



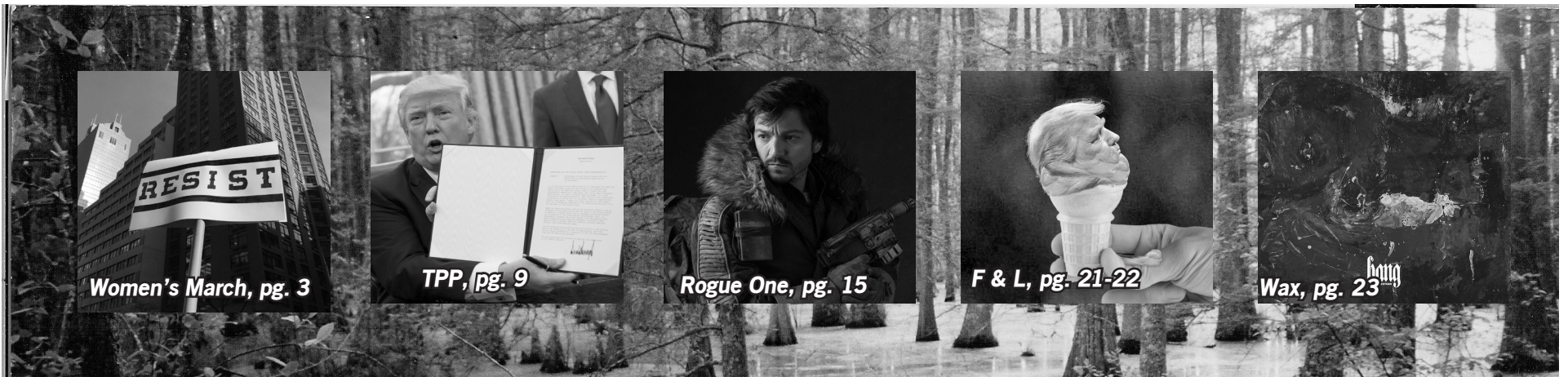
TRUMP

TRUM

the paper
vol. xlix
issue I

People
Dena

We We



the paper

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the paper is Fordham's journal of news, analysis, comment and review. Students from all years and disciplines get together biweekly to produce a printed version of *the paper* using Adobe InDesign and publish an online version using Weebly. Photos are "borrowed" from Internet sites and edited in Photoshop. Open meetings are held Tuesdays at 9:00 PM in McGinley 2nd. Articles can be submitted via e-mail to paper.fordham@gmail.com. Submissions from students are always considered and usually published. Our staff is more than willing to help new writers develop their own unique voices and figure out how to most effectively convey their thoughts and ideas. We do not assign topics to our writers either. The process is as follows: have an idea for an article, send us an e-mail or come to our meetings to pitch your idea, write the article, work on edits with us, and then get published! We are happy to work with anyone who is interested, so if you have any questions, comments or concerns please shoot us an e-mail or come to our next meeting.

So, why come write for us? We are a constantly evolving publication, and have been since 1972. We provide an outlet of expression otherwise unavailable to Fordham students. Writers are free to say whatever they want, whenever they want. We are also pretty cool people, to be completely honest. So please come hang out with us. You'll have a good time, we promise.

our aim

the paper is Fordham University's fully student-run, free speech publication. Our aim is to challenge our writers and our readers: we want to make you think. We provide an outlet for all students to express themselves, whatever their passion may be. Whether it's commenting on a social issue, writing a factual news article, making people laugh with a humor piece, composing a personal narrative, giving advice or ranting about something that makes you feel a certain strong way – we have a place for you. Because of our platform as a free speech newspaper, we tend to push the boundaries of university journalism by talking about important social issues, expressing otherwise silenced voices and opinions, addressing Fordham policy and administration, and starting serious conversations about what is important to our student body. Here at *the paper*, we encourage creativity and uniqueness, spark dialogue and discussion, and foster a community where students are free to fully express themselves.

"Next American Catastrophe"

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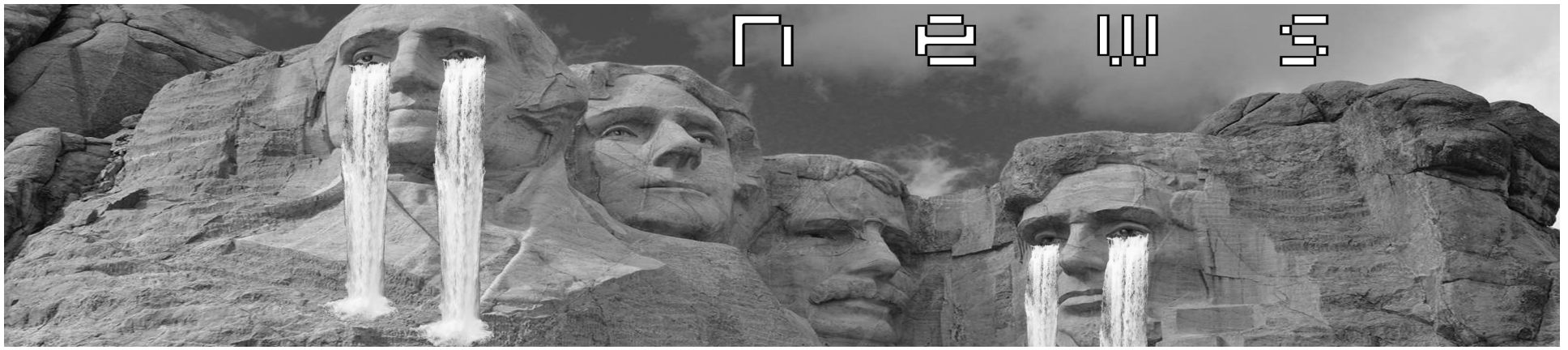
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Women's March Becomes Largest Peaceful Protest In US History

by Adam Hamilton
Staff Feminist

It was definitely bigger than the other large gathering last week

The 2017 Women's March on Washington represented the largest protest in American history, surpassing the protests of the Iraq War in 2003. The protests were organized for January 21st, the day after the swearing in of Donald J. Trump as the 45th President of the United States. The March is not in response to a specific remark or policy of Mr. Trump, but instead a general reaction to the new President. Throughout the campaign, Trump has made remarks and advocated policies deemed sexist and discriminatory. Over the course of the campaign he called out Rosie O'Donnell for her weight, dismissed a question from Megyn Kelly because he believed she was on her period, dismissed the candidacy of Carly Fiorina because of her 'face', threatened to criminalize abortion, and it came to light that he used to "Grab them by the pussy"- a comment taken to mean sexual assault. His victory over Hillary Clinton, the first woman ever nominated by a major party for President, underscored an early gender divide in this election.

Trump's victory in the Electoral College was dependent on the largest gender gap in presidential history. Trump won with a 24 point difference among the genders as men rallied to the Republican party at a greater rate than in both 2012 and 2008. Hillary won among women overall, but lost white women, crucially in the states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Overall Clinton won the popular vote by over two and a half million votes. Trump's loss in the popular vote, along with his controversial and alienating style, left many supporters and opponents confused as to what he will actually do once entrusted

with one of the most powerful jobs in human history.

The marches themselves represented a peaceful rebuke of the President as a man and as a position. There was no stated goal or particular policy or project that was targeted; rather, it was a general demonstration of support for women's causes and women's issues. The President has been ambiguous on what his many opinions on women's issues actually mean, and with the power he has been entrusted he will decide health-care and other policy that will directly affect millions in the United States and around the world.

The March served as an umbrella protest, and was joined by advocates of other progressive causes. Environmentalist signs were seen, as were immigration and Black Lives Matter advocates. Signs ranged from Star Wars based feminism puns to pictures of Putin breast feeding Trump. The intersectional nature of the protest brought out a diverse coalition opposed to the President. Proponents of the coverage granted by the Affordable Care Act also made their presence known in response to Trump's public condemnation of the law and the lack of a proposed alternative. Protesters each came with their own particular reason why they did not like the new direction they felt Trump will take the country.

State governments have been quick to reinforce their progressive policies in the wake of Mr. Trump's inauguration. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo

has stated that the state's law will be strengthened to guarantee the protections the ACA has granted for women's health in the event that former-President Obama's signature health care law is repealed. California Governor Jerry Brown vows to continue his state's groundbreaking environmental and climate reforms. But these efforts are stopgap and patchy. Many states will not implement change do to their size, debt, or politics.



In New York this intrepid reporter saw a massive crowd blocks deep showing their opinion on the new President. The crowd circled around Fifth Avenue so that people could each get their chance to protest in front of Trump Tower. In Washington the crowds of protesters significantly outnumbered the crowd gathered for the inauguration. Sean Spicer, the White House Press Secretary, "offered alternative facts" in the words of White House Council and former campaign manager Kellyanne Conway about the crowd size. Trump's crowd was dwarfed by the 2009 Obama crowd, as evidenced by number of DC metro riders, TV viewership numbers, and aerial footage of the crowd. The Women's March was larger than that. In DC, it attracted celebrity and political leaders. New York also had enthusiastic support. Fordham participated in both marches, whether organized through the College Democrats or independently with family and friends.

Unfortunately it seems the march has done little to sway the new Presi-

dent. Mass calling to elected officials did scrap a frankly ridiculous plan to defund Federal Ethics Offices this January, but it looks like Trump is barreling on with his other controversial policies. Trump has spent his limited time as President continuing with his divisive policies. His commitment to build the wall with Mexico was made official, prompting a minor diplomatic spat with Mexico. The plan to ban Muslim immigration will begin with the refusal to accept refugees from seven Muslim majority nations in the Middle East and Africa.

It is still very early in the Trump presidency to see exactly which policies he will pursue. In his first week he reinstated the Mexico City Policy which prevents NGOs from receiving any federal funding if they provide abortion services. This policy is the most concrete statement he has implemented when it comes to women's health. The largest hurdles will be in Trump's pick for the Supreme Court, expected to be announced sometime this week. With the nomination of Merrick Garland effectively derailed, Trump now has the ability to appoint a new conservative Justice in the mold of the late Antonin Scalia. Lawmakers in Indiana have already drafted test legislation on abortion that could reach the Supreme Court.

The Women's March marks an optimistic take on the direction we as Americans are going in. Trump may be our president, but that does not mean we must support who he is or what he stands for. It does mean that we must speak out if we do not like what is being said in our name.

Damage Report: Business Man Thinks He Can Run a County

by Nick Peters & Rachel Poe
News Editors

President Trump had a very eventful first week in office. He has kept to his promises in his campaign, which has led to numerous executive actions being signed on a multitude of issues that he believes he has the right idea for. Here are some of the major actions that he has taken as of January 29th.

The Beginning of Repealing the ACA

On the campaign trail, Trump promised to “repeal and replace” president Obama’s milestone affordable care act. Trump kept his promise right on the first day, signing an executive action to coerce congress to begin this process. However, Trump does not want the ACA to just be repealed, he wants a better system to replace it. He has promised to keep certain aspects of the Act that he deems positive, such as the part for pre-existing conditions. The response to this action was very negative. New York has announced that if it gets repealed, they will keep it for the state. It has also been revealed that repealing the Affordable Care act will end up costing America a lot of money.

The Wall

Another promise that everyone knew about, and extensively parodied (hey, it sounded like a joke, even when he said it), is coming true. We are getting a wall along the Mexican border. In response, the Mexican president cancelled a meeting with Trump. It is unknown how the wall will be paid for, and while claims are made that Mexico will pay for it, all signs point to the American people, as they always do.

Dakota Pipeline

The Army Corps announced in De-

Can we go back to being a colony of Great Britain yet?

ember that they would be temporarily halting the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline until an alternative route could be found that wouldn’t risk a water source as per ordered by former President Obama. The many Native American and environmental activists that protested for months, saw this as at least a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, President Trump, in an executive order, announced that he would be pushing through the environmental review to “get the pipeline built.” This decision is predicted to have more risk than reward as it angers activists, will surely lead to another round of protests, and threatens Native American treaties with the United States government, let alone the numerous environmental impacts of continuing to depend on crude oil.

The Environment

One of Trump’s first actions was to propose cuts to regulations emplaced by 75% in order to “help business.” In actuality, Trump’s plan will only hurt in the long run if businesses aren’t held to a high standard when it comes to their environmental impacts. From denying climate change to attempting to silence government agencies trying to speak out against his decisions and rushing the construction of two major pipelines, Trump is no friend to the environment.

Leaving the TPP

Trump, in an executive order, announced that the United States is backing out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. As a result of this action, China may pursue an alternative arrangement placing them at the center, which would further weaken the US’ and its allies’ power in the Pacific.

The ‘Muslim Ban’

Trump signed an executive action banning refugees from seven Muslim-majority

countries. These countries were Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen, countries which are viewed as at-risk regions. There has been significant fallout over the ban. Many have been fighting against this action, including judges who are ruling against it. 16 attorneys general in a joint statement, spoke out against this ban. Even among fellow Republicans, many have denounced this action, including former Vice President Dick Cheney and Boris Johnson (the dude sort of responsible for Brexit). Fordham’s Father McShane announced in an email, that this executive action would affect seven Fordham students, and that Fordham is doing their best to assist these students.

Lobbying Reform

Trump wanting to “drain the swamp,” has led to many actions, including executive actions to hurt lobbyists. Administration officials are now banned from lobbying on behalf of another government, and there are five year bans on other types of lobbying. This applies to congressmen who want to lobby after serving their terms.

ISIS

Trump signed an executive order giving the Pentagon thirty days to create a plan to defeat ISIS. For some reason, it is unknown what Trump thinks the Pentagon could do differently under him.

Bringing Back Torture

Trump, who is pro-torture, claiming that it “does work,” has been musing on reinstating torture as a tactic used by our government. Interestingly enough, Defense Sec-

retary James Mattis has a dissenting opinion on torture, not wanting to use it. Trump said in a press conference that Mattis can override him on torture, so it is unclear exactly what Trump wants to do with torture at the present moment.

Cabinet Appointments

Trump’s appointments have been slowly going through the congressional hearings. So far, most have been voted in, except Betsy DeVos, who has been nominated for Secretary of Education, who has not yet been confirmed. The Democrats have petitioned the vote, saying that this was not political but for the safety of the country, as many view her as extremely unqualified for the position she has been given.

Restructuring the National Security Council

In a presidential memorandum, Trump has heavily restructured the National Security Council, removing the head military advisors from it, including General Joseph Dunford, who is in charge of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as the rest of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In his place, Trump put obviously highly qualified Steve Bannon, a man with all the political experience Breitbart can provide, to help determine our security policy.

Trump’s initial week has been dealing blow after blow to his appointments and it is projected that he is due to sign more executive orders in his first 100 days than President Obama signed in his entire eight years. For some this is a show of strength, as he keeps many of the promises he made on his campaign, but for most Americans directly impacted by Trump’s impulsiveness, Trump’s first ten days set a tone of fear and irrationality for the next four years.

come back pls



Obituary: Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus

by Anna Passero-Koennecke
Copy Chief

No surprise, the Greatest Show on Earth isn't so great

After 146 years of operation, the iconic and infamous Ringling Circus will be closing this May after performing a final thirty shows. While known by some as "The Greatest Show on Earth," the Ringling Bros. have often been the center of controversy with various animal rights activist groups that object to the cruel training methods and poor containment conditions for the animal acts. These clashes with animal rights groups have included large amounts of negative press, declining tickets sales, and multiple long and costly legal battles.

One of these lawsuits was even successful in making the Ringling Bros. retire their elephant acts, after they paid \$16 million dollars in settlements. The circus' act, which used the endangered Asian elephant, was considered to be extremely cruel due to the intelligent and emotional nature of the animals. In order to control the large animals,

handlers would separate the highly social elephants from their mothers at a young age, confining them to too small of spaces and beating them with bull hooks in order to condition the animals into submission.

With the loss of the elephant acts, as well as the negative press when the torturous conditions the animals were kept in came to light, the Ringling Circus suffered a loss of revenue greater than anticipated. This, and the costs of their legal battles due to their continued ill treatment of other animals, led in part to the decision to close down the circus. The circus was experiencing an additional natural decline as more and more audiences chose to spend their money at alternative forms of entertainment. Circus acts, which were once an uncommon and unique offer of entertainment, do not have the same draw in

the age of technology as they did during the 20th century. High court costs and high maintenance fees combined with ever lowering attendances meant that the Ringling's Bros. was no longer the profitable business it once was. Although acts like the Cirque Du Soleil have managed to thrive, other circus acts have not been so lucky.

In an official statement, the company has announced that it will be taking care of all its performers, both humans and animals. With the closing of the Ringling Bros., around 500 people will be out of work, though the company has promised to aid in making sure they are able to find new work. For the animals involved, the circus has promised to find them all suitable homes. No word was offered as to the exact nature of how these promises will be upheld.

Many will mourn the loss of the icon-

ic show, which has long been a staple of American culture. However others will rejoice as the discontinuing of the Ringling Bro's circus elephants was far from the end of the circus' animal rights violations. Many animal rights activists hope such a large, renowned circus closing in large part due to backlash over the mistreatment of animals, occurring at the same time as pressure being put on SeaWorld over the cruelty of their orca shows, will set an example for other entertainment industries to either train and keep their animals humanly or to discontinue the practice entirely.

There is no doubt that the closing of the Ringling Brothers is the end of an era. As technology and forms of entertainment move forward, the age of the circus has moved further into the realm of the outdated, soon to be primarily remember in horror movies and films on the past.



The Doomsday Clock is a Real Thing and It's Making Us Nervous

by Caroline Bojarski
Staff Watchman

Basically it's all to blame on one man, three guesses who

This past Thursday, the group of scientists in charge of the Doomsday Clock urged the public not to panic as they edged the ominous clock closer to midnight. As of January 26th, the world has two-and-a-half minutes to put its sordid affairs in order before inevitable destruction.

Before you start hugging your loyal friends and calling your exes, the Clock is an instrument controlled by the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Its units of time are arbitrary and simply stand as a symbolic alert to the public of the world's current predicament relative to other points in history. According to the *New York Times*, the Clock has not been so close to midnight since the Soviet Union and the United States each tested the hydrogen bomb in 1953. The Clock was instituted in 1947, at which point it stood at seven minutes to midnight.

Members of the Bulletin base the Clock's position on large-scale factors such as global climate change,

nuclear threats, biosecurity, and, as of last week, the copious commentary of President Donald J. Trump. Climate scientist Lawrence Kraus and meteorologist David Titley explained to the *Times* that Mr. Trump's plans to halt and reverse progress in climate control and rational nuclear policy have resulted in the first movement of the hands of the Doomsday Clock as a result of a single individual. When asked what advice she had for Titley and Kraus, a local mother of toddlers said, "Stop encouraging him."

Rachel Bronson, executive director and publisher of the bulletin, stated in a conference that the scientists who calculate the Clock's position are not trying to induce a mad rush to the hardware store in preparation for The End but are instead "hoping this [moving the Clock] drives action". There is something un-ignorable about the symbol of a cosmic timepiece controlled by highly rational scientists saying with concrete certainty that we have this many fewer days of love, laughter, and memes allotted to us.

While the Clock indicates a dire situation, having only been closer to the hour of doom once (in response to imminent nuclear annihilation), hope remains as the Clock's hands can be moved backward as well. The Bulletin meets twice a year to decide which way to wind the Clock. The 'safest' time in the Clock's history was in 1991 when it showed a benign 17 minutes to midnight in response to gradually declining tensions following the Cold War's resolution. Constructive activities such as international cooperation between scientists, the nearly worldwide signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the destruction of the Berlin Wall have historically resulted in positive changes to the Doomsday Clock.

The public may now be wondering: why foster cooperation among world leaders when you can just sneak into the Bulletin's office in the University of Chicago where the Clock is kept and turn the hands back like you are tricking a substitute algebra teacher? Not only would *the paper* would like to formally state that it does not endorse

such childish behavior, but also, *the paper* would like to reiterate that the Clock is a metaphor for the world's dire situation and that turning the hands will not actually solve global climate change or halt a nuclear arms race.

If the words of one man can bring the planet thirty theoretical seconds closer to extinction, an entire nation of voters should be able to remedy this man's ignorance. The Science and Security Board issued a universal call to action as part of their statement, warning that if public officials lack the sense to fight for progress, then, "wise citizens must step forward and lead the way".



FAKER THAN TRUTH

By Rachel Poe
Everything's Fine!

The sun will come out
Tomorrow
Bet your bottom dollar
That tomorrow
There'll be sun!

Just thinkin' about
Tomorrow
Clears away the cobwebs,
And the sorrow
'Til there's none!

When I'm stuck with a day
That's grey,
And lonely,
I just stick out my chin
And Grin,
And Say,
Oh

The sun come out
Tomorrow
So ya gotta hang on
'Til tomorrow
Come what may

Tomorrow!
Tomorrow!
I love ya
Tomorrow!

You're always
A day
Away!

"Tomorrow" - Annie

Chelsea Manning's Sentence is Commuted

by Luis Gomez
Co-Editor in Chief

President Obama's farewell was capped by a huge rally and speech in Chicago, an interview with Pod Save America that you should definitely listen to, and commuting a whole lot of prison sentences.

On January 19th, Obama commuted or pardoned over 300 people, mostly for nonviolent drug offenses. Among

those commuted was Chelsea Manning, the imprisoned army officer who leaked a trove of classified documents to Wikileaks in 2010, among which was the now-infamous "Collateral Murder" video. Manning was sentenced to

35 years in prison. The day after sentencing, Manning's lawyer announced that Manning was a trans-woman, having spent the last few years of service struggling to manage her gender dysphoria.

The move is also seen as a shoring-up of the Obama Administration's positive record on LGBTQ+ rights. While the administration can obviously take some credit for its support of marriage equality, some activists had criticized the administration for not doing enough for queer causes in the US. The decision to commute Manning clearly acknowledges her struggle with gender dysphoria while in prison and of the Army's relative indifference or unwillingness to help her. Manning's freedom was long called for at Pride events and by human rights organizations.

Manning's lawyers, the ACLU, and many trans-activists had long been pressuring the Obama administration to commute her sentence to time served, pointing to the Army's lack of understanding and willingness to accommodate Chelsea's gender dysphoria as evidence of inhumane treatment. Manning also spent time in solitary confinement, once as punishment for a suicide attempt. She also began a hun-

President Obama decided to drop the mic

ger strike after what she described as inhumane treatment by prison officials, as well as to protest the Army's refusal to aid in treating her gender dysphoria.

Throughout these moments, Manning petitioned for her release. A 2014 request for clemency was brought before an Army general but was ultimately denied. Before this request, Manning's lawyers had formally applied for a pres-

identical pardon, because presidential pardons are applied for (which I just straight up didn't know).



identical pardon, because presidential pardons are applied for (which I just straight up didn't know). The election of Donald Trump significantly hastened Manning's efforts to receive a commutation, as the President had indicated on the campaign trail that she has gotten off too easily, and he had a nearly-nonexistent record on transgender rights. In a formal petition to President Obama on November 13, Manning asked for commutation. One day later, a petition appeared on whitehouse.gov. Driven largely by a twitter campaign, the petition acquired the required 100,000 signatures for a White House response. However, the White House did not comment on Manning's sentence until Obama's last-minute commutation.

kept, the legacy Obama leaves behind on information leaks is a mixed one - certain whistleblower protections were made stronger while others, especially those for members of the intelligence community, were weakened or remained untouched.

Last-minute presidential commutations are a hallmark of any administration, as the outgoing president will find a moment to reduce or eliminate the sentences of those they find deserve some sort of reprieve from their sentence. Perhaps the most famous of these was Gerald Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon after Nixon's resignation, and Bill Clinton when he pardoned his brother after he was convicted of cocaine possession. Among the many people, including low-level drug offenders, that President Obama pardoned, Manning's commutation stands out as the most consequential.

Ultimately, the commutation of Chelsea Manning was a final act of outreach by a president with a strong record of caring about people, and actually looking at nuance in situations, then coming to reasonable conclusions. Chelsea Manning was living in hell; now she has a chance to live her life.

When asked at one of his last press conferences about his decision, Obama pointed to her treatment while in confinement, saying first and foremost, "Chelsea Manning has served a tough

Student Justice Group Denied as Club: Why?

by Michael Jack O'Brien
Features and Lists Co-Editor

Just as the Israeli government voted to continue the construction of settlements in the West Bank, a project that garnered international controversy, the Dean of Students at the Lincoln Center campus, Keith Eldredge, disapproved the creation of a Fordham University chapter of the national Palestinian advocacy organization Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). In an official statement, the school administration said the following: "*Fordham has no registered student clubs the sole focus of which is the political agenda of one nation, against another nation. For the University's purposes, the country of origin of the student organizers is irrelevant, as is their particular political stance. The narrowness of Students for Justice in Palestine's political focus makes it more akin to a lobbying group than a student club. Regardless of the club's status, students, faculty, and staff are of course free to voice their opinions on Palestine, or any other issue.*" Almost immediately after the decision was made, students gathered for protest in support of the SJP, claiming that the administration was blatantly disregarding student free speech, and restricting the student government's freedom to approve organizations.

For many students, the school's decision appears to be an egregious overstep of authority and a crackdown on dissenting opinions within the university, a sentiment not helped by the beginning of Donald Trump's administration and Israel's vote to continue West Bank settlements. However, the university's policy for approving and disapproving clubs must take into account the larger context of each proposed student organization and understands that clubs, especially those affiliated with larger national organizations, are not isolated entities.

In the case of SJP, it appears that a possible reason for the administration's hesitation to approve the club comes from other chapters of the SJP. Currently the organization is registered in the Anti-Defamation League as an organization which behaves in a way that promotes anti-Israeli preju-

Updated context on the SJP decision

dice. In a 2015 report on the organization, the ADL claims that the clubs behaviors and tactics (holding die-ins, distributing mock eviction notices to students in their dorm rooms, and setting up mock "apartheid" checkpoints) have created a tense atmosphere in which students have reported feeling intimidated or harassed by SJP members.

The report continues on to claim that during the summer and fall of



2014, "anti-Israel activists" attempted to link the ongoing hostilities between Hamas and Israel to the then-recent shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. The SJP runs what they call an "anti-normalization campaign," the tactics of which include interrupting and silencing pro-Israel speakers. In addition to this, the ADL claims that SJP encourages students to refrain from communication and dialogue with pro-Israel group and to stage walkouts on Israeli speakers, a tactic used by the SJP chapter at Northeastern University when two Israeli soldiers were speaking on campus. Seemingly, these tactics are utilized in unison as part of a systematic effort to silence and suppress the views of the pro-Israel community, efforts which the ADL claims possesses a distinctly anti-Israel and anti-Semitic sentiment.

With the added context of the ADL report on the national organization, it becomes evident that the Fordham administration is stuck in a tight spot in which either decision, to allow or disallow the formation of an SJP chapter, would inadvertently place the school on one of two sides of a highly polarizing and culturally

relevant issue. One decision portrays the school as anti-Palestinian, while the other would portray the school as anti-Israeli. It's probable that the university has no particular qualms regarding the approval of a Palestinian activist organization, but the disapproval of the club is rooted in the SJP's insistence on being affiliated with and receiving its resources from this particular national organization. It is important to keep in mind that for the administration, the full range of the SJP and its reported behaviors must be taken into account.

Whether or not the behaviors of the organization outlined in the report quantify as harassment or anti-Israeli intimidation is up to debate among students. It would appear that the past actions of the organization were substantial enough to be officially documented by the ADL, which stands as a possible explanation to why the administration would hesitate in approving a Fordham chapter. Moreover, the terminology used by the SJP and other publications would indicate that the administration has allegedly "banned" or "vetoed" the creation of a Palestinian club. Per the university's decision, the words "banned" or "vetoed" do not appear. Therefore, framing the decision in such a light wrongly indicates that students are prohibited from ever attempting to organize in the future.

In any case, the Palestinian advocacy group Palestine Legal and the Center for Constitutional Rights has decided to continue taking legal action against the university in the fight for the clubs approval claiming that in their decision to prohibit the club. In a letter, the advocacy group is arguing that Fordham University "*misconstrues the facts, misunderstands the law, and ignores Fordham's contractual obligations to respect students' freedom of expression, as promised in various University policies,*" echoing the concerns of many students and other groups on Fordham's campuses.

Editor's note: the paper, as Fordham's free speech publication, will always support a student and student groups' right to free speech. The purpose of this article is to provide further context for the situation.

Realer Than Fact

By Rachel Poe

Cards Against Humanity asks former President Obama to be their CEO

the paper's favorite game just got a little better as Cards Against Humanity released new requirements for their CEO position. The company, which is notorious for doing whatever it wants (I like digging a giant hole for no apparent reason), wants a candidate who has a minimum of "eight years experience as President of the United States or equivalent nation." This doesn't necessarily mean newly unemployed, former President Barack Obama but Cards Against Humanity makes it very clear who they want. Amongst the other requirements are:

- Steady disposition, remains cool under pressure
- Willing to inherit the consequences of eight years of irresponsible spending
- Excellent negotiator able to deal with stubborn opposition
- Strongly prefer the first black editor of Harvard Law Review
- Must currently hold a national approval rating of 57.2% or higher
- Passed comprehensive health-care reform
- Natural born citizen of the United States
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint

No word on whether or not President- I mean Former President :- Obama will take the position, but *the paper* definitely supports this 100%.

The DC Inauguration: A Complicated Love/Hate Relationship

by Reyna Wang
Earwax Editor

As Donald Trump is one of the most polarizing American political figures, to say the least, it was no surprise that his inauguration was greeted with protests throughout the country and across the globe. In Washington, D.C., the parade route was flooded with tens of thousands of protesters, many of whom had travelled great distances to show their disapproval of the 45th President of the United States. It was reported that in certain parts of the crowd, protesters far outnumbered those who came to support Trump. Though the vast majority of protesters were peacefully protesting groups, their media coverage was overshadowed by that of the Black Bloc anarchists, who smashed the windows of a Bank of America, a Starbucks, and a limousine to protest fascism and capitalism. The police responded to these protesters, as well as others who threw rocks and bricks at officers along the parade route, by using tear gas, pepper spray, and flash grenades to dispel groups of protesters at large, affecting many peaceful protesters in the process.

The largest peaceful protest that took place in Washington on Inauguration Day was also the most underrepresented. This was a mass protest organized by ANSWER – Act Now to Stop War and End Racism – Coalition at the U.S. Navy Memorial, where thousands gathered to “inaugurate the resistance” to Trump’s ultra-reactionary agenda. This was the only permitted anti-Trump demonstration along the inaugural parade route, as obtaining permits for mass assembly protests during and after Inauguration Day wasn’t easy. Though around double the number of organizations applied for permits, few received them, leading some to speculate that the National Park Service’s “omnibus blocking permits” in Washington’s historical spaces were an unconstitutional violation of freedom to assemble and petition, and a deliberate effort to silence dissent on behalf of Trump’s Presidential Inaugural Committee, though the NPS has stated that they applied for the sweeping permits a year in advance, long before the election, and that doing so on behalf of the PIC is

A small crowd gathered, a man gave a speech, an editor was sad

a customary practice. The NPS originally denied ANSWER Coalition’s permit requests, but after ANSWER held a press conference on December 7th with attorneys from the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund to expose this alleged suppression of First Amendment rights, the organization was finally able to secure a permit to protest at the Navy Memorial.

Just a few days before what they



anticipated would be one of their most visible demonstrations ever, ANSWER Coalition was notified of another major government restriction. Several credentialed media sources, including a major national television news network, reported that though they were credentialed for access to the parade checkpoints, the Secret Service had denied them access to certain areas, including the Navy Memorial. Reporters said that they were even banned from recording footage of or interviewing people in the Navy Memorial area from the along the parade route, rendering them completely unable to cover the largest inaugural protest in Washington. Indeed, on Inauguration Day, though some foreign or independent media organizations were able to cover the demonstration, no mainstream media were present. It is strongly suspected that this limitation on the freedom of press was an act of political discrimination, intended to prevent media coverage of massive organized opposition to Trump, the incoming administration, and their agenda.

Despite these legal setbacks,

the protest had an enormous turnout. This was apparent from the minute my group from East Harlem arrived at the checkpoint outside of the Navy Memorial around 6 a.m., where hundreds of people from all over the country were already lined up in front of us. Some came as individuals, others with their friends and families, and others with organizations that stood for a multitude of causes, such as LGBTQ+ rights, animal

rights, and universal access to health care. One protester even arrived with two llamas for some inexplicable reason. But despite the diversity of the crowd outside of the checkpoint, it was clearly overwhelmingly anti-Trump, save for a few red trucker hats spotted here and there.

The checkpoints were very slow in allowing people to enter the demonstration space, and we waited four hours to get in. However, thousands of protesters stretching two blocks down 7th St. were still stuck behind the checkpoint as Trump’s motorcade passed the Navy Memorial around 4 p.m., and some reported that other checkpoints moved considerably faster. Given past limitations on this protest imposed by government structures, many were suspicious that the slow pace of the checkpoint used predominately by protesters was another deliberate government attempt to stifle and conceal political dissent around the inauguration.

Thousands of people who did make it into the Navy Memorial stood bearing yellow ANSWER Coalition that stated “inaugurate the resistance,” “stand with immigrants,” and “say no to fascism,” and others wielded homemade signs with messages like “Black Lives Mat-

ter” and “dykes against demagogues” or depicting Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin as lovers. At the center of the plaza stood a 28-foot-long stage, on which leaders of grassroots movements representing immigrant rights, labor justice, environmental justice, opposition to war, women’s rights, racial equality, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ+ equity, and more spoke about the importance of mobilizing to resist Trump and his administration. Musicians, dancers, and DJs also performed throughout the demonstration, conveying the spirit of resistance through artistic means and keeping the protest energized.

As the sound system set up by the NPS began to air the inaugural ceremony and Trump was to give his inaugural address, ANSWER Coalition hoped to drown out his message with their own program, which continued through the address. The simultaneously proceeding voices resulted in an eerie sonic dissonance that paralleled the frightening dissonance of political ideology in America today. As we heard Trump say “When you open your hearts to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice” from the Capitol, we also heard a black woman from the stage speak about the prejudice that has been woven into the fabric of our country since it was founded, and that continues to oppress her people today. During the National Anthem, many kneeled, emulating Colin Kaepernick’s protest against the oppression of people of color.

Even if the world didn’t get to see it, ANSWER Coalition’s protest at the inauguration, along with all of the other protests that erupted on Inauguration Day and the days following, served as a monumental demonstration of the power of the people, their capacity for solidarity, and their desire for equality, justice, and peace, which Donald Trump does not stand for. An unprecedented number of people went to great lengths show their opposition of a government that they believe fails to protect and provide for all of its people, and that fails to respect the dignity of every person around the world. And if ANSWER’s legal-obstacle-ridden struggle to hold a publicized large scale protest can tell us anything, it is that freedom of speech will be at more risk than ever during the Trump presidency, and that people need to continue to come together like they did at Inauguration Day and at the Women’s March if we are to resist its oppressive policies.



America the Great, but Trade is Still What We Don't Know

by Declan Murphy
Copy Editor

Among his many executive orders issued this week, Donald Trump announced earlier that he would not be pursuing the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal. The deal, a proposed trade agreement between Japan, Australia, and other major Pacific nations, had been proposed by the Obama administration to improve trade relations with China. Now, as part of the wave of new changes from the incoming administration, the TPP is dead.

This may come as something of a surprise to liberals, whose own relationship with the TPP has been complex. Though initially proposed by President Obama (and, initially, heartily endorsed by then-Secretary of State Clinton), opposition to the TPP was central to Bernie Sanders' platform. Indeed, many on the left were critical of the proposal. The TPP has drawn the ire of both labor unions and environmental groups, two significant parts of the Democratic base. So why, then, is dismantling the TPP so important to a noted right-wing hack like Donald Trump?

The TPP is part of a larger effort on the part of DJT to shake up the US's relationship with China. In addition to removing the TPP, Donald Trump has stated that he intends to label China "a currency manipulator." Further, he placed a controversial call to Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-Wen, aggravating an already tense international situation.

This stands in direct contrast to

The Trump Administration is Killing TPP, but is that the best?

President Obama's policy over the past eight years. Obama's "pivot to Asia" in 2008 marked a definitive change in foreign policy, emphasizing our relationship with China as crucial to national security. The TPP was yet another part of this effort. By leading a trade agreement in the Pacific—



especially one which excludes China—the US could further solidify its status as a major actor in the East and check China's growing power.

The TPP certainly has numerous flaws. The TPP included provisions that would have effectively allowed corporations to avoid government regulations. Environmental activists pointed out that this would allow corporations to cheat environmental regulations, and enable things like polluting international waters. The agreement would've also limited the US's power to regulate food imports, potentially allowing unsafe or substandard food to enter the US. It would have empowered pharmaceutical companies even further, leading to higher drug prices.

The intellectual property sections of the TPP agreement could have restricted internet freedoms, violating principles of net neutrality. Lastly, it's even possible that it would have led to human rights abuses by empowering companies (and nations) that have allowed human rights abuses to happen.

However, the problem with ending the TPP is not the agreement itself. The problem is what comes next. Something will emerge to replace the TPP, and without a US-

brokered deal, the result may be even worse for US trade. A China-led TPP would increase China's strength in the Pacific, weaken US ties, and put vulnerable states (like Taiwan and Japan) at greater risk. In fact, Australia has even signaled its willingness to participate in a China-led TPP. Especially in light of recent events, though, a further deterioration of trade relations with China could have major security implications.

Indeed, even the idea of an alternative to the TPP is straining relations with US partners in Asia. Japan needs the US to keep China in check. Much of our security relationship is predicated on the US continuing to protect Japan from Chinese encroachment.

Allowing a China-led agreement to happen threatens that security. Additionally, the fact that Australia, also an important security partner, is willing to join an agreement that would weaken US power in the Pacific, is troubling in itself.

Donald Trump's opposition to the TPP is predicated on a false nationalism and protectionism. Trump and his supporters equate trade with China to losing American jobs and weakening the US economy. This ignores the complex reality of the world economy. Low-wage jobs are moving beyond China to Indonesia, Taiwan, and elsewhere. Even more, there's no indication that weakening trade with Asia will somehow bring jobs back to the US. This is protectionist logic that borders on isolationism. Quite frankly, this kind of thinking is self-defeating. Like it or not, we live in a globalized world. We can't disentangle ourselves from international trade partners in order to protect jobs. Doing so damages the world market, strains relations with neighboring nations, and in the long run will have more negative economic effects. There's no place for protectionism in the modern economy.

The dismantling of the TPP is a classic example of letting the perfect be the enemy of the good. (Or it would be, if it seemed like Donald Trump had anything in mind to replace it.) By refusing to accept a subpar agreement, we will create the conditions for an even worse trade relationship in Asia.

No Alternative Facts Here: the Media Loves Melania's Clothing

by Katie Moore-Gillon
Staff Fashion Feminist

The Blue Lady's choices are sure to make a change in fashion

The 45th Presidential inauguration was an atypical one to say the least: the crowd size, the "alternative-facts" about the crowd size, the worldwide protests to follow, and the fact that the man sworn into office was a reality-TV star. But one long-standing tradition remained: the dizzying fascination surrounding First Lady Melania Trump's outfit. No inauguration is complete without the headlines regarding who will dress the First Lady, what the color of her dress symbolizes, and how she looks in her dress. In fact, the day of the inauguration every major media outlet had a story on Melania's baby blue, Ralph Lauren ensemble.

Look, Melania is not proving herself to be a stand-out First Lady, as her sheer lack of participation during the election season was laughable. Her interviews were awkward, she appeared cold and confused, and she seemed to simply regurgitate whatever her husband (or Michelle Obama for that matter) was saying in a false-confident manner. But isn't it time we move past the whole "aaand here's the very pretty First Lady with her very pretty dress!" phase? I do not mean we all of a sudden need to congratulate Melania on all she has achieved (as she has frankly achieved very little, if anything) but rather make an effort to stop reducing her to a mere fashion statement.

Think back to one of the most iconic First Ladies, America's favorite-Jackie Onassis. Did people cherish her so

much because she simply stayed on the sidelines looking conventionally stylish and beautiful? She focused her attention on social events, as well as caring for her husband and children (playing the traditional, non-threatening gender role). Her style, on the other hand, enchanted people worldwide, and she was revered as a fashion icon.



Even though Mrs. Kennedy was less involved in political affairs, other First Ladies who made an effort to be more prominent still faced the overwhelming palava regarding their looks. Michelle Obama—a master orator, scholar, and human rights advocate—was subject to intense criticism and praise regarding her outfits. Even though she did not brand herself as "the caretaker" like Kennedy, what she wore hugely influenced the economic success for brands such as J.Crew, Ann Taylor, and even Target. While Michelle was clearly not solely influential through her style, the intense fascination regarding her

wardrobe is worth noting...and don't get me started on Hillary's pantsuits.

The sensationalism regarding the First Lady's wardrobe is a tradition so secure and ingrained in our history that it is difficult to imagine American leadership without it. It is a way in which women can have power—determining trends, influencing brands, and showcasing up-and-coming designers. However, there is something to be said about men having power over things like foreign policy, economic regulations, and national healthcare while women have control over...fashion. As we fight against a man who frequently calls into question whether or not men and women deserve to be treated as equals, we ought to address the sexism both within and outside of Trump's circle.

Continuing to treat First Ladies as fashion statements is indicative of women in leadership positions. "First Lady fashion" is sensationalized to deter us from focusing on what a woman in the White House can actually achieve and instead directs our attention to how "acceptable" they can look. On both sides of the political spectrum, Melania has been subject to criticism based on her looks. Many conservatives eagerly await her outfits, praising her for being "classy," and perhaps hoping she will emulate

Mrs. Kennedy, while people on the left are eager to poke fun at the fact that she lays out all the qualities of a "gold digger."

After the Women's March this past week, I felt an overwhelming sense of empowerment as a woman in the collective goal toward striving for equality. I think that all Melania has right now is her wardrobe, and if the press actually focused on her actions rather than her outfits, it could prompt a more vocal and influential First Lady. This is not to say that we should all come together and give Mel a pat on the back that she quite frankly doesn't deserve at this point in time. However, I do want to encourage individuals to analyze Melania as a human, not a sexist label. That is, to call her out when she repeats ignorant rhetoric rather than harping on her looks or age. Feel free to point out her unusual behavior in interviews, but there's no need to comment on her outfit. This is not going to be the Holy Grail to gender equality, and I know for many of us there is such a strong inclination to just throw darts on what seems like a damn easy target. But perhaps if people actually encourage her to be more vocal through analyzing her words and actions rather than her clothes (and when I say encourage I DO NOT mean support) then perhaps it will prompt more involvement on her part. Whether or not you even like what she would have to say, it is better than just her standing around as decor.



Yes, We Can Give Trump A Chance But Not A Pass For His Actions

by Jack Archambault
Staff Watchdog

Get used to scrolling through Twitter to get your White House news

There is never a shortage of things to rant about concerning Donald Trump. In fact, it is practically impossible to be aware of the man's mere existence and not be annoyed, disturbed, pissed off, or downright sickened by some aspect of his being. As Trump has now stepped onto the world's grandest stage, I find myself falling mostly into the final category, in which each news update out of the White House feels like a roundhouse kick to the groin. Whether he is impulsively tweeting or spewing a fresh batch of alternative facts, every day Team Trump finds a new way to make the world worse. I am not quite sure how to formulate these ideas into a coherent column, but that has never stopped the Donald, so let's fire away.

First, Twitter. One would think that a man leading the free world would be above starting Twitter beef with people as if his name was, well, Donald Trump. One would also think that the next logical step after getting mocked on *Saturday Night Live* for tweeting too much would be to do anything but send out a barrage of tweets. But I guess maybe I'm the one who is not getting it. Either way, the fact that Trump's default response whenever he is faced with even the slightest semblance of opposition (such as from a television show that makes fun of practically everybody) is to get behind a screen and embark on a 140-character tirade is sad. This is behavior we should not tolerate from children, let alone the most powerful

person in the world. As far as Twitter goes, Trump is the embodiment of a seventh grade internet bully who happened to become the President of the United States. What is even worse is that this behavior is encouraged by many who claim that it is Trump's only way to escape media bias. For others, it is now at least expected and therefore, validated. Since getting on the internet and trolling people is probably

America that is horrifyingly ugly. How can we look at a man who routinely attacks others, brags about sexually assaulting women, attempts to justify said sexual assault as a thing that all men do (it isn't), and is incapable of letting a single perceived slight pass go and say we are okay with it? Looking past this persona, we stumble across his penchant for spewing unintelligible and unverified dreck. Whether

it be his denial of global climate change or his persistence that millions of people voted illegally in the election (both of which can be proven otherwise with the slightest bit of research), it is now more surprising to hear Trump say something that is not blatantly false. Because of this, B.S. has become the norm, while even the most obvious truths, like Earth's rising temperature, are debatable.

On this same note, it is not uncommon for Trump to receive praise for simply doing what is expected of the President. He makes no secret of amplifying this praise as much as possible. On January 25th the White House put together a press release that was literally just a compilation of compliments from none other than the "lyin' media. If you cannot even begin to fathom being that petty and insecure, that's good because neither can I. From what he has shown us, however, it is entirely reasonable to expect him to fuck up, and anything less than that is now revelatory. But what can be done about this? To start, we should resist every inclination to give him a pass.

To clarify, there is a world of difference between giving someone a chance and giving them a pass. Donald Trump will get a chance but should never get a pass for his behavior. Giving someone a chance to do their job does not necessitate letting them off the hook for their wrongdoings. Just the other day, I overheard two people discussing this matter. One thing they seemed to agree on is that people should "focus on the good" when it comes to Trump. The problem with this is that to focus solely on any good qualities is to ignore the bad, of which there is an abundance. Doing this means glossing over the petulant tweets, the juvenile insults, and the mistreatment of women. Doing this means holding the person who should be held to a higher standard to one that is lower than children's standards, a fact that is utterly pathetic. It is high time we revoke the free pass that has been given to President Trump and evaluate him not just by a measuring stick of basic human decency but by a standard fitting of the President of the United States.

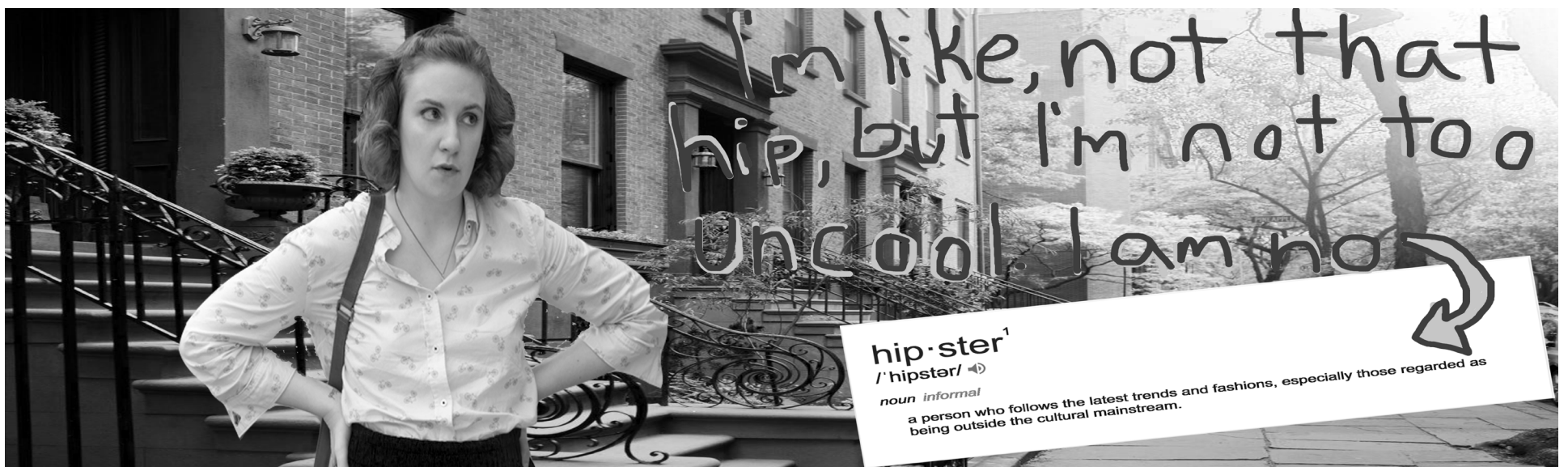


the weakest way to engage those who disagree with you, this brings about the issue of what our expectations are for a President's behavior, and why our expectations for this President's behavior are so embarrassingly low.

Ideally, the President should be a positive role model for all Americans to follow. Unfortunately, this currently is not the case. Through his own doing, Trump has presented a face to

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The End of an Era: The Social Justice Leader Program Will be Ending

by Thomas Pell

Staff Social Justice Lover

One of the cornerstones of Fordham's mission is "men and women for and with others." This mouthful of words is the root of several offices on campus: GO!, Campus Ministry, and the Dorothy Day Center for Service and Justice. Hundreds—probably thousands—of students have passed through the doors of each of these offices since their establishment. Service, reflection and community are important components to what I'll call the "Big Service Three." Involved students have gone on to set the world on fire after learning to embody the Jesuit values truly.

What if I were to tell you one of these offices were cutting off students from spreading Jesuit values to other students who may not even know where the service-based groups are located? The Dorothy Day Center is ending its Social Justice Leaders program, and changing the face office. I think

Who are going to be the ones that spread passion for justice to all?

more students should be alarmed by this sudden turn in direction.

As a student who participated in Urban Plunge, a program created and facilitated by these SJLs, I am incredibly upset. My group leaders were fearless, outspoken, and incredibly thoughtful people. They opened my eyes to the Bronx community and allowed me to see the beauty in justice. Urban Plunge taught me that there is so much more to service than just acting for others. They each fired me up to learn more about myself and to build relationships with people in my new home. At the end of Plunge, my fellow plungers and I were so excited to hear that our leaders did not leave their fervor for social justice in August when classes started. They told us that they would be hosting programs throughout the school year that were dedicated to fostering justice not only in the Bronx, but also the international community.

I have attended a lot of SJL programs in my time at Fordham. There have been so many thought-provoking movie showings, talks with community members, panels with professors, and service events that have opened my eyes and those of my peers around me to social justice problems all over the globe. I always have considered Social Justice Leaders heroes in some sense. They really motivated me to continue volunteering and to educate myself on issues that many do not care about.

I really attribute the SJLs to getting students involved on campus as well. They are the ones that motivate so many of their Plungers to continue volunteering throughout their times at Fordham. These students are the life and blood of the office, and on top of that, the program seemed to be extraordinarily successful. So many of my friends who did not participate in Plunge began asking SJLs at these

programs for recommendations on how they can involve themselves more in change. These students have caused so many students to involve themselves in service when they otherwise wouldn't have.

I know some consider the SJL community to be cliquy or too sensitive, but I know of very few people who have ever experienced anything negative from the community. The students are inclusive, loving and passionate. They care for each other and the community we all live in. It breaks my heart to see the SJL program fall apart—I really do consider this to be a huge mistake. Other schools do not have an integrative program like this.

I look up to SJLs and their presence on campus will most definitely leave a huge void on campus. I hope the program is miraculously saved because these students truly allow for their peers to be better men and women for and with others.

Fordham Orangutan Accused of Truancy And Airplane Misconduct

by Christopher Jeske

Staff Primate

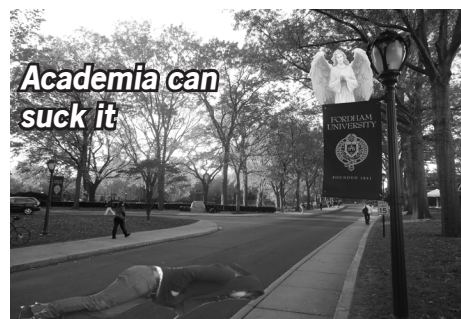
On January 16, freshman Christopher Jeske returned to New York following a relaxing winter recess. During his break, Christopher enjoyed the company of his extended family and old high school acquaintances. It seemed this hiatus from schoolwork so thoroughly liberated Mr. Jeske's mind that he entirely disregarded his life as a college student.

When asked how things were going amidst his vacation, he simply described his work as a dishwasher at the local pancake shop. A number of confused relatives timidly approached Christopher's parents regarding his first semester only to be fiercely shushed. Mr. and Mrs. Jeske were of the firm belief that Christopher "could use a break from the stresses of academia, even if he has to forget what academia is altogether."

It was not until he touched the ground at LaGuardia airport that Christopher Jeske realized the true nature of his existence. Passengers aboard United Flight 66B describe Christopher's shrieks upon landing as "blood curdling, irritating, and em-

Going back to school is surprisingly like entering the jungle

barrassingly effeminate." Disturbing the slumber of an infant with his emotive screams, Christopher Jeske was forcefully cast from the plane onto



the tarmac by an unenthused flight attendant. While hoisted above the heads of two muscular TSA agents, Mr. Jeske requested an Uber.

Recalling only the borough of his school, Christopher set the destination to "The Bronx" and allowed himself to be thrown into his Uber driver Chandra's 2007 Toyota Camry. In their haste, TSA agents Kareem and Ashton neglected to retrieve Christopher's checked luggage containing his mother's world famous pork chops and pistachio cranberry cookies. When they arrived, Chandra lifted

Christopher and his things from her backseat and placed them on the sidewalk. Tugging his luggage behind him, Mr. Jeske strode confidently through the main campus gate in the direction of his residence hall, Alumni Court South. As Christopher trekked, he noted that the buildings he was passing bore stark similarities to cages. Not recalling such modern architecture, his stride quickened, fearful of the hallucinations that seemed to be plaguing Fordham's Campus.

While accelerating to a trot, Christopher began to hear hair-raising screeches. These noises grew ever louder until he could no longer bear them. He fell to his knees and held his ears to cease the sound. Still, monstrous wails and roars shook the ground on which he knelt. Understanding that this nightmare would not relent, Christopher returned to his feet and uncovered his ears.

As he surveyed his surroundings in further depth, he found himself entirely unfamiliar with the student body he saw. To his left, he noted a group of immodestly hairy classmates slapping one another with bananas. To

his right, he observed a herd of intricately tattooed fellows, casually eating grass.

Though deeply confused by this behavior, Christopher sheepishly carried on in the direction of South, resolving that he had been disillusioned by the comforts of home and was now unaccustomed to the east coast. But when he reached the northernmost point of campus, Mr. Jeske was dismayed to find no sign of Martyr's, Rodrigue's, or South. With apt millennial instincts, Christopher quickly consulted Google Maps.

Zooming intensely, he found his current location to be adjacent to Fordham's campus, though visibly outside. Perceiving his situation, Mr. Jeske then reviewed the details of his latest Uber trip. In this cross examination, Christopher discovered he had accidentally routed himself to The Bronx Zoo. Ashamed of his ignorant mistake, he then elected to remain at the zoo indefinitely as an addition to the monkey exhibit. Our most recent sources indicate that he was being slapped violently with bananas. Alas, he has been accepted.

the paper's view

Hi there.

It seemed like introducing ourselves up top made the most sense, so that's what we're doing

Luis:

If you want my bs job interview biography then what I'd probably tell you is that a) I'm an IPE major with a minor in Journalism b) I'm a writer and c) I write for the paper. This publication has become a staple of my time here at Fordham. I've been here since halfway through freshman year and after all that time (so...many...week-ends..) I've gotten pretty used to sitting in the basement of McGinley for an inordinate amount of hours staring at articles about...well, anything really. This is going to be interesting.

I also have a dog. She's cuter than your dog. This is a fact.

John:

I major in english, so yeah uh just imagine every stereotype afiliated with that. I mean after that we're basically done here. I've been writing for the paper or more accurately cursing and rambling in a vaguely coherent manner since I was a freshmen and through a combination of pity and thinly veiled machiavellian machinations am now supposed to do things. This is my nightmare. I mean the current political situation not the paper. The paper is a dream, but one that is definitely fuelled by some deep rooted anxieties.

My dogs are actually better. Luis gave you an "Alternative fact."

Well then.

We honestly didn't think this week could get any more ridiculous than it already was, and then the Immigration Executive Order happened. So yeah, that was a really nice welcome to our new jobs.

First of all, we're going to acknowledge up-front that the Immigration Order is disgusting in its intent, completely unconstitutional and antithetical to the values of the United States. We would like to thank those who have already spoken out and protested this move by the Trump Administration, including Father McShane. Hopefully, the students affected by this will find some peace in the coming days. We stand with you.

In our experience, the paper has always been a means of communication first and foremost. But, this is a crossroads of sorts - we now live at a time when there is a *lot* happening at any given time, and we only have so much space to use.

So the question then becomes, what is a publication like the paper supposed to be? Are we activists or are we journalists?

Honestly? We're both. And neither. We're people with some strong feelings, too much free time on weekends, and a marginal amount of Photoshop experience trying to get our voices heard. And it's our job to make sure your voice is heard too.

Not afraid,

Luis & John

Dad-vice

by Steven York

Staff Dad

How do I tell a girl I want to date her?

Well back when I was your age the drinking age was 18 so I've always just drank three whiskeys and then drove to her house and asked her father for permission to marry her.

What should I do on a first date?

Well if you've secured her father's approval treat yourself to a whiskey and avoid blacking out until the final hour of the date.

How much should I spend on an engagement ring?

For my first engagement ring I just drank another two whiskeys and told her that her dad said we could get married. She seemed okay with it.

How do you know if you've found the one?

Her father will offer you a very generous dowry and a fifth whiskey.

What's the right time to start considering having kids?

I mean Mark was just an accident so I'm no real expert here.

How does a divorce affect your lifestyle?

I've been told the divorces were an effect of my lifestyle.

When should you start planning for retirement?

In my experience it should be well before your first three years in prison.

What's a good first job?

Are we talking purely legal?

What should I do when I move into my first house?

Be absolutley certain the arson investigator is bad at his job, you're going to need that insurance money to post bail.

How do you do your taxes?

Well first you pour yourself a glass of whiskey, you drink the whiskey and then you don't pay your taxes.

A Part of HERstory: Millions Lend Their Voices at Women's Marches

36 Hours of Inspiration

by Stacey Lacina

Staff Activist

My experience with the Women's March on Washington started on Facebook. In the weeks after election night—when all I did was blog angrily and watch *SNL* while laughing bitterly—I was looking for something to do, some action to take where my voice could be heard. And that's when I saw the Women's March. It was shared on my Facebook page by a former English professor (a rather unexpected source). Back then, we had no idea how big this march would get. As January snuck up on us, it became increasingly clear that the Women's March was not just some run-of-the-mill protest. Hundreds of thousands of people were going to show up, and despite my family's concerns about safety, my mom finished knitting me a Pussyhat™ and sent me on my way.

Two friends and I left NYC on a Megabus with shitty WiFi and even shittier seats at 10 PM on Friday, January 20th. Pointedly ignoring all inauguration coverage, we arrived at Union Station at 3 AM and proceeded to sleep for 5 hours. The march began at 10 AM, so when the time came (after we had bought coffee with 3 espresso shots each), we left our little isolated corner and emerged outside. Immediately, we were overwhelmed by crowds of hundreds of women wearing pink Pussyhats and waving Nasty Women signs.

To be completely honest, it was one of the most incredible things I have ever seen, and I almost started crying. We marched and waved our signs, sang, chanted, and for the first time since November, I felt hopeful. I have been to a lot of protests in my life (since I'm such a "durn hippie liberal"), but this was the most diverse, the most united, and most emotional one I have ever attended. Being able to march with hundreds of thousands of other women who feel as strongly about our pussy-grabbing, rapist president as I do was encouraging, to say the least. It was a beautiful and

Three students share their stories of hope, inspiration, and love

inspiring day, with a group of beautiful and inspiring people.

Between 10 AM and 4 PM, we marched down the National Mall, from the Capitol Building to the Washington Monument, and eventually, we ended at the White House. Trump didn't make any comments about our protest that day, but as half a million women stood strong outside the center of government, ready to fight in order to take back our rights, I imagine that he must have felt a modicum of fear. Good. Because he should be afraid.

A Crossroad for Equality

by Colleen Burns

Opinions Co-Editor

On January 21st, I attended the Women's March on New York City, marching to protest injustice, advocate equality, and perhaps gain some sort of solace after the presidential inauguration of a racist, sexist, anti-gay (the list goes on) Cheeto. I had been thinking about the march for days leading up to that Saturday. With my sister planning to attend the D.C. March, constant Facebook event updates, and the excited chatter among my friends, the march was more than on my mind. However, I could never have imagined the feeling of marching in solidarity with 250,000 people or the newfound hope I gained for America's future as I walked out of Grand Central station.

The streets were packed with people of differing gender, race, sexuality, age, and ability. Practically everyone had thoughtfully crafted signs, stating phrases such as, "Women's Rights are Human Rights" and "Love Trumps Hate," while voices chanted, expressing these same sentiments. Most importantly, the streets were packed with sheer determination to be heard. Among the people, the signs, the chants, and the unifying desire for equality, I was overcome with the feeling that history was being made.

But let's pause: my experience was not everyone's experience. While I felt empowered and moved

by this march, others felt excluded. Namely, many women in the trans community felt ostracized by the large number of people marching with pussy hats, as not all women have female genital parts. Although the pussy hats were a direct response to President Trump's rhetoric, they were fixated on in a way that incorrectly equated sex and gender, causing a march for equality to feel like a march for selective equality.

While from my perspective the march was successfully intersectional with a diverse group of speakers and marchers campaigning for everyone's equality, I later learned my privilege had blinded me. For instance, the media showered the Women's March with praises that were never given to the Black Lives Matter movement. Additionally, two questions kept surfacing: if white and black women are fighting for the same rights, where were all these white women at the BLM protests, and will they show up to the next one?

Now we come to debatably an even more important marker in history because we are at a crossroad. One road pits these differing social groups against each other while another road leads to true collaboration to attain justice and equality for all. The second road will inevitably be harder but unequivocally worthwhile.

Right Hand Woman

by Kelly Tyra

Deaditor-in-Chief

As my three friends and I drove from Manhattan to D.C. for the Women's March on Washington, I listened to *Hamilton* for the first time. It seemed fitting and even eerie as the cast who confronted Mike Pence just months earlier sang my reality, "Today there are four of us, tomorrow there'll be more of us." We woke early the next morning. A mile from the mall at 8 AM the city was silent. We finished our signs for the march over bagels and coffee. On our way out the deli owner wished us luck. Broken glass from

anti-Trump outbursts the night before sparkled on the sidewalk outside his door.

We made our way to the center of the city as pink hats began to color the sidewalks. Street signs for the National Mall and Newseum were joined by handwritten posters of various colors, languages, and shade levels. Anti-Trump confetti stirred in the breeze amongst bare bone bleachers from the presidential parade. The crowd began to thicken. We walked until we were surrounded, coming to a stop before the teleprompter at the National Museum of the American Indian. There we stood for five hours, watching senators, celebrities, and organizers on the screen, scanning the crowd to see people hanging on streetlights and kids climbing trees for a better look at the masses gathered.

Though we heard little to nothing from the stage, we knew the crowds who had converged did not need to hear the impassioned words as much those who were absent. Suddenly, we were moving. Though the march had been cancelled due to the size of the crowd, we could not be stopped. The area between the Capitol Building and the Washington Monument was a sea of support and poster paper. We started and joined in various chants, "Thank you, Obama," "Our bodies, our choice," "We want a leader not a creepy tweeter," "Si se puede." As one group grew tired, another grew strong and the words echoed across the crowd and country in symphony. A woman behind us offered a snack and turned out to be a Fordham professor of theology who had driven down with her husband. My freshman year roommate who had since transferred to a school in Texas sent me Snapchats from somewhere in the crowd. My sister sent me texts from the March in Providence, my mother from the March in New York.

We arrived back on campus just as the march towards Mugz began. I hit the showers, feeling nastier than ever, humming *Hamilton* under my breath.



Rachel's Rad Rogue One Review

by Rachel Poe
News Co-Editor

I went to the movies way too much over break; one weekend, I think I went there three times. But could you blame me? We had masterpieces like *Hidden Figures* and then overrated movies like *La La Land* so I probably could have spent days just movie hopping. But the crème de la crème for me had to have been *Rogue One*. I saw it twice and as I'm writing this article, I'm very tempted to go pay money and see it a third time. It's that good.

Caution: spoilers ahead! (Sorry Meredith)

Okay so for those of you who have been living under a rock for the past couple months, Star Wars dropped their first standalone film in the middle December called *Rogue One* which was supposed to tell the story of how the Rebel Alliance obtained the Death Star plans that we see in *A New Hope*, the OG of the Star Wars films. What occurs is a classic ragtag team of a bunch of adorable misfits yelling fight me at the world and it's awesome.

Hands down, this is my favorite Star Wars movie. I didn't grow up watching the movies so the original trilogy isn't nostalgic for me and being a smart person, I completely avoided the prequels. So, my first real in theater experience with Star Wars was the *Force Awakens* which came out in December, 2015. *The Force Awakens* was great but I felt like it fell short of something. Truth be told, I was barely a Star Wars fan before I saw it and I was already over this whole Keeping Up with the Skywalkers bullshit. Every problem in the main series could literally be solved by some much needed family therapy.

So what's great about *Rogue One* is that it's not about a Skywalker and we get to see the Star Wars universe from

"Rag Tag Team of Adorable Misfits"

a completely different perspective. The Rebellion is a flawed, struggling entity that gets humanized. The viewer is reminded of the fact that, in war, the lines between good and evil often get blurred. This movie hits a depth that I don't think Star Wars has ever really reached. The characters were complex and handled the struggle between what was right and wrong way better than any Skywalker could. (*cough* lil



bitch Kylo Ren *cough*)

Even without a Skywalker, it still feels like a Star Wars movie. Since it's set right before the first of the original trilogy, there's a heavy amount of overlapping characters, sets, and technology and there's even those quintessential Star Wars themes: desperate power grabs, good vs. evil, familial connections, sacrifice. It's all there.

But in the end, it was the characters that really made this film. While the plot was solid, filling in gaps from the original trilogy, it would be nothing with-

out the characters. *Rogue One's* crew consisted of Jyn Erso (Felicity Jones), ex-militant rebel and daughter of the creator of the Death Star; Captain Cassian Andor (Diego Luna), top recruiter for Rebel Intelligence, and his sassy, reprogrammed Imperial Droid sidekick, K2SO (Alan Tudyk); Bodhi Rook (Riz Ahmed), an Imperial cargo pilot who is sent by Jyn's father to spread the news of the Death Star and its fatal flaw; and

girling about this movie, guys, I really did just love it so much. But like, I'm pretty sure if you were to make a pie chart of all the reasons why I loved *Rogue One*, Diego Luna would definitely be like a solid 34 %.)

However, I do have one major critique that isn't related to how they ALL FUCKING DIED AND RIPPED MY HEART OUT and it's the simple fact that Star Wars needs more women, especially women of color. News flash @ all movie/TV writers: it's just as easy to write a female character as it is to write a male. But even though it didn't have as much female representation as I would have like, it's still a step in the right direction considering all the stuff it does do right.

What makes *Rogue One* so special is the fact that it's the movie we need right now. Cassian, who is the male lead, has a Mexican accent; the entire cast is unapologetically racially diverse; Jyn Erso, the only female member of *Rogue One*, is never sexualized or spoken down to because she's a woman; and the entire premise of the movie is fighting back against a fascist regime. Legit, petty fake fan boys were going to protest the movie because they thought it was anti-Trump propaganda. If that doesn't make you want to see it, I don't know what will.

Rogue One proves that Star Wars is willing to take risks. First Han Solo and now the crew of *Rogue One*. None of your faves are safe now that George Lucas isn't pulling the strings. *Rogue One* is hysterical, gritty, and a well-deserved addition to the Star Wars universe. With the added diversity, the improving scripts, and the all-around badass special effects, I'm so pumped to see what Star Wars has in store next. All I hope is that Episode VIII doesn't break my heart nearly as much.

Chirrut Iwme (Donnie Yen) and Baze Malbus (Jiang Wen), Guardians of the Jedi temple on the moon, Jedha, whose relationship can only be summarized as old-married, space dads. When I said ragtag, I meant it. The cast had great chemistry on top of the already better than normal Star Wars script, making it stand apart from your average blockbuster movie. They made you laugh, they made you cry, and they made you want a buddy cop movie of K2SO and Cassian.

(I'm really trying to hold in my fan-

EVENTS

What: Guest Speaker: Joe McDonough from the B+ Foundation

Where: Keating 1st

When: Sun. Feb. 12th @6PM to 8PM

How Much: FREE

Why: It's an opportunity to learn about the mission of the B+ Foundation.

What: Generation Citizen Info Session

Where: McGinley 2nd

When: Thurs. Feb. 2nd & Tues. Feb. 7th @7:30 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: If you are interested in teaching, social justice, leadership, a resume booster or access to internships, Generation Citizen may be a great club and non-profit organization for you!

What: WAC February Bingo

Where: Keating 1st

When: Sun. Feb. 12th @9PM

How Much: First Bingo card is free, additional cards are \$1

Why: Bingo's fun, and you can win prizes!

Video Game Females Need Adequate Armor

by Jeremy Berlinski
Staff Game Boy

Over the past few decades, the use of video games has found a way to integrate itself into countless cultures across the globe. Countless stories, premises, and worlds have been created in the world of video games, so much that extremely popular genres have been popping up in almost all games that can be found on most teenagers' shelves. Some of the more popular genres include first-person shooters, strategy games, vehicle simulation, and role-playing games (RPGs). However, a certain trend has appeared in nearly all video game genres, especially in the sub-genre of war games that emphasize strategic or tactical warfare, to the point where it has become a stereotype in the gaming world. Of course, this trend refers to the extremely inappropriate portrayal of women, leaving the feminist community, and the general public, in a great uproar.

All too often in video games, it can be seen that women are found wearing nothing more than the stereotypical short skirt and sports bra. In the previously mentioned war games that almost always involve the male characters being heavily armored and participating in hand-to-hand combat, the skimpy apparel of female characters becomes an even greater problem, more so than just being inappropriately dressed for the weather. While male characters are heavily suited up for intense combat while the female characters are portrayed as being clad in flimsy armor that barely covers their bodies. Their "armor" leaves much of the crucial regions of the body vulnerable, such as the abdominal region and the limbs. The feminist community has relentlessly pointed out that portraying women dressed in inappropriate battle armor sends the world the message that women are too stupid to dress themselves according to proper battle code. They continue to ask the undying question: Why make women leave so many crucial regions of the body so open to easy attacks and critical hits?

"My son and daughter love to play

A satirical look at a gaming glitch

World of Warcraft and other similar games in lieu of having any friends" says Cindy Minelsi, clutching her children's hands affectionately. "It always pains me to see the girl fighters leaving themselves so vulnerable to crucial blows! What kind of message does that send to my daughter?"

Minelsi went on to give an account of her seven-year-old daughter, Vanessa, going out for a bicycle ride and refusing to strap on her helmet. In fact, she went so far as to refuse to put on her knee and shoulder pads. "Why should I have to protect myself?" Minelsi recalls her daughter shouting back after Mi-



nelsi tried to strap on the appropriate gear. "If the warriors in *World of Warcraft* don't need to protect themselves, why should I have to?"

After giving in to her stubborn daughter, Vanessa had to be consoled by her mother after becoming very upset when she scraped her knee. A gruesome shallow laceration that required Neosporin and three band-aids resulted in the lack of the proper armor necessary to safely ride a bike. This occurred three weeks prior.

Minelsi involuntarily moves her hand across her daughter's knee where she bears the scars of social injustice.

Upon hearing the news of the tragic accident suffered by Vanessa, Tom Chilton, one of the lead designers of *World of Warcraft* and Lead Game Designer currently working for Blizzard Entertainment, expresses that he can't

help but feel partially responsible for Vanessa's fate. "*World of Warcraft*, and other games alike, have been subliminally telling its audience that girls do not need to wear protective gear during dangerous activities" Chilton explains. "How? Well, in our game, women leave so much of their body exposed, leaving their attackers with an easy chance to go in for a fatal blow."

Chilton went on to explain that if the female fighters in the game were dressed in armor that was just an eighth of an inch thick, fatal injuries for female characters would decrease by 78 percent, a substantial number in the gaming world.

"It gives the gamer a sense of edge, a sense of adventure and added danger. The audience responds to the fact that the female characters are less protected" Chilton reasoned after being asked why the designers do not just dress the female characters appropriately for battle. "It's what makes games like these truly unique. If we gave in to these demands and put more clothes and armor on the female fighters, we'd lose more than half of our audience."

Fred Klifdon, a 42-year-old single man from Seattle, Washington, responded "Chilton is a good man" when inquired about

his thoughts regarding Chilton's refusal to appropriately attire the female fighters in his all-too-popular computer game. "I think it's kinda hawt," Klifdon added with a chuckle and a wide grin that scrunched up his poorly-groomed salt-and-pepper mustache.

While game developers continue to refuse to dress women appropriately for battle as a result of their business interests, stories like Vanessa Minelsi will continue to rear their ugly heads in the news. When impressionable children spend as much time playing video games as they do today, the tiniest details of the game are able to construct a bridge from the fantasy world to the real world of the child. Video games have become too big a part in our daily lives to let game designers and developers get away with such a promotion of social injustice.

Predicting the Oscars Prior to the Program

by Nick Englander
Staff Critic

Possible prize-winners for the prestigious show

2016 was a strong year for the film industry. Much-anticipated movies such as Lucasfilm's *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* and Marvel's *Captain America: Civil War* were released to critical acclaim. But 2016 also produced many surprise movies as contenders for Oscar contenders. From movies such as Damien Chazelle's *La La Land* to Barry Jenkins' *Moonlight*, and even Kenneth Lonergan's *Manchester by the Sea*, the Best Picture award should be a very close race for the Academy. Other hotly contested votes include Best Actress, Best Actor and Best Screenplay. Nonetheless, here are the picks for each major Academy Award.

Best Picture: *La La Land*
Land

La La Land revives the musical genre in film, and features strong performances from lead stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone. The film also features a brilliant soundtrack, and should be the front-runner for Best Original Score. Currently the betting frontrunner at 1-3 odds as well, the movie figures to please Oscar voters, who typically vote for joyous movies over more depressing ones.

Nonetheless, the Best Picture award seems to be a far more controversial topic amongst fans. Some feel that other contenders, specifically *Moonlight*, focus on far more important issues than *La La Land*. The film is one of the few to focus on poverty and sexuality issues for black people in today's society. Other contenders include *Manchester by the Sea*, which looks to be the defining movie of Casey Affleck's career, and *Fences*, where Denzel Washington steals the show and pushes the movie to Oscar contention.

Best Actor: Casey Affleck, *Manchester by the Sea*

This is one of the few votes that should be near-unanimous. Casey Affleck puts in his greatest acting performance ever in *Manchester by the Sea* in which he plays a janitor living in Massachusetts. He's trying to put his life back together, when he hears of his brother's death and his new role of being his nephew's guardian. Initially unmotivated to be the guardian, Chandler spends the film trying to reconnect with his family, friends and old life back

Stone gets the nod due to her shining performance in *La La Land*, where she proves to not only have acting skills, but also singing and dancing skills as well. Stone plays the aspiring actress Mia, who struggles to receive roles and acclaim for her play. She falls in love with Ryan Gosling's character Sebastian, who is an aspiring Jazz pianist and hopeful Jazz club owner. Stone demonstrates her acting chops in showing the struggle of actresses in America and her changing emotions from her relationship with Sebastian.

Other contenders for the award include Meryl Streep for *Florence Foster Jenkins* and Natalie Portman for her role in *Jackie*, in which she plays Jackie Kennedy and her role after JFK was shot and killed.

Best Director: Barry Jenkins, *Moonlight*

This is a surprise pick. *Moonlight* is a fascinating movie, one that is not only powered by great acting but phenomenal directing as well. Barry Jenkins is a clear underdog in this instance to Damien Chazelle, director of *La La Land*, but this time, the Academy

will give Jenkins his deserving award. Jenkins chooses to focus on a far more serious subject than Chazelle, thus causing more difficulty in direction of the film due to having to present a new subject in a different way. Jenkins gives *Moonlight* a "real-life" feeling, and puts the viewer truly in the perspective of the struggles of the main character.

Other contenders for the award are the previously mentioned Chazelle and *Manchester by the Sea* director Kenneth Lonergan.

It should be another tremendous and controversial year for the Oscars, and certainly one to keep an eye on.



when he used to live in Manchester.

Affleck masterfully plays the role of Chandler, who goes through significant struggles throughout the film. Affleck proves that he has the acting chops to be a main star, despite being constantly overshadowed by his brother Ben. Other contenders for this award include Oscar usual Denzel Washington for *Fences* and first-timer Andrew Garfield for *Hacksaw Ridge*.

Best Actress: Emma Stone, *La La Land*

Unlike Best Actor, the pick for Best Actress should be a lot closer. Emma

SHOWS

What: Bedtime Stories
Where: Lincoln Center
12th Floor Lounge
When: Wed. Feb. 15th @
7:00PM
How Much: FREE
Why: The sandman's
calling you, and the Ford-
ham Hot Notes will be
singing lullabies.

What: Cinevent: *Inferno*
Where: Keating 1st
When: Mon. Feb. 6th &
Wed. Feb. 8th @9:00 PM
How Much: FREE
Why: It beats paying \$15
to see it in theaters!

What: Cinevent: *Moana*
Where: Keating 1st
When: Mon. Feb. 13th
& Wed. Feb. 15th @9:00
PM
How Much: FREE
Why: It's a fun Disney
musical, what a treat!

Drawing Conclusions About the Best Animated Feature Oscar

by Meredith McLaughlin

Copy Editor

With the Oscars coming up, I find myself asking a question I think about every year: will the Oscars judge their animation nominees properly? Honestly, I don't know. I'm not huge on watching the Oscars, but if there's one category I care about it's the award for Best Animated Feature. When it comes to the animation section of the Oscars, many people who are passionate about the medium find that the Academy does a pretty bad job accurately judging which film is actually "the best." The Oscars have been judging animation as a separate category since 2001, and Disney/Pixar has won the award 10 out of the 15 times. While I think we can all agree that Disney makes pretty quality movies, when compared to other films with less brand recognition, they often come out as the lesser film. This is because the people judging animation at the Oscars have no idea what they're doing.

Disney drives the Oscars 10 out of 15 times

Hollywood Reporter's Scott Feinberg interviewed seven Academy Voters on their voting process for the 2015 Best Animated award, and got some interesting reactions from the apparently distinguished critics. Two out of the seven voters didn't even see any of the movies, and those who did seemed more concerned that *The Lego Movie* wasn't nominated than in the actual quality of the movies. Voter #5 in particular was quite stung by *The Lego Movie*'s snub, "When a movie is that successful and culturally hits all the right chords and does that kind of box-office — for that movie not to be in over these two obscure freakin' Chinese fuckin' things that nobody ever freakin' saw? That is my biggest bitch. Most people didn't even know what they were!" The Oscars is supposed to judge quality, not popularity, but I'm not an Academy judge so what do I



know? On a side note the two "Chinese Fuckin' things" are apparently referring to the Irish film *Song of the Sea* and the Japanese film *The Tale of Princess Kaguya*. Both of those movies have 99% and 100% scores on Rotten Tomatoes respectively, which easily beats award winner *Big Hero 6*'s score of 89%. I'm not saying that *Big Hero 6* is a bad film, but it does seem that these judges will vote for the most popular film rather than the most impressive film. And 10 times out of 15, that film is coming from Disney studios.

Animation is a complex medium that needs judges who know what they're talking about; having people with no objective understanding of animation judge which film is the best is like having Rob Schneider have the final say in the Best Actor category.

So it's clear that the Academy judges aren't credible critics of animated

films. Two of the nominees this year, *Moana* and *Zootopia*, are Disney studio movies. And like in 2014, their competition boasts high critical acclaim despite not being as popular as the films from Disney. However, I wouldn't be too troubled if *Moana* won considering it is a quality movie that deserves the praise it gets. But while *Zootopia* is also a good movie I wouldn't consider it being more worthy than *Kubo and the Two Strings* or *My Life as a Courgette* for the Golden Globe it received. All I'm asking for this year is for the Academy to break out of their Disney favoritism and judge these films fairly. All because Disney is the most popular studio doesn't mean their movies are inherently better than those that got less recognition. I mean a 150 billion dollar film is bound to have better advertising than Laika Studios but that doesn't mean the bigger-budget film is deserving of the award.

Uncharted Film Exploring Dangerous Ground

By Scott Saffran

Copy Editor

For those unfamiliar, *Uncharted* is a series of action adventure video games based on the exploits of adventurer/thief Nathan Drake and his search for the world's greatest lost treasures. While the game series is exclusive to the PlayStation platform, it has garnered fans from across the world. All four of the titles of the game have been critically acclaimed and publicly adored, culminating in *Uncharted 4: A Thief's End* and bringing the total sales to over 35 million copies worldwide. I count myself as one of those fanatics, and can lay claim to contributing to those impressive sales numbers. It took some time for me to embrace the series properly, but once I overcame the console barrier, I dove right into the world of *Uncharted*. I have spent the last year playing and replaying the games out of order and as I completed the third installment few weeks ago, a curious news item came across the wire; Joe Carnahan, director of The

When plumbers fail, send in Nathan Drake

Grey, announced, via his social media accounts, that an *Uncharted* movie script had been completed.

Video game films have become notorious for their lackluster quality from the absolutely abysmal *Super Mario Bros.* adaptation all the way to the upsetting attempt at an *Assassin's Creed* film. There have been glints of hope and we do continue to invest at every new chance (see *World of Warcraft*), but the door is closing as returns diminish continuously. There will come a point when the store of narratives available in video games cannot justify the almost inevitable collapse at the box office. I see that day on the horizon after the commercial failure of *Assassin's Creed*, but it does not mean doomsday

cannot be postponed.

Will the impending *Uncharted* film be the one to buck this terrible trend? Will it finally be the faithful game adaptation that pleases critics and causal moviegoers alike? I do not have an inkling of what the project will entail, so I can't say. However, I can be positive about its potential. *Uncharted* is a modern day *Indiana Jones* with a protagonist in Nathan Drake who is likeable, believable, and relatable. It's effectively the middle ground between *Jones* and *National Treasure* in its balance of history, action, intrigue, gunplay, and a race against a cartel of greedy evildoers. The focus can therefore be on story and the incredible cast of human characters available, not necessarily on in-



novating an entirely new narrative style or developing intense CGI beasts of myth. There is a tremendous amount of opportunity given to Joe Carnahan in undertaking this project. That, certainly, does not mean the movie will be good, but it does allow for exploration and invention. At the moment, *Uncharted* is both a very doable genre piece and a chance to craft a blockbuster with emotion and substance.

Still, at the end of the day, we as a community of gaming enthusiasts have to ask ourselves if this will be worth it. Are we setting up for failure by demanding more of a crumbling enterprise? Why do we think *Uncharted* will be any better or different from past attempts? I blame it on the inherent optimism of a story about a young orphan grown into a man chasing treasure and discovery. I think that we will find El Dorado, that we will see Shambhala. Undoubtedly, it is a risk but no worthwhile fortune was ever discovered without a good gamble.

A Life Remembered: Carrie Fisher

by Maureen Shelley
Staff Actor Appreciator

She will never be forgotten...

On December 27, 2016, actress, author, and screenwriter, Carrie Fisher, died tragically of a heart attack whilst on board a transatlantic flight from London to Los Angeles after having been hospitalized in LA upon landing. Her mother, Debbie Reynolds, starlet of *Singin' in the Rain*, died the following day upon hearing of the loss of her daughter. As Fisher's brother and Reynold's son, Todd Fisher, put it, "She wanted to be with Carrie."

Fisher and Reynolds relationship was unique, akin to that of Lorelai and Rory Gilmore for any *Gilmore Girls* fans out there who need a point of reference. The two lived next door to one another for decades and frequently appeared on the red carpet and on-stage together. In early January 2017, a documentary was released on HBO about their relationship entitled, *Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds*; it features home video footage from their days of youth as well as recent unseen footage. Fisher and Reynolds lived somewhat tumultuous and definitively interesting lives alongside one another; from the estrangement of Fisher's father and Reynold's husband, Eddie, who infamously left the family to marry Elizabeth Taylor in 1959, to Fisher's own divorces, the first from singer-songwriter Paul Simon to whom she was married for less than a year, and the second from Hollywood agent Bryan Lourd who left her for a man after the two had one daughter, Billie, together.

Despite the struggles endured by Fisher, she was fiercely determined to not let life get the best of her. From a young age she learned to laugh at every turn in order to prevent herself from succumbing to the tragedies and heartaches that seemed to follow

her. Such a skill was necessary when she battled drug addiction during the 1980s, and following a self-admission to a 30 day rehabilitation center, Fisher put her feelings to the page and began a career as a screenwriter and author. Among her written works is the semi-autobiographical novel, *Postcards from the Edge*, which she later adapted into a screenplay by the same title about a young actress who tries to rebuild her life after a drug overdose.

gana is by far Fisher's most iconic role, and sparked her career as well as the fantasies of a generation that became enthralled with not only her beauty but her brawn. Fisher easily quipped one-liners, "Aren't you a little short for a Stormtrooper?", and brandished laser firing weapons all while managing to stay upright with two giant cinnamon bun shaped braids attached to the side of her head (a look she deeply resented). As Leia, Fisher exemplified

she was also actively involved in many causes in real life. Fisher was among the famous Hollywood individuals that opened up about their struggles with mental illness; she never shied away from talking about her diagnosis with bipolar disorder. Fisher was a leading figure in the opening of a public dialogue about addressing mental illnesses as valid diseases, and served as an inspirational figure to people across the globe afflicted with mental illness.

Recently, Fisher's visage and inspiring fight for human rights has been seen at the center of another movement, that of the Women's March which transpired this past weekend day after the presidential inauguration of the controversial reality TV star and businessman, Donald Trump. Posters brandishing her likeness and quotes by her or the characters she portrayed seemed to be in abundance at marches. Some of the most memorable posters were adorned with Fisher's *Star Wars* character, Leia, and read, "A woman's place is in the resistance," a clear homage to the character's role in the cinematic universe, and to Fisher's role as an advocate for human rights.

Fans will get the opportunity to see Fisher onscreen one final time as she once again takes on the role of General Leia Organa in the next installment of the *Star Wars* franchise, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, set to premiere December 2017, which she completed filming for before her death. In the meantime, if one wishes to get a true feel of who Carrie Fisher was as a person, take a few minutes to watch her roast of *Star Wars* creator, George Lucas, at the American Film Institute Life Achievement Award from 2009. She roasts as she lived her life, brilliantly and unapologetically.



Fisher's engagement with the arts began at a young age as the daughter of two stars, some of her first appearances being alongside her mother on Broadway before her breakout in 1976 when she beat out the likes of Sissy Spacek and Jodie Foster to the role of Princess Leia in the *Star Wars* films. Princess (now General) Leia Or-

gan is by far Fisher's most iconic role, and sparked her career as well as the fantasies of a generation that became enthralled with not only her beauty but her brawn. Fisher easily quipped one-liners, "Aren't you a little short for a Stormtrooper?", and brandished laser firing weapons all while managing to stay upright with two giant cinnamon bun shaped braids attached to the side of her head (a look she deeply resented). As Leia, Fisher exemplified

the kind of rich characterization that Hollywood cinema seemed to lack for women at times, asserting that she could take care of herself, but was not above admitting her feelings when the time presented itself.

While Fisher certainly pulled off playing the role of a leader in the fictional rebellion which transpired onscreen,



Memes?

On my PC?

It's more likely than you think.

FREE PC CHECK!

CONTENTWATCH



Day 1: Start Stockpiling Supplies.

You'll need a lot of supplies to get yourself through these trying times.

the paper recommends: Bryers ice cream, chocolate, onsies, mace, and deer urine of the black market.

Our tip: choose a onsie with a hole in the back, so you never have to change!

Day 2: Say your Goodbyes

The best way to get through Valentine's day is to isolate yourself from society. You never know if one of your "friends" will betray you and reveal that they have actual plans for that day! Avoidance is the best policy. Start saying goodbye to your freinds--you won't be able to talk to them from this point on until after the holiday.

Our Tip: Don't say goodbye to Jamie, what a total bitch.

Day 3: Make a List for V-Day Movie Marathon

Why live your own life when you can watch others do it from the comfort of your own home? Make sure to buy enough movies to last at least 24 hours.

Our Tip: Avoid Rom-Coms, or anything that reminds you of what's happening outside.

Day 4: Home-Along The Shit Out Of Your House

Some of the best defences to deter any possible human contact and relationships can be found at home. Tie paint cans to rope, put thumbtacks on your front stoop, the whole nine yards.

Our Tip: Make sure to change your locks, Jamie still has your spare key.

Day 5: Mentally Prepare to Hibernate For Two Days

Listen buddy, being a hermit isn't easy. Try some meditation, breathing exercises, and make sure you don't let the impending feeling of loneliness and despair set in.

Our Tip: FIGHT IT, KEEP FIGHTING IT.

Day 6: Vacuum the Carpet

Why fall into a downward spiral of self pity and misery with a dirty rug? Just because you're a lonely loser, doesn't mean you can ignore all your responsibilities.

Our Tip: Use a bagless Vacuum cleaner. Its better for the environment.

Day 7: Final Preparations

Tomorrow is the big day, so make final preparations to ensure success on the big day. Close your blinds, don your onsie, and take your first shot.

Our Tip: Pace yourself on the cookies and cream there, friend.

Day 8: Valentine's Day

Assume the position! Lock all your doors, wrap yourself in a blanket like a self-loathing burrito, and put your movie playlist on autoplay. Consume enough ice cream and alcohol that you pass out in a sugary, boozy bliss.

Our Tip: Don't celebrate until you wake up on the 15th.



BY the political analyst team

The exciting first 100 days are here and President Trump certainly has been making headlines with his executive actions. Here at the paper staff, we decided to give the President some suggestions to pass some more fun measures during this important time.

**I'd Rather Have Nothing
by John Looby**

I'd like to think my first hundred days would be super productive and amazing for the world at large, but I know myself. I would fuck this up so bad. First 99 days I will accomplish figuratively nothing. I mean breathing counts I guess. I'd treat this like any term paper I have ever written and by that I mean leave everything up to the last day and then crank out everything in a caffeine-fueled constant state of panic. I'd install a legal mandate that every dog in a shelter be adopted at around 11:57 PM on the 100th day. In all honesty most of what I do would be entirely dog related. I assume that I ran on a dog related platform in this situation because I have less than no political nuance in anything I do. Anyway so yeah I'd just make the world better for dogs I guess.

**Memeocracy
by Matthew Whitaker**

In my first hundred days, I would rebuild our entire economic system around memes. The American dollar would be replaced with memes. No option for exchange would be provided. Thus, I would become incredibly rich because I have over 3500 memes. This might be a conflict of interest. Normie memes would be outlawed, and the punishment for sharing normie memes would be life in prison. Anime would be banned as well. Memeology would be added as a field of study at every public

American university. A meme welfare system would be put in place, ensuring all Americans have equal access to memes. I believe these changes would take America to new levels of economic and social media success.

**A Mermaid America
by Your Local Mermaid**

What would I do in the first 100 days of office? Well first, I would get us the hell out of there!! I think we can all agree that it's time for a little change of scenery. Don't worry though!

I have spoken with the Mermaid Council, and they have agreed to allow us to join the Mako pod (housed around Mako Island off of Australia) under a few pertinent conditions. First, leave the wrinkly orange lobster in D.C. I think the reason why is a given. Second, make sure to abide by mermaid law. Mermaids and Mermen have been around a lot longer than humans (don't tell the monkeys we really evolved from sea creatures) and therefore, their laws are highly advanced and may come off as a surprise to some people. For example, Mermaids and Mermen are equal in the Mako pod...absurd! Finally, the last condition that the Council posed for our stay requires 50,000 pounds of shrimp and cuttlefish because the U.S.'s fishing industry has been depleting the pods resources for years. It shouldn't be too difficult for us to abide by these mermaid laws seeing as we are receiving tails in exchange. A Great America is a Mermaid America!



THE BIG LIST

ALL GOOD PUPPERS DESERVE MORE TENNIS BALLS!



**Toad 4 Prez 2020
by Meredith McLaughlin**

My first 100 days would be fantastic because I'd devote all funds to a campaign that puts toads in a positive life. I'm talking aggressive ads that interrupt your Youtube videos and Spotify playlists. The problem is that everyone loves to act like toads are ugly and gross because they have bumps, but if anything that just adds to their stone cold aesthetic. All they do is chill and look vaguely annoyed all the time, which I think is something everyone aspires to be. Take

out your phone right now and look up a picture of a toad. You see that face? That's the face of an amphibian that's literally too cool to care about your pettiness. That face NEEDS to be the face we put out to our enemies overseas. All I'm

saying is that America needs to wake up and celebrate our bumpy friends hanging out in the bog.

**Make America Art Again
By Militant Art Historian**

If I were president I would make everything art history related. Everyone always gives me a hard time and asks me the rude question "What are you ever going to do with an art history degree?" Well I'd switch everything up and ask everyone "What are you going to do WITHOUT an art history degree?" I'd start wars with Italy and France to steal all of their artwork. Every subject taught would require the involvement of painting and sculpture. Those who can't explain the difference between biomorphism and naturalistic surrealism would be jailed

one the spot. And don't even get me started on people who think "I could do that" when they see modern art. Don't know who Praxiteles, Filippo Lippi, or Marc Rothko are? Well you better learn bitch because change is coming.

**Royal Action
by Princess Emma**

Being of a noble descent, and having devoted a larger part of my fall semester to watching The Crown, I hold elegance and etiquette in the highest possible esteem. Unfortunately more than half of the world's population (this may or may not be an actual fact) does not share this sentiment. So, my first hundred days in office would be conclusively dedicated to spreading awareness on the relevance of class and sophistication. I would make an executive decision to add Professional Princess Studies to every school curriculum.

**You Get One Star
By President Hermit**

My first 100 days has a very simple goal. As an antisocial basket case I've always dreamed of a way to determine whether or not I should interact with somebody without actually needing to talk to them; sure you can stalk people on Facebook but that's only surface level. My first proposal is that the government set up a national service that's basically like Yelp for people. Somebody was a dick on the subway? One star. Dude say he enjoys listening Skrillex? One star. Bastion main? One star motherfucker. Think about it, this country's efficiency would go through the roof if you only ever talked to the people that weren't scumbags!



**Foxygen
Starboy**
By Declan Murphy

How would one describe the music of Foxygen? Part indie, part glam, part “other”—the eclectic rock duo defies conventional description. This has been true of all of Foxygen’s releases to date, but none more so than this year’s *Hang*. Coming off of the band’s somewhat disappointing ...*And Star Power*, this new release marks a strong return to form that feels refreshingly new.

Hang reflects a diverse set of influences—Bowie, Elton John, David Byrne, and even ABBA. Drummer Shaun Fleming spent the years between *Hang* and ...*And Star Power* touring with his solo act, Diane Coffee, and his maturation as a performer is well reflected in this newest release. Fleming leans into his glam influences here, particularly on tracks like “On Lankershim,” and to a lesser extent, “Mrs. Adams”.

As an album, *Hang* is uneven and disjointed at points. However, when the album hits its highs, it hits them very well. “Follow the Leader” starts

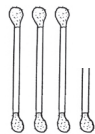
the album out on a solid note. “Avalon” is far and away the breakout song of the album, with its bombastic mix of strings, horns, and driving percussion creating an almost theatrical sound. It’s a track that wouldn’t sound out of place in *Mamma Mia*,

yet is wholly in keeping with the band’s other work. Towards the end of the album, “Upon a Hill” blends horns with more conventional rock instrumenta-



tion, leading to a dramatic climax.

The album is not without faults or less-than-stellar tracks. “Upon a Hill” blends directly into “Trauma,” a forgettable track that is all the more underwhelming for coming after one of the album’s highs. The album ends with “Rise Up,” another track that is more miss than hit. Not to mention, at only 32 minutes, *Hang* will leave you wishing there was more to dissect. But, for all its flaws, *Hang* does have tracks that rank among the band’s best, and it definitely merits a listen.



**The xx
I See You**
By Marty Gatto

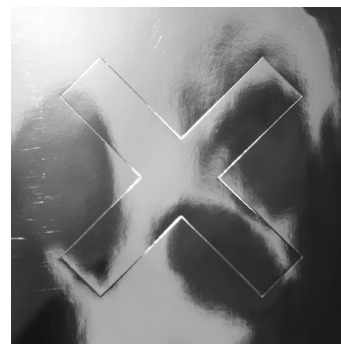
The xx just dropped a new album, *I See You*, following 2012’s *Coexist*. In general, it sounds like an Evanescence album had a child with a Lana Del Rey album, and no, this is in no way a good combination. Most of the songs are weirdly distant, while simultaneously including strong vocals. The only saving grace of the album is its background beats and rhythms, which have always been a strength of The xx.

I See You starts out with “Dangerous,” a track with interesting, repetitive rhythms, but weak vocals. “Say Some-

thing Loving” follows, with high-pitched male vocals that match the fast paced background rather well. Next was “Lips,” a slow but strong track. It features both male and female vocals with a strong, danceable beat following behind them. “Lips” is a notably high point of the album. “A Violent Noise” also has a nice, fast pace but is accompanied by somber lyrics and serious voices.

I absolutely hate “Performance.” Unfortunately, it’s quite slow, which means it takes longer to be over. “Replica” came after and was a good example of when the slow vocals of this album worked in tandem with the background rhythms. “Brave For You” was similar to “Performance” in that it exemplified the terrible dreariness of the album.

“On Hold” is truly a great song. With interweaving rhythms that flow into each other smoothly as well as casual, not over-dramatic vocals, the track exemplifies the good parts of *I See You*. Next was another strong song: “I Dare You.” After all the overuse of the slow, somber tones, “Test Me” was actually kind of a nice bookend on the whole thing. Though the song is a little empty, it at least reflected a good use of the techniques that earlier did not quite work out well.



**Japandroids
Near to the Wild Heart of Life**
By Luis Gomez

I hadn’t listened to the rest of Japandroids’ discography before starting this album so I didn’t know what to expect, but then the first track was about

leaving your hometown and I suddenly knew exactly what to expect. Their new album, *Near to the Wild Heart Of Life*, draws on a varied list of influences to create an across-rock group of tracks, with some songs bringing in distinct country or punk flavors.



What makes the album really notable is the fact that Japandroids just straight up disappeared after their last album tour. And then they just kinda announced this album would be coming out. And then it did. And it’s

pretty good! The music is all upbeat and peppy, and Japandroids’ production is crisp. Tracks like “I’m Sorry (For Not Finding You Sooner)” actually do a fair amount of emotional storytelling with ease, while other tracks are simplistic alt-whatever tracks that are a pleasure to listen to.

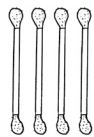
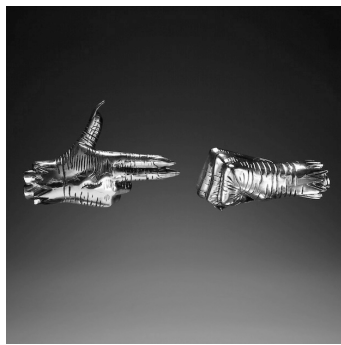
However, there’s a sameness about everything here, in part because in drawing from so many influences the album ends up losing a sense of central identity. Each song cascades into the next, and while that makes the album easy to listen to, it’s also kinda boring and lifeless. I wish there was some genuinely distinct track, but the album really just becomes a 40-minute single. Ultimately, Japandroids’ new project is nice, but underwhelms where it matters. Insert bad android-based pun here.



**Run the Jewels
Run the Jewels 3**
By John Looby

Run the Jewels 3 happened. It appeared one night out of the blue. I mean it dropped early and I just immediately listened to the whole thing. If you’re a fan of Run The Jewels this is exactly what you want and expect. El-P is still producing tracks that demand to be played exclusively at high volumes. Both El-P and Killer Mike are still expressing all the rage and discontent you’ve come to love. If your favorite insults aren’t derived from a Run The Jewels lyric fix your life please. The al-

bum feels like a big step up from *Run The Jewels 2* that at least to me was sort of a let down. The stand out track "Oh Mama" is the best song for blaring that also features an unprecedented number of references to someone's own mother. On the whole the album is another great Run The Jewels release, but certainly not a particularly groundbreaking work of art. Things haven't changed much but they didn't really have to.



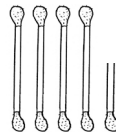
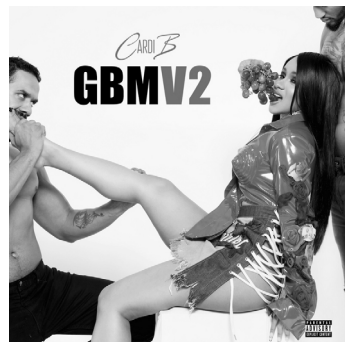
Cardi B
Gangsta Bitch Music Vol. 2
By Regana Alicka

Gangsta Bitch Music Vol. 2 is here. Three months later than initially expected, but, much like Cardi B herself, it is unapologetically here. Despite their names and similar album artwork featuring Cardi being serviced by beefy male attendants, *GBMV2* is not merely a sequel to Cardi's groundbreakingly successful first mixtape that dropped last March.

On the first track of the mixtape, a true boppington entitled "Bronx Season," Cardi asks: "Now how much times do I gotta prove these n***** wrong? And how much times I gotta show these bitches I ain't soft?" From the first three tracks on the album. "Bronx Season," "Lick," and "Hectic," it is clear that Cardi is through with trying to prove herself in an industry that has underestimated her from day one given her background as a stripper and Instagram personality. As someone who's *been* with the program and caping for Cardi long before her forays into music-making, I am truly touched by how genuinely self-confident Cardi sounds on *GBMV2*. Somehow, she

has stayed true to her roots and at the same time has leveled up in so many ways. For example, she's still using beats from *SwiftOnDemand*, but the production and vocal mixing are harder than ever. She's still doing skits (and always shouting out Fordham Road), but they're funnier than ever. Taking a cue from the success of "Island Girls," she's more overtly embracing her Caribbean roots on "Back It Up," featuring long-time collaborator HoodCelebrity and dancehall artist Konshens.

However, some elements of the album fall flat compared to these new peaks. "Never Give Up" featuring Josh X is sleeper than any of the other tracks and feels out of place. The last two tracks, "Pull Up" and "Pop Off," are bangers on their own but they feel too repetitive of the types of hardhitting lyrics and beats that make the beginning of the mixtape so strong. I was personally hoping the tape would veer into more melodic territory a la "I Gotta Hurt You" off *GBMV1*. Though there's no real reason Cardi should listen to me, she *did* warn us that she doesn't give a fuck about what anyone has to say, and honestly, I will keep living for her regardless. Love you Cardi <3



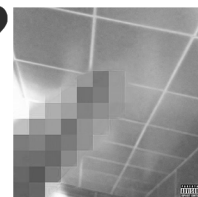
The Heavy Hearts & Heavy Bass Playlist



WAGON
EU10GY



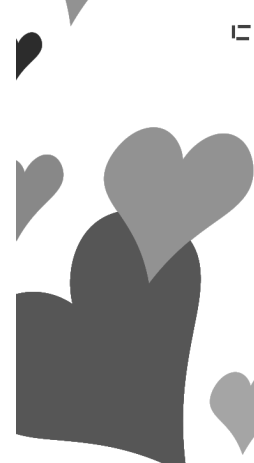
ASPIRIN
SHOW ME THE BODY



COME UP AND GET ME
DEATH GRIPS



AND I GREW INTO RIBBONS
STREET SECTS



I WON'T BE OWNED
GIRL PUSHER

