

THE PAPER

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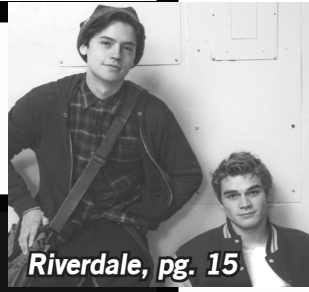




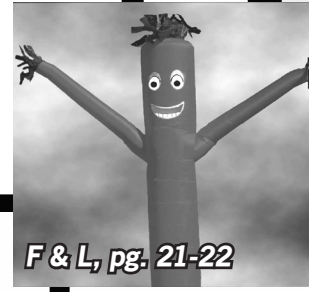
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the paper

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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.

"Source of Joy"

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NEWS

THE EVERYTHING IS TOTALLY NOT ON FIRE EDITION

Damage Report 2: Businessman Attempts Talking to Strangers

By Luis Gómez
Co-Editor in Chief

Donald Trump has spent much of the first weeks of his presidency embroiled with scandal and infighting. His administration is among the leakiest in history,

The most recent foreign policy challenges presented to his administration are those of North Korea's recent missile test and the continued unfolding of Russian involvement with Trump's campaign and administration.

North Korea

On February 12th, North Korea launched a new ballistic missile, Pukguksong-2. While the exact range capabilities of the missile are unknown, North Korean state media claims the missile has an operating range of 3500 to 5000 kilometers. Mid-range weapons of the same type are believed to have the capability to reach Guam.

The move attracted the derision of China, Russia, and the UN Security Council. However, the test was primarily believed to have been a deliberate prodding of the US, to gauge what President Trump's response would be. The news of the launch broke while the President was having dinner with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at his Mar-a-Lago resort. Notably, the President did not retire to private, secured quarters to receive the briefing, preferring to have staffers bring papers over to the two heads of state while they were in the public dining hall. The President's response was also rather interesting in that it did not mention South Korea, saying only that the United States "stands behind Japan, its great ally, 100 percent." UN ambassador Nikki Haley released a statement a day later pledging to "hold North Korea accountable — not with our words, but

Editor's note: I'm going to go cower in my bomb shelter right now

with our actions."

Agitation of this kind is common for North Korea, who have scheduled more missile tests under the rule of Kim Jong-un, after he gained control of the regime. The first missile test to occur under the Obama Administration happened a mere five and a half months in. However, with the most recent test mere weeks into a new administration, North Korea seems to be adopting a more confrontational tone.

Israel & Palestine

A new round of settlement construction in the West Bank has caused tensions to flare and was responsible for the Obama Administration's decision to abstain from a UN ruling criticizing Israel's continued expansion in the region.

Trump's meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu was surreal in his seeming lack of concern for the tensions between Israel and Palestine, or for the complexities of a two-state solution. In fact, Trump seemed to indicate that he does not value the two-state solution, a cornerstone of US-Israeli-Palestinian relations, saying at the press conference that, "I'm looking at two-state and one-state, and I like the one that both parties like. I'm very happy with the one that both parties like. I can live with either one. I thought for a while the two-state looked like it may

be the easier of the two. But honestly, if Bibi and if the Palestinians — if Israel and the Palestinians are happy, I'm happy with the one they like the best."

If Trump's view on these matters becomes the administration's de facto approach to Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, it's possible that the US enters a period of surprising restraint in its Middle Eastern foreign policy — not advocating for a two-state solution essentially leaves Israel and Palestine in a position to argue, or fight, over what to do and the US will act as a rubber stamp.

Russia

Russia has been intertwined with the Trump presidency since the campaign, when US intelligence officials reported that the DNC had been hacked by a

foreign actor. The unfolding saga of Michael Flynn's resignation, coupled with continuing intelligence community leaks that Trump campaign officials had close and consistent contact with

Russian intelligence officials during the 2016 election has leant a certain Cold War-era climate to the administration, which continues to wobble between the President's positive or neutral statements on Russia, and staffers' reassurances that the administration takes Russian aggression seriously.

Moscow has recently taken provocative action against the US, placing a

spy ship just outside US waters, and conducting a missile test in clear violation of a 1987 arms treaty. Much like the North Korean missile launch, these actions are taken in order to provoke some sort of reaction from either the President or from those within his party. The lack of any such response, apart from a handful of Congressional lawmakers, has pointed to a Trump administration that is reluctant to criticize Russia for any aggressive action it may take.

Looming over any concrete action taken by the administration is the background story of the election, the dossier published by BuzzFeed, and continuing encroachment from Russian intelligence agencies. Reports have emerged from US intel sources claiming that agencies have been withholding intelligence from the President because they can't adequately trust the information will only be seen by the President.

Oh, Also

Not to be left behind are China's continuing encroachment in the South China Sea, Brexit, the looming specter of French elections, and the seeming contradiction between what the President believes and what the Vice President & Secretary of State believe about NATO. VP Mike Pence recently had to reassure European nations that the US was still committed to their defense and mutual well-being. In its encounters with the first serious foreign policy challenges, the Trump Administration has proved shaky at best, relying on conflicting messaging and on-the-spot decision making to guide an understaffed State Department towards uncertain outcomes.



President Trump versus the Environment: FernGully 3

by Hillary Bosch
Staff Crysta

President Trump, in his first month of office, has brought me back to my youth with actions reminiscent of an obscure animated film I once adored called *FernGully*. Basically, a pollution monster voiced by the one and only Tim Curry tries to burn down the rainforest but is stopped by tree-loving fairies who teach kids the value of nature. There was a second movie, but we don't talk about it.

This is not to say that I think President Trump is a looming carbon nightmare named Hexxus who feeds from forests, but his interactions with environmental organizations make me nervous nonetheless.

In early December, then President-elect Donald Trump named Scott Pruitt, Attorney General of Oklahoma, as his nominee for the Environmental Protection Agency. In his time as Attorney General, Pruitt proved he was an active member in the environmental community by disbanding the Environmental Protection Unit of the Attorney General's office and suing the EPA over legislation that combatted climate change. As of last month, Pruitt had filed a total of 13 lawsuits against the EPA.

He is most well-known in Oklahoma for his involvement in a 2005 case against major poultry producers within the state, such as Tyson Foods. Toxic runoff from 300,000 tons of waste per year was proven to be linked to excessive algal blooms in the Illinois River watershed. Though the case was near complete when he took office, Pruitt organized a third-party analysis of water quality and no official ruling has since

Businessman pretends he understands the environment

been handed down. It should also be noted that while running for office in 2010, Pruitt received \$40,000 in campaign donations from almost 30 poultry company executives, several of which were involved in the lawsuit.

own environment." While this is a most admirable belief supported by examples that prove the effectiveness of local governments, the environment is not an issue that can be locally regulated. Or, in the words of environmental law professor Patrick A. Parenteau, "pollution does not respect state boundaries." Similar to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal's decision to nationally strike down President Trump's immigration ban, overarching environmental issues—aka climate change—must be broader than one city or state in order to be effective.

In other news, the Dakota Access Pipeline was recently granted federal permission via executive order to continue building just north of the Sioux Tribe Reservation site. Although much of the 1,200 mile pipeline from Illinois to North Dakota has already been built, environmentalists and tribal activists alike have been protesting for months in this area due to the potential for water contamination for millions of people. Now that construction has been cleared, the Dakota Access pipeline will run under Lake Oahe, a water source where eight pipelines already exist roughly 100 ft from the surface.

The Obama administration's suspension of construction in December was a victory for environmental-

ists and a testament to the power of civil disobedience. Now, Sioux leaders vow they will legally fight the decision in order to protect their water supply and ancient grounds the pipeline has plans to go through. Throughout the resistance, the Sioux have had support from thousands of protestors, hundreds of veterans, and even some celebrities like Mark Ruffalo and Shailene Woodly, who was arrested for criminal trespassing in St. Anthony, North Dakota.

On the other hand, CNN reports that developers say its construction will bring "\$156 million in sales and income taxes to state and local governments and will add 8,000 to 12,000 construction jobs." As part of his goal to reinvigorate the American economy, Trump commanded the Secretary of Commerce to use American-made materials in its construction. Furthermore, developers reiterate on their website *Dakota Access Pipeline Facts* that the "Dakota Access Pipeline does not enter or cross the Standing Rock reservation" and how the "Dakota Access is one of the most technologically advanced and safest pipelines ever built."

Regardless of opinions on Scott Pruitt or the DAPL, Trump's administration has unequivocally brought in a new age of environmental pragmatism and hyperpolarization that makes the future of agencies like the EPA or National Parks Service difficult to predict. Based on research from both sides of the aisle, Pruitt and the DAPL could be very successful or disastrous, depending on the extent to which you favor industry or environmental caution.

For now, there are only three things you can do: fight for what you believe in, learn every side of the issue, and please for the love of the 1990s watch *FernGully*.



Right now, we're all dreaming of far away places

Pruitt also petitioned Washington with letters drafted by "industry lobbyists" but stamped with the official government letterhead. These letters were in support of fewer federal energy regulations that were designed and proposed to restrict energy sources that contribute to climate change, such as oil and gas.

In his defense, the New York Times cites that his supporters say "his record demonstrates a deeply held philosophy that states understand their needs best and should be allowed to regulate their

SENIOR CITIZEN NIGHT
EVERY GAME NIGHT!
@ Rose Hill Gym 4pm

935 Powered by

Department of Education Speel Cheque: Virtually Nonexistent

by John Looby
Co-Editor in Chief

For those of you living in a state of perpetual ignorant bliss, Betsy DeVos has arisen from her dark throne of privilege and fundamentally misunderstanding of the role to which she has been appointed to assume her position as the Secretary of Education because the shockwave of however-you-refer-to-2016-as is still shaking America to its very core. The current American Dark Age has only just begun and the early warning signs of the strife to come is not looking so good for us folks. The Department of Education managed to almost immediately tweet out a typo once *Queen-How-Did-I-Get-This-Job* was anointed. The best part, of course, being that they then had another typo in their apology tweet because that is just where we are now in history. The worst part being that the quote was about the value of education and was said by W.E.B. Du Bois or Debois if you subscribe to alternative facts and spell-

Editor's note: I can spell better than them, and I am bad at spelling

ing. If you're surprised that DeVos' Department of Education would have such an immediate and public mistake, I remind you that according to



Dis bitch

this woman Grizzly Bears pose a clear and present danger to our school children. This incident is really only one in a chain that will hopefully break soon.

The overwhelmingly negative response to DeVos should eventually overcome the millions of dollars her family donates to the Republican Party, but then again a lot of things should have happened with the American Democratic process lately. Examples of the DeVos backlash include, well, just about every teacher on twitter and those protesters that blocked her

from entering a school in what was perhaps the most literal representation of American citizens not wanting her near the education of their children. For a little while these protesters managed to hold on to the small hope that these children would not see their SAT scores be a casualty of the new administration.

DeVos would handle the situation with true grace and class. Actually, she just waited a few days and then publically shit talked the work ethic of people she had only briefly met. For someone who has been documented repeatedly as being drastically unqualified for the position she now holds, DeVos seems remarkably eager to publically critique those who can actually claim to not only be qualified for the positions which they now hold, but also to claim that they are doing their job well. Of course, these teachers didn't take this lying down. Many have taken to critiquing her on social media and twitter, the

sole platform for political discussion in the Trump Era of politics.

The Trump appointments, on the whole, have all been suspect to say the very least. Most- including DeVos- seem to be morally opposed to the mission of the departments that they have been assigned to. Scott Pruitt couldn't stop suing the EPA and Rick Perry actually advocated for the Department of Energy being eliminated, but in his defense, that was back before he had bothered to learn what they actually do. None of this is a joke no matter how much we may hope that Ashton Kutcher really upped the scale of his Punk'd budget for this new season. At the very least I hope that Betsy DeVos has at least instilled a minimum number of times a tweet must be spell checked before it goes out into the world and humiliates her. After all, the words that come out of her mouth do that more than enough already if we're being honest with ourselves right now.

Faulty Dam in California Almost Floods Area, Might Still

by Meredith Mclaughlin
Copy Editor

On Saturday, February 7th, water from Lake Oroville breached an emergency spillway of the Oroville dam, potentially threatening the cities residing in the Feather River Basin and leading to a rush evacuation of 180,000 people. The increased rain and snow that California has been receiving this winter at first seems like a blessing, considering the major drought the state has been in for the past five years. Unfortunately these increased water levels have revealed major issues in the Oroville dam, particularly in the main and emergency spillways.

A spillway is meant to provide controlled releases from flooded dams, however the main spillway at the Oroville Dam was discovered to have a 45 ft deep crater in a section of the spillway's concrete lane, making it unsafe for use. Without the main spillway being operable, the water began to overflow into one of the emergency spillways, which, unlike the fully concrete main one, is mostly just a clear dirt path with a concrete lip. However the flow of

We restrained ourselves from making a dam pun, it was really hard

water over the emergency spillway was beginning to erode the concrete lip and the dirt path, posing a major threat to the people in the Feather River Basin. It was the emergency spillway's erosion that led officials to call a mandatory evacuation on Sunday. Because the emergency spillway's erosion problem was more likely to flood, the dam operators chose to release the excess water through the main spillway instead. After releasing 100,000 cubic feet per seconds worth of water for two days, officials were confident that the immediate threat was gone and on Tuesday turned the mandatory evacuation into a warning.

Unfortunately, more rain has been predicted for this week, and while originally the amount of rain was predicted to be low, new forecasts predict a

whopping 10 inches of rain. In an effort to make the emergency spillway usable again, workers and helicopters have been placing tons of boulders along its path to reduce the risk of erosion, and recently the state has been bringing in



Hey, this is a real thing that's happening

concrete trucks in order to beat the upcoming storms. Officials hope that the main spillway will be able to hold up through California's rain season without needing to rely on the emergency dam, however that's easier

said than done considering the massive 45 ft deep, 300 ft wide gap that's still taking up a large part of the spillway. Another issue comes in the form of the Hyatt Power Plant, found at the base of the dam. If damaged, not only would locals lose their drinking water, but it could also damage the surround-

ing environment. Residents have been returning to their homes under the assurance that the risk of flooding is very low, and hopefully with the amount of work the state is doing the dam will be as fit as it can be for the incoming rains.

The Oroville Dam crisis is representative of the greater problem the United States has with its infrastructure. Three different environmental groups evaluated the emergency spillway in 2005 and requested that it be renovated with concrete in order to avoid, you guessed it, erosion. However the government was unable to look this far into the future and decided taxpayer money could be used in other places. The Oroville Dam is not alone in its unfortunate state of decay; the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the U.S. a D for our maintenance of our dams. Hopefully this event will be a wakeup call for our government to start fixing our dams, but, considering how massive this issue is, it isn't likely we'll wake up to brand new dams anytime soon.

FAKER THAN TRUTH

By Luis Gómez

Republicans Introduce Alternative for Obamacare

After repeated calls from constituents asking not to fully repeal the Affordable Care Act, Senate Republicans have finally presented a bill that addresses some of those concerns. Sponsored by Ted Cruz (R - TX), the bill, dubbed 'ZodiaCare' provides a comprehensive substitute to the ACA. The new bill removes many of the consumer limits the ACA included, including drug pricing restrictions and protections for patients with preexisting conditions. The new law also gives Ted Cruz the multilateral ability to kill anyone he pleases. "Basically, this plan offers a comprehensive overhaul of Obamacare, while also allowing me to sate the unquenchable bloodlust in my veins," said Cruz.

Most interesting is the plan's seeming reversal on the typically-held Republican position on right-to-die laws. The law's third provision provides extensive ways in which a person can be killed by their own volition, or at the behest of a state-level panel. "We spent so much time bloviating about death panels that by the time we had to write our own law, we just decided why not put them in there?" said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. "Now, if you don't want Ted to kill you, we can literally put you in front of a panel that will vote for how you die."

Senate Minority leader Chuck Schumer was unavailable for comment, as he had apparently invoked the wrath of 'Definitely the Zodiac Killer, I Mean Just Look At Him' Cruz. However, a prepared statement provided by a staffer cowering in fear in the corner of the New York Senator's blood-spattered office says, "Senator Schumer stands against this law that allows Ted Cruz to just kill anyone. Seriously, who thought this was a good idea."

Dog Shows are Dumb, or Are They?

by Claire Nunez
Opinions Co-Editor

Imagine if there was a convention of just dogs. Well, I mean there is; it's called a dog show. People just don't frequent dog shows anymore, but maybe they should. On February 14, one of the largest dog shows, the Westminster Dog Show, had lots of little (and big) pups prancing around Piers 92 and 94, as well as Madison Square Garden (MSG). The Westminster Dog Show is one of the longest standing events in American dog show history. Since 1877, this great showing of fur and teeth has been a representation of the best furballs in the nation.

Do you think your pup has what it takes? It is pretty difficult to get into showing if you ask me. First of all, your dog has to be an "American Kennel Club Purebred." My friend has one of these and her dog has all these fancy certificates of authenticity. If your dog has these, you can take your furry friend to handling classes and, in a few years, you could make it to a big name show like Westminster. It is insanely difficult to get your dog to the top. The dogs at Westminster have years of experience and more discipline than I do on my best days. They are so obedient it is crazy. I can barely get my dog to come hang out with me, but these guys can do it all.

Picture being in a room with hundreds of these purebred dogs. There are so many dogs and classes that the show uses multiple Piers in Hell's Kitchen and all four of MSG's theaters for the stages. The Westminster Dog Show is known for having a "Meet the Breeds" event where lucky spectators can see where the magic happens backstage. These dogs have more done to their fur than I do with my hair on a daily

Exclusive interview with the winner

basis. Handlers spend hours brushing and blow-drying their furry friends. If you are ever interested in seeing some dogs in action, you will probably want to stop by a Meet the Breeds one day. This year, the Westminster show featured its first ever cats edition of Meet the Breeds. There were hundreds of cat owners gathered to see the best and brightest felines in the nation, but don't expect the Westminster to stray

the American Kennel Club or be a dog show veteran or something.

This year, approximately 2,800 pups competed for the best in show crown, but only one got the big reward. Rumor, the five and a half year old German Shepherd, got the best treat there is. After facing a "ruff" and narrow defeat last year, Rumor came back to win it all and to run off with the prize. In an exclusive tell-all interview with the

paper, Rumor speaks of her winnings.

CN: So Rumor, how does it feel to win what is inarguably, the biggest American dog show?

Rumor (R): Bark, bark, bark.

CN: I can't even fathom winning something so huge, and you're so humble about it! What is next for you?

R: Grrrrr...woof, woof.

CN: Wow! That's uh, something.

Okay, I have to admit I do not know what that dog was saying. I do not speak dog, but Rumor seems to be pretty well spoken. She knows what's up in the dog world.

Honestly, I have no idea who is still current-

ly reading this article. Who can even read 100 words on a dog show? Do you know how difficult it is to write that many on dogs? It is a lot harder than it probably seems. Dog shows are really not that interesting. This article is so boring, just like dog shows. You can't even play with them! WTF! If you are still reading this, I give you a lot of credit. This is one awful piece of writing. Please, just stop. I am going to stop writing now. No one cares this much about dog shows. Rumor won, that's all you really need to know.

Editor's Note: this article was definitely not an excuse for one of the news editors to put a picture of their dog in this issue... nope...

This is a show dog- show dogs are major dorks



from tradition and start showing cats any time soon.

As for the show itself, the best of the best were shown on Valentine's Day night at MSG. In case you have never seen the Purina Dog Show after the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the dogs aren't doing anything crazy out on stage. They are pretty much just being walked around in a large circle— I am pretty sure that this is to show the dog's muscles or their fur or something. After this, the dogs are lined up and are forced to stand incredibly still. They are then all felt up for muscle mass or whatever, and their teeth are checked by professional dog people. I am not entirely sure on how one becomes a professional dog person, but you probably have to have a ton of training with

Weed Legalization is Slowly Happening

by James McKee
Staff W33D BRO

Cannabis, Marijuana, Pot, Weed, Bud, OG Booga-Booga, whatever you want to call it, it's coming to a state near you in 2017. Last year was a rather historic year for potheads and weed connoisseurs alike, with seven states legalizing medical marijuana, and four out of those seven legalizing recreational use of the drug. Slowly but surely, weed is becoming mainstream, and for many reasons. States are slowly decriminalizing the drug, and finally noticing that the drug does more good than harm. If you have any

platform of social media, it is safe to say that you have seen there have been zero deaths related to smoking weed, and more deaths because of shark attacks or lightning strikes. Take that how you want it, but the United States Federal government just released a statement agreeing that weed does have the medical properties to kill cancer cells, and treat other diseases. With all of the negative accusations against weed slowly dying off, it

is only a matter of time before it becomes legal in more and more states. The weed forecast for 2017 is partly cloudy, with a few celebratory bong hits and 4:20 light ups in many states. Even Fordham Students might be able to smoke a joint or two on Eddies or the couch, without having to worry about public safety. (Not like it was a problem before but just for peace of mind.) Yes, even New York is looking to legalize the ganja during 2017. With Massachusetts legalizing weed in 2016, New York is looking to do the same, of course for profit. It's a classic neighbor vs. neighbor battle that is fought without words, just a stern glare over a wooden fence, as each

All it took was good ol' monetary incentive

tries to outdo the other. Along with New York, there is a comprehensive list, mainly states on the East Coast and in the South, that are looking to fully legalize marijuana.

Delaware, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Texas, Kentucky, New Mexico, Vermont, and Missouri are all finally looking to legalize weed fully. Now, when it comes to New Jersey, and their doughnut and funnel cake loving governor sporting a permanent foopa and mangina, the fight for legalization might not turn out in the favor of the stoners. Governor Chris

possible.

This has been a common trend in the legalization of weed in the United States. Governors and state officials, who could be in the museum of natural history as ancient artifacts, are still sticking to their core beliefs. The basis is that marijuana is bad and if you take a puff of a "marijuana cigarette" you may become addicted and go into a downward spiral of unemployment and ultimately become a gooey pool of slop who still lives in his parents basement and can probably annihilate you with his ultimate team in Fifa that he spent his whole monthly allowance on.

With the people saying yes, and government officials saying no, it is only a matter of time before the government dinosaurs go extinct and a new group of government officials take the stage and become the kings and queens of cannabis.

As of late, the recent trend in legalization is the tendency for states to first decriminalize it, legalize it for medical use, and then legalize it for recreational use. The main reason for the legalization of weed for governments, which many states are finally realizing, is profit. Cash is King, and marijuana is the key to that unlim-

ited supply of cash. The amount of dollars state governments can gain from taxing the consumption and sale of marijuana can greatly benefit both the local governments and federal government. Many senators and congressmen/women have started to realize that not only will they be profiting through taxes, but they also won't have to spend millions of dollars on the war against weed, which will benefit everyone involved. It might not happen this year, or the next, but it is almost certain that Legal recreational use of marijuana in a majority of states will one day be a reality, and 2017 will be one of the many stepping stones to that reality.



Senators are getting high for weed legalizaiton

Christie just recently said when asked about his veto for the law, "You're damn right I'm the only impediment [to legalizing marijuana]. And I am going to remain the only impediment until January of 2018." Maybe he is afraid of getting the munchies and taking down a whole Wawa solely by himself, but whatever the reason, the governor is strictly against the legalization of marijuana. Maybe this is why his approval ratings are at a record low of 19%, not too shabby governor. At a recent poll taken in the garden state, 58% of residents voted for undoing prohibition and implementing a regulated legalization of marijuana as soon as

Realer Than Fact

By Rachel Poe

Four Fordham Freshmen Remind the paper How Poor We Are

On February 16th, Fordham Dance Marathon held an auction to raise money for the B+ foundation which "is about kids helping kids fight cancer through family assistance, research, and advocacy." One of the hot ticket items was the first housing slot for this upcoming room selection.

But what was supposed to go for roughly \$2,000 went for a \$16,000. According to a fabulous *the paper* editor who was there, a Fordham freshman stood up and announced the bid. Unsurprisingly, no one else could match it. The freshman, and his three freshmen would-be roommates, are reportedly splitting the amount between the four of them but, even still, that a lot of money.

When asked for comments, a few Fordham students said this:

"I feel like every few days Fordham just goes out of its way to remind me of how poor I am."

"I can't even fathom \$16,000. That's well over 4000 Four Lokos."

"That's fucking insane."

"Housing itself costs \$16,000 and he spent 16,000 on the spot... it's crazy."

"Is he single?"

The roommates want to be able to live in Salice which is often called "the least shitty shit hole" of Fordham's dorms. But is that really worth \$16,000? No matter what, the money is going to a good cause even if it could help pay off my student loans. :/

United States' Courts Do Their Job, Suspend Travel Ban

by Declan Murphy
Copy Editor

That awkward moment when government checks and balances work

In what will certainly become a landmark case, both for future immigration policy and the success (or failure) of the Trump administration, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled against Donald Trump's immigration ban, which by design disproportionately affects Muslims and thus is a form of religious discrimination.

In the days since the executive order was passed, protest and resistance has been rampant and widespread. In addition to numerous protests at airports and cities across the nation, the strongest show of defiance has been through the judicial system. Initially a district court struck down the part of the ban that excluded green-card holders from entering the country.

Most recently, a Seattle district court struck down the ban. Since then, the ban has been legally unenforceable nationwide. Given the Trump administration's vehement insistence that the ban is a legitimate exercise of executive authority, it is no surprise that the case was rushed to the Court of Appeals.

The judicial hierarchy in the U.S. hears cases at three levels. Cases originate in district courts. They can then be appealed to Courts of Appeals, which handle cases from defined multi-state regions as was the case here. The only court to which these decisions can be appealed is the Supreme Court.

That, then, is the seemingly inevitable future of this case. The Trump administration has already publicly signaled its willingness to appeal the case to the Supreme Court. (For his part, the Tweeter-in-chief has gone to full-on ALL CAPS MODE to express his distaste for the ruling.)

This raises a number of interesting questions. Will the Court choose to hear the case on an emergency appeal—in which the Supreme Court



Courts: The Real MVPs

would have to act almost immediately—or will it pursue the slower and more standard method of case selection? Will the Trump administration force the issue now, or wait until Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch has been voted on?

We can only speculate on how the Supreme Court might rule in this case. With Scalia's seat still unfilled, another 4-4 tied ruling is possible, (this has been the result of several cases that have come before the Supreme Court since Scalia's passing.) Even a split decision, however, would be a win for those championing an end to the ban. A tie in

thus the ban would stay unenforceable.

One could also be optimistic, and say that one of the conservative justices would vote against the ban. Given the backlash to Trump's ban, including by major figures on the right like Marco Rubio, it's not unthinkable that a conservative judge would find the ban blatantly unconstitutional. Anthony Kennedy, the Court's swing justice (because he's the least conservative of the four remaining conservatives), could vote against it. Perhaps even John Roberts, who has been less staunchly conservative over time, could also break with ideological lines for such a salient issue.

Of course, if Gorsuch is confirmed be-

fore the Court hears this case, it's anyone's game. The 4-4 ruling is off the table, and Gorsuch is so new it is difficult to imagine how he'd vote. One can extrapolate from past rulings, but like election predictions, these are fallible. Predictions like those from FiveThirtyEight's Nate Silver put Gorsuch as slightly right of Scalia, already one of the most conservative justices. There is some indication, though, from Gorsuch's voting record that he may oppose such broad executive power. As a Circuit Court judge, Gorsuch passed down a ruling expressing his commitment to separation of powers. In the case of an immigrant who would be reclassified under new executive guidelines, Gorsuch wrote a concurrence indicating the need for separation of powers in the face of growing executive action. Given the broad scope of the President's executive order, it would not be unreasonable to assume that Gorsuch could find the President overreaching. Moderate conservatives have, in fact, made the same arguments. For example, Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan, who argued that both Trump and Obama have illegally expanded executive authority regarding immigration.

It is extremely telling that this conflict is playing out in the courts. Trump's ban was an executive order, which means it is enforceable but not the same as legislation. It was never voted on by Congress, never approved by it—the only one who signed off on it was Trump himself. In these scenarios, the courts are usually the only recourse. On several occasions, Obama's executive orders were challenged (and, at times, overturned) by the courts. It's checks and balances at work, even in a system that seems to have cast aside checks and balances altogether.



**RODRIGUE'S COFFEE
HOUSE
HAS A
SAFER SPACE POLICY**

(and some good coffee)





A Letter from the Editor: Response to Recent Controversial Events

By John Looby
Editor-in-Chief

Recently The Ram has published some articles that have been controversial to say the very least. As an Editor for a rival (not The Rival) publication, I will admit that I would not have published some of these articles in our publication. In fact, my response to their submission might have included the words “fuck” and “that.” We’ve rejected articles in the past. As a publication, we go out of our way to uphold the value of free speech, but at a certain point in the editing process, you reach a moment where you have to ask yourself if you can in good faith publish something. Edits can be suggested and made up to a point. Some shit you just can’t fix.

An article such as “Turn Right: A Path to American Citizenship” that makes broad sweeping generalizations without citing even just one source and is also just overall poorly written should in all honesty probably have been rejected from our university’s proclaimed “Journal of Record.” I respect The Ram for their commitment to journalistic style and integrity. In this instance, however, I am disappointed in what seems to be a failure in the execution of editorial discretion. I am really hoping this was not published for the sake of the controversy it would cause. I am sure most people are aware of the attention the whole “I’m a conservative please stop questioning the hegemony and making me feel bad” article got. Provocateurs get attention, but seriously who doesn’t want people like Milo Yiannopoulos to just go away to whatever hatepit spawned them? After Father McShane

Looby attempts to be serious for once in his life

officially states Fordham’s solidarity with the undocumented you would hope that a Fordham student and publication would put a little more thought into fanning the flames of this particular controversy.

ill-informed and targeted messages like this is akin to yelling fire in a crowded theater you are creating and escalating a fear with a poor base in object reality that endangers others.

For those readers unaware of this



As much as there is that can be questioned about a publication that aims to be serious and of integrity publishing something like this, a great deal of the onus is still on the author. Everyone has a right to voice his or her opinion, I wholeheartedly believe that, but goddamn Brianna Lyman your shit is problematic. (By the way congratulations on having the number one article I’m sure that makes your argument well-constructed in the same way that everyone watching videos of a train wreck makes that conductor have an excellent safety record.) Putting out

issue “I have created my own sort of solution to the controversial” question of just how bad this article actually was. First, there’s this sentence “In a perfect world, people would respect our laws and no one would come here illegally...” Oh really, you don’t say? Well also in a perfect world people wouldn’t have to flee their homes for the safety of their children and end up in a foreign country that will stigmatize them for their sacrifice. Seems maybe a bit xenophobic to be more focused on American laws than foreign lives huh? Second, there’s this little gem of casual

heartbreaking cruelty “...find these 11 million people... send them back and figure out what to do with their children who were born here.” The article comes across like the problem is that we don’t have the logistical capability to do the “just thing” and tear apart these families. Furthermore, those children would be citizens, natural born citizens with rights, not a problem to “figure out”.

Finally, there’s this Russian nesting doll of problems “They should also not collect social security and there should be a fine to pay for those who have been here longer than a year since some undocumented immigrants might avoid paying taxes.” So they must work since they got here, pay taxes into social security, never collect social security and what just never retire? They all have to pay a fine since “some” of them “might” have not paid taxes. By some did you mean less than half of undocumented immigrants don’t pay taxes according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy? Oh, and those that pay taxes don’t get benefits like social security and still pay voluntarily. So maybe don’t vilify and suggest punishing undocumented immigrants en masse?

I could go on with all the problems with this article, but I think the point has been made. I’m not mad with the ram just disappointed. I mean you guys still aren’t The Rival so don’t stress. As for Brianna maybe just try harder next time? In 2017 researching further into an issue and treating others with sympathy and dignity really can’t be a source of many difficulties.

Examining Celebrity in a Time of Turmoil

By Kelly Tyra
Deaditor in Chief

Celebrity is an interesting phenomenon that has been shaping our social history since the seventeenth century. It may have seemed like a more 'proper' time but early and acclaimed stars like author Charles Dickens were subject to the same star struck treatment a member of One Direction may expect today: "people tried to get access to [his] hotel room when he was in Boston...he was stalked, and reportedly fans tried to grab handfuls of fur from his coat when he was out in public." It appears there has always been something about celebrities that attract intense attention and adoration from their audience.

The modern star was born from the same technological advances that created the world stage and filled seats in the theater. Duplicable photography and the high-speed printing press allowed celebrity news to travel quicker during a time of rapid change and consumption. While capitalist heroes and inventors dominated the pages of penny press papers for some time, a disdain for corruption and a fascination with new media forms tilted the limelight toward a different crowd.

Entertainers became a focal point and a unifier for people of all classes, creed, and country. Celebrities soon became a representation of progress and American propriety for citizens at home and spectators abroad. Their high-profile lives were made possible by urban centers where there were places to see and be

I guess you should care about them...

seen by an active, eager press and public. The technology revolution and subsequent commercial culture that created celebrity also changed the way Americans thought about



themselves.

As fame and notoriety became desirable, development of private, moral character was abandoned in pursuit of a distinct and public persona. As historian Amy Henderson explained, "in a culture preoccupied with personality, "celebrity" became a measure of success." In becoming national symbols of style, talent, and hope celebrities began to transcend their roles as entertainers. They became models of behavior and personifications of social possibilities few would ever be able to reach.

In creating these icons and building an industry around their every move we have elevated celebrities to a super human status. While we may hear about the lives they live, full of parties and people and possibilities, there will always be a level of separation. Writer Rich Cohen has "long believed that celebrity, the way we worship and package and sell our pop stars, is what filled the need for gods that was once filled by the pictures in stained glass.

Hollywood is post-Christian Venice - in other words, a pantheon of saints without the hassle and heartache of religion." Celebrities distract from the pain of living in the out crowd by uniting the rejects with their music, movies, and magazine interviews. Even still, laymen struggle with their comparatively limited voices and influence.

While the advent of the Internet and increased efforts to promote visibility for all people has made it seem easier than ever to rise to fame, many are still content to live through the famous as they wait for their next tweet, Instagram, or YouTube video to go viral. Social media allows us to shape our personas and voice our opinions to the public. We can now create our own fame by accumulating followers and likes on the same sites as the stars. However, social media companies have incorporated social stratification into their business models - a little blue check next to a username denotes notoriety amongst the noise on your newsfeed. While the verification systems found on Twitter and Instagram are meant to denote authenticity how authentic can celebrities and tastemakers be when they are often paid to promote content?

As celebrities garner millions of social media followers, it is no surprise that commercialization of content has occurred. Until Beyoncé's stunning pregnancy announcement on Instagram earlier this month, the most liked photo on the platform pictured Selena Gomez

sipping Coca-Cola through a striped, paper straw. Per D'Marie Analytcs, the star's social media posts are worth \$550,000 in ad equivalent value to the companies that sponsor her. As the fan base and follower count continues to rise (and they do every day), so does promotion based profit. Gomez is certainly not alone in her exploitation of the social media system, however, thus far she has been the most successful.

However, selling soda isn't as scary as spreading misinformation to millions. Our celebrity President is using his social platform and position of power to do just that. Trump exploited his family fortune to rise to fame and his fame to rise to the presidency by manipulating his followers and fan base. His attack on modern media companies like CNN and The New York Times may seem silly and stupid to most, but to some, the Donald has risen to a level of infallibility. Trump is turning on the media that made him to promote propaganda on his personal Twitter page. And people are listening.

While the true power of celebrity influence cannot be accurately calculated, stars are clearly not "just like us" when it comes to cultural clout. The media machine has created a class of people who can control consumers and now, the country. Our nation was founded on the idea that all are created equal but social stratification reinforced, and sometimes exploited by the celebrity class has kept this ideal from reaching fruition and will continue to do so.



“We’re NOT the Same!!!” A Cry for Help from Two paper Editors

By John Looby and Michael Jack O’Brien
Editor Twinz

Ever since Michael Jack started working for the paper, the rest of the editorial staff has been cracking jokes about how alike he and John Looby are in almost every way much to their exhaustion. While it is all fun and games, they have expressed the need for some ground rules for this shit to potentially remind everybody that they are not in any way the same person. Sure, they both wear basically the same clothes, have a monotone voice, have the same interests, drink lots of beer, and complain a lot, but that’s where the similarities end according to these two paper editors.

Michael Jack O’Brien’s Take:

Seeing how killing you in your sleep is not an option, here’s a list of all the reasons that I- Michael Jack, Jack Michael O’Brien- am definitely NOT like John “Cheap Doppelganger” Looby.

1. I wear hats: On top of just being a generally more beautiful human being, I also wear hats a lot. Granted I only actually own a single baseball cap, a beat up and chlorine stained Specialized Mountain Bike hat. The point is that I have NEVER seen you wear anything atop your head aside from that dead raccoon you call a haircut. I’m pretty sure that this already puts a point in my favor.

2. My name does not come up as a typo in Microsoft Word: I know that you have trouble with spelling, but this is just ridiculous. I’m going to assume that whoever created your last name was drunk or was trying to say a different last name and just mumbled.

Editor’s Note: I’ll buy the first person pizza to say they’re different

What kind of last name is Looby, anyway? It sounds like the name of a bath sponge, or something involving mucus. That’s two points for me.

3. I didn’t sacrifice my body to the military industrial complex: I don’t have anything against the military, I actually think it’s fucking awesome. But you have to fight for THE MAN,

Jack (Who really fucking knows? (Do YOU even know?)).

I just thought I should clear the air here about this whole you being a “discounted dollar store version of me that will be probably be recalled” thing. I understand this may make you feel uncomfortable, but honestly, you should be honored. It’s not every

day you get compared to s o m e - o n e w h o l o o k s l i k e t h e y s h o p f r o m t h e 1 9 5 0 ’ s e d i t i o n o f a S e a r s c a t a l o g . A l s o , I t h i n k y o u c o u l d t a k e s o m e i n -

put from that catalog because goddamn it, who the fuck wears a button up and sweat pants? Is your life just one unending Skype interview? Are you applying to replace me as most generically white guy faced member of the staff? You are probably the most qualified for the position.

Since you decided that this has to be a listicle fight then it is game on, motherfucker. Here’s a list of reasons why I am not you and honestly just a little, and by little I mean not at all a little, the superior editor and J named person.

1.) My Eyes aren’t baggy enough to get all the groceries in one trip. I’m not quite certain what happened to age your eyes fifty years more than the rest of your body, but if I had to guess it is due to you religiously studying my three Facebook photos in an attempt to improve your lackluster impersonation.

2.) I can manage to speak about things besides the website. Seriously man no one cares about the website. No one. Especially not Fordham (shout out to the budget committee).

3.) You talk about Overwatch. I have never played Overwatch. Hearing you talk about it does not make me want to play it at all.

4.) I was here first. Yeah, we’re going with chronological precedence here, bitch.

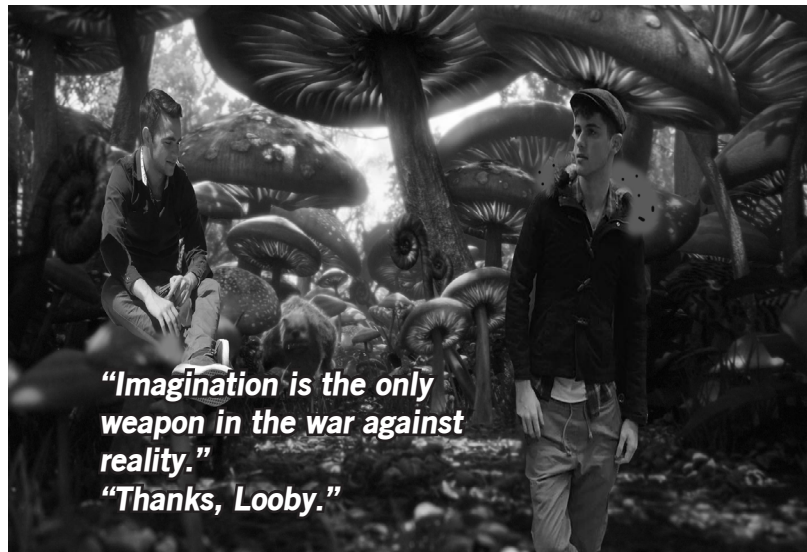
5.) People are absolutely certain what my name is. Start wearing a nametag. Please.

6.) You edit Features and List. Features and List is a garbage section for garbage people, with the exception of Michael Sheridan. You’re lucky Luis won’t let me replace any of the sections with collages of dogs.

7.) Apparently, you’re a sophomore. I swore you were a freshman. Anyway, I’m a junior. Which is a different grade because we’re different fucking people @RACHEL.

8.) You spend time in Rodrigues. You can’t deny it. You did it. You are one of them.

Editor’s note: they’re the same person, this article was a waste of space....

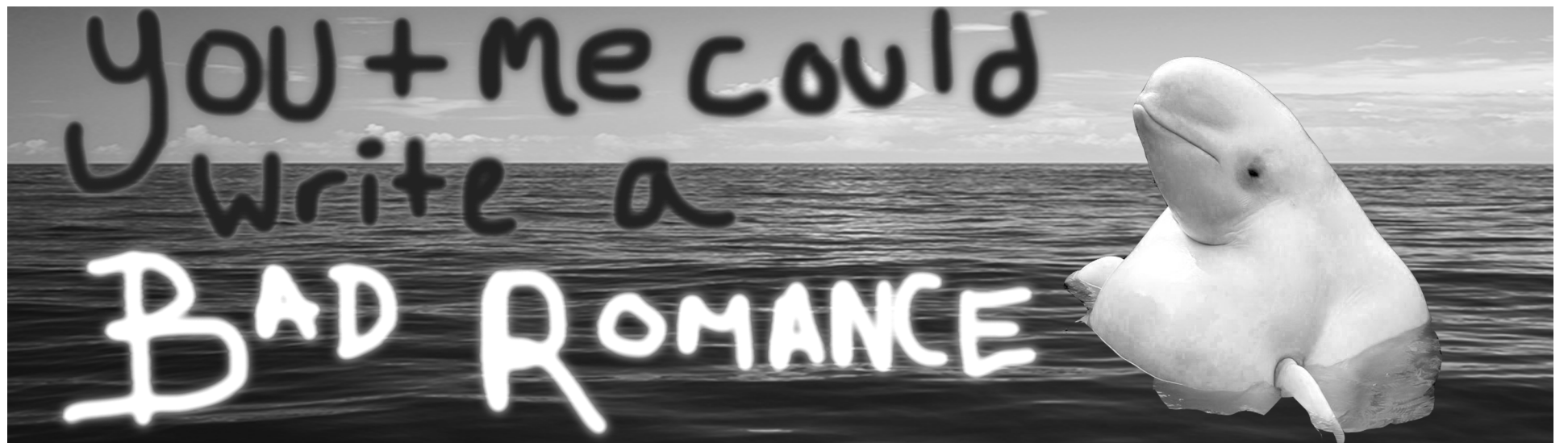


MAN. And the man in this case is Donald Trump, so...sucks to be you. One point.

4. I didn’t wear pinnies, ever: Listen John, even if you had flow, even if you knew how to string a la-crosse stick, even if you’ve ever used the word “Lax” as a verb, there is NO EXCUSE for wearing la-crosse pinnies like its regular clothing you looked like a MASSIVE DOUCHE. I’m sorry, that’s the truth. Infinite points I win forever and I’m also the best. SUCK IT.

John Looby’s Take:

Hey there Jack Michael Or Michael



Who Will Survive in America? Who Knows if Kanye Were President. Maybe Kanye will give us all Yeezys though. That would be nice.

Joshua Rosen

Staff Kanye Supporter?

In 2015, Kanye West told the world that he was going to run for president in 2020. If the 39-year-old rapper does end up running for office, here is all the good and bad we can expect throughout his campaign and possible presidency.

Pros:

Campaign album. This is at the top of my list. When the rapper begins campaigning, you can bet he will release some music to go hand-in-hand with his presidential campaign. It's at least three years away, but I'm still excited. Who wouldn't be? Excessive trash talk? Skimming over complex current events with brief mentions? A campaign album has never been done before, and I would not be surprised if it's the sole reason Kanye has spread the ideas of running for president in the first place. I'll pre-order it.

Political affiliations. Kanye West won't be running for a specific political party. He claims he is running with his morals backing him rather than a political party. Someone will more than likely place him under one, but his mindset certainly interests me. It makes me think

his running is slightly less of a joke and makes me want to watch his future debates and rallies (which is more than I can say for other politicians). But who knows? Maybe that's just the Kanye factor, which is another pro.



Rallies (or, fingers crossed, concerts). Hopefully all of his rallies either start or end with him performing music because that would clearly improve them (unless you don't like his music, but I don't see many people going to sup-

port him unless they like his music). Maybe I am underestimating him.

Feedback. A song on the most recent Kanye album features an outro where the rapper shouts, "You get a fur! You get a fur! You get a jet! Big booty bitch for you!" We can clearly expect some U.S. citizen fur distribution upon election. I'm holding off on buying my own for this very reason.

Cons:

Reality TV. In case U.S. politics has no already lost its serious edge, the entire country would quite literally become a reality TV show. With Kim Kardashian becoming the First Lady (some may say a con on its own) the country would get a firsthand look at the White House and its affairs through *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*. Pro for the show, con for anyone that cares about the United States' image.

Sensitivity and filter. Some may consider Trump to be overly sensitive and

to occasionally speak without regard for consequence, but Kanye certainly would beat him in this department. The rapper often vents to his fans about his problems and thoughts during his concerts. He is happy to take center stage even at inappropriate times to voice his mind. These rants are often nonsensical to the majority (con) but passionately moving to others (pro). Overall, we have a pro—if you want hilariously inappropriate outbursts at official meetings with world leaders. Otherwise, we'll keep this one in cons.

Concerts and music production. If Kanye does win this election—and who's to say he can't or won't—we'll be hearing a lot less of live Kanye and new Kanye throughout his presidency. This disaster alone may trump the campaign album's brilliance, the undoubtedly hilarious campaign and presidency itself, and the free swag we will all be receiving if he wins. Personally I'm torn because of this one alone.

Upon realization of a possible four year or even an eight year gap in Kanye music—just one con of many more—I just don't know if I'll be able to check yes for Mr. West.

Former Child Model Reminisces on his Time in the Limelight

By Christopher Jeske

Staff Model

My parents have always prioritized the dopeness of my appearance above all else. Seconds after I came out the womb, I was wiped clean of placenta goo with a Burberry cloth. Every nurse on hand immediately remarked of my Gerber baby resemblance on account of my smiley nature and general photogenicness.

Once dry, I was elevated to a level of decency by a monogrammed Calvin Klein diaper and a velvet Gucci baby blanket. I looked so damn good that when I was placed in the nursery for blood tests, strangers began taking photos of me rather than their own children. When my parents caught wind of this, they demanded compensation for unauthorized use of my image. Thus, my career as a model began.

Those first few years, I was living in the fast lane, such a fast lane, I can hardly remember a thing. I suppose

Call Chef Boyardee and tell him to follow me on Instagram. Thanks.

that's what the copious drug use of a model will do to the human brain, but it's no matter. I was on top of the world, and you probably saw me there. In 1999, at just one year old, I did a spread for Chef Boyardee Ravioli in *Vogue*. The magazine's headquarters received so many phone calls and letters of inquiry about "the baby drenched in meat sauce" that Chef Boyardee felt obliged to bring me on with a one year contract. In the year 2000 alone, I was featured in 132 ravioli advertisements. Unsurprisingly, the pasta powerhouse's sales skyrocketed. After all, there's something about the sight of tomato pulp cascading down the angel soft skin of a toddler that makes people want to sink their teeth into a meaty noodle pocket.

When my contract with The Chef expired, all kinds of modeling agencies were after me. But my parents, determined to be my sole representatives,

refused every offer I received. Consequently, the hype created by my brief ravioli run was allowed to calm and the quality of my job prospects took a serious downturn. I was forced to take a seven month hiatus from modeling until we eventually settled for a project with Kraft. My first shoot with the Chicago based food manufacturer went great. The photographers stuck to the proven routine and dumped buckets of marshmallow fluff on my unsuspecting head. The result was glorious, and Kraft charted higher fluff sales that quarter than any other time in documented history.

The second shoot, however, did not go so smoothly. Desiring to push me beyond my comfort zone, the director of art put a Kraft Single on my nose and instructed me to eat it without using my hands. Though the director ended up with a number of pleasing shots of me "cheesing," he was extremely frustrated when we si-

multaneously discovered my lactose intolerance. I'll spare you a vivid description of the calamity, but I will say that my Versace Pull-Up and Kraft's state of the art set were ruined by biowaste.

That director of art was so appalled by my lack of professionalism that he swore to bar me from a future in the modeling world. At the time, my parents and I thought little of his threat. But as I have grown older we have come to understand the gravity of his words. After obtaining an executive position at Ralph Lauren, this director effectively slandered me to what seems like the entire industry. I am now unable to do any professional modeling, and have resorted to the same blatant exposition of vanity as everyone else my age. If you wish to rescue me for the depths of my self pity, please offer me the only validation that's meaningful to me anymore: Instagram likes. @jewske

the paper's "apologie"

Sometimes people make mistakes, sometimes people are mistakes. Personally I don't know where I fall and I haven't asked my parents that question yet. Here at *the paper* though we would like to admit that we do from time to time make mistakes. From that time we caused the Roswell incident to the time we had consistent comma splices so bad an english professor found us and punched me in the jaw and then came back the next day and just did it again, but this time while reciting Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Take this as our formal, but not legally binding, apology for the following traumatic incidents.

- 1.) Not knowing how to spell "definitely".
- 2.) Still not knowing how to spell "onesie".
- 3.) The New Editors
- 4.) "County" instead of "Country"
- 5.) "Vaguely man shaped bag of pigeons" instead of "Dean Rodgers"
- 6.) Not knowing how to spell "friends" because we don't have any.
- 7.) Resident Evil 5-6; also the movies.
- 8.) Leaking the golden shower dossier to the very bad CNN.
- 9.) All the mermaid stuff.
- 10.) Trump everywhere and forever.
- 11.) Technically I write sentences.
- 12.) The Electoral College
- 13.) An abyssmal puppies/Trump ratio.
- 14.) Accepting Left Shark as the new messiah
- 15.) The Twitter
- 16.) The News Editors, past and present
- 17.) *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*

Paperly,
John Looby

Can You Be A Better President Than Donald Trump?

1.) Are you older than the age of 10?

- A. Yes
- B. I am a ghost
- C. I can't read

2.) What's your favorite food?

- A. Pizza
- B. Russian caviar
- C. Crayons (purple are the tastiest)

3.) Are you a cat person or a dog person?

- A. Dogs all the way
- B. Depends on the kind of cat
- C. Moo

4.) How would you deal with the current refugee crisis?

- A. Ask my good friend Barack
- B. Fake news
- C. Remember Bowling Green?

Results

Mostly A's: Yes

Mostly B's: You are Donald Trump

Mostly C's: Yes, but in 5 years

Love is Love: Christianity is a Religion of Kindness not Hatred

By Anonymous

Staff Love Promoter

To many, I am a paradox. I am a Christian; I am a Democrat. Many people often think these titles do not mix. My faith has defined me as a person. It has taught me how to live my life, how to be a moral person. It has informed my career choice.

Christianity is a religion of love and caring; it has taught me how to be a good and moral person. It has instilled in me specific virtues, most importantly to love others, regardless of any differences. I do not hate other people, or at the very least I try not to hate other people. Yet when I see what some other people who claim to be Christian say, I wonder if we are even part of the same religion, are we even reading the same book, doing the same prayers, believing the same tenants? When I check the news and see a man who previously preached the love of God, holding a sign that condemns others' sexuality with lude terms, I deeply question my own faith.

Why is this religion of love I follow used to justify so much hate? Christianity was a very progressive religion for its time. It has been and still is one of the dominant religions in the world. Yet, in the beginning, in the early days of the church, we were heavily persecuted. However throughout history when Christianity gained power, we became the persecutors. I hate this undeniable fact. We were never meant to be this way; it is entirely un-Christian. Now, I know that many Christians will be accused of hateful beliefs for some of Christianity's more conservative teachings. My message is not simply for conservative Christians (although still read this) but for those who use my and corrupt my religion for their backward ways, for their vile and hate filled messages and actions.

There is so much hatred and prejudice in this great country, and a lot of it seems to stem from my religion. It is used as a justification, spawning many vile beliefs and actions and much prejudice and hate. Most of the time, I wonder if we are reading the same Bible, especially when you have passages from say the Book of Proverbs. This scripture reads, "Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over

Don't use your religion to serve as an excuse for your prejudices.

all wrongs." (Proverbs 10:12), or from the Gospel of Luke, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31), and most importantly, one of Jesus' key commandments, "The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:31). All of these teachings are seemingly ignored. If we are reading the same passages, the same words, how can we not be learning the same messages? Where is this love that so many self-identified Christians supposedly have? We learned to love others completely and above all and over every other commandment or belief that God gave us.



Directly from St. Paul's letter to the Romans in which he quotes from the Old Testament, this sentiment is expressed: "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,' and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." (Romans 13:8-10). Even in the beginning eras of the church, this was an understood idea, yet it seemed to have vanished.

People seemingly ignore this tenant of the Bible. There are organizations such as the Westboro Baptist Church committing horrible deeds, using Christianity as a justification. This congregation has said many horrible things about so many people. They have even regarded my own denomination as a "dead church."

I have seen people deem women lesser than men, spouting sexist beliefs, claiming accordance with the faith. Yet, these sexist beliefs ignore the fact that historically, Christianity only survived in the beginning thanks to the female congregation. Christianity should not be used for a sexist agenda. I have seen people stand in

the Big Bang Theory, and I believe that the world and humanity was not created in seven days—all this contrary to what the Book of Genesis tells us. Those stories were written in order to give people a basic idea that God created the world and our stake in it, yet so many still take these stories as fact. Christianity does not make people have backward beliefs. People who have backward beliefs merely interpret Christian teachings differently. Everyone picks and chooses what they want; the Bible is meant to be interpreted in many ways. However, many theists have chosen the parts of the Bible which back up their own already prejudice filled beliefs.

Christianity at its core is a religion of love. Christianity does not teach homophobic, sexist, or racist dogma. Call me a selective Christian, call me whatever you want. I am not a bigot; I despise prejudice. I love other people, and I understand that my faith is not everyone's faith. What right do I have to impose my beliefs on others? We are supposed to lead by example, to be good people, to preach love. We started out being persecuted, so why have we become the persecutors? You're not being religious. You're not being loving. You're being a hateful bigot. I do not hate these people; I pity their misguidance. Yet, they give my religion a bad name.

I am scared to claim Christianity in front of others. Your bastardization of my religion is giving me a bad name. Stop using my faith to justify your prejudice. As I end this, I would like to include my favorite verse from the Bible, "And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends" (1 Corinthians 13:2-8).

front of crowd, exclaiming that every gay person is damned to hell. The funny thing is that we are not supposed do that: judge others. There is only one who can judge others, above all else, and that is God. No one can damn others to Hell; that is not what Christianity is about.

Now I am probably going to be called a selective Christian, one who picks and chooses the messages he wants and does not follow the full law. Yes, I guess I might be, but who isn't? Do you not do the same, do you not ignore parts of the Bible, and interpret it to how you want it? The Bible is meant to provide rules and morals not meant to be taken one hundred percent for fact. I believe in evolution, I believe the universe was started by



Riverdale, the Show, Not the Bronx Neighborhood

by Maureen Shelley
Staff Television Enthusiast

The Archie comic series may have begun in 1941, but the new spinoff TV drama series, *Riverdale*, feels modern and original. The series premiered on The CW on January 26, 2017 and has aired four episodes to date, with each 42 minute installation intensifying the mysteries and secrets of a small town and a cast of characters with familiar names but newly updated personalities.

Riverdale has the aesthetic appeal of *Twin Peaks* with, at times, the narrative grace of MTV's *Teen Wolf*, leading some to unofficially dub the series "Teen Peaks," a title that fits and defines the series almost too well considering it has only been on air for four weeks. The fictional town of *Riverdale* mirrors aspects of the fictional *Twin Peaks* that David Lynch introduced us to in 1990; the seclusion of a heavily forested small town, a hotspot diner only a local could truly appreciate, and an unsolved murder that begs the question, "Who killed Jason Blossom?" in a 21st Century spin on the infamous tagline "Who killed Laura Palmer?" The series seeks to prompt the notion that appearances are not always what they seem, and what may look like a wholesome town at a glance could be a facade for a less idealistic community that has simply become accustomed to covering up dirty little secrets for too long.

While *Riverdale* may feel, at times, like a *Twin Peaks* knock-off, it has a unique quality far removed from Lynchian on the post-*Gossip Girl* network

Jughead: ex-best friend...sad!

that makes it endearing, enigmatic, and still wonderfully quirky. From a neon-lit diner booth, narrator and ex-best friend of leading man Archie Andrews (K.J. Apa), Jughead Jones (Cole Sprouse), opens the series with a re-

of *Riverdale* is that it takes characters that people are familiar with and reshapes them into something unfamiliar and new, giving them fresh life and proving the show has its own beat outside of the world of the Archie comics.

1994." The self-awareness to reinvent what the comics depict, who the characters are, and what subject matter is relevant in 2017 is where *Riverdale* hits its stride. The Archie comics are 75 years old, but have always done well to adapt to the current times for an ever-changing modern fan-base, and *Riverdale* feels like a well-polished screen adaptation of the newer comics. In this way, the series distinguishes itself as pleasing to modern audiences by building strong female characters and tackling social issues such as slut-shaming and flirting with race relations.

The quick-witted and seamlessly delivered dry humor and phenomenal one-liners give the show a terrifically campy appeal, but this is not to say the acting is bad. In fact, considering how young the majority of the cast is, the dialogue feels authentic, even if some of the references do not (i.e. Veronica describing the town of *Riverdale*: "Are you familiar with the works of Truman Capote? [Archie and Betty nod] I'm *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, but this place is strictly *In Cold Blood*"). Very few teens are going to even understand that sentence without seeing it written out, but I digress.

Riverdale very much feels like the CW drama that it is, but still in its early days and judging by the first four episodes, it is certainly one of the most appealing young dramas to air in a while. *Riverdale* airs Thursdays at 9:00pm on The CW.



Gotta love "Teen Peaks"

telling of the events that led to the mysterious disappearance and assumed death of their classmate, Jason, on the weekend of July 4. The narration is presented in the form of a novel being written by Jughead, and while at times such a storytelling format can feel trite or unoriginal, it recalls the original print format comic fans know, creating a nostalgic essence in a new world.

Perhaps the most appealing aspect

For instance, it only takes twenty minutes for the female leads, Betty (Lili Reinhart) and Veronica (Camila Mendes), to start making out in a bid to get on the cheerleading squad, a feat of queer-baiting that would feel strangely inappropriate if it weren't for the following line deadpanned by head cheerleader, Cheryl Blossom (Madelaine Petsch), "Check your sell-by date ladies, faux-lesbian kissing hasn't been taboo since

EVENTS

What: Fordham Dance Marathon

Where: McGinley Ballroom

When: Sat. Feb. 25th @12PM to 12AM

How Much: \$10 donation to the B+ Foundation

Why: Join for a day filled with food, performances, and dancing to support the Andrew McDonough Be Positive Foundation in the fight against pediatric cancer.

What: Chimamanda Ngozi Talk

Where: Strand Bookstore, Brooklyn

When: Tues. Mar. 7th @1:00 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: You could learn a lot about feminism!

What: Mardi Gras!

Where: Campbell Multipurpose Room

When: Tues. Feb. 28th @7PM

How Much: FREE

Why: There will be lots of food and French tradition to go around.

Ben Affleck and the Future of Bat-Films

by Scott Saffran
Copy Editor

We've found ourselves in a bit of a bat-astrophe. After his turn as one of the better Batmen in cinematic history in one of the worst blockbusters in the past few years, Ben Affleck's commitment to the role is on ever-shaking ground.

Almost immediately after leaving the theaters, crushed dreams in hand, Bat-fans such as myself clung to the hope that Affleck, a very successful director in his own right, would head up and star in a Bat-film of his own. In a few years' time, we would be able to rid ourselves of the horrible nightmare of *Batman v. Superman* and enjoy what would surely be a perfect representation of the character we know and love. A few of us took that a little too close to heart and began pestering Ben at every turn, effectively sabotaging press junkets for other, unrelated projects in attempts to learn as much as possible about the still-tentative movie.

After confirmation that Affleck was writing with DC Comics Chief Creative Officer, Geoff Johns, the question of the director was still very much up in the air. Warner Bros. execs and people close to the project were initially positive that Affleck would take up duties both in front of and behind the camera. Despite this, Affleck always seemed a bit wishy-washy on the topic, himself. Emotions on his part began to run high as pestering from the press continued, and after the abysmal failure of his pet

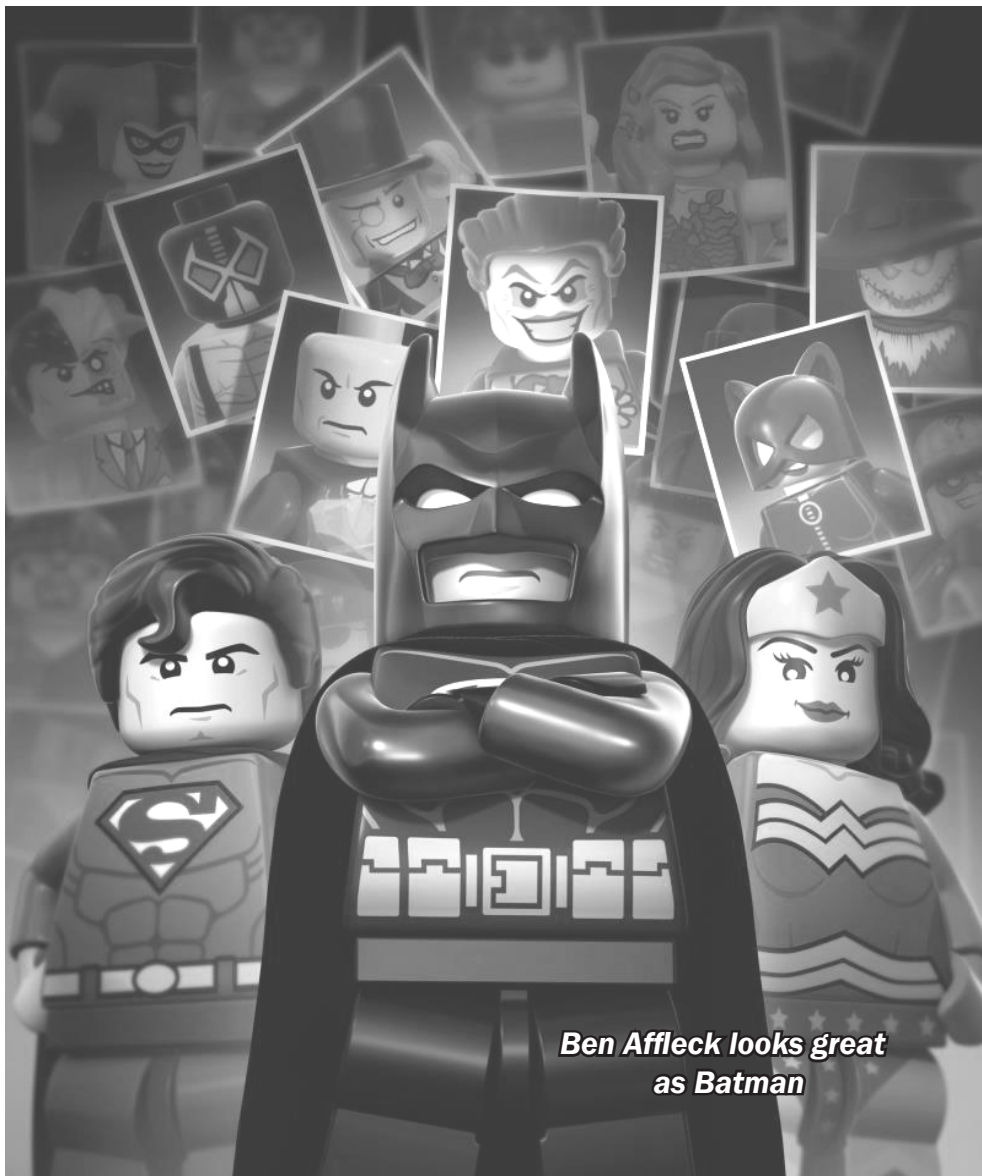
Ben may still be up to bat for the next Bat-film

project, *Live By Night*, Ben and co. announced that he would not be directing the future film after all. The official line was that 'he wanted to focus on writing and acting duties' and 'give the due effort to the role without distraction'. I'll choose to find the positives here and believe Mr. Affleck. The performance

director of the *Mad Max* films and one-time candidate for a *Justice League* project, was the most notable, but the most likely seems to be Mr. Matt Reeves. Reeves, director of *Cloverfield* and the pair of *Planet of the Apes* sequels, has been all but confirmed as replacement director. I am quite excited

for the potential here, as he has demonstrated incredible vision for his films in the past: *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* was a favorite of 2014 for me. He certainly has the chops to excel and his style is a perfect fit for the Bat-film I envision. As far as I'm concerned, nothing but positive news here. [Editor's note: *Reeve's is gone.*]

Alas, this is not the end of the rumored changes to the Bat-landscape. Many sites and reliable outlets have reported that Ben has been very unhappy with the current DC Universe predicament - and I can't say that I blame him.



Ben Affleck looks great as Batman

as Batman is incredibly important and the strain of maintaining several hats at once weighed down considerably on his shoulders throughout *Live By Night*. I can easily believe he would rather focus on the more crucial aspect as it pertains to him and hand off duties to someone capable, someone he trusts in. But who might that be? Who shall take up the not-at-all-enviable role of director for the next Batman picture?

Several names have been percolating throughout news sites, messages boards, and the like. George Miller, di-

It seems that he will be moving away from any future obligations, finishing his contracted work on *Justice League*, and saying farewell to the cape and cowl. Though it would be sad to see my favorite Batman take off so soon, the embarrassing level of quality in the DC films released in the past five-or-so years is only worth canning as soon as possible. The hot rumor at the moment is a new Bat-trilogy with a hard reset, and, in all honesty, I say let's do it. Can't be worse than the dynamic duo of *BvS* and *Suicide Squad*.

President Trump to Cut NEA Funding in Proposed Budget

by Annie Muscat
Staff Art Avenger

Donald Trump is truly a man of his word. The fairly recently inaugurated president seems to be following through with his campaign promise to "Make America Great Again"...for straight white cisgender males, that is. If you've been following the news at all lately, you're probably aware of the ~executive order extravaganza~, including the reinstatement of the anti-abortion global gag rule and the barring of citizens from seven Middle Eastern countries from entering the United States.

But of course the drastic changes don't end there. As part of his plan to greatly decrease federal spending, Trump is issuing a budget proposal which will allegedly see the elimination of both the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) and the Nation Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA strives to promote equal access to the arts, celebrate cultural diversity, and encourage leadership in art education. The independent agency envisions "a nation in which every American benefits from arts engagement, and every community recognizes and celebrates its aspirations and achievements through the arts". A significant majority of the NEA's project-based funds is allotted as awards and grants to individual artists and organizations across the country. Among the support it provides, the NEA annually funds a creative arts therapy program for military personnel and issues grants for town revitalization projects in order to improve infrastructure and local programs.

This is not the first time the NEA has been a conservative target under fire, stemming from the long-held belief that backing the arts is wasteful. During his presidency, Ronald Reagan considered defunding the organization altogether and more recently, Paul Ryan proposed its removal from government funding in his 2015 budget.

So how much federal spending is

The paint may dry up with the funding

allocated to the National Endowment for the Arts? In 2016, the total budget for the NEA was 147.9 million, which equates to .004 percent of the entire federal budget. .004 percent, people. In fact, funding the NEA has actually proven to be a good investment in the long-term. According to arts.gov, one dollar of NEA funding leverages up to nine dollars in private and other public funds.

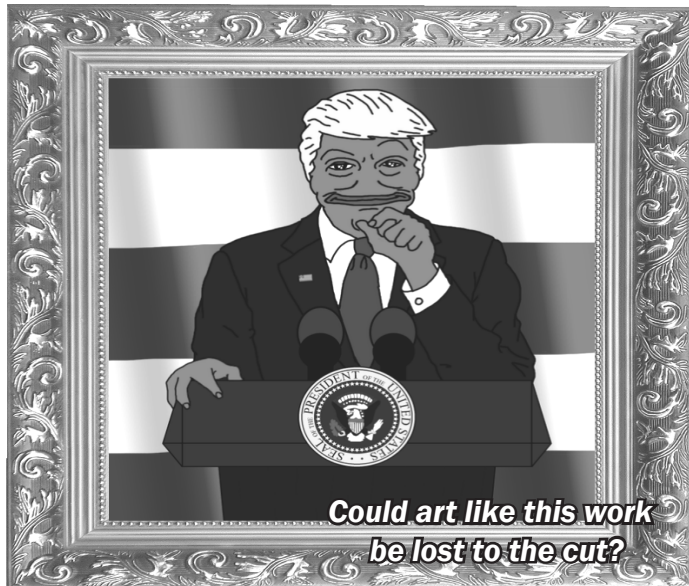
Political figures, artists, and art enthusiasts everywhere are voicing their concern and disapproval of the proposed defunding. Connecticut senator Chris Murphy, an avid supporter of arts

the amount of funding the NEA will forfeit if Trump's proposed budget is approved. His artworks have been sent each day to either the White House or Trump Towers and are understandably political in nature. One such rough sketch depicts an igloo adorned with a TV antenna, alluding to the impending danger of climate change and Trump's dismissal of the issue. Other artists have decided to join him in his endeavor. To achieve his goal, Weston has budgeted \$178.85 in stamps alone to send his artworks. He claims that art is the "ammunition" which can demonstrate an impact.

Although all artistic institutions across the country would be affected by the defunding of the NEA, larger institutions in big cities, (think New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles), would likely be subsidized by private funders. Thus, prominent urban hubs would be more resilient. It's cultural and artistic centers in rural areas without access to certain resources that would be most profoundly impacted. Arts education programs which provide children and adults alike with creative outlets and allow them to connect with others, would be stripped from schools. Grants issued to artists and organizations would be curbed, hindering the production of artworks, performances, and films.

Not only would the elimination of NEA funding be catastrophic for the artistic community, but it would also pose a significant symbolic loss. The NEA represents equal access to the arts for every person. It presents opportunities for people to challenge themselves intellectually through artistic creativity and contemplation. It provokes a dialogue and exposes individuals to other cultures and ways of life.

Essentially, Donald Trump should pay less attention to "alternative facts" and more attention to the actual people who greatly benefit, whether directly or indirectly, from the NEA and its services. In other words, the man needs to back the f*ck up.



SHOWS

What: Mimes and Mimmers Present: *Chess!*

Where: Collins Auditorium

When: Feb. 23rd-25th @ 6:00PM, Sun. Feb 26th @2:00PM

How Much: FREE

Why: Check(mate) out Mimes and Mimmers' newest show!

What: Cinevent: *Dr Strange*

Where: Keating 1st

When: Mon. Feb. 27th & Wed. Mar. 1st @9:00 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: It beats paying \$15 to see it in theaters!

What: Cinevent: *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.*

Where: Keating 1st

When: Mon. Mar. 20th & Wed. Mar. 22nd @9:00 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: Wizards only, no Muggles allowed.

Rachel's Rad Rant about the Grammy's

by Rachel Poe
News Co-Editor

I didn't even watch the Grammys live, I just watched clips of the good parts online and read a bunch of *New York Times* reviews about the show so apparently that means I'm the only qualified member on staff to write about this so here it goes:

The biggest story to come out of the Grammys definitely has to be about Beyoncé's snub for Album of the Year and Adele's, who actually won the award, what the fuck reaction. Both were up for Record of the Year and Album of the Year. Adele's "Hello" won over Beyoncé's "Formation" for Record of the Year. During, her first acceptance speech, she echoed what we all were thinking: "I want [Beyoncé] to be my mummy."

Adele's first speech was basically just a shout out to Beyoncé because who doesn't love Beyoncé let's be real, but in her second, Adele full-on Kayne-d herself. Adele, who was clearly getting emotional on stage,

Includes anti-Taylor Swift content

said "I can't possibly accept this award. And I'm very humbled and grateful and gracious but the artist of my life is Beyoncé. And this album for me, the *Lemonade* album, was so monumental and so well thought out and so beautiful and soul bearing." She went on to praise Beyoncé for the cultural impact of *Lemonade* and the empowerment of her lyrics.

Which, yeah, *Lemonade* was a cultural phenomenon in a way that 25 could only dream to be. I don't want to say that Adele doesn't deserve all the praise in the world because she does and she's amazing, but Beyoncé broke barriers and expectations, created new slang terms, and reminded us that she really does run the world. Despite her many Grammy nods and wins, Beyoncé has never won Album of the Year. If *Lemonade* can't push her over the edge, I'm not sure what will. Adele put it best when she said, during her post-award interview, "What the fuck does she have

to do to win?"

With the whole #OscarsSoWhite controversy last award season, the Grammys pretty much just dropped the ball here. One argument in favor of Adele's win is that 25 outsold *Lemonade* by 10 to 1 but Album of the Year shouldn't be about sales. I can't believe I have to argue about this. *Lemonade* is a defining aspect of 2016 that's unapologetically about black culture in the Deep South, not giving it the credit it deserves undermines that significance. I'm not going to pretend to know the thought process that went into this decision but clearly it was the wrong one.

But in lighter news, the night was also incredibly significant for one artist in particular. Chance the Rapper became the first person to win a Grammy while not being signed to a record label in addition to being the first black hip-hop artist to win Best New Artist since 1999. Woo! Good choice, Grammys.

(Also, side note, a definite highlight for me was that Taylor Swift was just not there whatsoever. Like I only realized this because other editors are watching old Grammy performances as I write this and the camera panned to her. And yeah, I'm that petty that I will waste a paragraph of my article to throw shade at the irrelevance of Taylor Swift. I don't like her, I think she's fake as fuck, and I'm so glad we didn't have to deal with any T Swift Drama this year.)

Honestly, I have a love-hate relation with award shows. I think they are incredibly pointless unless something controversial happens and that's why I'm writing this: shit happened. I doubt if Beyoncé won for *Lemonade* that I would be writing this article. But I guess that's just where we are in society now. We only comment on things when shit hits the fan. We never talk about happy stuff- we should do that more. Okay, Grammy rant over, go look up pictures of puppies.

A Golden Opportunity at the Guggenheim Museum

By Michael Sheridan
Features and List Co-Editor

If I had to guess I would say that you, the reader, are probably not a big fan of The Donald. Yet, despite your totally rational opinion of our current President, on some deep subconscious level. I'm sure you also at one point wondered what it would be like to live in a golden tower. Well, you can now live out your fantasy at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

The artist Maurizio Cattelan has installed a solid gold toilet in the fifth floor bathroom of the museum. Titled *America*, the piece is described as a "fully functional replica cast in 18-karat gold." But perhaps the best part of this installation is that everyday visitors are allowed and encouraged to use the toilet in any way they see fit. Visitors are allowed a maximum of 15 minutes in the bathroom and can go in alone or with others and whatever happens in the bathroom stays in the bathroom. While a guard is always on duty outside the bathroom, no one watches

You can even add some gold liquid of your own to the exhibit

what you do or how you interact with the piece. Simply put, for those 15 minutes, a toilet worth millions is yours and yours alone. Many visitors scoff at the sign, thinking the artwork is a waste of time, but then these same people try to peek inside the bathroom when the door is open. However, the toilet is tucked away inside the space, so the only way to truly see it is to wait in line and have your alone time with the artwork.

The artist came out of retirement to specifically make this piece and this piece alone, but has remained silent on its significance. There seems to be a large divide. Many take an optimistic approach and see this work as a symbol of the American dream. As the

toilet is accessible to anyone, so is the ability to succeed and truly make it in this country. Others find it an example of the extreme excess of the art world and the rich in general. As the artwork is titled *America*, the country is depicted as a land of excess, where the rich



feel the need to own gold toilets instead of putting their money to better uses. Still, a third interpretation finds the work to be one of unification. No matter if you are using a solid gold toilet or a hole in the ground, all of humanity shares the need to use the bathroom. The artist may have intended for all of these interpretations to be the meaning, or something else entirely, but who knew a toilet could

cause so much discussion and debate.

The other works on display at the Guggenheim are equally worth viewing as well. The show *Tales of Our Time* highlights the work of Chinese artists across various mediums including photography, film, and even a giant machine.

The new show in the famous rotunda space, called *Visionaries: Creating a Modern Guggenheim*, includes works from the permanent collection divided into six sections based on the six founding collectors of the museum. Masterpieces by Kokoschka, Picasso, Mondrian, and Calder are all on display as part of this show.

If you do go to the Guggenheim, I highly recommend taking the time to visit the fifth floor bathroom to use or at least view *America* as it is truly a unique experience unlike anything any of us are likely to get another opportunity to have. Admission is \$18 for students or pay what you wish on Saturday from 5:45-7:45 PM.

Resident Evil VII Resonates with this Writer

by Nick Peters
News Co-Editor

It takes a lot to make me buy a game brand new. Games are very expensive and I do not have a lot of money. Yet, the new Resident Evil, titled *Resident Evil 7*, was probably the only game I bought brand new since *Metal Gear Solid V* was released two years ago. Inspired by watching the amazing announcement trailer, stellar reviews on release, and a demo that intrigued me when I played it, I had an urge to purchase it. So, after debating with myself for days on end, I eventually decided to cave in and buy it. With co-Editor in Chief and roommate Luis Gómez staring at me from afar with a healthy mix of judgment and disappointment, I stood in line, clutching the game in hand, still mulling undecidedly over the decision I was in the process of making. With each step back to my apartment from the store post-purchase, regret filled me. However, after putting merely an hour into the game, my trepidation was squashed. It was so good.

Now, I am not a huge horror fan. I actually detest horror movies, as I have never found them entertaining or interesting. This can also apply to horror games, as I never really actively sought out playing any of them. I do enjoy watching others play horror games, but I never thought I would enjoy playing one myself. Well, I was wrong. I was so wrong. It is not even that I am a fan of horror when I thought I was not, it is just a really well-designed game.

Resident Evil 7 is just fun to play. Despite the switch to a first person viewpoint, it still feels like a Resident Evil game through and through. It's meant to have echoes of the first game, and they hit it out of the park. Spooky location, limited movement, item scavenging, safe rooms, scattered enemies -all the hallmarks of the OG Resident Evils.

A well "molded" review of a great horror game

The first couple of hours are a little more linear, seeming to be more like a modern horror game, with scripted encounters and unbeatable enemies you have to sneak past. But then, once you get to the first safe room, old RE vibes start seeping through. This, followed up by when you finally open the door into the main hall of the Baker mansion, a realization hits. This is Resident Evil. By the halfway point, the game goes full blown *Resident Evil 1*, as

Every time a successful headshot is pulled off, it's incredibly satisfying. The enemies are intimidating, every time I successfully deal with one it seems earned. In general, each encounter is harrowing, with a sense of present danger throughout, and a sense of elation upon completion. Whether it is sneaking past Jack Baker (the family's patriarch and one of the game's villains), fighting through a basement

well, these boss battles help provide a sense of classic Resident Evil, right at home with previous games' boss encounters.

The writing and atmosphere is stand-out in this game. The locations explored are spooky, yet also appear lived in, that it is still actually a home and not just a horror house. This is especially noticeable as the Baker's mansion is cluttered with items which echo a life before the Bakers' evil manifested, showing them to be more sophisticated than their current composure. Even the ridiculous puzzles all around the house are explained later on, and make a degree of sense in context. The characters are well written, and not boring. Every character is fully fleshed out, with unique personalities. The stand out is patriarch Jack Baker, who is definitely the best character in the game. I do not want to spoil too much, but his final talk with you at the end draws up a surprising amount of sympathy for him and the rest of his family, giving an unexpected personal stake in the climax. Some characters could use more fleshing out, such as the main character Ethan, who is boring and flat in comparison to the rest of the colorful cast. Yet as a whole, the writing for all the characters is surprisingly great.

Resident Evil 7 is an amazing game. I had a lot of fun playing it. It was spooky, but at least for me, I was not terrified. The only times I was startled were usually when my roommate (who watched me play the entire game) would scream at a jump scare. Do not be afraid to pick this up just because it's a horror game, because it is also just great. I completed it in the span of 5 days, and I am planning on a second play-through on the tougher Madhouse mode. Go out and buy it, seriously.



the unstoppable Bakers (the primary antagonists, a Texas Chainsaw-esque family who are unkillable and nuts) are switched out as the primary threat with faceless, black-ooze creatures called the molded. These molded act as basically the classic zombies, and eventually they scatter throughout the house. With this, the puzzle solving, the side items, optional objectives to get specific items, it just feels like a classic Resident Evil through and through.

However, it is also extremely fun.

swarmed with molded, burning through a bug filled house with a flamethrower, solving SAW traps, wandering a cold dark abandoned ship-each of these moments are great, well designed, and different from each other. None of the sections run on too long. In fact, I'd argue some sections could have been much longer (we could have used another trap-puzzle or two to solve). Even the boss battles are different from each other, with each one managing to have a distinct way to beat them. As

NINTENDO SWITCH™

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MIDTERMS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

GRAB THESE GPA SAVERS BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT!

Admit it, studying takes time and effort that you can't be bothered with. And while the paper doesn't necessarily "endorse" cheating, if you're gonna cheat anyway, you might as well do it right!

ENGL 2000 - \$66.60

Did you sign up for your Texts and Contexts class before realizing that it was about "Medieval literary depictions of ghosts"? Have a self described "ghost historian" ghost write your midterm essay for you.



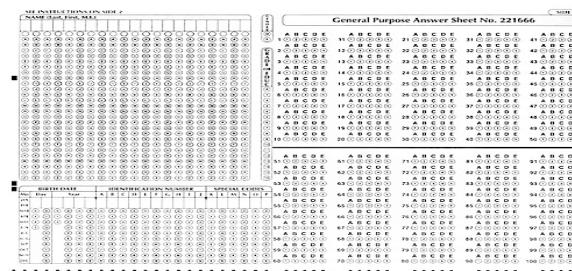
VART 1180- \$2.5M

If anyone says to you, "Gee, this painting sure looks like 'Still Life With Fruit Dish' by Paul Cezane which was stolen from Gallery 7 of the MOMA" just say that you were "inspired" by his work.



CHEM 1000- \$54.99

Finished miderm comes complete with answers to multiple choice and extended response questions. Just remember to change the answers around a bit so it looks like your work.



Math 2004 - \$99.99

We at *the paper* understand that its hard to memorize all the forum-als for multivariable calc II. That's why we've downloaded them all on to a Ti-89. Don't worry, we've found a way to ensure they won't get erased when you reset it.





THE BIG LIST

YOU'RE EITHER TOT OR YOU'RE NOT

by the paper staff

While everyone was enjoying themselves over President's Day weekend, the paper staff was hard at work editing this current issue. Our many hours got us thinking, "what the fuck even is President's day?" Instead of a day dedicated to men who have had a questionable impact on the world, the paper staff submitted our own ideas on what obscure holidays should go mainstream.

International Tater Tot Day by Napoleon Dynamite

"Are you gonna eat your tots?" Well, on February 2nd, everyone should be eating tater tots!!! We need to make National Tater Tot Day INTERNATIONAL Tater Tot Day. If you're from Canada, that means Tasti Taters. If you're from Australia, that means potato pom-poms. If you're a weirdo, that means potato rounds. Any way you put it, tater tots are undervalued and deserve to be eaten on the same day worldwide. Tater tots are the perfect food because of their undeniable tastiness and versatility. First of all, a tater tot is the beautiful baby of a French fry and a hash brown all in bite size form. Plus, they can be conveniently eaten at breakfast, lunch, dinner, or a late night snack (not to mention they can be easily transported in cargo short pockets). God Bless Ore-Ida.

Happy Lief Erickson Day by Spongebob Squarepants

A holiday I really love celebrating with my best friend, Patrick, is Leif Erikson Day. It's on October 9th every year, and Mr. Krabs even lets me take the day off! The holiday honors Leif Erikson, a Norse explorer who led the first Europe-

ans to North America. One Leif Erikson Day, my friend Patrick was busy buying giant paper, so I had to find a new friend to celebrate it with. After trying to play with a stick and a sink, I made friends with Bubble Buddy. We had lots of fun on Leif Erikson Day, which is why you should celebrate it too. You can celebrate it by eating at the Krusty Krab,



dancing with some bubble-butts, and going to the bathroom for the first time. Leif Erikson Day is a great holiday, hinga dinga durgen!

Happiness is a Choice, Unless it isn't by Maybe a Sociopath

While not necessarily a holiday per se, I think that we should as a country should recognize that August is National Admit You're Happy Month. I think this month long celebration has a lot of potential in a world surrounded by negativity, let's have Americans admit that their lives aren't really that bad relative to some other places. Some individuals have trouble admitting that they're happy, they thrive in negativity; its time as a country for us to encourage everyone to be happy using good friends, tasty food, some red-hot pokers, and an inquisition or two. Long

story short, we need EVERYONE to be happy, whether they like it or not.

Puppy Love by Rachel Poe

Let's just celebrate puppies guys. National Puppy Day is March 23rd and it's a fantastic idea. Just Google it and then go to the images and LOOK AT ALL

THE CUTENESS. Puppies are amazing, dogs are amazing, and they love us unconditionally so clearly we need to just honor their fluffy wonderfulness. If it was actually a national holiday then school should be closed and I could go home to see my own puppy. I haven't seen him since the beginning of the semester and I'm going through withdrawal. I need love from a puppy asap. But if we can't get the day off for National Puppy Day, we should definitely have adoption fairs set up everywhere so people can adopt the little love bugs or just get some love themselves. Did I mention I love puppies? PUPPIES.

The Day of the Pumpkin by Michael Sheridan

National pumpkin day (October 26th) should be the next major holiday in America. Think of all the great things

we get from pumpkin: pumpkin bread, pumpkin pie, and who could forget, pumpkin spice lattes. Pumpkin carving is an American tradition and Halloween wouldn't be the same without it. And how would any pinterest blogger ever decorate for fall without these delightful orange fruits. Pumpkins come in all shapes and sizes, from adorable mini pumpkins, to hundred pound prize winners, yet they are all equally wonderful. We could all use a day to reflect on this lesson and on all the great moments that pumpkins have brought into our lives.

Celebrate Your Body by Claire Nunez

Holidays are a waste if you ask me. We should all live in a communist-style world where nothing matters and every day is the same. If holidays have to be a thing, International Nude Day should be widely observed. I just really like not wearing clothes sometimes. It's freeing. Thank goodness this holiday is in July (on the 14th, happy Bastille Day!!!!), because the only thing I like more than being naked is being cozy and warm. I refuse to be uncomfortable— hence the whole wanting to be nude thing. It's also great that it is in the summer because for one day, and one day only, my tan will be even. Actually, I am not entirely sure as to why I care if my tan is even because I don't get tan, nor do I sunburn. Either way, it would be fun and I would not have to worry about my bathing suit falling down, or my shorts getting stuck to my thighs. All good things. So, this upcoming July, International Nude Day shall be celebrated by yours truly. I'm kidding; I'll never be able to be nude for a full day without getting paranoid. Yikes on bikes!



Hanni El Khatib
Savage Times
 By Marty Gatto

The mediocre songs are few and far between on Hanni El Khatib's new album *Savage Times*. The album is a collection of Hanni El Khatib's five separately released *Savage Times Volumes*, along with a handful of other new songs, and it is without a doubt one of the best alternative rock albums I've heard this past year.

Savage Times bases its overall sound on Hanni El Khatib's previously defined simple song structures with clever hooks, guitar riffs, and raw, gritty vocals. However, *Savage Times* also includes a fair amount of successful experimentation and stretching of the genre through innovation.

Hanni El Khatib opens the album with "Baby's Ok," an energetic track that heightens the pace right from the beginning and is a great opening for the rest of the album. Following is "Gonna Die Alone." It includes crisp, hard drum beats, a nice light guitar backing, and interlocking hooks that rarely show themselves in better form. The next track is "Born Brown," an intense, short, EDM track about Hanni El Khatib being "born brown," and although it is a large departure from what we'd expect from him, it's a great change of pace as well as subject matter and tone. Hanni El Khatib continues with some upbeat alternative rock tracks such as "Paralyzed" and "Come Down," some intense, abrasive tracks such as "Savage Times" and "So Dusty," and some bluesy, slower tracks such as "Miracle," which succeed quite impressively at integrating his gritty, catchy style into



a slower, more serious sound.

There is an endless amount of positive things to say about *Savage Times* but only one critique, which is that some of the tracks towards the end of the album veer too far from Hanni El Khatib's style for him to master the sound, like he does with a good two thirds of the album. Other than that, it is an amazing album and we all should be listening to it right now.



Various Artists
Our First 100 Days
 By Luis Gomez

If the election has caused anything other than widespread fear and lots of sleepless nights on Twitter, it's collective organizing. Some people protest, some call their congresspeople, and one group of artists has come together to create *Our First 100 Days*, a song-a-day project for the first leg of the Trump administration. The collection costs a minimum of \$30 on bandcamp, with proceeds going to a variety of organizations that advocate for climate, reproductive, immigration, and queer justice as well as an Indiana voting rights nonprofit and an artist-facing nonprofit that helps recording artists become full-fledged activists. So how have the first thirty songs been? So far, fantastic. With artists like Toro y Moi, Tim Heidecker, Angel Olsen, and PWR BTTM providing songs, the music has been a mix of down-tempo reflective material and fast, angry, shouty stuff. Plus, Mitski

and The Mountain Goats are signed up to eventually release material, so *Our First 100 Days* still has a lot of upward momentum in store. The danger with an album like this is that eventually, over the course of 100 songs, one will crop up that's outright crap. That might still happen, but of the thirty that have come out so far, it's been good work. Maybe not stuff that I'd like personally, but it's all good. If you're looking for an easy way to get involved, or if you just want to hear some dope tunes, *Our First 100 Days* isn't a bad pickup.



Active Bird Community
Stick Around
 By Caroline Bojarski

Active Bird Community, an indie rock band that played a Thursday night show at Tinkers just two years ago, is now streaming their recently released third album on Billboard. *Stick Around* is consistent with ABC's earlier releases, featuring authentic, hinting-at-emo, vocals, driving rhythm and bass, and standout guitar riffs.

The album's opening track "QB Sneak" enumerates the negative realities of being in your early twenties like an uncannily accurate horoscope. If the track's opening lyrics, "I've had two weeks of bad dreams/Now I'm living on caffeine" don't make you think about *That One Time*, I want to know your secret.

While it is true that the pitfalls of young adulthood have been the muse for countless musicians before ABC, the album avoids feeling cliched thanks to unpretentious songwriting and casual instrumentals. "Newbie" exemplifies this chemistry by offering straightforward lyrics, a refreshing change within a genre (indie) that infamously glori-

fies obscurity. ABC refrain from taking themselves too seriously on *Stick Around*, an accomplishment evidenced on tracks such as "Drank the Water" and "Melancholy Paper Drum". Although it often feels like some of their tracks end prematurely, leaving the vague impression that there should be more, this can be a blessed relief from the other indie rock blight of the six-minute atmospheric jam session.

With vocals that lace apathy with a glimmer of hope "Dead Legs" is definitely the album's standout track. This anthem could be a tired friend group's mutual consolations after a night out in which some serious shit went down.

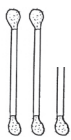
From start to finish, *Stick Around* feels like being just the right amount of drunk at a basement party with friends and strangers. Sure, there are problems and you can't afford to Uber home, but it'll all work out in the end.



Katy Perry
"Chained to the Rhythm"
 By Claire Nunez

Attention Katy Kats: our queen, Katy Perry is back with a new single, "Chained to the Rhythm." As an avid Katy fan, I was ecstatic to hear that she had surprised her fans with a new song this past week, but her song featuring Skip Marley is nothing but a basic party anthem. It leaves a lot to be desired. Perry is a great vocalist, but the song is just reminiscent of her album *Prism*. The song's rhythm reminds me a lot of "This is How We Do." It is almost as if she took her past album and ran it through the wash a few times to get whatever this is. I am not a fan and am rather disappointed to get this cookie cutter crap from one of my favorite artists. It is just kinda lame. I can't even imagine dancing to it because it is too

slow. It is as if Perry is trying to break out into more clubby music, but her old stuff is a bit more dance-invoking. I really do not understand the lyrics; they're really boring. *Teenage Dream* was an incredible album, and Katy Perry would be much better off if she stuck to writing about experiences that her fans can relate to. I really don't want to "dance, dance, dance to the distortion" because I am not entirely sure on what that means. I feel betrayed by her new song, but I have to say that I will always love you, Katy.



**Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness
Zombies on Broadway**
By Sarah Loftus

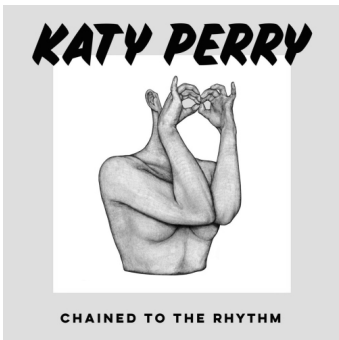
Like any good album that claims inspiration from New York City, *Zombies on Broadway* opens with the rushing sound of a subway coming into the station (apparently it's the L train). The second solo album by Andrew McMahon performing under the name of Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness, *Zombies on Broadway* showcases McMahon's clear vocals and rapid piano playing against poppy drum beats fairly well. Described as indie pop or "adult pop," Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness is probably best known for his hit "Cecilia and the Satellite" off of his self-titled 2014 album. McMahon then gained substantial traction last summer as he opened for Weezer and Panic! At the Disco's joint tour across the country. As a result, *Zombies* is a strong continuation of McMahon's career, although, in my opinion, not the best of it.

Before the release of this album, McMahon released five of its songs as singles, the most exciting being "Fire Escape" and "Brooklyn You're Killing Me." As great as that was, I felt as though there was nothing too new to discover once the album was released. The best songs were released early, leaving little else to enjoy on the short 38-minute album. Arguably, this could be said for many albums, but I just expected

something else from Andrew McMahon and was quite disappointed upon my first listen. Highlights of the album are "Shot Out of a Cannon," "Walking in My Sleep," and "Island Radio," all of which are quite catchy. But to be honest, are just the three most distinct songs off the album as the rest of the tracks blend together in a mix of piano and repetitive lyrics.

Highly personal and largely just a reflection of McMahon's thoughts about missing his girlfriend, missing his girlfriend-now-wife, and/or missing his infant daughter while on the road, *Zombies* is not exactly inventive with its lyrics in any of its songs. As a result, no matter how lively the beat or how happy the piano in the song, McMahon's vocals always sound kind of hammy and homesick, creating a mood any 20-something can relate to in a "Wow, that's deep and literally describes me, I should call home" sort of way. *Zombies* brings nothing new to the table and seems quite safe and manufactured in my opinion. It seems less colorful and energetic in comparison to 2014's Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness which had strong synth and drum driven tracks.

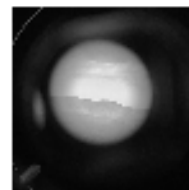
In the end, the album will probably do well for itself but fade quite quickly from any chart it makes it to as well as my playlist, unless, of course, I manage to nab tickets for his sold-out April 11th New York show (no pressure to send a ticket my way or anything.) But overall, *Zombies on Broadway* is a solid album. I find it easy to listen to and can see it as the perfect backtrack to a dance party around a bonfire on a Californian beach.



THE RAM FAM JAMZ PLAYLIST



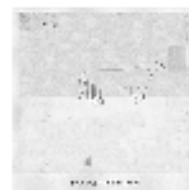
Silent Octagon



Nothing Kills My Ego Like Getting High Silent Tides



Veggies Dodgeball



Droool Your Dog



Month Ago Blonde Otter

THIS WAS A BIT TOO EASY FOR US TO MAKE

