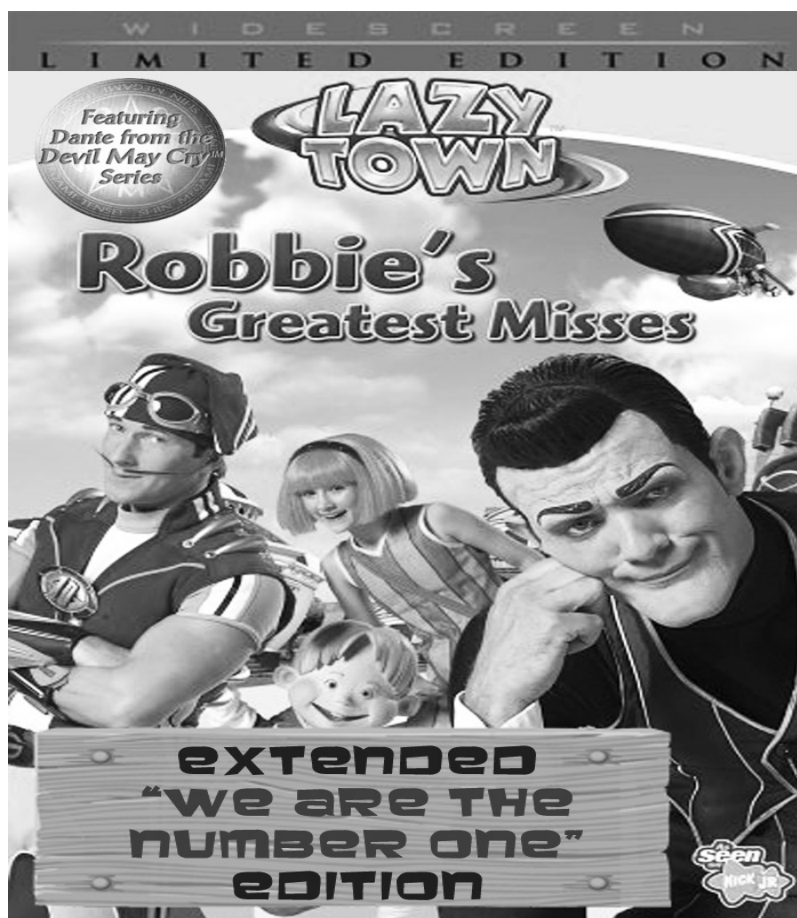
Extended Edition Blu-Rays, DVDs, VHS, or what-have-you, are no new concept for cinephiles. Many celebrated films have longer cuts representative of the director's vision for the film which was just a bit too long for the average theater-going audience. Such releases are often labeled the "Director's Cut" and may or may not be an improvement upon the original cut. I generally take no issue with this. I would prefer a movie to be a complete piece of the artist's vision, but I do understand the limits and constraints of modern cinema.

shorter reigns than some of their peers, they do not snap those reigns back whenever the path seems to give even the slightest bump. I do not endorse Zach Snyder as a director, but I can see clearly where his vision was trampled by the hive mind at Warner Bros. Marvel sets out a canvas and a selection of paints for their artists. What the artist does with those implements is mostly up to him or her; the finished product is what the director conceives given the tools made available. Warner Bros. allows their artists to select the canvas and paints of their liking, but tears away the brush to amend the work to their own pleasure. The inevitably marred piece is a disappointment, and thus Warner hands it back to the artist to restore the original vision. The artist makes his attempt, but the scars cannot hope to be covered in a convincing fashion.

With the announcement of a forthcoming Extended Edition of *Suicide Squad*, I can only shake my head in melancholic pity. I genuinely feel bad for David Ayer. Had he been given autonomous control over his brush, I'm certain he would have painted a picture worth viewing. The Extended Edition will not miraculously turn this Harley Quinn marketing machine masquerading as a movie into a good film. Sure, we'll get a few extra scenes to round out the experience

a bit more, but it cannot hope to fix the nonsensical plot or the complete misuse of talent. In the end, it remains that admission of defeat.

When I see a DVD branded EXTENDED EDITION, I see a movie by committee. I see a disaster patched up and presented as a novelty. I see a filmmaker crushed by the enterprise. I see a desperate bid to mend a public image so trashed by failure. To the men and women at DC Comics and Warner Bros., I encourage adherence to an old adage: "You don't get a second chance to make a first impression".



This concept of the Extended Edition, presented by Warner Brothers Studios as a way to remedy their failures on the big screen, is what boils my blood.

The Extended Edition is the concession of defeat. It is the last-ditch attempt to make peace with the fans they knew they would disappoint in place of the original effort which they should have made. The Extended Edition is the admission that the artisan was excluded from the process.

Marvel Studios does not release Extended Editions nor Director's Cuts. While a studio like Marvel may have



# Show Me the Body's Has a Great Show

by Reyna Wang and  
Regana Alicka  
Earwax Editor and  
Staff Concert Connoisseur

## The hardcore punk band shows off their talent

As soon as we stepped into the backyard of The Meat Shop, the Bronx location of NYC hardcore punk band Show Me the Body's five borough live residency, two strangers came up to me and my friends and gave us sparkly smiley face stickers to put on our faces. By the time I left The Meat Shop, I had experienced a bloody and very literal Body War, the title of the band's latest release. The night made me realize that frontman Julian Cashwan Pratt is spot on when he calls hardcore the music of the people.

The atmosphere of the show was perhaps the most genuine I've ever experienced. There was no pretentiousness among the crowd, perhaps better described as a community; everyone talked to anyone, and someone we met at the show even offered to play my band's music on her radio show. The environment that fostered this rare



**True collaboration**

moment of communal collaboration was facilitated by Hydro Punk, an up-and-coming Bronx-based arts collective. After scoping out their Instagram page (@hydrOpunk), it is clear that these humbly self-described "punks from the Bronx" are capable of much more than just setting up DIY shows in basements. Recent events include a Hydro Punk Art Expo that showcased photography, visual art, spoken word, live music, and video projections from young local artists. The Hydro Punks know that great things happen when folks with diverse experiences and strengths come together in the spirit of collaboration and do not hesitate to use their platform to further activist causes and promote social justice. This

sort of community, which connects young NYC artists and art lovers, is one that Show Me the Body is passionate about keeping alive, as they avoid larger, more traditional venues and break down the impersonal barrier between artist and fan by offering hand deliveries of merch across the five boroughs.

Few bands represent the spirit of NYC better than Show Me the Body. From the soul-shaking bass, to the eccentric banjo riffs, to the relentless moshpit, Show Me the Body creates

performance paints an image of struggle and pain in our everyday lives that we seek to be liberated from, yet that is also inexplicably appealing to us.

As much as I love the feeling of being caught up in the push-pull of a punk show crowd, at one point I could not help but glue myself to the front row, transfixed by the frenetic energy of Show Me the Body's performance. From merely three feet away from the microphone, I could see Julian's forehead veins bulging, spit flying, and fea-

tures contorting as he performed. He must have noticed how intensely I was fixated on his face because we sustained eye contact for what was probably a minute but felt like a thousand years. This moment of awe-induced stillness reminded me of an idea that Show Me the Body explores frequently in their work - the act of processing sensory overload and the ways

in which emotions are just interactions between mayhem and order threatening to eclipse one another. In some ways, every part of the show was an exploration of this fight between mayhem and order that exists both within and beyond the body. We scream and mosh along because it is a release of angst but also an appreciation of it. Perhaps, I connected a bit too literally with the artistically expressed themes of chaos, pain, and death, because I ended up being elbowed in the face, getting a bloody nose and potential head trauma, and spending the night at St. Barnabas. But to me, a live experience of Show Me the Body deserves no less fitting of an ending.

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## SHOWS

**What:** Stand-Up Christmas Show

**Where:** The Black Box Theater

**When:** Thurs. and Fri. 8th and 9th

**How Much:** Free

**Why:** It's Stand-Up's last show of the semester, and its going to have a super special Christmas theme.

**What:** Shy Girls Concert  
**Where:** Music Hall of Williamsburg

**When:** Thurs. Dec. 8th @8PM-11PM

**How Much:** \$17

**Why:** There's good R&B music here, trust us.

**What:** Retox, Show Me The Body, Cities Aviv, mary Todd, SurfBort, Dog Breath

**Where:** 496 Morgan

**When:** Sat Dec 10th @8PM-1AM

**How Much:** \$15

**Why:** If you want a bloody nose, come here. We also have an article on this very page about why you should go to this.

# Drunken Man Misses a Party and Forgets to Research His Article

by **Blackout Barbie**  
**Staff Drunk**

Sometimes plans just don't work out at all. The plan was for this to be a drunken review of *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer* done at a party, but what actually happened was that I got way too drunk somewhere else and never even made it to the party. I mean like I wasn't even really comfortable with the situation myself, to be honest, I kind of was really looking forward to seeing *Rudolph*. Instead, what happened was I stumbled back to my apartment and just watched an episode of *Goosebumps* because I'm basically just a child who can grow a beard at this point.

So, I guess I'll just do a quick review of that *Goosebumps* episode which to be perfectly honest, I did not really fully comprehend or even watch. I fell asleep, which

## We asked for a Rudolph article, we got this instead

I think speaks more to my level of intoxication than the quality of the episode. I mean, I love *Goosebumps*, there is nothing I like more than the low production quality cheesy horror and also nostalgia. So yeah, *Goosebumps* is my fucking jam. The episode I attempted to watch from what I can remember involved an evil sponge thing, which first of all, oh my god that is fucking hilarious. It's a sponge that causes you to have bad luck or something, I don't really know. At one point, a cabinet full of acid falls over and almost violently kills an eight year old, which I thought was a shame because the actress grew up to be very attractive, because for some reason I thought if she died in this episode she wouldn't currently be alive. Since, you know I was drunk and not par-

ticularly intelligent. Anyway, in this episode from what I understand, if you play happy music, it causes the evil sponge to get weaker and feels pain. An eight year old uses Gitmo tactics on a demon sponge because I don't know, sponges clearly aren't protected under the Geneva Conventions. Also, at one point, the sponge gets buried in the backyard and just starts killing everything in the yard and makes a dog magically disappear or something and the parents are not even remotely concerned. Like, I mean even if they didn't believe that an evil sponge was haunting them, it clearly appears that someone has an obvious vendetta against them. If you're entire yard mysteriously dies and your dog goes missing, you probably have a vengeful neighbor or live on a sacred burial

ground. Even drunk, my inner gardener was just upset with how little this family cared about lawn maintenance. Do they not understand that curb appeal directly impacts property value for the whole neighborhood, you scoundrels?

I guess when it comes down to it, I'll give the episode (I don't know the title) a three out of five because even if I fell asleep, it is *Goosebumps*, after all and therefore, a piece of art of the highest order by interpretation. Yeah. Watch *Goosebumps*, not *Rudolph*.



# Adiós Acicula, They Will Be Missed

By **Meredith Mclaughlin**  
**Staff School Band Enthusiast**

If there was a dictionary entry for the phrase "homogenous suburban high school with very low-budget music and art departments," you can bet a picture of my high school would be right next to it, because I would have made that dictionary just to make this point. But yeah, when it came to self-expression, my school was kind of like the town from *Footloose*. That's why when death metal band Acicula was formed, it was a topic of hot gossip. No one knew what to make of a garage band that played songs with titles like "Murder Passion" and "Queen of Brutality." I think a lot of people joked about it when it first started up because everyone's favorite song at the time was "The Boys Round Here" by Blake Shelton, and because Erik, the lead singer, was known before that as being the guy who wore a top hat and trench coat. That's why everyone was a little shocked when Acicula actually started gaining traction and booking gigs. And honestly, I'm not a big fan of metal, but I went to one of their shows and they were talented.

## Metal memorial

Acicula, something that started out as a local meme, became a success with two albums and 16 songs.

I knew Erik personally, and I knew he and the band were constantly practicing and working hard to make their music the best it could be. Which is why with a heavy heart, I, as well as the plethora of Acicula fans, must say goodbye to the most unique thing to come out of Garden City High School. On November 13th, Acicula held their last concert, and have since broken up. A friend of a friend of mine has been quoted as saying that the reason the band broke up was because they were "being dumb," but the reason doesn't matter. Acicula was a bastion of creativity and intense murder fantasies, and I am sad to see it go.



Cartoon by **Harrison Pajovitch**  
**Staff Drawing Doctor**



# Fantastic Beasts and Why to Watch It

by Jack Archambault  
Staff Magizoologist

There are two things in this world that I am an unequivocal nerd about: sports and Harry Potter. In fact, the latter has become something of a sick obsession lately, as my love for HP has been given new life over the past few months for various reasons, not the least of which being the release of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. As jazzed as I was for this movie and am for the remaining four(!!!) in the franchise, I was disappointed that a large number of people didn't share my unbridled enthusiasm. And while it maybe (definitely) is a swipe for cash by J.K. Rowling and Warner Bros., after believing that the wizarding world was done for good, I am thrilled to be invited back. In fact, I was so excited that I went to the red carpet and world premiere at Lincoln Center. After waiting on the sidewalk and seeing the actors up close, as well as some muggles in costumes that were, shall we say, bloody brilliant, I was ready to leave. But luckily for me, magic was in the air, and it was in the form of three Warner Bros. employees who were giving away tickets to go inside and see the movie. Being the hot and charming guy that I am, I got one. I was Charlie Bucket with a golden freakin' ticket. I was in.

First, as a disclaimer, this review is from the entirely biased viewpoint of a major Harry Potter fan. With that established, I thought the movie was nothing short of incredible.

To start, the characters were well-developed and immensely likable, particularly the main quartet of magizoologist Newt Scamander (played by Eddie Redmayne), no-maj Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler), ex-auror Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston), and her sister, a

## Let's just hope there are Nifflers in the afterlife

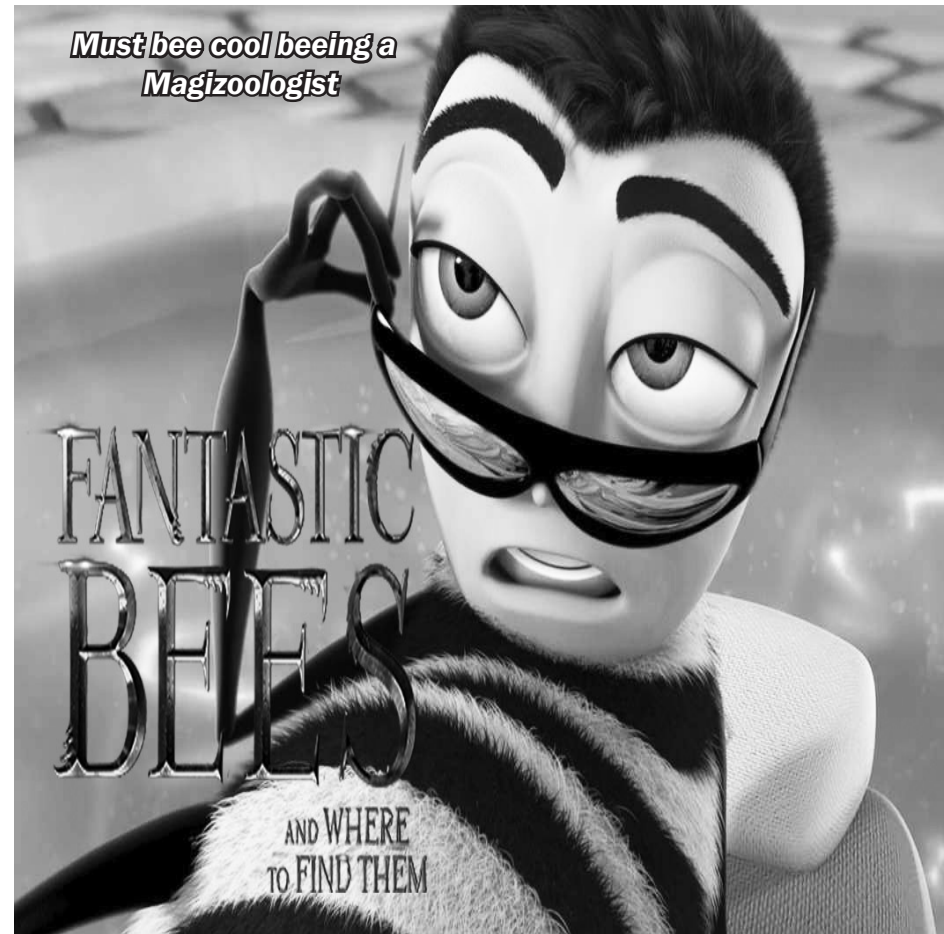
flirtatious mind-reader named Queenie (Alison Sudol). Set in 1926 New York City, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* follows Newt as he writes his book of the same name, a book that is incidentally required reading of Hogwarts students in Harry's day. While he

can version of the Ministry of Magic, to worry about the exposure of wizards to the no-maj community, a fear that is well-founded because meanwhile a group known as the Second Salemers are spreading anti-witch propaganda, creating an us-versus-them dynamic

magic when we venture into Newt's enchanted case. It is here, with swelling music and incredible special effects, that the movie truly hits its stride.

What excited me the most about *Fantastic Beasts* was that unlike all the *Harry Potter* films, there was no source material for me to compare this to, so I was able to enjoy the movie without picking apart how every detail lined up to how I imagined it in the books. In addition, this film was helped out immensely by not being a true prequel to *Harry Potter*. While there were some interesting references to the original series, such as the Lestrangle family, a small nod to Albus Dumbledore, and a fantastic Quidditch reference courtesy of Newt ("I'm more of a chaser, really."), it is clearly its own thing. Admittedly, being the first of five movies, it had to do much of the heavy lifting necessary to set up the rest of the story, but the ending left plenty of loose ends that need to be tied up, making the prospect of four more of these things nothing short of thrilling.

It has been confirmed that the series will span from 1926 to 1945, essentially assuring that it will culminate with the legendary duel between Dumbledore and Gellert Grindelwald. However, with so many movies to work with, it is possible that we could get some very neat side stories and tie-ins to *Harry Potter*. Although it seems that Dumbledore and Grindelwald will be the focus of the later movies, I do hope we get to see more of Newt, Tina, Jacob, and Queenie as the series progresses. If nothing else, I'll take any excuse I can get to keep living in Rowling's wizarding world.



only intends to stay in New York for a few hours, there obviously wouldn't be much of a movie if that ended up being the case, now would there? By and by, some of Newt's creatures escape, and he, Jacob, Tina, and Queenie gotta catch 'em all. While this is happening, a mysterious force is wreaking havoc in the city, prompting MACUSA, the Ameri-

can version of the Ministry of Magic, that is unsettlingly similar to our current political climate.

But while the storylines are intriguing, what really makes the movie magical are Newt's fantastic beasts. From the Occamy to the Swooping Evil to my personal favorite, the impossibly adorable Niffler, the movie reaches its highest points and recaptures *Harry Potter's*



# Which Christmas Cookie Are You?

What's more important than the perfect Christmas Cookie?

Answer: Nothing. Find out if you're sugar, spice, or everything nice!



- A) December 1st...duh  
 B) Publically, 10/31. Truthfully, 7/25.  
 C) During my last minute shopping on December 23rd #fordhamfinals



- A) Love Actually <3 <3 <3  
 B) The 1964 classic stop-motion of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer  
 C) A Christmas Story



- A) Sparkle  
 B) Jingle  
 C) Buddy



- A) I think I've been pretty nice this year  
 B) Santa and I reached an agreement years ago...  
 C) I'm John Looby, so I'm probably getting coal for Christmas this year



- A) Spending time with friends and family  
 B) PRESENTS. COOKIES. TINSEL.  
 C) No school



- A) Hum along and have a dance party in my head  
 B) Drop everything, Mariah's got nothing on me  
 C) Duck & Cover



Mostly A's

You're sweet as frosting and love the holidays, but you're not just a one-trick cookie. You're a classic staple in everyone's lives.



Mostly B's

You scream Christmas, literally and figuratively. You're a bit much for some cookie aficionados, but no one will ever deny your presence in the Christmas tradition.



Mostly C's

You're a little spicy, but you still know how to party. You don't buy into the commercialization of Christmas. In other words, you prefer low-key holidays.



**by the paper staff**

So we asked our staff to relay to us some of their worst holiday experiences, you know, some holiday horror stories like when you found out Santa didn't exist or that time your uncle almost set the Christmas tree on fire. This is what we got instead.

**When Oil Lasts More than 8 Nights**

By Scott Saffran

Why light nine candles when you can torch your house? It started out as your typical Night Eight of Hanukkah. My home was flooded with my Jewish family, my sisters, and cousins spinning their homemade dreidels and my aunts and uncles kvetching over chopped liver. My mother, while Catholic, was always just as swept up in the festivities as any of us and prepared latkes for our final feast of the season. She had often protested that the smell of oil lingered too long in our kitchen, so this year Linda decided she would fry our potato pancakes in the garage. Our makeshift kitchen - complete with deep fryer - was perhaps too hastily put together and covered with maybe too many paper towels. Our serene evening was interrupted by a glass-shattering scream from my father, who dashed out into the garage with the speed of Mercury. A few greasy paper towels had caught fire and began to burn the surrounding area. Two separate fire extinguishers were emptied onto the blaze, possibly overkill - but I wouldn't have argued otherwise. The excitement calmed almost as quickly as it began, but our latke dinner was lost to fire and foam. No family to be deterred by a blaze, we quickly pulled out the local Chinese take-out menu to replenish our dinner table.

**The Year that Changed Everything**

By Colleen Burns

When telling Holiday Horror Stories, some people may recall Christmas trees falling down, uncles lighting the deck on fire with make-shift fireworks, or perhaps the family dog getting his head stuck in the turkey. However, my Holiday Horror Story surpasses every of these festive and chilling stories. It was the fifth grade. Just a few weeks before Christmas. Just a few weeks before my favorite day of the entire year. Just a few weeks before I would run down the stairs Christmas morning to see what presents Santa brought that year. The setting: a snow day. What would normally be my second favorite day of the year turned south when my dad started up a casual conversation in the car. We started discussing our favorite saints, and my brilliant and creative eleven-year-old mind came up with Mary. My dad being just a hair more brilliant and creative asked, "What about Saint Nick?" This, my friends, was when my dad broke the news that Santa Claus, my hero, was in fact NOT REAL. I cried. To this day, that story remains one of the most horrifying moments of my life. While I appreciate the fact that many children have similar reactions upon learning the truth about Santa, I believe a part of me died that year. This is my Holiday Horror Story.

**Rudolph the Red Nosed AHHHH**

By Michael Jack O'Brien

The other reindeers peered across the snowy meadow with astonishment and abject horror. On one hand, you really can't blame Santa for doing it; every year, more and more kids send their letters with their demands, and the number's only going up, Santa needs

to get to more houses faster than he ever had before, and he's already moving at twice the speed of sound anyway! But that being said, there had to be a better solution than this.... swole, rippling biceps clad monstrosity. At the end of the day, Chris Kringle did what he had to do...even if it did cost him a few elves a day to feed the red-nosed behemoth.

**A Very Nam-y Christmas**

By Warra Chan

The thick jungle fog blocked my vision. I was laying elbows-deep in a pit full of shit and mud. The monsoon from yesterday caused flooding and my unit's bathroom hole didn't make it. However, that doesn't matter. The enemy was nearby. The trees shook as a C-123 roared above me. A sign that my unit better get ready. I clutched my M14 and thought of my children back in Muskogee. My son's contagious laugh. My daughter's irresistible toothless smile. A wave of guilt crashed over me. I'm back in the McDonald's parking lot. "I'm pregnant with twins" but she might as well said "We're being attacked by a bear!" because I was so scared that I took off, only to come back 13 months later to say a formal goodbye and that I was sorry. Suddenly, a grenade explodes in front of me. My fellow soldier's leg hits me in the face. Soon, this jungle is a mix of mud, blood, and my tears.

**Capitalist Hellscape**

By Papel Roe

Christmas is already a horror story, personally. Every year, it's like another shitty sequel to the previous year's installment. Right now, I guess I am on Christmas XXI: (insert spooky caption

here). I don't know, it's nothing against the holiday, I've just never been too big on it. It's not that I am scared that it comes up, I just don't really obsess about it. I love the winter too, the snow, everything. But I feel like I look forward to winter more than Christmas itself. It may also be that Christmas has kind of forgotten what it's about at its core, and that kind of annoys me, but that is its own separate rant. I really don't like how Christmas overshadows Thanksgiving, as decorations are put up before Thanksgiving even happens, and Black Friday itself has moved itself to Thanksgiving night, and is treated as "the start of the Christmas season". I do like that it brings my family together for at least one night, but the rest of it doesn't really make it up to me. Also, Christmas music is not good and anyone who says it is, is a liar.

**Most Wonderful Time of Year My Ass**

By Rachel Poe

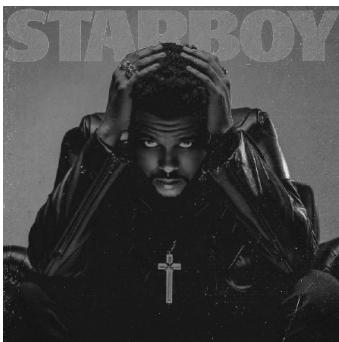
Colleen already stole my idea. I accidentally found out Santa didn't exist in Boscov's two weeks before Christmas. My mom felt so bad about it that she bought me panda slippers to try and make up for it. That was the moment that Christmas died for me. If all those Christmas movies when I watched as kid told me anything, it's that Christmas isn't Christmas without Santa. The holidays are a nightmare in general, anyways. You have to spend time with people that you don't really like just because you share a last name or have similar DNA. Definitely not a good enough reason to deal with these assholes. Hell no. I'm just banking on good food, sub-par presents, and lots and lots of eggnog to get me through this "festive" time of year.



**The Weeknd**  
**Starboy**  
 By Jolly Old St. Nicholas Peters

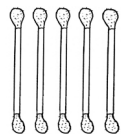
I have been a fan of The Weeknd since his trilogy of mixtapes years ago, but I truly grew to be a huge fan last year during his release of *Beauty Behind the Madness*. Since then, I have poured over every feature he has been on just to listen to more of him. So, when he announced he was making an album, I was pumped. Then, I saw the song he dropped with that announcement, “Starboy,” featuring Daft Punk, which made me excited for two reasons: one, it was a really good song, and two, he was working with Daft Punk on his album.

Let me just say that my expectations were met and then some. *Starboy* is awesome. It is different enough to not sound like *Beauty Behind the Madness 2.0*, but it still retains The Weeknds sound. Interestingly enough, while many songs feel new and unique, this album really takes me back to his work on his three mixtapes, and it almost feels like a continuation of his previous work. Every song on this album is just really good. There is a distinct Daft Punk influence at times. The last song straight up sounds like a normal Daft Punk song, but that's really not a bad thing. Kendrick Lamar has a feature, which finally fulfills my wish of Kendrick Lamar and The Weeknd being on the same song. The only



negative parts of this album is that towards the second side of the album, the tracks begin sounding similar, and one song sounds like a straight up copy of a song from *Beauty Behind the Madness*.

Regardless of these few complaints, this album is extremely good. Since it came out, I have listened to it repeatedly. It is definitely worth a listen.



**Childish Gambino**  
**Awaken, My Love!**  
 By Juan Lubei II

Childish Gambino's *Awaken, My Love!* is a weird album. I don't mean to suggest that it is a bad one; it's just not really what anybody was asking for as far as I can tell. I mean, realistically, who was hoping that Childish Gambino would make a weird soul funk fusion album, which he does not really have the voice for. It was just not really a great album. I honestly would hit the last thirty seconds and just skip forward to the next song so that I could be over with it all a little bit faster. It's odd because I've been a fan of Childish Gambino since his early mix-tapes, I'm talking all the way back to like *Poindexter*, and this album is the only one where I feel like he absolutely

lost me. I even liked when Gambino would literally just rap over songs by indie bands, but even the production in *Awaken, My Love!* couldn't get me on board with the album. It's clear that Donald Glover was trying to further diversify his work as artist, but in all honesty, he probably should have stayed in his lane for this one. *Because of The Internet* saw Gambino really hit his stride and, now he seems to just be walking away from that all together.



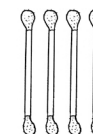
**A Tribe Called Quest**  
**We Got It from Here... Thank You 4**  
**Your Service**  
 By Sofia Fernandez

In the heap of all of this political, social, and racial unrest 2016 brought us, A Tribe Called Quest came out with their long awaited album with much to say. *We Got It from Here... Thank You 4 Your Service* opens with “The Space Program,” which is almost a wake-up call to everybody of the injustice that is happening in the United States. This song sets the tone for the rest of politically driven album. Next is “We the People...,” another riveting song that expresses their discontent. With just one hook, ATCQ was able to attack the gentrification and intolerance happening in a very ironic and dark-humored tone: “All you Black folks, you must go/ All you Mexicans, you must go, Muslims and gays, boy we hate your ways.”

It almost seems as if no one is safe from criticism in this album. ATCQ also condemns the way society has coped with all of this unrest, with lyrics like, “VH1 has a show that you can waste your time with” in “We the People...” and “The world is crazy and I cannot sleep” in “Melatonin.” On “Dis Generation,” ATCQ also takes the time to rap an ode to the new generation in rap

music, which has been influenced by them and which perpetuates the realness they used to convey: “Talk to Joey, Earl, Kendrick, and Cole, gatekeepers of flow.” They finish off the album with “The Donald,” a tribute to Phife Dawg, a late ATCQ member.

One of the most influential rap groups broke their 18-year silence with a very meaningful final album. This album was able to perfectly contextualize all of the heightened tensions of this year while still managing to keep their sound.



**Dr. Dog**  
**Abandoned Mansion**  
 By Anne Muscat

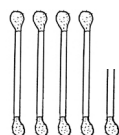
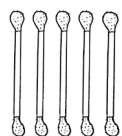
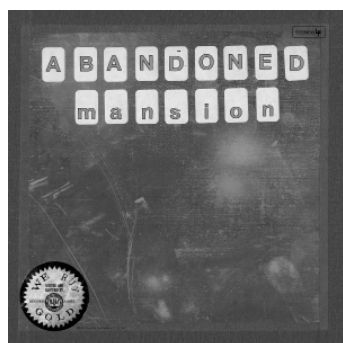
In the spirit of Giving Tuesday, Dr. Dog was gracious enough to release a surprise album titled *Abandoned Mansion*, with all proceeds generated from its sales through January going to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Unbeknownst to fans, the Philadelphia indie-rock band recorded the album before the release of their album, *The Psychedelic Swamp*, which debuted last February.

Departing from the experimental synthetic tones of *The Psychedelic Swamp*, *Abandoned Mansion* is a return to Dr. Dog's 60's-inspired acoustic sound. The band is notably influenced by popular 60's bands including The Beatles and The Beach Boys. However, Dr. Dog has been known to follow different trends, often straying from their well-known lo-fi style. As someone who appreciates bands that experiment outside of their usual genre, I'm always pleasantly surprised by Dr. Dog's consistent willingness to try out new sounds. The band is rarely predictable, which is something I believe is hard to come by in contemporary music.

This new 10-track album is characterized by folksy melodies and harmonious rhythms. Drummer Eric Slick said that the band wanted to show their simpler side with the album and they did just that. Without the complexity of too many instruments, the album has a very raw feel to it. My personal favorite song is "Could've Happened to Me," which is marked by a nostalgic keyboard riff and foreboding lyrics. The best part of the record and of most of Dr. Dog's music in general, is the calming aesthetic. Their music is a perfect accompaniment for a long drive through undulating flower fields on a tranquil sunny day in July, or really any day for that matter. Just don't listen too closely to the seemingly innocent lyrics because you may fall into a pit of despair and long for a love that never happened.

song and throughout the album about gun violence in Chicago and his refusal to sell drugs, which set him apart. Female rapper Noname then takes on the final verse of this song and criticizes the gentrification happening in areas were lower income families used to reside. "Westside Bound 3" gives a day in the life of Saba in the streets of Chicago. The second half of the album is much more optimistic. "California" and "World in My Hands" are the last two songs of the album, which express how he beat the odds and is successful while still aspiring to grow even more.

This album is about reaching for your goals and achieving them, hence the name. To further encourage this he created skits at the end of most songs of people that are close to him, such as Chance the Rapper, expressing what is on their bucket list. Saba poured his heart out in his lyrics and created a very well-thought out album filled with emotion and positive vibes.

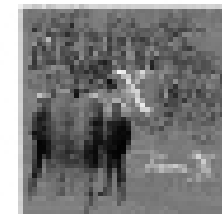


**Saba**  
***The Bucket List Project***  
**By Sofia Fernandez**

After a two year silence, Saba releases a new album called *The Bucket List Project*. This album was curated perfectly to take the listener on a "tour" of what Saba's life looked like growing up in West Chicago and how he overcame all of the hardships he encountered. In the first song off the album, "In Loving Memory," Saba shows his talents in speed and wordplay right off the bat, catches the listener's attention, and gives the listener a clear understanding of what the album is about. Saba excelled in giving vivid descriptions of his life. "Church/Liquor Store" gives the listener a physical description of what Chicago looks like: "It look like funeral home, church, church, liquor store/ Corner store." Saba also raps in this

# The "Have a Sort of Punk Rock Xmas" Playlist

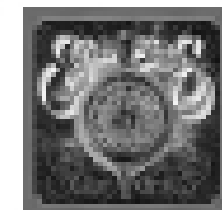
**Jingle Bells**  
**X**



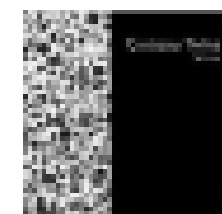
**Merry Christmas (I Don't Wanna Fight Tonight)**  
**The Ramones**



**Christmas Unicorn**  
**Sufjan Stevens**



**Winter Wonderland**  
**Cocteau Twins**



# FORDHAM FESTIVUS GRIEVANCES

1 Fordham is among the top ten worst colleges for free speech in the nation.

2 Aramark exploits the prison industrial system to cut costs.

3 Adjunct professors can be paid as little as \$3,900 per course.

4 Meanwhile, the head football coach makes a six figure salary.

5 White supremacist fliers were distributed in Dealy Hall & no administrative action was taken.

6 Fordham received a C+ on their sustainability report card.

7 A Fordham professor used racist rhetoric to chastise her student via email.

8 Unlike other Jesuit universities, Fordham does not provide students with access to contraceptives on campus.

9 Interdepartmental communication is nonexistent.

10 Fordham's guest policies are archaic and gender exclusive.

In the spirit of Festivus and in honor of the University's bicentennial anniversary, the paper staff have compiled a list of 17.5 grievances against Fordham. (According to tradition, the Festivus celebration cannot end until the head of household is pinned to the ground.)

Father (Mc)Shane, we're comin' for ya!

1 1

Attempts to move cigarette stands away from class buildings to respect the health of students were met with indifference.

1 2

Transfer students are awarded little to no financial aid or scholarships.

1 3

Public Safety reportedly discriminate against students of color.

1 4

Students would rather risk their physical well-being than visit the Health Center.

1 5

University bureaucracy is used to suppress student involvement.

1 6

Fordham accepts more residential students than they can accommodate in university housing every year.

1 7

Campus infrastructure is prohibitive towards alter-abled students.

1 7 . 5

Mini fridge gate 2016.