

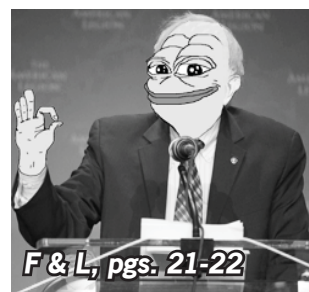
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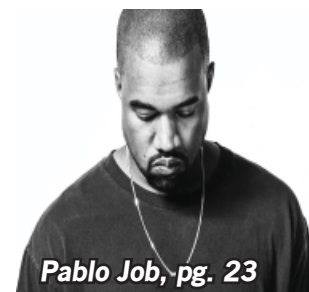
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the paper

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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 Wordpress. 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 all 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 email 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 email 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.

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**COME TO PAPER MEETINGS
TUESDAY'S 9PM IN
MCGINLEY SECOND
ALL ARE WELCOME!
EVEN GOTHS!***

***OF THE GERMANIC TRIBAL KIND**



Fordham Prep Suicides Leave Lasting Impact

by Colleen Burns

Staff Decent Human Being

On February 1st, Fordham students, faculty, and staff all received an email from Fordham Public Safety notifying the community that the Harlem and New Haven Line stops of the Metro-North were reporting police activity, causing temporary delays. Maybe you thought nothing of this email, or maybe you did not even read it. Little did the Fordham community know at the time, something serious and tragic had taken place. An unnamed sophomore at Fordham Preparatory School fatally stepped in front of a Metro-North train in the Bronx. This dire event happened just two weeks after Owen Kelly, another Fordham Prep sophomore, committed the same act on January 18th at a station in Sleepy Hollow.

While a dark cloud floats over the prep school's roof, actions are being made to help bring the community together. After Owen Kelly's death, counseling services were arranged for all students and parents. Additionally, preventive actions were made as teachers attended a counselor-run meeting to learn about ways to recognize distraught students. Still, even after these actions, the second death occurred, leaving many members of the community worried that students might continue to imitate their fellow classmates. Easing the minds of some students and parents, police officers are now stationed at the Metro North's Fordham and Botans platforms during the start and finish hours of school.

Fearing the "copycat suicide," it is difficult not to compare this grievous chain of events to the suicide cluster in Palo Alto, California. Between 2009 and 2011, six students committed suicide and four more joined them earlier in

Community comes together in wake of tragedy

2015. Suicide clusters like this one are often caused by an incredibly pressure-filled academic environment. However, the pressure does not stop at academics. Making time for sports, extra-curricular activities, college applications, family, and friends, while keeping GPAs



up can be stressful and demanding. Fordham Preparatory High School no doubt has stressed students, but the school tries hard to make the environment and atmosphere as fun and relaxed as possible. However, Fordham Prep seniors should also remember the importance of leading underclassmen in a tight knit high school environment that Fordham Preparatory High School provides. Seniors are called to be these leaders, knowing that the hurdles they've longed since passed are the same hurdles their younger brothers are struggling to jump over.

On February 1st, Rev. Christopher J. Devron, SJ released a message saying, "The sudden and tragic death of a member of our sophomore class last evening has deeply shocked and saddened the entire Fordham Prep com-

munity. We are in close contact with the young man's family and have assured them that our prayers, sympathy, and support are with them in their time of need." However, the president of the all-boys high school is not the only one offering words of hope. Fordham

Prep students took matters into their own hands to make every student feel loved and important. On February 4th, students posted notes on every locker at Fordham Prep with words of encouragement and admiration such as, "To me, you are perfect! (Yes you!)" and "Don't forget to love yourself!" along with "Live your life to the fullest."

These two suicides, fateful and unfortunate, remind us that mental health is extremely important, yet often overlooked. Mental illness comes in all different forms, some more obvious than others to outsiders. In fact, symptoms of mental illness is more prevalent than you might think and could even be looming across the hall or in this case, just across campus. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, approximately one in five youth

aged 13-18 (21.4%) experiences a severe mental disorder at some point during their life. The struggle does not stop in high school either. The National Alliance on Mental Illness conducted research about mental health on college campuses and discovered some striking results. One in four students have a diagnosable illness, but 40% of students do not seek help. Additionally, the National Institute of Mental Health reports that suicide is the third leading cause of death in youth ages 10-24. While these statistics show that mental illness and suicide are prevalent in youth, undiagnosed mental conditions are also a cause for concern.

When most people experience suicide from the after shock of a loved one taking one's own life, many people forget about the near misses. For every serious car accident, there is a near miss when the driver slams the breaks just in time. Suicide is similar. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention reports that for every completed suicide, there are 25 attempts, meaning the ratio of suicide attempts to suicide death is estimated to be about 25:1, specifically in youth. This number is disturbingly high, especially since suicide is one of the most preventable causes of death. Taking part in National Suicide Prevention Week (September 5-11, 2016) or simply National Suicide Prevention Day (September 10th) is a great way to raise awareness. For example, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention holds walks to help raise awareness, fund research, create advocacy, and build survivor support. Programs like these can turn a suicide into a near miss and save the life of someone who may just be across campus.

SAT Tests Added to Long List of Racist Stuff

By Katherine Sitler-Elbel
Staff Scantron

Out of 1600, how white are you?

Besides the Super Bowl and apple pie, there seems to be nothing more American than standardized testing and oppression. What's the perfect example of this combination? The SAT. Most of us can get on board with the idea that this test was a pain in the ass, but to take it a step further: the SAT is racist.

The distribution of SAT scores across races and ethnicities presents striking statistics on just how much the system is biased against certain groups of people. In 2015, Black and Hispanic student's had a mean score of between 80 and 100 points lower than their White and Asian counterparts on all sections of the SAT test. These results in themselves should be enough to convince

“Many schools use SAT scores to weed out entire populations of kids simply because their scores are not high enough.”

this is two fold. On one hand, this implies that white students grow up immersed in similar language and vocabulary as that which is used on the SAT. On the other hand, the content of the reading is also bias toward the White experience. This is

son, students from Pratt, NYU, Columbia, or any number of other colleges would probably do fine on this question set, but not nearly as well as the Fordham Students who came into the test with a certain familiarity

does this mean exactly? On hard questions, everyone has essentially the same knowledge base; therefore, test-takers rely more heavily on the actual text and context of a passage, and not prerequisite knowledge in order to answer these more difficult questions. Questions that are considered to be more difficult often include citations from multiple points in the passage asking to justify certain conclusions. Others ask for things like the authors perceived opinion on unrelated topics, or for the test taker to relate the passage to real-world, present-day situations. Basically, on questions like these, everyone is equally screwed. Therefore, it is justifiable to conclude that the score gap is not due to students' inability or ability to perform well on a test, but rather that the test is biased against certain groups, based on culture and experiences. White students would be able to quickly and effectively answer simple questions (which are worth the same number of points as the difficult ones that everyone struggles with more equally), allowing for them to receive a higher score, and thereby, be branded as having more “potential” in higher education.



anyone that there is a problem with testing, however, this is not a just indication of ability. A lot of discrepancies in test scores between White students and minority groups can be accounted for based on socioeconomic class. A standardized test given to unstandardized students will not yield accurate results. New studies, however, have shown that even Black and Latino students with equal economic and educational opportunities to White and Asian students still lag behind in their test scores. Another study published by Harvard, argued that the verbal section of the SAT used language that would be more familiar to white students than their non-white counterparts. The meaning of

essentially the same as giving students from every college in New York a passage and question set about the geography and culture of Arthur Ave.—and expecting the results to be indicative exclusively of reading comprehension. It seems obvious in this example that Fordham students, regardless of their test-taking ability, would do better on this question set over all. They would be able to answer simple questions quickly, and with more accuracy and draw conclusions about the community based on their preexisting knowledge rather than only the passage. Overall, there would be less opportunity to be effected by misreading. In compari-

with the subject-matter. On the real SAT, this sort of bias can be seen in passages on “White people things” like the Toyota Prius, Starbuck's secret menu, yoga, kale, and being offended by the Black Lives Matter movement. These passages, as well as those of many other subjects, would be unfairly relatable to the White test taker.

In case you still do not believe that the SAT language section is biased, another Harvard study showed that the score gap between Black and White students was smaller on more difficult test questions. What

Many schools use SAT scores to weed out entire populations of kids who “would not do well here” simply because their scores are not high enough. This disproportionately effects minority students, who do not fare as well on standardized tests like this in the first place, and are therefore, eliminated from the applicant pool without even being given the chance to show their potential. Simply put, since students of equal intelligence, and educational opportunity, whose only difference lies in which the box they check under race, will not perform at the same level, there must be something wrong with the test—it is racist.



Scientists Use Lasers, Discover Einstein Was Right

by Melody Knight-Brown
Opinions Co-editor

On Thursday, February 11, scientists at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) announced the first detection of gravitational waves. Proposed by Albert Einstein in 1916 and caught almost exactly a century later in September 2015, the wave's detection is a triumph for the scientific community for not only do they validate decades and decades of research but they also open the door to a greater understanding of the gravity and the universe at large.

So what are gravitational waves? Well, for those of you who forgot high school physics, here's a crash course. Albert Einstein, genius that he was, realized that mass, but more specifically gravity, can warp spacetime (a fundamental concept of Einstein's theory of relativity that is complicated and involves a lot of math, but simply put is when time exists as a fourth dimension to the other three). Because

The LIGO program has a cool name and a cooler purpose

of this Einstein predicted that any accelerating mass should cause ripples or waves in spacetime. This was not a perfect theory and Einstein struggled with the concept arguing both for and against them with every new calculation. Over the next century, others tried catching these waves as they change the dimensions of matter. The problem was these changes would be incredibly small, thousandths the width of a proton, and thus difficult to observe directly. Indirect proof was discovered, but no one was able to actually prove the waves themselves.

Enter LIGO.

LIGO, which is two facilities, one in Louisiana and one in Washington state, works by splitting a laser beam and sending the halves back and forth along two paths that are set at right angles to each other. Then the scientists observe what happens when the halves recombine. If they arrive back at the detector at the same time, the

half-beams' were undisturbed. If, however, a gravitational wave were to pass through, the wave would alter the half-beams' path, causing them to interfere with each other when they reach the detector. The reason LIGO has two facilities is because these detectors are ridiculously sensitive and things like airplanes, nearby traffic, clapping hands, and walking too heavily can give false readings. Having two facilities safeguards against these fakeouts since it's less likely that both facilities will be falsely effected at the same time and only something that happens almost simultaneously in both places could potentially be a gravitational wave.

For the first 8 years LIGO was operational it detected nothing. Then after a few years and a couple of upgrades to the equipment's sensitivity, LIGO finally had found what they were looking for.

1.3 billion years ago, two black holes collided. When they spun into each other they created another larger, black

hole while at the same time turning some of the black holes' mass into energy. This energy is what LIGO detected in the form of gravitational waves.

Okay so what now? LIGO succeeded but why are gravitational waves important? Well for one, they can prove that black holes actually exist. Black holes are somewhat taken for granted in the scientific community but since they don't emit any light, they can't actually be observed. However, being able to prove a black hole merger would be fairly conclusive evidence they exist. Gravitational waves can also help scientists better study a myriad of things from how fast the universe is expanding to string theory to neutron stars. And LIGO still has several years before it reaches its peak sensitivity and there's no telling what it will be able to detect then. The universe is a complicated, intricate, fascinating place and LIGO's discovery brings us a little bit closer understanding it.

Super Bowl Ads Almost as Bad as Actual Super Bowl

by Nicholas Peters
Staff Don Draper

The Super-bowl is one of the most truly American things that happens every year. It is when everyone, football fan or not, huddle around different size televisions all across America. They come to watch the game, they come to enjoy the halftime show. However, people do not come to the Super Bowl just for the football, or the halftime show. Super Bowl ads are a different breed altogether from other forms of advertisement. You either get short trailers made for the Super Bowl for big blockbuster movies coming out, ads for products that are ridden with cameos by celebrities, or ads that are just plain strange (and not just normal ad weird).

For movie trailers, we got a couple of very interesting ones. Apparently there is a new Jason Bourne movie, aptly titled *Jason Bourne*, which was announced through a trailer. There was the big comic book movie trailers, in which ties together both comic book fans and football fans in one of the most amazing ways possible. This

The horror. The screams. Puppymonkeybaby.

year we got a trailer for the new X-Men movie, and a trailer for the new Captain America movie. There were also two very interesting ads run for Turkish airlines, which featured Gotham City and Metropolis, that were very interesting and got me hyped for *Batman V Superman*, (but not Turkish Airls).

Besides the movie trailers, which were for the most part good, the other ads themselves were pretty awful. They were hard to watch awful, trying too hard to be funny awful. We had a dumb skittles ad which had Steven Tyler (the lead singer of Aerosmith) witness a mural of himself (made out of skittles) sing to him his song Dream On, until it explodes. Yup I really want skittles. Mountain Dew ran a very strange and nightmarish ad, in which

something called a Puppymonkeybaby (it literally had the lower body of a baby, upper body of a monkey, and head of a pug...it was horrifying) gave three guys who want something to drink Mountain Dew. It also licked one of their faces



and danced out of the room as they followed it, dancing in line. It also kept annoyingly saying Puppymonkeybaby using a very creepy voice. It was really weird, and kinda made me not ever want to see a Mountain Dew can again, ever.

Another ad that appeared was one for Turbo Tax starring Sir Anthony Hopkins. In the ad, Sir Anthony Hopkins insists to another person that he would never sell out, while showing off random Turbo Tax paraphernalia, because being aware your an advertisement is always hilarious. There was an Audi add that compared driving an Audi to flying a spacecraft. Another ad had

an army of actual dogs dressed as hot dogs running to a group of guys dressed up as assorted Heinz products. Some dude dressed up as knock off Riff Raff (he talked like him too) yelled at a horse, sponsoring Bai, which I think is an energy drink, or lets you talk to horses or something. There was the controversial Doritos ad, which had a fetus in ultrasound stretch its hands out wanting Doritos from its dad. Another ad we were greeted with was the Taco Bell ad, which said that the new Quesalupa will be bigger than - man buns, tinder, drones, aliens (featuring the aliens meme guy), James Harden's beard, hover boards, and football (but not American football, real football, Neymar specifies, smugly smiling at the entire american audience watching "fake" football).

These were some of the many ads that were featured during the big game that happened. After rematching these ads for this article, I have realized that I hate ads, a lot. If anything though, avoid the Puppymonkeybaby ad, that thing was horrifying.

FAKER THAN TRUTH

By Luis Gómez

Buzzfeed Video Controversy

Buzzfeed has caused a stir of controversy with a recent video uploaded to the company's BuzzFeed-Blue YouTube channel. The video, entitled "Men Try Their Own Semen For The First Time," was decried by parents groups and news outlets for its lewd content. Mary Billenger, president of Common Sense Media's YouTube division, said in a statement today that "this kind of thing has to stop. I mean, if you thought 2 Girls 1 Cup was bad, this is...well it's not that bad, but come on. BuzzFeed is a huge media company and it's basically sanctioning porn. Like, what is that?" Fox News host Megyn Kelly remarked on her program "How creatively brain-dead can you be?" and hoped that YouTube would salt and burn the video and its bones, or at the very least the liberal media would admit that they're a bunch of perverts trying to make a quick buck.

The video in question shows an assortment of BuzzFeed employees, namely the so-called "Try Guys" as they drink from small paper cups containing their own semen and react in a perverse mixture of horror and arousal. A theory circulating online states that many of the employees in the video were forced to participate, noting the scared looks in everyone's eyes, the presence of what appear to be handcuff marks around employees' wrists, and a shadow present in the video that looks suspiciously like a person wearing full body armor and holding an assault rifle.

Buzzfeed did not respond to a request for comment. However, the company's founder and CEO Jonah Peretti said in a tweet, "Look, if you think we've run out of ideas, just wait until next month. Plus, every metric we've looked at says people want to see this shit."

Chief Justice Scalia Dies, Causes Controversy

By Rachel Poe
Staff Supreme Court Justice

There's no denying it, this election cycle has been filled with countless unforeseen moments. But now with the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, things are getting even messier. Scalia was known for his eloquent writings and outspoken personality that made him a conservative leader during his 30 years long term on the Supreme Court. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. said in a statement confirming Scalia's passing that "He was an extraordinary individual and jurist, admired and treasured by his colleagues. His passing is a great loss to the Court and the country he so loyally served."

But there is no time for legitimate mourning in Washington. Within the immediate aftermath of Scalia's passing, presidential candidates, along with Republican and Democratic leaders, have been arguing about President Obama's right to nominate a replacement. Some politicians seem to forget that a presidency is four years not three, arguing back and forth on whether Obama should wait for the next administration to handle the selection. Many Republicans and conservatives are trying to push back the nomination until the next presidency, claiming it was against tradition. But of course they are going to say that.

The last thing Republicans want is for Obama to nominate and possibly get a liberal or moderate liberal placed on a lifelong court.

The appointment of Supreme Court Justices is actually a real issue in this election due to the ages of some of the Justices and the possible shift in ideology with their replacement. Most people probably don't know this, since the real issues are being shoved aside during this hell of an election cycle. The next president has a high probability of being able to nominate new Justices.

Of lame duck presidents and candidates

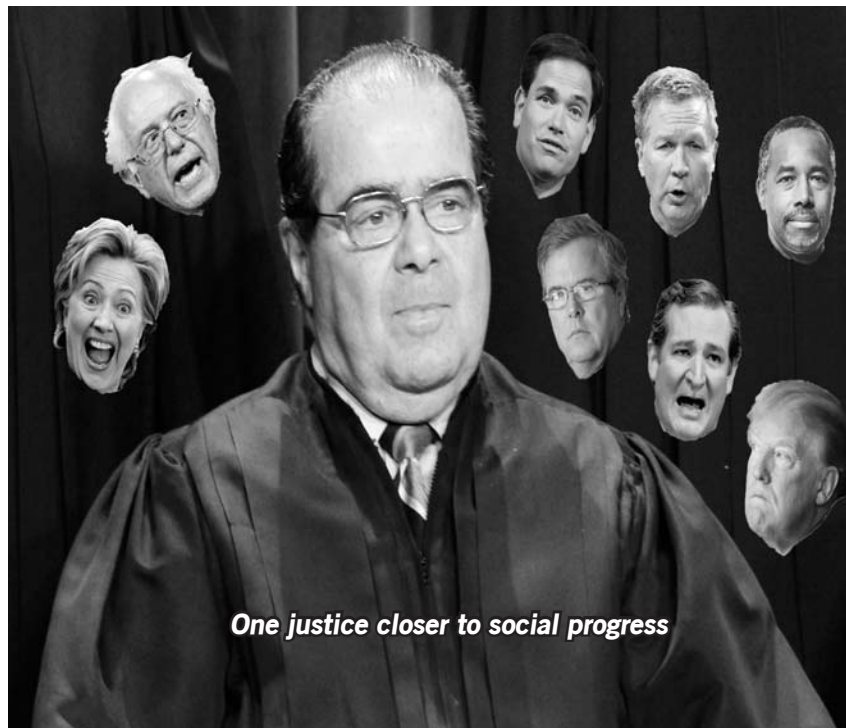
It was estimated that there could be two or three new nominations within the next presidency, but I doubt Ruth Bader Ginsburg is going anytime soon. She lives off spite and hatred for idiocy. Scalia's replacement was a main focus during the GOP debate on Saturday with all Republican candidates weighing in on the issue. Senator Marco Rubio said that "I do not think the President should appoint someone," going on to claim that Obama would, using his infamous phrase, "ram down our throats a liberal justice." Senator Ted Cruz, jumping on the same bandwagon, said that "The Senate needs to stand strong and say, 'We're not going to give up the U.S. Supreme Court for a generation by allowing Barack Obama to make one more liberal appointee.'" Is this really a surprise to anyone? The

but his successor hasn't been named yet. I think that hardly qualifies him to be a lame duck besides the fact that Obama just doesn't give a fuck about what people think anymore.

Democrats are rallying behind President Obama. Both Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders have come out in Obama's defense. Clinton was adamant about reminding the people that Obama is still president for the next eleven months while Sanders hopes Obama can come to a decision soon. Sanders also acknowledged that despite their political and ideological difference, Scalia's passing is difficult time for his family and colleagues who mourn him.

But really, no matter your political linings, keeping a Supreme Court seat open for over a year will do serious damage.

While Republicans are all up in arms against Obama's ability to select the new Justice, delaying the nomination is keeping real issues from being handled. The Supreme Court has an unusually large number of controversial issues that must be dealt with this term. Just because the Senate is used not doing shit doesn't mean the Supreme Court is. It's actually a working part of our government that doesn't need to be muddled with political bullshit. That's what it was originally



One justice closer to social progress

intended to be. Supreme Court Justices are placed for life as an incentive for the court to not be influenced by the political system- so much for that. If the Republican controlled House and Senate chooses to bar Obama on this, it's just going to clog up the courts system, causing our federal government to get even more fucked up. Scalia's passing could cause a battle between all three branches of the federal government, just reaffirming how terrible the functioning of the U.S. government is.

Republicans are against a Democrat nominating a new Justice, didn't see that one coming. Most of the conversation spewing from all of this is about if Obama has the right or not to nominate a Supreme Court Justice during his final year in office. Senator Rubio side-jabbed Obama by saying that in the past eighty years, a lame duck president hasn't nominated anyone to the Supreme Court. Now, there's some factual issues with this because is Obama really a lame duck? He has a little less than a year in office,

Oil Prices Plunge, and North Dakota is Screwed

By Luis Gomez
News Co-editor

Today, we'll be discussing North Dakota, a state so boring that its state tourism board made a "Last Stop For Tourists" ad inspired by the fact that North Dakota is the last state that anyone lists on their list of states they want to visit. Why are we talking about North Dakota? Well, global oil prices, mainly.

For the past few years, oil prices have been slipping lower and lower. Driven largely by the development of fracking technology, oil production has skyrocketed in places that it used to be impossible to drill. That technological increase led to oil, which was being sold for around \$120/barrel in late 2012 down to \$60 at the start of this year. And then it kept falling, dropping to below \$30/barrel by mid-January.

One of the places that experienced the biggest production boom was North Dakota. Small cities like Williston grew from 12,000 residents to almost 60,000, with projections to climb even higher. Budgets at every level were made taking a constant oil boom into account, which anybody who's looked at the economy for a while will tell you is not a thing that can happen. And guess what? That super-long slide into \$30/barrel price range was great for gas prices, so nobody complained. Well, economists complained, but we're just a bunch of dumb nerds who look at numbers all day and make irrational decisions based on those numbers, so in the end what person in government really gives a shit? None of them? Great, everything's going as planned.

You know, I'm really kinda hard-pressed to mention anything overtly positive about this boom in oil production, except for the fact that it bolstered North Dakota's economy a ridiculous amount. One of the by-products of the oil boom is a distinct increase in the existence of company towns and "man camps," which is a

"Drill, baby, drill" isn't really an option.

more socially acceptable way to say "trailer park where we house our cheap oil laborers."

But, really, let's take an actual look at the damages. First off, the dropoff in pricing caused by the United States' incredibly rapidly booming oil production caused OPEC to panic. Since OPEC states are almost entirely reliant upon oil prices for about a shitillion percent of their revenue, it's in Saudi Arabia's best interest to keep oil prices at a competitive rate.



Many economists believed that with the shale production boom, OPEC nations (and specifically Saudi Arabia) would start slowing down their oil production, as a means of halting or even stopping the price slide. Taken out of context, this is a great idea, and lines up with what everyone learns in their Macro 101 class. Here's the thing. When it comes to rule-following, Saudi Arabia is right up there with MarioKart CPUs and your younger brother inventing Monopoly rules in terms of fairness and abiding by rules. Saudi Arabia has seen a massive economic downturn due to the drop in oil prices. Given that the entire state's revenue is dependent on them selling somewhere close to a shitbillion barrels of oil per day to whoever can buy it, it makes sense that Saudi Arabia, rather than

abide by generally accepted economic theory and back out of an unprofitable market, would instead double down and adopt the Amazon model of doing business. The Amazon model, mind you, is not an actual model. It is a fake thing I came up with for this very insightful article, and it means that you undercut your competitors at literally every turn until it's unilaterally unprofitable for them to continue attempting to produce the goods that make them a lot of money.

Now, North Dakota has to deal with the fallback. Budgets that planned on a consistent stream of oil money have to be rolled back, or tampered with to adjust to the current level of revenue the states can expect. Lots of workers have left the state. The ones that remain are finding it more difficult to find jobs, even though positions are still in demand. Hotels that used to be fully booked are now running at half capacity. Cities took on massive public works projects, like a Williston's great big infrastructure program, and now are struggling to fund it, due to the fact that when the budget proposal for said project was made, it was assumed that oil

prices would keep falling in North Dakota's favor, forever. Simply put, everything is slowing down fairly quickly, and that is a pretty significant problem. How about that Republican debate Saturday night though? That was pretty interesting. You know what isn't interesting? Global oil prices and their impact on the North Dakotan economy.

Seriously, I really don't know what to say about this. There was an oil boom, North Dakota bet heavily on that boom, and now that the boom looks more like a bubble than a boom, North Dakota is facing the consequences of dealing with said bubble/boom. The economy will level out, eventually. Hopefully, the state most dependent on oil's long-term success can stay afloat. Otherwise we're going to have to bail out Mt. Rushmore. Wait, shit, Mt. Rushmore is in South Dakota.

Realer

Than Fact

By John Looby

England Tasers Children ALOT

Recently, after presumably realizing they hadn't gotten to be the villains of the world in a while, England started tasing children. The police in England for whatever reason decided that nothing says 50,000 volts quite like 12 years old. The controversy is obviously due to the fact that these are children and you shouldn't taser children.

Unsurprisingly, this matter is under close investigation with many groups calling for investigation into the methodology that would lead to police officers detaining and stunning children. The UK Children's Commissioners are leading the internal investigation into the fact that police seem to think you have to charge children's batteries.

The United Nations is also getting in on the action, not by tasing children themselves, but by doing their signature shaking of the fist and muttering like old men who can't keep children off their lawns. The United Nations have "publically shamed" England, which is probably about as useful as the Queen. The United Nations in their shaming are claiming that the English are in violation of a the "Rights of the Child" agreement that they themselves signed. The English will presumably respond to this by tasing another child and attempting to oppress the Irish.

Eventually, we may see a world in which the English stop arresting and tasing children like they were trying to become independent of the empire, but until that day, we can dream of the royal children getting tasered right in their incest ridden faces.

Doctor Performs Surgery On Wrong Baby

By John Looby
News Co-editor

Proves humanity has not made much progress

Being a doctor is super hard, like just the fucking worst man. You've got to do all that medicine shit and keep people alive, just constantly not letting death drag them into the cold dark hell that's awaits 95% of the American population. Who could honestly keep track of all those patients, I mean who really reads what they have to do at work, that is for goddamned squares. Speaking of which, a doctor recently operated on the wrong baby because lets face it, they all look the same, wrinkled little human shit factories. The baby had its tongue cut because teaching your kid to speak and not just cry like an inconsolable drunk girl isn't enough of a challenge. To be perfectly clear, a doctor, a person trained and paid to do nothing but help, literally took the wrong baby and carved its tongue up like it was served medium rare. This isn't an Onion headline. The world which we live in is full of just baffling idiocy (Shout out to Flint Michigan).

The hospital that apparently just grabs babies out of a hat to operate on is the University Medical Center in Lebanon, Tennessee, which is just another reason to never set foot in Tennessee if for whatever reason you were considering setting foot in that penal colony of a state. The doctor at this fine Tennesseean hell pit of malpractice after grabbing a random baby belonging to Jennifer Melton, performed a frenulectomy on the child. I have no idea what the shit that is, but I assume you probably don't do it to any baby you cast your self-prescribed eyes on.

According to Google, the internet equivalent of Harvard medical school, the operation is meant to help chil-

dren who may have speech or eating problems in their life time. Turns out though, that when you cut up the tongue of a perfectly healthy baby like a Christmas ham, it won't help them later in life, because obviously. Now Jennifer Melton gets to live with



"Is this not your baby?"

a constant anxiety that her child may not develop normally thanks to Dr. Stabababy M.F. M.D.. The child may have permanent speech issues. Jennifer Melton is being robbed of having to put up with the inevitable irrational bitchiness of her child's teenage years, that's not fair to her. The fam-

ily is launching a malpractice lawsuit against the hospital because apparently that's the only way you can punish doctors. The lawsuit is on hold for now because the baby has to get a social security number because yes, you can be fucked over by the system before the govern-

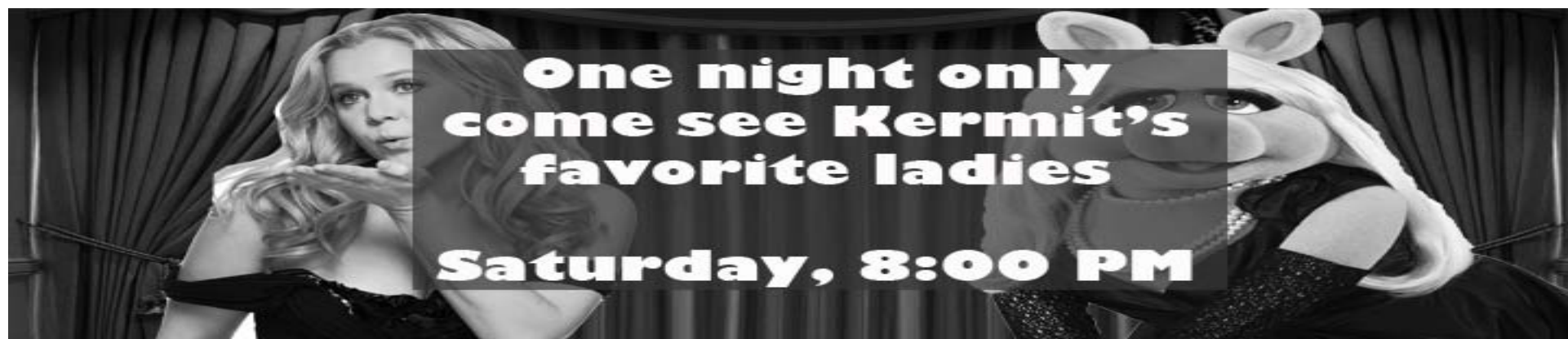
ment is launching a malpractice lawsuit against the hospital because apparently that's the only way you can punish doctors. The lawsuit is on hold for now because the baby has to get a social security number because yes, you can be fucked over by the system before the govern-

incapable of going more than two hours without a substantial fuck up, but when the mistakes are coming from supposedly trained professionals, it's just a bit concerning. Everybody knows the joke that all doctors have terrible handwriting, but the real punch line is the fact that that shit kills people every year; that is having to see your drunk degenerate Uncle at a wake dead. Nurses, for whatever reason, don't have the ability to decode whatever mandarin hieroglyphic pig latin doctors are taught in medical school and how not to kill the patient gets lost in translation. Should we just replace doctors and nurses with robots? I'd say yes, but I'm also deathly afraid of Skynet and don't like doctors so, I'm in a bit of rough spot here.

For now, I guess the best solution is to just sue the dicks off doctors involved in things like cutting the wrong babies tongue up like a super niche Freddy Krueger. Everybody likes money because capitalism won the Cold War or some shit, again I'm entirely educated by Google. So yeah, let's start taking money from doctors so they stop with the whole being surprisingly bad at their job for someone who spent eight plus years being taught how to not fuck this up and kill someone thing. Jennifer Melton and her son deserved better than some dickwad that probably was fueled by Adderall and Red Bull for his entire college career. Hopefully Jennifer Melton will be able to ball hard off that idiot doctor money and her son won't suffer from lasting debilitation because of this bullshit. Alas, maybe

the world will just keep being a god damn nightmare-it could go either way. Death is inevitable, your doctor can't be trusted, and the machines are plotting our destruction. So yeah, medical malpractice is just the absolute worst. I have an idea. Lets just go back to having witch doctors and start living like the ancient druids.

ment even has a record of your existence. Dr. Stabababy, whose actual name I don't know, is an alarming example of the ever-present problem of medical malpractice in the United States. Doctor's, like the rest of humanity, make mistakes. I mean we all know humanity is inherently flawed and ultimately





Political Flip-Flopping is Not As Bad As It Seems

by Claire Nunez

We all change our minds, so why is it so bad when a politician does it?

Opinions Co-Editor

Chameleons: small, slow moving, scaly lizards that change color based on their surroundings. We often mimic the way celebrities, politicians, and historical figures act to, in a way, better the way others view us. There's nothing inherently wrong with that; we are constantly encouraged to always try to be ourselves, but sometimes we are in a position or a situation that we need to change how we act or think. "You gotta do what you gotta do" as the phrase goes. So, why do we find this so unappealing when a politician does it? Hillary Clinton has been questioned for being too easily swayed by public opinion— and we condemn her for not staying true to her actual beliefs. Is it really that awful for politicians to flip their views?

Public opinion has changed drastically in the past fifteen years on topics like gay marriage, marijuana legalization, and more recently, assisted suicide. The Pew Research Center released data illustrating how Americans have shifted their opinions on gay marriage since 2001. In the early 2000s, less than thirty-five percent of Americans favored legal marriage for gays and lesbians; however, in 2009, that percentage began to drastically increase. By 2015, fifty-five percent of Americans supported it. States and politicians are also beginning to favor the legalization of marijuana— normally in Democratic states at least. Our concepts of what is "good" and what is "bad" is constantly evolving as the world's and the country's political climate changes around us. Most of our parents, families, and even ourselves

have probably changed our ideas regarding some of these hot-button topics, so why does it matter if our politicians do it?

Personally, I don't think it matters as long as these elected officials are acting in accordance with the law and supporting legislation that have our greatest interest in mind. According to the Quinnipiac University National

polls, Super PACs, and investors. They apparently stay true to their values. The keyword in that statement is "their." Sure, there are "lots" of people yelling, "yaaaaas Bernie daddy" and saying that Trump will absolutely make America again, but their fans do not realize that maybe Sanders' and Trump's lack of experience may cause the government to come to a bit of

words of Donald Trump definitely do not work with most of America.

These two politicians say what they believe, which is hard to do so, kudos to them, but they do not, in a sense, cooperate with public opinion. Hillary Clinton has changed the way she thinks to coincide with the way a majority of Americans think. One of the most famous examples of this is when she said she did not support gay marriage. Hillary Clinton said that she did not support same-sex marriages in the U.S. until 2013. This is incredibly shocking to voters. A video comparison between her speeches regarding gay marriage then and now frequently circulate Facebook and Twitter. Most people are appalled by her switch in views, saying she only supports it to garner votes for herself. This is a definite possibility. I, however, think differently. Most Democrats switched their views regarding same-sex marriage in the past decade. Have we forgotten that President Obama did not support gay marriage either until 2012? Most Americans did not support it until around then either.

As we, as a nation, change our views, our politicians have the duty to create laws that we believe to be just and fit for our evolving country. Just because Hillary Clinton's policies do not necessarily make sense to us based on her past, doesn't mean that she doesn't have our best interest in mind. If she has to change the way she thinks a little bit to get there, then so be it. She is experienced and she is willing to change her policy to take America in a new direction.



Poll, sixty percent of Americans find Hillary Clinton is "slimey," meaning that she appears dishonest. Most people are turned-off by her involvement in Benghazi, her personal email scandal, and for some reason, some are still hung-up on Bill Clinton's involvement with Monica Lewinsky.

We constantly see politicians touting that they are outsiders to Washington. Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump are constantly bragging how they are "uncorrupted" by private cor-

a standstill. Their values also do not necessarily apply to all of the people either. If Trump were ever elected, he would alienate women, immigrants, and basically anyone who is not a rich, white, working man. On the other side, if Sanders were elected, our very Republican congress would surely not respond very well to any proposed tax plans. The values of Bernie Sanders do not mesh well with the stereotypical Republican's ideal of a perfect America; the brash statements and

YouTube's Copyright Craze is Absurd and Unnecessary

by Luis Gomez
News Co-Editor

They don't make videos like this anymore— because they can't.

Let me start by saying this: I love YouTube. I think YouTube is great. It's a one-of-a-kind platform that has completely supplanted TV and probably even Netflix in terms of minutes watched. YouTube is a tiny cultural hotbed, a distillation of Internet-inspired weirdness and older-world formats.

But it has problems. A lot of problems. And a lot of them cropped up recently.

Perhaps you've heard of The Fine Bros? If you have, you probably know where this is heading. If not, let me explain. The Fine Bros are a pair of brothers who make very high-production value reaction videos. Then they trademarked their show titles, the word "react," their "format" (because people reacting to things isn't broad at all, like nope). And then took down a video critical of their announcement that had eight views. Then everything blew up in their face. They lost a few hundred thousand subscribers, and schadenfreude flew like champagne. The Fine Bros eventually posted an update video that was remarkably tone deaf to the entire problem, and they lost a few hundred thousand more subscribers. After a few days of being the internet's newest meme, the Fine Bros apologized, rescinded their trademarks, and rescinded the copyright claims they'd levied against some critical videos. And thus, life continued.

Here's the really fun part. All that crap with the Fine Bros I just mentioned? That's not even the half of it. There's an entirely different fold to this story, and devil, thy name is ContentID.

Introduced in late 2013, ContentID took YouTube's three strikes system over the fucking ledge. ContentID is an automated system that scans your videos as you upload them for any copyrighted images or music. And it sucks. True, it's a reasonably good way to keep people from uploading an entire movie, but it's also flagged people for audiovisual material they're using under fair use guidelines. Movie reviewers and game critics often complain of these facts, with even huge channels like PewDiePie and CinemaSins getting parts of their videos silenced or outright removed for supposed copyright infringements. Oh, and any money

made on the video goes to the company that "owns" that content. I put "owns" in "scare quotes" because it's "shorthand for sarcastic dismissal and an indication that the situation is often much more complex than an algorithm can determine."

This isn't even mentioning YouTube's incredibly broken copyright strike system. This is a much more destructive process, and it's one that has to be done by hand. Basically, if someone believes that you've taken their copyrighted material, then your channel can receive

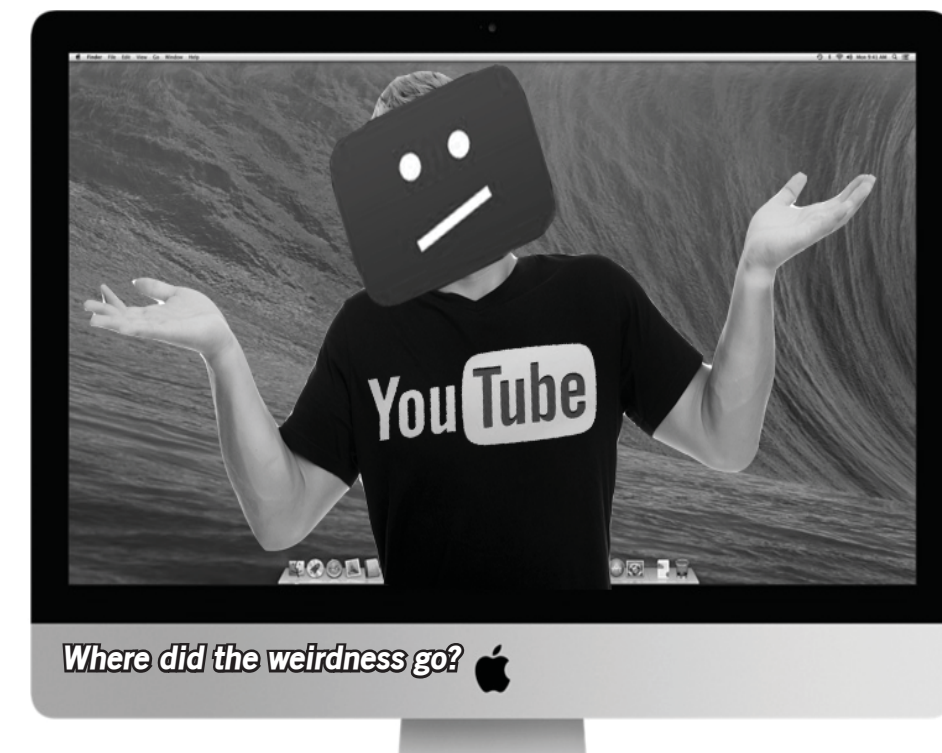
this. The fact that you're not allowed to monetize anything while your channel has a copyright strike is bullshit. Let that sink in. No videos. No original content. Nothing. You can't make money on any of that, and all because some copyright lawyer sitting in an office somewhere very far away from you decided that your fair use clips are actually infringing upon his poor, poor movie. That's not how fair use works, dipshit. Furthermore, the fact that YouTube puts so much power in the hands of a copyright holder, and doesn't give

er-growing corporatization of YouTube. Hank Green, half of the vlogbrothers channel, has written three really really good Medium posts and made one great vlogbrothers video about this whole topic. I highly suggest you read them after you're done here, in part because Hank is a very smart person, who has insider knowledge, and also because I like his writing, and also also because I've been and am going to be paraphrasing what he's already said. Basically, YouTube has become this incredibly dichotomous world where either you're huge and you work for Disney (well, technically you work for the Maker network, which is an MCN owned by Disney but...oh whatever), or you're an independent creator making no money at all, or making all of your money through a Patreon campaign, instead of through YouTube. YouTube's search and monetization algorithms all prioritize minutes watched over engagement, which means that formats like animation (in which there can be weeks or months of work for a few minutes of quality content) are next to impossible to make a living off of on YouTube, while *The Tonight Show* can crank out clips from the past week and suddenly they are the only videos that ever land on the trending tab. Along with whatever the current mega-popstar of the moment uploaded.

Between YouTube's near-monopoly on online video, its ridiculous growth over the past few years, and the fact that YouTube is now in the eyes of every media company ever, in Hank's words "The pure meritocracy that is maybe part of the mythology of YouTube is long gone, and one has to wonder whether that is: one, creating frustration, and two, decreasing the number of people who are taking chances to do weird, amazing, wonderful things on [YouTube]."

What YouTube is in the eyes of many and what YouTube has become are increasingly at odds with one another, and hopefully there's a middle ground in here somewhere. Otherwise, the Wild West days of YouTube are long, long gone, and I, for one, don't welcome our new corporate overlords.

So, I end this article with a plea: keep YouTube weird.



a copyright strike. If you get three of those, kiss your budding YouTube career goodbye, because your channel's going to get shut down. Plus, you guessed it, while you have a copyright strike you're not allowed to monetize, well, anything. Again, principally this is a good thing so that people don't just rampantly steal videos from content creators. But more often than not, it's used as a weapon by out-of-touch game publishers, lawyers, or angry developers who want to silence criticism. Hell, even Ubisoft's own trailer for a new Assassin's Creed game got taken down by Ubisoft. Like, really let that sink in. A company's legal team took down its own game trailer for violating said company's own copyright. I could not make this shit up if I tried.

Actually, let's take some time with

the alleged infringer any ability to counter a claim until their video has been taken down is bullshit. And only at that point can a person appeal a decision. And then it takes two weeks for the copyright holder to either decide to litigate or wait for the copyright strike to expire. So, that means that for two straight weeks, you can't make any money. At all. Whatsoever. And, as a reminder, *YouTube doesn't pay that well to begin with*. Ad revenue is tiny, and unless you're in a multi-channel network (MCN) or if you're running a successful Patreon campaign, YouTube isn't a consistent way to make money, and you're in constant danger of losing any revenue stream you may have.

However, all of this is really symptomatic of an even larger problem: the ev-

A Journey into the Depths of Hell: One Student's Caf Mission

by Reyna Wang
Earwax Co-Editor

Few things bring the Fordham community together as well as Sodexo does. Whether you support Bernie Sanders or Donald Trump, stand with B.O.B. or Neil deGrasse Tyson, or follow *The Ram* or *the paper* on Twitter, perhaps the one thing we can all agree on unanimously, decidedly, and passionately is that Sodexo sucks, like, a lot. The perfect ice breaker, Sodexo is a great alternative to talking about the weather here at Fordham—because who doesn't get a kick out of ranting about the shared experience of trying something "gourmet" from the caf, feeling gross and regretful and unfulfilled, and ultimately settling for a bagel? Recently, Sodexo has been a hotter conversation topic than ever due to rumors of the ending of its contract with Fordham and the possibility of a new food supplier. In light of all this discussion about the society of failed French chefs who sell incredibly shitty food for incredibly high prices, I decided to conduct a week long investigation of the Caf's most intriguing pescatarian-friendly dishes, martyring my body to the cause of finding out how bad Sodexo's food can really be.

Day 1: There wasn't anything too exciting in the "Marketplace" today, so I went for the "bean and cheese burrito," with salsa and mixed veggies on the side, and by mixed veggies, I mean the same tasteless handful of generic corn, peas, carrots, and green beans that is always used as a go-to side. Examining the dish more closely, the exposed beans that had been severed in the halving of the burrito looked a bit crusty and dry. How long ago was this burrito prepared? I wondered to myself. Shrugging, I took the first bite and was pleasantly surprised. The beans, rice, and cheese blended quite harmoniously with the nicely toasted tortilla. The sour cream, on the other hand, was a bit suspicious; it didn't contribute much taste-wise, but it was the texture of ricotta cheese, while definitely not being ricotta cheese. I guess it's possible that the burrito had been sitting there for so long that the sour cream solidified, but I'd rather not think

If you know what to get, you're good. Otherwise, good luck.

about that. Score: 4/5

For dessert, I tried the "red velvet bar," which was basically a tiny, bland-tasting brownie with this cream cheese flavored pastry layer on top. Sodexo somehow manages to make desserts that taste like they contain tons of butter and sugar but are still tasteless and unsatisfying, which I thought was a culinary contradiction, but I suppose Sodexo has a knack for accomplishing the impossible. Score: 2/5

Day 2: I began my usual prowl around the "Marketplace," in search of a meatless dish slightly more interesting than the salad bar, the "world famous" "baked to perfection" pizza, or the unnecessarily numerous types of rice the caf offers daily. Just as I was about to lose hope after my third fruitless lap, one of the cafeteria workers emerged with what's labeled as a "fried beer batter fish sandwich" with the same generic mixed vegetables as yesterday. Power walking as inconspicuously as possible, I made my way towards the sandwich, snatching the plate before that other dude eyeing it could steal my prize. Though it didn't exactly taste beer-battered, the fried fish filet definitely exceeded my expectations, and by that I mean the fish tasted like real cod—certainly not fresh from the market quality, but one can only expect so much from a cafeteria. The bun was a bit dry, but now I'm just finding things to criticize. If not for how depressing the side veggies were, this meal would've gotten a 5. Score: 4/5

Later in the day, I was feeling rather wild and grabbed a "s'mores quesadilla." I don't know what I expected, but I didn't expect a tortilla drowning in about 7 different types of syrup with a tiny dollop of Fluff and smear of Nutella inside. I proceeded to eat an entire plate of rubbery cauliflower to clean my digestive tract of that strangely enticing monstrosity. Score: 3/5

Day 3: Deep southern soul music blared on painfully crackly speakers as the Sodexo team energetically served the special Mardi Gras dinner, laid out on flashy tables decorated in gold, purple, and green. There's an im-

pressive variety of "authentic" Southern-themed food, including whole shelled crawfish, which I couldn't figure out how to eat and made me feel too unsettled to find out. The baby shrimp which accompanied them in a spicy sauce were actually quite good, especially paired with the cheesy grits that tasted like it was made with real cheddar. The fried zucchini and okra were exceptionally slimy, and I know this is gross, but the most accurate way I can describe the texture of these "vegetables" is by calling them lumps of fried mucous. In contrast, the cornbread was on the dry side but otherwise pretty good. The cajun caesar salad is approximately 75% croutons, and I wouldn't doubt that it was made by literally emptying a packet of taco seasoning into a batch of normal Sodexo caesar salad. As for dessert, I decided to take a stab at the bread pudding. Granted I don't know how bread pudding is supposed to taste, but this specimen tasted like a sweeter version my attempt to make buns over winter break, which yielded soggy, dense blobs since I used inactive yeast and too many eggs. The occasional chocolate chip was the only thing that made eating this thing bearable. Score: 2/5

Day 4: For me, the great thing about Lent is that the arbitrary dietary restrictions associated it with the observance means pescatarian options abound every Friday, hooray! I picked up the "shrimp vegetable stir fry." This title is somewhat deceiving, because by vegetable, Sodexo meant literally one piece of broccoli, half a carrot coin, and a few squares of bell pepper. The sauce used was overwhelmingly salty, to the point where the shrimps basically just tasted like squishy manifestations of salt. Needless to say, I was very salty about the outcome of this meal. The spring roll that accompanied the stir fry was mad greasy, and one bite made me feel my arteries start to clog. I downed two entire glasses of lemon infused water in the process of eating this dish. At least they finally learned how to thoroughly cook rice? Score: 1/5

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the caf replaced one of its pizza pies with

a massive sugar cookie pie, sliced into small wedges and dressed in strawberry syrup that drew hearts and romantic symbols on top. It tasted freshly baked and was perfectly golden brown around the edges. It was the least Sodexo could provide to compensate for my near traumatizing experience with that stir fry. Score: 5/5

Day 5: Despite how much I dreaded at this point risking another bad experience with one of Sodexo's "gourmet" seafood dishes, I had to complete to my journalistic mission. At the Eurostation (is that what people are calling it?) are plates of "baked scrod with lemon butter sauce". I don't know what in the world scrod is, but it's bitter as heck. The butter is literally congealed on the top of the fish, which doesn't seem physically possible because the fish is warm, but maybe Sodexo's cooking is just witchcraft gone wrong. The vegetables, as per usual, are soggy and tasteless, embedded in equally soggy and tasteless pasta. I could not be happier that this is the last day of this cruel experiment. Score: 1/5

I'm pretty sure that the cinnamon stick I picked up for consolation was just leftover pizza crust, twisted and smothered in cinnamon icing. It's sad that I know the taste and texture of Sodexo's pizza crust by heart. Score: 1/5

In conclusion, you know the song that goes "stick to the stuff you know" from *High School Musical*? That should be your motto upon entering the Caf. It's not worth putting yourself in a "maybe this time they won't fuck it up" mindset when Sodexo gets creative and cultural; chances are, you'll probably end up returning the good ole' faithful bagel (god forbid they find some way to fuck that up too). Sodexo is brilliant at making food that is objectively bad but just decent enough for most of us to eat anyway, as we gaze into the masses of students united in the same struggle, dreaming of a more just world in which \$2500 a semester buys us food that doesn't cause low key food poisoning once every few weeks.

(Okay but seriously, let's all stop complaining about the caf. I'd be lying if I said I don't secretly love buffet style food and taking a whole booth for myself.)

Buzzfeed Needs To Not Be So Offensive And Weird

by Michael Sheridan

Features & Lists Editor

Buzzfeed is great. What other resource exists that can tell me what kind of nineties kid show I am, or twenty-seven things extroverts won't understand, or what it looks like when twenty somethings eat rural Zambian delicacies for the first time. However, lately, the site seems to be rapidly running out of ideas as it has become almost a parody of itself.

This has mostly become a problem with its youtube series, which features Buzzfeedvideo, Buzzfeedyellow, Buzzfeedblue, Buzzfeedviolet, and Buzzfeed Celeb. By far the most popular series of Buzzfeed has been their "People try blank for the first time" which often feature the creatively nicknamed "try guys." Although fairly self-explanatory, these videos depict what happens when twenty something Buzzfeed employees try different food and activities of another region or culture, or show guys trying traditionally female products.

These videos in a sense are already culturally insensitive. The people in the videos spend the whole time

Why is it so hard to not objectify anyone?

talking about how weird and strange these foods and activities are and aren't afraid to show their total disgust by the end of the video. It's one thing to not like a particular aspect of another culture, but it is a totally another thing to make a video making fun of it. On a site that prides itself on being inclusive, this seems mean-spirited and out of place.

Furthermore, their videos are becoming more and more absurd, perhaps best represented in the video "People Try Drinking Their Own Pee For The First Time." The video oddly has to specify that is the first time these people are drinking urine, which just shows how weird these videos have become. The video justifies itself by saying that urine is prescribed to "treat various conditions" although "there is no scientific basis for this." The video continues to show people literally drinking samples of their own urine. Shockingly, the group finds their own pee revolting, yet one of the women seems to suggest that oral sex is akin to drinking pee. Honestly, the entire time I was watching this video, I was expecting

it to be revealed that it is actually all just an elaborate joke. However, Buzzfeed was totally serious about this video.

However, the site itself isn't beyond reproach. The site for years has been increasingly hypocritical in how it depicts men and women. When it comes to women, the site is all about body positivity. Rightly so, the site preaches that all girls should love themselves and their bodies and to ignore the haters. It calls people out for objectifying women and treating them as something to just be looked at. It brings to light the unfair beauty standards that society holds women too. All of this is important and a great message to promote. However, when it comes to men, the site seems to completely ignore this entire message. It routinely features articles featuring pictures of photo shopped men for readers to ogle at. The site would never post "Twenty-seven Hot Women That'll Be My Valentine This Year." Such an article would be vilified for its overt sexism. Yet the site, just this weekend, posted an actual article titled "Twenty-one Hairy Men

That'll Be Your Teddy Bear This Valentine's Day." The article proceeds to show twenty-one scantily clad men who are all of one body type and praised for their good looks. What kind of message does that send?

Even worse are the articles that love to take pictures of men in order to point out their "bulge." This is nothing but sexual objectification and borders on harassment. I find articles like this to be disgusting and proof that Buzzfeed, which claims to be feminist, seems to forget that men are people too and more than simply objects.

The problem with Buzzfeed is that it claims to be an inclusive, culturally aware, liberal site, yet the site picks and chooses when it wants to actually adhere to this mantra. The site is above all a business and seems to care only about releasing the articles it thinks will garner the most views. So, while I probably won't be giving up the site entirely, as it does have some good things to say, I refuse to respect the site as an authority on social issues.

Germophobes Need to Unite to Abolish Hand Dryers

by Siobhan Donahue

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Fordham is trying to kill you. Perhaps I was being hyperbolic, but there is a thread of truth to the previous statement. You may have noticed that the majority of bathrooms on campus feature hand dryers as the only way to dry one's hand. A select few have paper towels, but most do not. So, what's the problem? After all, have we not been told that the hand dryers are more hygienic? I am here to tell you though that everything you have been told is a lie. Do not worry though, because I will tell you the truth, backed by science!

A couple of years ago, researchers studying microbiology and molecular biology at Westminster University decided to measure the amount of bacteria left on one's hands after using a paper towel versus using a hand dryer. When

They're like a sneeze of bathroom germs, gross.

the participants in the study dried their hands with paper towels, the bacteria count on their hand was reduced by 40 to 60 percent. When participants dried their hands using hand dryers, the bacteria count actually increased by 255 percent. Now, bacteria itself is not harmful, for there are a lot of good bacteria. Unfortunately, the bacteria being blown on you from the hand dryer is the bad kind, also known as, the fecal matter of every stranger who used the bathroom before you. Just let that sink in.

Essentially, the hand dryers create a warm environment for germs to thrive. When you blow dry your hands, the bacteria on your palms gets flung up inside of the dryer. Consequently, the germs from the last usage get blown onto you. Gross, right? Meanwhile, when one uses a paper towel, the germs

just get wiped away and thrown in the trash.

So, if we go back to paper towels, then everything will be clean and sterile? Well, sort of. Essentially, for a very clean bathroom experience, you need a hand motion paper towel dispenser. Emphasis on hand motion. Not the mechanical one that can be found in Keating. Automatic sinks would also be a huge improvement. Although, unlike hand dryers, I think it is more obvious as to why faucet knobs are unsanitary. As for the doors exiting the bathroom, I think they should be pushed, rather than pulled, since grabbing a handle that a germy hand could have potentially touched seems counter intuitive. Also, while a lot of bathroom have this, not all do, but I would like to see more hand sanitizer dispensers outside of bathrooms.

The one drawback with paper towels, and part of the reason why they have gone out of style at Fordham and elsewhere, is the fact that they are environmentally unfriendly, whereas the hand dryers are very green. First of all, only energy efficient hand dryers are green. So, there's a chance some of the older hand dryer models are using a lot of energy and thus, are not helping the environment. Second of all, paper towels can be green. They are made up of recycled material anyway, and used paper towels can be used for compost.

Basically, paper towels are way more sanitary than hand dryers. Also, they can be environmentally friendly. So, let's install the hand motion paper towels and stop spraying ourselves with germs every time we dry our hands.

the paper's View

Finding Our Inner Pablo

Who is Pablo? Well, Pablo is the Spanish version of the name Paul. In the case of Kanye's album title, Pablo refers to St. Paul the Apostle. Even if you are not Catholic, there are lessons from the story of Paul, which we can all strive to live by.

So, what's the story of Pablo/Paul? First, you better call him Saul. No, that's not a Breaking Bad reference, Paul's name was actually Saul. As Saul, Paul persecuted Christians because every Catholic saint needs a dark backstory. One day, Saul went to Damascus. I should let you know that this all happened in the first century, so ISIS wasn't an issue back then. While on the road, he was struck blind and then the Lord started talking to him and essentially said, "What do you think you're doing, bro???" At this point, Saul was freaked out and told the Lord that he will follow Him. Saul was able to make it to Syria while blind. Eventually, he got his sight back and became devoted to Jesus and wrote a bunch of letters that filled out the New Testament perfectly. The point is though, Saul was blind, but then he saw the light. And also got a name changed.

So, how can we see the light? No, this isn't just a glorified homily. In fact, by seeing the light, I don't mean converting to Catholicism, I mean seeing the truths in our world. True facts: societal institutions are racist, sexist, classist, etc. Our country has more than enough resources that there really is no justification for war. Also, the superdelegate system for the Democratic Party is just a way for party elites to have more say in who gets elected than the common people. I don't think I need to even tell you about all the infringements on liberty committed by the Republican Party. Literally, watch a GOP debate and you'll see what I mean.

By being like Paul/Pablo, you see the truth. So, I ask that everyone tap into their inner Pablo. Do this by keeping yourself educated. By not accepting the status quo. By being weary of people who justify violating the rights of other human beings. To truly live the life of Pablo, one must stay woke.

XOXO,
Siobhan

Editor's Note: Kanye is still problematic though.



WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR BABY?



ON APRIL 20TH, 2014, JICAMA WAS BORN. AFTER BEING POSSESSED BY A DEMON IN 2015, JICAMA HAS GROWN UP AND HAS NOW STARTED PRESCHOOL. IN OTHER NEWS, WE ADOPTED A BOY, PABLO SANCHEZ-PAPER, SO JICAMA CAN HAVE A SIBLING.

PICTURES!



On the left, Jicama plays with Legos in the living room. On the right is a headshot of Pablo, which was given to us by the adoption agency.

You Don't Have to Support Hillary Even Though You're a Feminist

by Rachel Poe

Staff Actual Woman

This past week, both Gloria Steinem, feminist leader and icon, and Madeleine Albright, the first female Secretary of State, came out swinging against young female voters who support Bernie Sanders as opposed to Hillary Clinton. Steinem claimed that young women flock to Sanders because “the boys are with Bernie” and we aren't as “politically radical” as our older counter parts while Albright said “there's a special place in hell for women who don't support other women.” Under any other circumstances, I would have to whole heartedly agree with Albright, but this is just one situation where I have to call bullshit.

I just want to be perfectly clear that my sheer outrage in this matter has nothing to do with the fact that I prefer Sanders to Clinton. Honestly, I'm really fine with either candidate so long as Trump and Cruz get shut the fuck down. No— my anger stems from the fact that two women I looked up to are basically shaming women into voting for another woman just because she has a fucking vagina. That's ridiculous. How is that feminism? How is that equality between the genders? News flash, it's not.

If Sanders wasn't as pro-women's rights as he is, I could see where these two could hold some sort of footing. But Bernie's track record begs to differ. He's pro-choice and believes in equal pay and paid maternity leave. Actually, Sanders tends to be more pro-women than Clinton, especially when it comes to a woman's right to choose. Dr. Jane Sanders, Bernie's wife, commented to Time Magazine on Albright's notion about

Apparently, you will burn in hell if you don't want to Chill with Hil

women supporting women saying that it was “unfortunate and disturbing”. “I think that women today are a little bit more intelligent to not say, ‘Okay all I care about is gender.’” Dr. Sanders explained, “By that case, if Bernie won the Democratic nomination and Carly Fiorina won the Republican nomination, we should be supporting Carly Fiorina. We're looking for the right candidate.” Dr. Sanders is absolutely right. Feminism is gender equal-

even been allowed to run, let alone be the two front runners of their party. This election is groundbreaking in so many ways and people either tend to forget or abuse this notion. And yeah, being able to see the first female president would be fucking awesome, but we still need to view Clinton as a candidate first and a woman second. In other words, we need to evaluate her long list of qualifications before her vagina.

that many of us are trying to disprove. Steinem went on to say that women get more radical as they get older. Her belief was that as women get older, they realize that they have less and less rights, therefore, becoming more politically radical. Steinem explained that young female voters believe their fight has been won already and they can lay down their arms. I know this to be far from true.

Young women in America are more socially aware than ever. We grow up knowing that we're going to get shortchanged by society, the political system, basically anything and everything because we're girls. We have to deal with a wage gap (one that gets even worse for non-white women) that keeps us from paying off our absurd amount of student debt, men arguing about our right to choose and our reproductive rights, a constant sexualizing of our bodies from a young age, the list goes on. We are even more exposed to various women's struggles through social media which allows us to understand more about women all across the country of various race, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation. In the end, we're informed.

If we're voting for Bernie, it's because we believe in what he stands for, same thing goes for Clinton. It's not elementary school anymore. We don't have to just hang out with guys because we're guys or girls because we're girls. Women like Steinem and Albright have been enlightening women on their shitty roles in society for decades. It's finally time for them to trust us as feminists to make the right decision because isn't that what we've been fighting for all along?



ity, so when it comes to our elections, we should be voting based on our stances and the politician that fits our views the best regardless of gender.

The presidency is the highest glass ceiling women have yet to break, but voting for Hillary because she's a woman is just as pointless as voting for Bernie because he's Jewish. It diminishes their credibility as candidates by simplifying them to one defining characteristic. At one point, both Sanders and Clinton wouldn't have

Steinem has since apologized for her “the boys are with Bernie” statement, saying that it was “misinterpreted” due to interruptions by the audience of Bill Maher's talk show, but I'm still pissed. Even if Steinem didn't mean to imply that young females vote for a man's approval, she caused more damage than a simple statement on Facebook could fix. Steinem chalked up an entire generation of women to nothing more than mindless trend followers, a stigma of our generation





One Direction Going In Several Directions

by Claire Nunez
Opinions Editor

The end is nigh— for One Direction at least. The boyband’s “frontman,” Harry Styles, has left Modest Management to sign on with friend and manager Jeff Azoff. This may not exactly mean that Harry is done with 1D completely, but it is a sure sign that the band is no longer moving in one direction (yes, I know, that was an incredibly lame statement). We have seen this with Destiny’s Child, NSYNC, and the Backstreet Boys. Everyone knew that the boyband that resurrected boybands from the music graveyard would eventually be six feet under next to the previously listed groups; it was just a matter of when and why. It is very difficult for musical groups like this to stay together; the end for these groups is always inevitable, but why?

One Direction’s demise was evident from the beginning. The group sold 176,000 copies of their album, *Up All Night*, in the United States during their first week of sales. 1D soon began to sell out tours all over the world in seconds, gained millions of Twitter followers seemingly overnight, and quickly became the biggest group in the world. The band’s fame did not cease, but it did begin to wane by the release of their third album. One Direction began to lose fans—well, super obsessive ones at least. I noticed that the insane fans tweeting at the band and posting to their Facebook page were not as crazed as they used to be. Of course, there was still a group of fans that tried to solicit sex to the band and those who claimed that they were pregnant

Nothing lasts forever...

with Niall’s baby, but the oddly graphic and detailed posts were sad or overly creepy rather than eye-catching and hilarious.

For a long time, Harry Styles’ hair and evolving quirky street style was the hottest topic in pop culture news, Zayn’s tattoos were constantly debated

music scene?

Destiny’s Child was no different from 1D. The girl power group released four albums in four years, wore outfits that coordinated, and performed in cities all over the world. They broke up when Beyoncé’s solo career began to take off. The boyband of all boybands,

in the crowd of a high fashion show audience. He does not have as strong of a voice as his former bandmate Zayn has, but I digress.

Boybands and girl groups are destined to fail. They gain popularity so quickly due to the obsessive nature of young teenage fans, and as these teenagers mature, they lose their interest in these artists. I know that as I began to grow up, I lost interest in the super pop music and found myself listening to indie groups. The boyband fan died as quickly as she had been born.

Just as the fans lose their interest in the groups, the artists also grow out of their group’s style and even out of the company of the other members. Zayn claimed recently that he never really wanted to be a part of the band and he felt himself growing apart from the band as well as the music it was making. He always wanted to go his own way. Harry must want to move on also especially if he is switching his managers. We all grow and change as we cultivate what really interests us. Like Niall, he is starting his own golf management business— why, God only knows his reasoning, but he’s into golf now. You do you, Niall. These groups grow up, but they continue to hold a special place in our hearts and the members always make for great candidates on the “Where are They Now?!” shows.



on Tumblr, and Niall’s chest hair constantly induced swooning from fans all over the world. Now, One Direction is just a group of men who still have to act like they’re sixteen. As the band released more and more songs, its music became even more cookie cutter and it just began copying their other albums. One Direction released five albums in four years. How can any artist create authentic music that is different to the

NSYNC, never really officially broke up, but when Justin Timberlake left the group to start his solo career, they lost their popularity. Now, I am definitely not saying that Harry Styles is the next Beyoncé or Justin Timberlake, because he isn’t. Harry may have the love from the fans, but he doesn’t have a strong voice. He still sounds like a prepubescent boy and dresses like a Tim Burton character that was accidentally placed

EVENTS

What: 3rd Annual Fordham Dance Marathon!

Where: McGinley Ballroom

When: Sat. Feb. 27th, 11:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.

How Much: \$10 entry at door

Why: All proceeds go to the B+ Foundation, which is a charitable organization that helps families of children with cancer!

What: FET Presents: Marat/Sade

Where: Blackbox Theater

When: Thu. Feb. 18th to Sun. Feb. 21st, 8:00 P.M. (2:00 P.M. on 21st)

How Much: FREE

Why: A free show? Performed by your fellow students? Sounds like a good deal!

What: The Vagina Monologues

Where: Collins Auditorium

When: Fri. Feb. 19th, 8:00 P.M., Sat. Feb. 20th, 2:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.

How Much: \$5

Why: You could learn something! It's good to understand our bodies. Also, all proceeds go to Concourse House, so you're doing a good thing!

BØRNS Live Career Is Born

by Jenny Harris

Staff Electric Lover

Garret Borns, better known as BØRNS (the ø is simply a stylistic choice to announce that he is infinitely cooler than you and does not actually have any effect on the pronunciation), is a break out indie pop singer/songwriter and all-around earth bound angel with a voice that makes you feel like you're floating in the middle of an enchanted blue lagoon. BØRNS is most well-known for his hit single "Electric Love", an infectious electro pop song that you can't help but dance along to. Even if you think you've never heard of BØRNS or Electric Love, I can guarantee that you've heard this song because it was used in a ton of commercials over the past year. BØRNS played several major musical festivals over the summer and seems to have been touring ever since, and I've been lucky enough to attend two and a half of his shows. Therefore I feel I am the ultimate authority on the live BØRNS experience. So this is more of a compare and contrast review of his growth over the shows I have been to than a straight up concert review.

The first show I saw was in early October 2015 at the Music Hall of Williamsburg in Brooklyn the day after his debut album Dopamine was released. I went into this show with high expectations, especially after having dropped over 60 dollars on tickets (40 dollars over face value) when the show sold out in under a minute. Overall, the show was good. It just wasn't the spectacularly magical experience I expected it would be. BØRNS' voice is amazing and sounds just as good live, if not better than, recorded. Yet I still felt kind of disappointed when the show was over and the lights went up, and I really didn't want to be. The major fault in this show was the set list, which can be attributed to the fact that it was the first show after the album release. He was probably

The birth of a musical star.

still experimenting with the order of the songs and what felt right to him and gaging how the audience reacted. But the fatal flaw in the set list was the fact that the show was closed with a cover. A COVER. Yes, it was Bennie and the Jets, a well-known song, but everyone at that show was there to hear BØRNS' music, not Elton John's. I would have been much happier if he ended with Electric Love, the last song he played before the encore. In fact, I would have

of his album. I wish he had closed the Williamsburg show with Electric Love because, pardon the pun, it left the audience with a truly electric feeling.

The half show was a free short acoustic set at Rough Trade, which was a dreamier, sway-ier version of his usual performance. It was capped by an encore cover of David Bowie's Moonage Daydream, which served as a beautiful tribute to the recently deceased artist and an excellent way to end the set.

What really set this show apart from the others was the huge increase in attendance.

If concert attendance can accurately measure fan base, BØRNS' has grown massively over the past few months. In October I got to the concert two hours early, expecting a decent sized line to already have begun forming outside the venue. Instead I was greeted by a line, if you could call it that, of two girls, as well as some of the members of the opening bands mulling around outside. It was one of those moments when you realize that even though you might be obsessed with an artist, most people haven't discovered them

yet- and that's a pretty cool experience. Especially when it's about an artist as amazing as BØRNS. After the two opening acts went on the venue was pretty crowded but still didn't seem to be at full capacity. Approximately three months later, the show sponsored by Fordham sold out well in advance of the last day tickets were available for sale and the free acoustic mini show had a line out the door. I'm thrilled that BØRNS is beginning to be recognized for the incredible talent that he is and I can't wait to hear more from him in the future.

Has Science Gone Too Far?

IS THIS IMAGE REAL OR FAKE?



been okay with anything that had been an original song, especially since he had so much extra material to add to his set now that the whole album was out. The album is only 11 songs long so I completely understand incorporating covers into the set, but for the love of God DO NOT close with a cover. Just don't.

The second show was a concert sponsored by Fordham, so it was a little different than what BØRNS would have done for his normal audience. However, the set list felt better and the covers he included worked well with the vibe of his original music. He closed this show with Electric Love, probably because it was a college audience and he realized that everyone would know that song even if they had never heard the rest

Netflix Breathes Life Into The Gilmore Girls

by Kirsten Nolan
Staff Gilmore Girl

Oy with the poodles already! If you understand this reference you can continue reading. If you do not understand it, you can also continue reading, but be forewarned, there are many spoilers ahead. When you are done, I want you to log into Netflix and binge *Gilmore Girls*. You will thank me later.

Gilmore Girls premiered on the WB, a network that doesn't even exist anymore (well, it exists as the CW), nearly 16 years ago. It captured the hearts of legions of fans who tuned into actual TV every week for seven years to watch

the dramatic and hilarious lives of Lorelai and Rory Gilmore, the Greatest Mother-Daughter Duo of Our Time. When all seven seasons became available to stream on Netflix in October 2014, the show was given a second life, as a whole new generation

of fans was exposed to its witty humor and charm. Scores of people who were mere tots while it ran from 2000 to 2007 were now introduced to the wonderful world of Stars Hollow and the *Gilmore Girls*. I personally started watching *Gilmore Girls* in the second grade, which meant that I pretty much missed every joke and pop culture reference that is packed into each hour-long episode, and if you know *Gilmore Girls*, you know that means I missed 98 percent of the jokes on the show, but, regardless, I was enthralled anyway.

When I heard the news that Amy Sherman-Palladino, the show's creator and executive producer, was officially writing four 90-minute episodes of *Gilmore Girls* to be released on Netflix sometime at the end of 2016, I was ecstatic. Many people get nervous about reboots of their favorite shows or fran-

Rory has been revived.

chises because they want things to remain as is. They feel that if it is over, it is over. But with *Gilmore Girls*, it is different because the show was never given the ending it deserved. Amy Sherman-Palladino and her husband Daniel left *Gilmore Girls* after its penultimate season, season six, which meant that we never got to witness the ending she had originally envisioned, an ending that included four mysterious words with which she planned for Lorelai and another undisclosed character to end the show.

Gilmore Girls ended with a lot of

coming episodes, Amy Sherman-Palladino confirmed that Rory will definitely be single in the new episodes, but she is dating. Maybe Amy Sherman-Palladino will throw us for a loop and Rory will end up with Tristan Dugrey, a bad-boy from her private high school, Chilton, with whom she had a sort-of fling. We just don't know the genius that Amy Sherman-Palladino has up her sleeve.

Besides seeing how Rory's love life will pan out, fans are dying to know what has happened to Lorelai since the finale. What will come for her and Luke Danes, her longtime love-interest,

in the new episodes? In the series finale Lorelai and Luke had reunited after splitting up, but many fans, including Lauren Graham, who plays Lorelai, were left unsatisfied by the way things were ended for the couple. Since much of the series focused on their relationship, it felt like there should have been more closure for the two. Fans are speculating, and

many are hoping, that in the new episodes Luke and Lorelai will be married, maybe even with children, but that won't be revealed until the episodes are released.

To deal with the painstaking period between now and Netflix's release of these four treasured episodes of *Gilmore Girls*, I suggest a total rewatch of the series. There are 153 episodes of silly, wonderful Stars Hollow moments just waiting in your Netflix queue for your viewing pleasure. And if this isn't enough, the podcast "The Gilmore Guys" can supplement your need to analyze and discuss every episode. So go pour yourself a cup of coffee in the Luke's Diner mug that you probably bought off of Etsy and enjoy yourself. Copper Boom!



SHOWS

What: Pinegrove and Emperor X

Where: Rodrigues Coffee House

When: Sat. Feb. 27th, 8:00 P.M.

How Much: FREE

Why: Go to the show and support Rodrigues! Also, why turn down a free show? Turn up!

What: Cabaret

Where: Collins Theater

When: Mar. 3rd to 6th

How Much: \$5

Why: Cabaret is a great play that is worth seeing. The Mimes always puts on a good performance and should once again do a standout job.

What: Punk + Hip-Hop Remix Against Raids

Where: The Silent Barn

When: Sun. Feb. 21st, 8:00 P.M.

How Much: \$8-15

Why: Two genres for the price of one! What a deal!

What: The Goodbye Party, Radiator Hospital, Pouty (Rachael form SLutever), Bong Wish, Crusher

Where: The Silent Barn

When: Sat. Feb. 20th, 8:00 P.M.

How Much: \$8

Why: Lots of bands, surely you'll like one!

Diet Cig Is Really Something to Dig

by Reyna Wang

Staff Earwax Editor

The sub-zero wind chill didn't stop Diet Cig from brewing up a hot and sweaty dancing storm at Aviv. Alex Luciano, singer and guitarist of the poppy punk duo, is a tiny whirlwind of energy, demanding audience attention and participation like nobody's business. The paradoxical smallness and bigness of the whole project is ultimately what sets Diet Cig apart and what has made them, in a matter of months, skyrocket from playing sets at college town house parties to now being among the most celebrated bands in indie-rock music scenes across the country. Diet Cig is the epitome of less is more; all of their songs are built on the same three or four chords that every beginner guitarist knows and paired with a basic punk drum beat, but this musical simplicity is the blank canvas that allows the band's vibrant, punchy personality to hit audiences at full force. The smallness of their irresistibly catchy and impeccably quotable lyrics is also

Fans love when the music group lets loose.

what makes them so powerful, along with the young and girly tone quality of Alex's voice that contrasts the band's aggressive energy. The lighthearted way Alex delivers deliberately unpoetic yet witty lines about relationships and college life creates a sense of ultra-penetrative relatability, which is even more absorbing live as she bounces and twirls around the stage. Naturally, not even the most reserved showgoers could resist shouting "I had the lamest date to the daddy/daughter dance" at the top of their lungs, as Alex commanded us from her perch atop an amp.

There's really no other way to describe a Diet Cig show than pure fun. The song "Scene Sick" opens with the line "I'm sick of hearing about your band," which is SO relatable to anyone who has musician friends, and everyone is wildly jumping around and bumping into each other like they're at a middle school slumber party by the time Alex proclaims "come on take my

hand, fuck all your romance, I just wanna dance." For me, the New York music scene can come off as kind of cold and standoffish, and I think a lot of others who are familiar with it feel a similar way. But when Diet Cig played, they knew there was this weird tense vibe, they knew that nobody really enjoyed it, they knew exactly how to break the tension, and they had a great time doing it. Music aside, Alex as well as drummer Noah Bowman are just really chill, genuine people. In between songs, Alex nonchalantly told us that the morning of the show, when she towed herself off after a shower, a cockroach landed on her boob, and it was great to be back in New York. Her confidence is contagious, not intimidating.

The band also played a number of new songs, which hopefully means a new album or EP is on the way. The crowd was actually pretty hyped about the new stuff, even though we didn't know the words. But I guess that's the thing about Diet Cig. You don't have

to listen to their music several times before you get the message—it's right there in front of us, and it was really already on the tips of all of our tongues because all of it is such relatable content. Their music never seems like it's trying too hard. Their stage presence is equally effortless, and the audience admires this. I don't think I'd be speaking for myself when I say after another uptight week of worrying about what other people think, being jealous, feeling nostalgic, trying to act cool, etc., we all needed Diet Cig to show us, in the most charming way, to raise our glasses to that leftover teenage angst and just dance.



Astro Noise Explains Post 9/11 U.S. Both Forwards and Backwards

by Nick Peters

Staff Poitras Purveyor

Laura Poitras is a journalist and filmmaker, whose subject material deals with the government, especially in regards to the criticism of it. Her works include the much lauded 2015 documentary *Citizenfour* as well as many other documentaries concerning the government. She has taken her distinct talents and decided to create an amazing exhibit at the Whitney Museum, which criticizes the United States government's actions, with the main focus on the NSA, in the post-9/11 world, in an exhibit called *Astro Noise*. Before continuing on, if any of this has interested you, I would highly recommend going to this exhibit with as little knowledge as possible. It is worth it.

Astro Noise is not just any other art exhibit, it is an experience.

Though we would recommend you experience it forwards.

The exhibit takes up the entire floor, and funnels you down a linear path through the different sections of it. Each part is distinct and is meant to elicit emotions. It is not a collection of the artist's pieces; rather, it is one massive work. This is where Poitras filmmaking talent shines. This feels like a documentary come to life. It tells you a story, and even plays with your mind. I have never experienced an art exhibit that elicited so many reactions from me. There is a reveal at the end that I do not want to spoil, because it really hit home with the material Poitras is covering. It is insane that in an art exhibit, Poitras gave us a reveal, as if it were a movie. While I do not agree with all the messages Poitras is trying to give us, I can appreciate what she is trying to tell us about the government and

its actions in the post-9/11 world.

Unfortunately, there were some negatives with this exhibit. However, if anything these are small gripes related to how the exhibit was set up. The exhibit does not really have a specific start point, as the entrance and exit are right next to each other. This led to a problem in which the group I went with started at the exit without realizing we were in an exhibit, causing us to do everything backwards. Yet, this exhibit was so good that it was still just as effective going backwards. Going in with the knowledge of this exhibit, I could see this as not a problem. But, for the casual person who wanders up to the floor where the exhibit is, it could cause some trouble as the exhibit itself doesn't specify what it is or how to go about it. Another problem is that I do not think that

this exhibit would be as effective with foreigners. It is truly an American exhibit, and covers a pressing issue in American politics.

Astro Noise is a great exhibit. As described earlier, it is an experience. Laura Poitras, filmmaker and journalist, wanted to create an exhibit that was meant to convey information about the NSA and the government in the modern world, and she accomplished that task. This is an exhibit that has a thesis. This is an exhibit that is meant to elicit emotions. This is not just an exhibit where you stare at art pieces and try to derive meaning out of them. Even the slightest knowledge of current political affairs will cause you to get a response out of this. It runs from February 5th to May 1st at the Whitney Museum, and is highly recommended.

“Grease Live!” Attempts To Bring Back Those Summer Nights

by Jenny Harris and Rena Brand Following the “Live!” trend.

Staff Rydell Kids

“Wouldn’t it be great if we could bring live theater to a television screen,” thought some NBC executive several years ago. “Brilliant idea!” responded his business executive friends. And thus the trend of live musicals airing on television was born. This trend has produced such atrocities as “*The Sound of Music Live!*”, “*Peter Pan Live!*”, and (to a lesser extent) “*The Wiz Live!*”. These people are way too goddamn excited about live performances. You can tell because of the liberal use of inappropriate exclamation points. These “performances” use the draw of celebrity names, insane media coverage, and massive budgets to bring TV networks the audiences they have been lacking since Netflix became a thing. Now, there are some reasonable arguments for why such shows are beneficial to the viewing public. For one they choose family-friendly shows so people of all ages can watch them. Also the premiere date can be a night of family bonding which is important (we guess, we don’t really like our families, so, to us, that sort of sounds like a living hell). Also, it makes live theater accessible to more people, considering ticket prices for some of the best shows, especially on Broadway, can be astronomically high (*Hamilton*, anyone?). Also very important, theater has an amazing ability to enrich lives and create dreams, so giving as many people access to that feeling is uber important. We think these are all valid and reasonable arguments for putting theater on TV, we just wish the shows turned out better after all of the hard work that goes into them, especially when it comes to “*Grease Live!*” (God, please stop with the exclamation points) which premiered January 31st on FOX.

Let us make one thing very clear before we start shitting all over this show: it wasn’t actually that bad. We just tend to be more judgmental than the average folk. There were some stand-out moments, but the show was just pretty average. Many of the roles seemed to be cast for the star power instead of talent, and even those actors we had

“*Greased Lightnin’*” and all we got was “*Greased I-tried-to-unplug-my-phone-charger-and-got-zapped.*” There were some background characters who slayed our souls (We’re lookin’ at you Jordan Fisher (Doody) and Ana Gasteyer (Principal McGee)), but overall we left with a distinct feeling of “meh” when the show was over.

Now let’s talk about the elephant in the show. Vanessa Hudgens. When we

When January 31st rolled around, it was announced that Hudgens’ father had died from cancer just hours before the performance was scheduled. Hudgens showed extreme professionalism and embodied the expression “the show must go on” when she decided to perform. And honestly, her performance was pretty good. Her singing was leaps and bounds above what it was in *High School Musical* (maybe her stint on Broadway helped) and her dancing was also really good. The only area where her performance felt a little weak was in her acting. Hudgens seemed to struggle a little bit with the cheesy 1950’s dialogue and failed to be completely believable (but then again, was anybody really believable in the 1950s?).

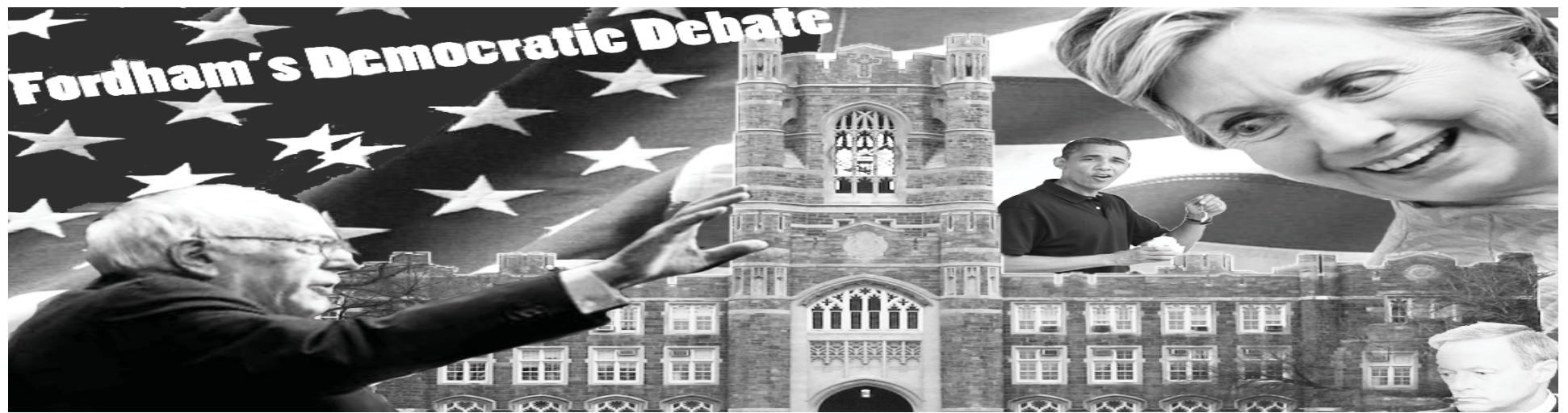
Overall, the show wasn’t all that bad. It was fun to watch and there were aspects that were awesome. The choreography and dancing were bomb, the camera work was awesome, the costumes were amazing, and the singing was pretty on point. The weaknesses came in the casting. TV is a business and as much as we try to deny it, people sell art better than the art sells itself. Yes, *Grease* is a throwback and people love it, but without a noteworthy cast, very few people would have taken the time to watch it. The cast made the show a success, but it didn’t necessarily make it good. In the end though, FOX achieved its goal. Millions of people tuned in, us being two of them. *Grease Live!* was a success and until these live shows fail to draw major viewers they will continue to happen. Let’s just hope in the future they hit all the notes, not just some of them.



faith would do a good job just left us underwhelmed. None more so than Aaron Tveit. As Broadway’s breakout hottie just overall mega-talented babe we assumed he would kill as Danny Zuko. And he did kill, our souls that is. He just could not pull off the cool guy vibe needed for the role, which honestly worked with Julianne Hough’s extremely bland Sandy, but it wasn’t what we wanted or needed out of the show’s main power-couple. We expected

first heard she was playing Rizzo, we weren’t pleased. Rizzo is such a badass character, and Vanessa Hudgens is basically the antithesis of badassery. She will forever be Gabriella Montez to us, singing straight through her nose, constantly caught between Troy Bolton and literally everything else in her life. Honestly, one of the reasons we were so excited to watch *Grease Live!* was so we could judge her performance (because we’re talentless and bitter).

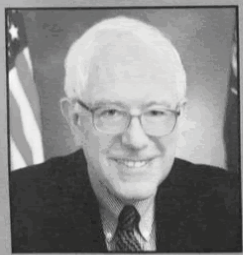





Sure, the top two candidates of America's Democratic race have lots of issues to spike their blood pressure over. But, we wanted to know how they would respond to issues closer to home. Here's a look at Bern & Hill's opinions on Fordham's most pressing topics.

Bernie or Hillary?
Be informed. Compare them on the issues that matter.

Issue: **Sodexo**



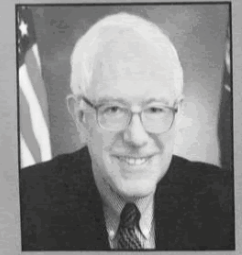
Sodexo provides terrible food for exorbitant prices. The program does not offer enough healthy choices and Fordham needs to find another supplier.



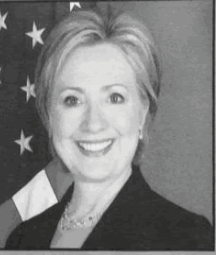
I love caf cookies!

Bernie or Hillary?
Be informed. Compare them on the issues that matter.

Issue: **Ram Van**



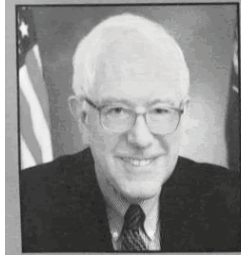
The Ram Van is the people's van. Free passes for all!



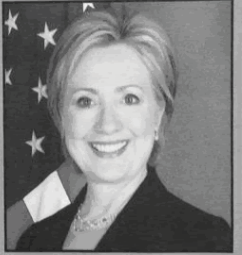
Because the Ram Van is an economic vehicle for the school, we are considering price increases.

Bernie or Hillary?
Be informed. Compare them on the issues that matter.

Issue: **Fordham Guest Policy**



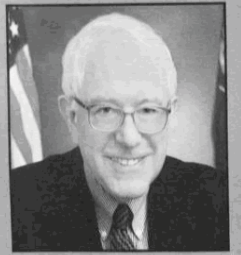
An antiquated system that needs to be updated.



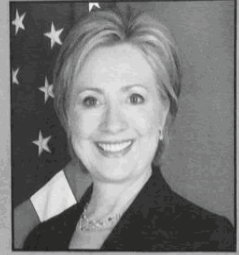
An excellent way to keep Fordham students out of trouble!

Bernie or Hillary?
Be informed. Compare them on the issues that matter.

Issue: **Final Exams**



Take-home essay, hand in whenever you want



Cumulative in-class exam on the last day of finals, no exceptions

Bernie or Hillary?
Be informed. Compare them on the issues that matter.

Issue: **The Blend**



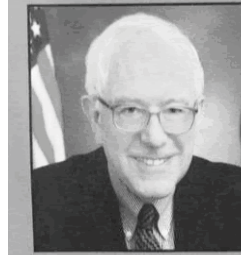
It's a shitty dive bar that tries to act like its a cool place to go. Mostly inhabited my douches.




Love it! I'm on the guest list!

Bernie or Hillary?
Be informed. Compare them on the issues that matter.

Issue: **Alcohol Policy**



As long as I don't see it and you're not too loud with your music, I won't bother you.



Banned in all freshman dorms.



BY the paper staff

It's that time of year again! Mardi Gras has passed and the season of Lent has begun. Whether or not you are Christian, you can get into the spirit of the season and use these 40 days to test your self-control and completely give something up in your life. We asked *the paper* staff about their Lent experiences: what we have given up, what are giving up, or what we should give up. Easter can't come soon enough!

**Giving Up on Will Power
by Claire Nunez**

I have never had a good track record with keeping my Lenten goals. When I was younger, I would always give up chocolate or cookies—very unnecessary sweets, but to me, they were practically essential. This year, I decided to go vegetarian for the forty days. I thought it would be pretty easy since I don't eat meat for weeks at a time. Unfortunately, I ate meat on the first day of Lent because I am ironically weak when I try to deprive myself. Sometimes I feel like Alanis Morissette in her song, "Ironic." But, there is always next year or next January, but I'll probably give up anyway.

**Giving Up on Bloodlust(?)
by #1 Axe Murderer**

I should probably give up axe murdering teenagers for Lent. Look, I know that it's illegal, and that "axe-murderer" has a lot of negative societal connotations, but try seeing it from my point of view. Life is a never-ending horror movie, right? We can all agree on that. And what's the one thing that every horror movie has? An axe murderer. An axe murderer, doing the thankless job of running around, killing teenagers who are having sex, or drinking, or who are literally just anywhere really. It takes a lot of dedication to be an axe murderer...You know what, fuck giving up axe murdering. I'll just not eat chocolate.

**Stop Complaining
by an Orthodox Christian**

What am I giving up for lent? Well I am an orthodox Christian, so I LITERALLY HAVE TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING YOU WIMPS. You think giving up meat every Friday is hard, try doing that every Wednesday and Friday all year long, you weak bitches. During my Lent, I literally have to go full vegan. Do you know how hard that is? Do you know hard it is to not eat dairy, oil, wine or meat for 40 days, on Fordham's campus. I literally can only eat Grille salads, without any toppings on it. Grille salads are awful with toppings. So stop asking me what I am giving up for Lent, you pieces of shit.

**I'll Give Up The Cup of Jamshid
by Kanye West**

Long ago, when vacationing in Greater Iran, I discovered the Cup of Jamshid, which is filled with an elixir of immor-

**Giving Up the Key to Success
by DJ KHALED**

What am I giving up for Lent. Well Jesus called and he told me ask Kanye and Kanye told me to give up Snapchat ya dig. So, I am giving up Snapchat. For 40 days, I am giving up giving others my key to success. Therefore, I am helping my fans give up receiving Snapchats from me for Lent, so we are walking with each other on the pathway to more success. I won't even play myself over this. Imma take actual pictures on my iPhone, and post them to Instagram, so my followers still know I am alive. Walk with me on the journey through more success this Lenten season.

**Giving Up on Society
by Monk-To-Be**

For this year's Lent I'm going to give up on society. Things just keep happening in the world, like Donald Trump

**Giving Up Lying
by Popeye**

Let it be known to all: I'm giving up spinach once and for all. This isn't a Lent goal, it's a life goal. I just can't stand the idea of being the fucking biggest liar ever to children around the world any longer. Honestly, promoting the consumption of nothing but a watery tasteless green vegetable as literally the only nutrition your body needs 24/7 is not OK and I don't know why I went along with it for so long. I guess I just enjoyed all the fame it brought me, but then fame ended as it inevitably does and I'm ready to turn a new leaf, so to speak. I think I'll promote eating a whole roast pig everyday now instead.

**Done Saying Shit
by John Looby**

For Lent I'm going to try to give up cursing. It's time for me to be a goddamn professional journalist. Wait shit. Okay, round 2, I'm really going to get my act together now you could call me a classy Brian Williams but I won't fuck up and lie about easily googleable shit. You'll have to deeply research my lies like the Illuminati or Scientology. Goddamn it this is hard. Okay okay, I think I'm getting a hold of this. Soon, I'll be respectable enough to write for *The Ram* or show my articles to relatives above the age of 50. Just you wait by the end of Lent, I'll be the epitome of a gentleman and a fucking scholar.

**Please Stop Asking Me
by An Indifferent Human**

I don't celebrate Lent. I've never celebrated lent. Is celebrated even the right word here? Whatever. I don't understand or really care for that matter about this whole concept of "self-discipline" for 40 days. Where is it in the Bible that Jesus had to give up chocolate for more than a month? Like, isn't life hard enough? If I had to give up anything it would be this season.



Wilson Phillips & Jean Valjean want you to hold on!

tality. Since I believe that I am a god, I drank from it. Because of the Cup, I can see the whole universe reflected inside of it and have deep truths revealed to me. I also get to live forever. However, some say my godliness has made me arrogant, cocky, and annoying in general. Thus, for this Lent, I respectfully, yet hesitantly, give up the Cup. I will live the next 40 days as a mere mortal. I will not be Yeezus, but Pablo.

polling at #1 and the death of British entertainment icons that make me want to just give up on all human contact. I'm leaving the first world and am headed for a remote monastery far, far away in a mountain range you can't even find on a map, with no Wifi. I expect life with the monks will restore my faith in humanity and my will to participate in this society. I'll see you all in 40 days. Or not.



Kanye West
The Life of Pablo
 By Arthur Banach

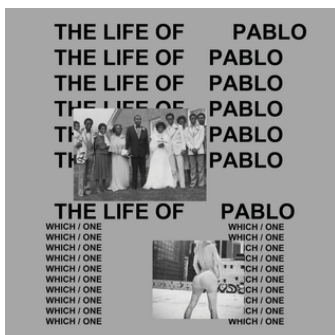
Kanye played us. We had a good six months of Uncle Khaled teaching us how to avoid being played, and we still let Pablo leave us in the ocean, stranded on our jet skis of prosperity. Kanye's latest album, *The Life of Pablo* came a full three days later than initially promised, following a premier that wasn't even the final cut of the record. Kanye stans spent those grueling hours shitposting on Twitter and Reddit like it was the rapture and your status in heaven depended solely on how much you were able to shitpost in your life on Earth. So it's Valentine's Day and I'm listening to this late record with a cover that looks like an H&M ripoff of a Raf Simmons patched shirt, and realizing that it's actually a really solid record. To be perfectly honest, I'm not sure how that makes me feel about it. Yes, "Ultra LightBeam" is a fantastic opener, Ye's 2016 version of "Jesus Walks" and the second half of "Famous" is an undeniable tribute to Dilla with Ye vocally mimicking the classic Dilla siren. The rest of the album easily fits the aesthetic of the slow conversion of the Apostle Paul, that Ye claims is the record's central motif. "FML" even has him questioning his sight (as Paul was blinded) under the Weeknd's well chopped crooning. It's a strange record, a hodgepodge of sounds that all tie into a singular

theme and emotion. I don't think my opinion on this record is fully formed, although I do think it will age positively.

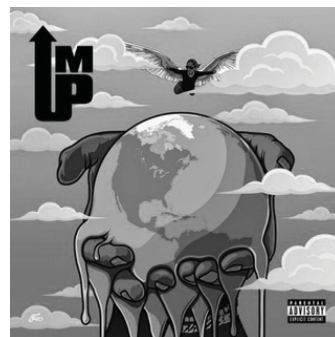


Young Thug
I'm Up
 By Nick Peters

Young Thug's most recent album was supposed to be called *Slime Season 3* until a couple of days before its release. Seeming to have taken inspiration from Kanye's recent antics, he opted to change the name to *I'm Up*. Interestingly enough, *Slime Season 3* will still be coming out as a completely separate project. The problem with *Young Thug*, which is apparent on this album, is that all his songs sound the same—stereotypical beats and incoherent/incomprehensible rapping/yelling. This project is no different from any of his previous projects. Anyone could rap over its clichéd pop-rap beats. The songs really don't have any themes or messages; it's just Young Thug rapping like any other rapper. You'd think that a song like "F Cancer" would have something to do with cancer (or that it might even be a diss to cancer, which would be a cool song for some rapper to make). But nope, the



only reference Young Thug makes to this song's title is the first couple of words that he says, and then starts to just brag. In the song "Family", which comes the closest to having an actual concept or message, Thug raps with his sisters Dora and Dolly. However, instead of rapping about being family, Thug raps about the same stuff as usual, with his sisters rapping the same braggadocios stuff Thug raps. Granted, his sisters are actually decent rappers, so it is not that bad a listen. The fundamental problem with this album is that it's too homogenous. You can take any verse off of any song and put it on a separate song, and it would still fit.



Sia
This is Acting
 By Rachel Poe

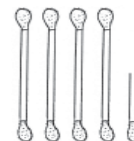
Sia is probably one of those artists that makes you stop and think about whether or not you actually know who they are. Truth be told, until I saw Sia's new album up on Spotify, I only knew a handful of songs. *This is Acting*, Sia's seventh studio album, is one of those albums where you don't really need to already be a Sia fan to enjoy it. There's a great mix of ballads, upbeat numbers, and songs you'll probably hear in a commercial for a dystopian book turned movie with a female protagonist (jk, that's already a thing but still). You've probably heard her previous hits like "Chandelier," "Elastic Heart," and "Breathe Me." *This is Acting* encompasses everything about those songs that made them so popular. As a singer/songwriter, Sia has this incredible ability to make you feel badass with one song and then to pull at



your heartstrings with the next.

What makes *This is Acting* so unique is that the majority of the album is actually comprised of rejected songs Sia had written for other people, with the exceptions of "One Million Bullets" and "House on Fire." Some of the original powerhouse recipients were stars like Adele, Rihanna, and Beyoncé. Even though you can hear the styles of the artists, Sia has added her personal sound to the songs to make them her own even with the lack of personal connection she has to the songs. *This is Acting* is titled as such since Sia felt like she had to become someone else to write the lyrics.

Due to the varying original recipients, the album doesn't really have one unifying sound. It is mostly electronic with an indie-pop vibe that gives her a mainstream feel but not overly so; it's fun and different. This album has a little bit of everything which is probably why I have been listening to it nonstop since it came out. Sia's songwriting in *This is Acting* gives her a quirky edge that makes her stand out and shows her range as an artist. It's just an added bonus that "Alive" is a perfect song to sing in the shower.

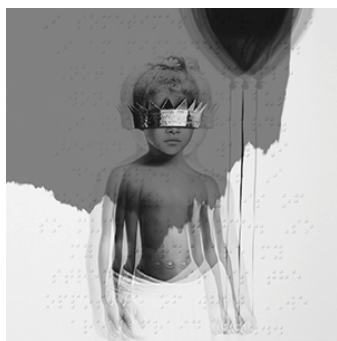
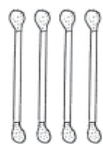


DIIV
Is This Is Are
 By John Looby

DIIV's *Is This Is Are* was exactly what I expected. Every song fits the box that they built for themselves over the years. The album is certainly by all accounts very good. If you listened to their first album as often as I did, you're in for a familiar experience. The album is almost absurdly relaxing; like most dream-pop or shoegaze, it's definitely not the sort of music you put on to get a party going. Falling asleep to this album is incredibly easy in the best way. Putting the album on a loop is the kind of relaxing lull defined by 2012's *Oshin*. My one complaint is that with the exception of "Valentine" or "Under the Sun," a lot of the tracks on this album can sort of blur

together. Whether this can just be attributed to the nature of the genre or a stylistic choice, it says something when you honestly can't distinguish one track from another on an album. It may be the band just really indulging in a love of their own sound, almost as much as it would seem to suggest that they're really sad. Smith's lyrics are, as always, dark and morose, but I'll be damned if they're not extremely pleasant to listen to. The album may as a whole be exactly what anyone would have anticipated out of DIIV, but that isn't a bad thing. *Is This Is Are* is certainly a DIIV album, but it's a damn good one.

tribution culminates to an odd listening experience that divides the album into chunks of music that sound the same, but are not cohesive at all. There are some highlight tracks (*Consideration* (feat. SZA), *Love on the Brain*, and *Goodnight Gotham* are all pretty good), but as a whole the album just isn't very exciting. ANTI lives up to it's name as it seems to go against Rihanna's stellar discography and fall into mediocrity, which, for an album that took so long to make, is a damn shame.

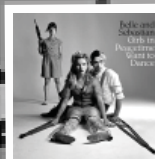


Rihanna
ANTI
By Rena Brand

Rihanna's new album *ANTI* marked the singer's return to releasing albums after her almost four year hiatus following the release of "Unapologetic" in 2012. Highly anticipated by fans and non-fans alike, Rihanna promised a different sound for this album, and she delivered, but maybe not in the way she expected. What first stands out about the album is that there was only one single released before the whole album was made available. As an artist who usually thrives off of selling singles, this was an odd choice, but an understandable one as the album does not offer a single banger or ballad for that matter. The first eight songs on the album are relatively fast paced, but they all sound extremely similar. If you listen through thirty second clips of each song in succession, it's hard to tell when one song stops and another starts. After track eight, the album slows down for a few tracks (roughly tracks nine to thirteen). Again, all of these songs sound extremely similar. The album then ends with three upbeat songs. This distri-



THE STAY PAWSITIVE PLAYLIST



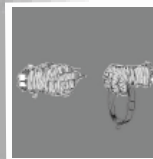
Belle and Sebastian
Cat with the Cream



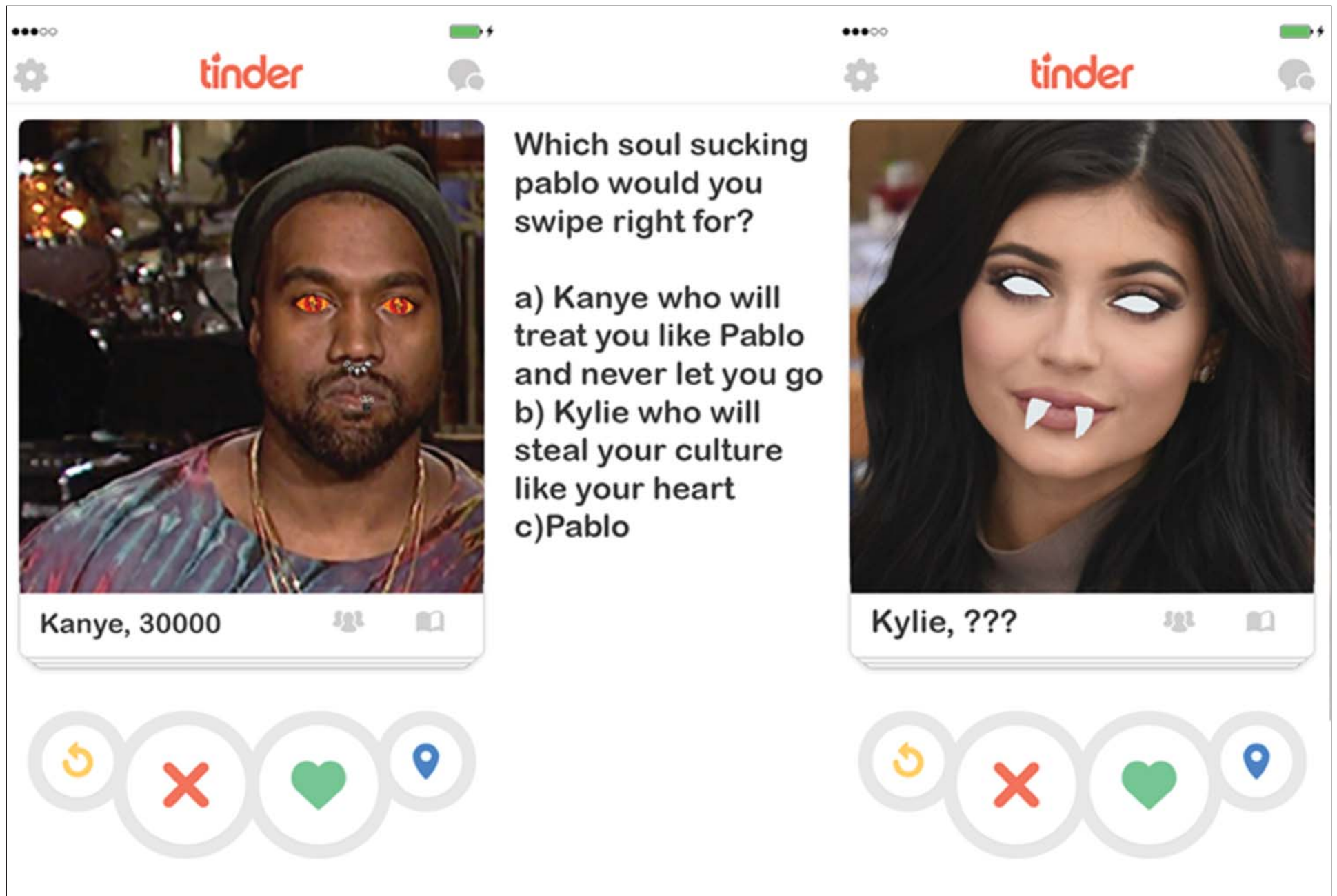
Cat Power
Cherokee



TTNG
Cat Fantastic



Meow the Jewels
Oh My Darling
Don't Meow



Kanye might not love you, but we most definitely do. So follow us on our social media accounts, and keep your eye open for our new site that's being set up as you read this.



**Fordham University's
The Paper**



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