

*the paper*  
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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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## Brussels Struck by A Trio of Attacks

by Nicholas Peters  
Staff Belgian

On March 22, a normal morning in Brussels, Belgium, three correlated bombings occurred across the city. These bombings have been claimed to have been carried out by the terrorist group ISIL. The bombings left thirty-five people dead, (this number including the three suicide bombers) and over 300 people injured.

The bombings occurred at the Brussels' airport station and the Maalbeek Metro station. There were two bombings at the airport station. The bombings started at 7:58 AM, as both explosions went off about thirty-seven seconds apart. One of the bombs was near the British Airways check in desk and the other bomb was near a Brussels Airlines check in desk. Panic ensued in the airport after the bombing. However, a third bomb was left on the scene by a fleeing suspect. The arriving bomb squad set off the third explosive in controlled explosions. At 9:11 AM, over an hour later, the second attack occurred. At the Maalbeek metro station as a train was pulling out of it, an explosion occurred. The train conductor stopped the train and released the passengers.

The suspects in the bombings were revealed to be linked directly with the terrorist network that attacked Paris a couple of months ago. There were three suicide bombers involved in the attack, two at the airport and one at the Metro station. The three bombers were Najim Laachraoui, Ibrahim El Bakraoui and Khalid El Bakraoui. Najim Laachraoui and Ibrahim El Bakraoui carried out the bombings at the airport. Khalid El Bakraoui carried out the bombing at the metro station. There was another man at the airport with Najim and Ibra-

### Bombings cap off a month of violence around the world.

him, however he left the scene, leaving behind the third bomb. It is also believed that there was another bomber with Khalid, but he left the metro before carrying out any act. All three of the suicide bombers died in the attack. Each of the three bombers were already being monitored. The Bakraoui brothers were both citizens of Belgium. As well, each had serious criminal records in Belgium. This is interesting as usually members of ISIL have been found to have criminal records that usually only contain petty crimes. Najim Laachraoui himself did not have a previous record, but he was suspected of involvement with the terrorist cell. All three of them had escaped from a raid that had occurred a week before.

In the aftermath of the bombings, the Belgium police carried out numerous raids with varying degree of success. There have been over thirteen anti-terror raids carried out as of today, with more being carried out every day. About ninety minutes after the attack, the police raided a house where they found ingredients to make bombs and an ISIL flag, and a laptop containing a suicide note from Ibrahim. The Belgium police managed to arrest a bunch of suspects who can be linked back to the attacks. The police have not released any information about the suspects, besides known nationalities of some, and none of the suspects have been linked back to the attacks. As well, the FBI announced that it would assist the Belgium police in its investigation of the incident. As of now, there are FBI teams on the ground taking part in the aftermath of the attack, according to the White House. The United States at the same time is pledging its help due to the loss of four American

citizens in the attacks. Out of the thirty-two dead, sixteen were Belgium citizens, and the rest were citizens from various international countries.

Following the attack, the government of Belgium raised the terror alert to the highest level. As well, from Tuesday to Thursday, the Belgium government had three days of mourning. The airport was evacuated and shut down immediately following the attack. The nuclear power plants in Belgium were evacuated following the attack, in fear of a chance of attack on them. Belgium's airport was reopened April 3rd, eleven days after the bombings. However, even though the airport has been reopened, passengers can only be in certain parts of the airport, as areas of the airport are still shut down. Right after the bombings numerous countries started increasing airport security.

Countries around the world all expressed solidarity for Belgium. At the time, President Barack Obama was on his visit to Cuba, and he and Raul Castro held a moment of silence during a baseball game. Britain flew its flags at half mast, and on 10 Downing Street in London, the government of England's main building, the Belgium flag was raised. Other countries denounced the terrorist activities, and announced solidarity with Belgium. The United Nations, in a statement, denounced the attack, saying that the bombers did not just attack Brussels but everyone. Following the attack, ISIL took credit for the bombings.

The Belgium attacks were horrible, however, around the world there have been a great number of terrorist attacks recently. In the Month of March alone there have been 102 terrorist bombings. As well, there were other

major terrorist attacks since Belgium. At a pick up football game in Iskandariya, a suicide bomber detonated a bomb, leading to the death of over forty-one people and injuring 105 others. In Aden, Yemen a car bomb killed twenty-six people, with an unknown report of how many people were injured. At the Al Assad Airbase in Iraq, a group of about ten suicide bombers attacked the airbase. A majority of the attackers were killed, and eighteen soldiers were killed. In Pakistan, in the city of Lahore, a suicide bomber attacked one of the major parks of the city, with the intent to kill Christians celebrating Easter. About seventy-five people were killed and 340 people were injured. Around twenty-nine children were killed, and the majority of the rest were women.

It is horrible how violent the world has gotten recently. Almost every day there is another terrorist bombing or shooting. Brussels still is a horrible tragedy. It is scary to not be able to go places and visit public areas without the fear that a terrorist bombing may happen at a moment's notice. Brussels has unfortunately seen what other parts of the world experience every day. In this horrible situation we should not forget that other countries are suffering just as much violence. The news cycle barely covers many terrorist incidents in the world, choosing rather to be highly selective in their coverage of terrorist attacks, opting to focus on Europe, which is unfortunate. People need to know that the world is suffering. That terrorism is a horrible thing that every day causes violence and death. Paris saw the violence and death, and now Brussels has. We at *the paper* are standing in solidarity with Belgium and the rest of the world.

# America and Cuba Prepare For Friendship Of The Century

by Adam Hamilton  
Staff Socialista

Cuba's national baseball team lost to the Tampa Bay Rays 4:1 on March 23rd and the Rolling Stones just played in Havana. The game, the first between the Cuban team and the MLB in almost sixteen years is part of a broader effort by the United States to end its Cold War posturing on Cuba. The Obama administration has been making a late push to try and warm relations with the island nation. His latest step of actually visiting in person has been the culmination of eight years of substantial policy change. Long term talks and compromise on both sides has led to the end of this Cold War relic. As Obama exits, Cuba is opening up.

Over the past eight years, America's diplomatic sanctions against Cuba were lifted. First, the travel ban restrictions were loosened which made personal travel to the country easier. Then, the State Department took them off their list of State Sponsors, a distinction given to them in the eighties for their arming of leftist rebels during the twilight of the Cold War. The normalization of diplomatic relations culminated last summer with Secretary of State John Kerry opening the American embassy in Havana. This meant that the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base and Detention Center would no longer be the only place on the island to support the American flag. President Obama's visit on the 20th of March and his high level meeting with Raul Castro, current leader of Cuba and brother to the revolutionary Fidel.

The biggest obstacle to completely normalized relations has been the embargo. Its removal would require congressional approval and does not seem

## Anticipate a lot of gentrification and cigars...mostly cigars

to be high on the agenda of the Republican congress. Outside of the United States few nations have such trade restrictions on Cuba. In fact, many Canadians previously viewed Cuba as an ideal vacation spot because the political situation meant that there would be few American tourists. For ordinary Cubans though the embargo

far left most of the embargo in place, and barring congressional action it looks likely to stay that way.

There are still several key issues that need to be addressed with Cuba before the relationship is fully normalized. The biggest elephant in the room is Cuba's record on human

rights record. Castro shot back commenting on the United States own record. Political prisons has been another point of contention, as the Cubans maintain that they do not keep political prisoners. More pointedly the Cubans maintain that America's Naval Base and Prison Camp in Guantanamo Bay is a violation of Cuba's sovereignty. The agreement to lease over the land was made by a previous government and is not recognized by the current one.

Cuba has been ruled directly or indirectly by the Castro brothers since the revolution in the late fifties. The spread of Communism into the Western Hemisphere proved to be a major point of tension during the Cold War, embodied in the Cuban Missile Crisis. During the Cold War Cuba continued to act as a thorn in the side of the United States by engaging in pro-communist espionage and in supporting Communist revolutionaries around the world. The fall of the USSR was hard on the island nation, and after decades of financial and military support the island seemed increasingly alone. Into the 21st century Cuba embarked on a series of political reforms, but continued to view the United States as an antagonist for its continuation of the embargo. The political class of Cuba has a long memory, and many of those in positions of power lived under the previous, US backed, Batista regime.

Ultimately, both sides have cooled down their posturing. Without the global backdrop of the Cold War, there is little need to maintain hostilities. A new generation of Cuban leaders is beginning to take charge, one that grew up under Communist Rule and one that seems receptive to genuine change.



remains the perennial boogeyman; every problem and shortage can be, whether accurately or not, blamed upon the United States and its embargo. The economic consequences of the embargo are very real. Cuba is unable to get many heavy industrial goods, and prices for many commodities are more expensive than in other comparable Caribbean countries. Heavy regulation by the government has also lead to the development of a flourishing black market. Obama's efforts have so

rights. Despite the progress and reforms of the last decade or so Cuba's track record with human rights still leaves much to be desired. The Communist party has loosened regulations and has slowly opened the door to more free market reforms, largely due to budget shortfalls. Obama kept to this point during his trip there and during a press conference with Raul allowed American reporters to press the leader, who



# Egyptian Romantic Hatches Worst Rom-Com Plot Yet

by John Looby  
News Co-editor

Chivalry isn't dead; it's just started wearing a bomb vest apparently. Romance has been given the dark gritty reboot that we've all been waiting for. In this day and age, getting a woman a bouquet of flowers just will not do; she deserves a plane full of hostages and your poorly written love letter delivered from the wings of a hijacked 747. If this sounds terrifying to you well congratulations you're a rational human being and you should stay the fuck out of Egypt. Why you ask? Well it's because recently a man in Egypt did this very thing. Who is this chivalrous hero? Seif Eddin Mustafa, the future of love with a past criminal record.

Seif Eddin Mustafa, the true romantic that he is boldly hijacked a plane with a fake bomb belt so that he could have a letter delivered to his ex wife. Before you ask, yes email still exists. Why exactly this seemed like a good idea is a goddamn mystery to everyone involved.

## Seriously at what point did this seem like a good idea?

Mustafa does have a criminal record but that wouldn't seem to really explain why hijacking a plane was plan A. I don't know how much stamps cost at his local post office, but I imagine and hope that it is substantially lower than the cost of airfare. I mean seriously who decides to take hostages just to send a letter to an ex-wife? This woman must be something else.

On a positive note no one was injured in this entire bizarre and almost laughable affair. The whole incident was probably terrifying for all those aboard the plane and also just a little bit frustrating. I imagine they were for the most part relieved to hear that the bomb wasn't real but at least one guy on that plane had to have been like "Are you kidding I just went through all this bullshit and the bomb wasn't even real." I mean, at least that is how I would react.

Of course, I'm certain that you might be thinking, "is this guy a terrorist?"

Well, in response to that question, here is an actual quote from Egypt's ministry of foreign affairs "He's not a terrorist; he's an idiot". In our day and age, it's sadly almost nice to see that a crime was committed from a place of genu-



ine stupidity rather than outright malice. While this was certainly incredible stupidity, it's such a relief to not have this article be about the tragic downing of a plane and the aftermath. Maybe in years to come, extremism will just be replaced by laughable idiots. Just

picture never actually having to worry about criminals because you know that they are far too incompetent to actually impact you in any way. That would be the day. Sadly, it just isn't today.

We live in an age where hijacking a plane is an actual thing someone would do just so that they could deliver a letter. Does it say something about how much we've become adjusted to acts like this that someone would consider this as something acceptable for them to do? At one point does this become plan A? The fact that this incident hasn't even been discussed that much in the popular media shows two things. One, plane hijackings aren't that big of news anymore and two, we don't care unless people die or if they aren't Americans. Can we take a step back from the place we are now, who the fuck knows all I can say is that we should. Plane hijacking shouldn't be so commonplace that they can go basically unreported.

# Can Someone Please Explain Who Merrick Garland Is?

by Claire Nunez  
Opinions Co-Editor

The United States Supreme Court is arguably the most important branch of the national government; the decisions its justices make will affect the nation for decades to come. On February 13th, strict-constructionalist Justice Antonin Scalia, passed away leaving a vacant spot on the bench, and causing Republicans on The Hill to "prohibit" President Obama from nominating a new (liberal) justice. Obama did not listen to them-- probably because he is in the tail end of his presidency-- and he nominated chief justice of the D.C. Court of Appeals, Merrick Garland, on March 16th. Now, you may be asking yourself two things: 1) who is this random guy? and 2) what are the Republicans doing now?

As for the first question:

Merrick Garland is a 63 year-old Chicago native. He graduated *summa cum laude* and was the valedictorian of Harvard College class of 1974 with a degree in social studies. Garland then went on to study at Harvard Law and then graduated in 1977. Following his

## Seriously, I heard he's supposed to be appointed for a lifetime

law school graduation, Garland worked as a law clerk for a judge on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and then as a clerk for Chief Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. in the late 70s. After working for these judges, Garland worked as a corporate litigator and then later as a federal prosecutor for the Department of Justice. Garland was appointed by Bill Clinton to the D.C. Court of Appeals and was voted onto the bench in early 1997.

So, this has been enough of the Garland biography; what about his beliefs? What kind of decisions has he made during his time working for the Court of Appeals?

Garland is considered a moderate liberal. He does not write superfluous opinions and as a result, is rarely met with dissenting opinions from other judges. His record on key issues like gun control, abortion, gay marriage, and foreign policy is a bit difficult to determine, considering that the Court of Appeals does not make many decisions that creates a lasting precedent. We do know that he is liberal, but he has

made the most moderate decisions in the past out of the justices Obama has nominated thus far. According to Judicial Common Score, a journal created by political scientists, Garland is slight-



ly more liberal than Justice Elena Kagan, but notably less liberal than Justices Sonia Sotomayor and

Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Dr. Michael Salamone, a political science professor at Washington State University, tweeted a graph that illustrated how liberal each potential justice Obama may have nominated is. Each one had a score close to Justices Kagan and Breyer.

Now, this leads us into what are the Republicans going to do?

When news of Scalia's passing first

broke, Republicans in the Senate-- under Senator and Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell's go-ahead-- stated that they would refuse to have hearings to confirm any of Obama's picks. Now that Obama has nominated someone who is considerably moderate in comparison to the past two justices he nominated, some Republicans have climbed aboard the Garland train. Currently, 25 percent of the Republican Senate have agreed to go through with the confirmation hearings; however, Mitch McConnell still refuses to confirm Garland.

Although Garland has faced some opposition in the Senate, it looks as if he will be confirmed eventually-- given that Republicans continue to jump on board with him. Most Republicans in the Senate-- and in general-- feel that Garland cannot be rejected without a proper hearing. Even GOP nominee, John Kasich, believes that the Senate should have the hearings. Things are looking good for Garland; we may finally have that ninth justice on the bench again soon.

# FAKER THAN TRUTH

By John Looby

Father McShane To Be Replaced  
By Father John Misty

In what is being described as an embarrassing mix up by university officials Father McShane's replacement has been announced as none other than singer song writer Father John Misty. The singer, actually named Josh Tillman, when asked for comment initially declined but then opened up to our reporters stating "I'm not a priest did no one there know it was an ironic pseudonym I use?" Tillman is still expected to take the job as a side project while he records his third studio album. University Officials have been hesitant about commenting on how exactly it is that they managed to hire a musician in lieu of a more qualified candidate for the position. Some have been quoted as saying "It must have been those god forsaken hipster heathens at Lincoln Center. Is their idea of a fucking joke? We are a respectable Jesuit institution." In response students at Lincoln Center were heard discussing I Love You, Honeybear Tillman's latest album as "a masterpiece" and that it "qualifies him for just about anything, "Chateau Lobby #4" changed my life". Time will tell how this transition will effect the Fordham community especially those with shit taste in music.



# Homophobia Alive and Kicking in North Carolina

by Rachel Poe  
Staff Ally

North Carolina, you fucked up. There's no easy way to say this. With the passing of its recent anti-LGBT bill, the state has reached an all time low. North Carolina's bathroom bill basically requires a person to use the bathroom or locker room of the sex on their birth certificate. Members of the transgender community are directly affected by this for, you know, obviously reasons. The general belief from the unanimous support of the State Senate Republicans is that the bill will "protect women and children from fully grown men walking in on them in the bathroom." Which is stupid because think about all the trans women who are now going to be forced to use the men's room, think about all the trans men who have to use the ladies' room. How does that protect anyone? It doesn't.

The whole debacle was a whirlwind starting with the repealing of a citywide ordinance from Charlotte that provides protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity. It even allowed transgender people use the bathroom of their gender identity, not their gender assigned at birth. Not only does this new bill go against this ordinance, but it prohibits municipalities from creating their own anti-discrimination laws and instead creates their own statewide anti-discrimination policy that doesn't mention people of the LGBT community. Oh and also bars local governments from raising the minimum wage above the state level as if they couldn't put more terrible shit into this bill. Basically if you're not straight, cisgendered, and working a job that pays more than minimum wage, you're fucked in North Carolina.

The bill directly targets the LGBT community by specifically leaving them out. State Republicans stress that not only was the bill used to protect women and children from biological males, but as a tool to stress their legislative authority. If you can't tell, I'm literally rolling my eyes at their stupidity right now. The only males that we need protection from seem to be the ones trying to undermine equality in the North Carolina

## And it's not just bathroom-related this time

state government. And they aren't even the first to try a sneaky move like this. In the past five years, North Carolina is now the third state that has banned local anti-discrimination ordinances after cities have tried to protect the LGBT community. This is also, apparently, a shitty move of questionable constitutionality.

The 14th amendment protects groups from being singled out and promises equal protection under the law, not that you could tell. Unfortu-

would directly fund schools, highways, and housing. The Obama administration is currently determining whether or not North Carolina is ineligible for federal funding in light of this homophobic and transphobic legislation. Just the possibility of losing funding is now putting major pressure on North Carolina's legislators to repeal the bill because if they did lose all this money, it would put the state into a serious budget crisis and jeopardize services that are central to daily life.

Experts are saying that this is mostly likely not going to happen because the process of defunding a state is long and lengthy, but North Carolina is in the wrong. The White House should be calling them out on their shit. Other critics of the bill include Bank of America, whose headquarters are in Charlotte; Apple; Facebook; and the NBA, who is considering moving the 2017 All-Star Game from Charlotte. Hell, the White House even called the bill "mean-spirited."

Luckily there are actual lawsuits in the work that argue that this law "violates the most basic guarantees of equal treatment and the U.S. Constitution." Which, yeah, it does. If it

proceeds then there is the possibility that the Supreme Court will be forced to finally answer what the Constitution actually implies about gay rights.

The one of more frustrating aspects of this story is that it came to light around the same time a federal judge in Mississippi made it legal for same-sex couples to adopt in all fifty states which is huge. Now happy, healthy, and safe homes can now take in babies in need without the fear of restrictions due to their sexual orientation. That's fucking awesome. Too bad North Carolina can't let people just go to the bathroom. In situations like this, it is important for legislators to find alternative solutions like making gender neutral, family restrooms more available and accessible. They just went straight into a fear-driven defense mode. That's not how real leaders behave. LGBT people and transgender individuals especially have been victimized for too long and it seems with every step forward they take, they get knocked back five.



nately, the Supreme Court has been vague about whether or not this should apply to LGBT people. I should not have to be saying this but of course it should. Just because a person doesn't conform to hetero and gender norms doesn't mean they are not a fucking person.

This is more than just a refusal to acknowledge someone's identity, but it is a real safety issue as well. Transgender youth gave emotional testimonies in opposition of the bill. One described how she was bullied in the bathroom and told lawmakers that forcing trans women to use the men's room posed its own risks. She went on to say, "I can't use the men's room. I won't go back. It is unsafe for me." It's important to note that trans women are disproportionately victims of violence. These women- because they are women despite the ignorance of this law- need protection too.

This law is so extreme that the White House is even threatening to pull federal aid to the state, billions of dollars that

# Russia Leaves Syria, Everything Still Terrible

by Luis Gómez  
News Co-editor

## Update from World's Depressingest Conflict

On Monday, March 16th, Russian president Vladimir Putin surprised everyone by announcing Russia's withdrawal from Syria. The move, which caught military analysts off guard, was announced rather abruptly, with Putin saying "I consider the objectives that have been set for the Defence Ministry to be generally accomplished" and clarifying that troops would be immediately withdrawing from Syria. Given the Russian military entered the country with the nebulous goal of "fighting terrorism," coupled with the fact that Russia's support of the Syrian Army and their wanton "let's just bomb everything" strategy meant that they were regularly bombing US-supported rebel groups.

Russia's interests in Syria were questioned from the very beginning. On paper, their goals were to secure bases in Latakia and Tartus, and to support the government in Damascus that keeps those bases in a position of relative safety. In practice, that often meant bombing everyone, whether Daesh, other Sunni rebels, al-Qaeda, anti-Assad rebels, people that looked at them funny, and cats. These moves drew criticism from basically everyone, because there's this thing about indiscriminate bombing in a warzone that people tend not to like. Oh, also oil. Russia's in the middle of a pretty substantial price war with Saudi Arabia, and Saudi Arabia is not happy that Russia is indiscriminately bombing their neighbors. He's also pissing off Turkey's asshole president-dictator Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. So hooray for Russia destabilizing countries. Glad that's working out for them.

Some analysts, when attempting to explain Russia's withdrawal, point to the fact that the move to enter Syria was largely unpopular among the Russian military, and that as casualties

among Russian forces rose, concerns about being mired down in a long-term Syrian conflict grew rapidly. As the war drags into its fifth year, those concerns seem valid, and Russia's withdrawal from the region is, generally speaking, a good thing.

In classic fashion though, this move doesn't really matter, because Russia is Russia and this is the kind of shit they do on the reg. According to ABC News, US officials mentioned



Wednesday that while Russia had sent the bulk of its aircraft back home, there were still close to two dozen aircraft present in Syria, and continues to send military supplies, indicating a push for a more long-term presence in the region. Some also believe that Russia's modest pullback is an attempt to give them (and asshole dictator/Syrian president Bashar al-Assad a leg up during peace negotiations in Geneva.

Don't take this as a sign that Syria's improving, because it isn't. The country is still mired in civil war, Daesh still controls a frightening amount of territory, a mass grave containing at least 40 bodies was discovered in the ancient city of Palmyra, and people are constantly forced to flee their homes to avoid being killed. Or kidnapped by Daesh, which is what happened in Al-Baghaliyeh. The hu-

man rights tragedy of the Syrian Civil War is still grandiose in scale.

Beyond the fact that civil war is a bad thing, many have pointed out that the war and the ensuing refugee crisis have led to thousands of young people missing years of schooling, and causing unknown amounts of psychological damage, creating what amounts to a "lost generation" of young Syrians displaced from their homes. And this is really the biggest problem with the war dragging on

in the way that it is: Syrian society as a whole has collapsed. There are now millions of people who have been forced to flee their home, their lives, and the damage of that is not to be understated. I want you to imagine, really imagine, that tomorrow everything you identify with or do on a daily basis gets destroyed. You stop going to school; it's not safe. Your family or friends or neighbors or all of them get killed. You have to flee - the where is irrelevant. Maybe move to a different town within your country, until that becomes unsafe, then keep moving. For four straight years you bounce between

houses, trying to find somewhere that you can stay for a while. After spending four months at the border of a different country, one that doesn't speak your language and doesn't accept you, you're placed into a refugee camp, one that's too crowded and missing a lot of amenities, because the UNHCR doesn't have enough money to properly take care of everyone. And from there you have to figure out how to rebuild your life. Now imagine doing all that *while you're twelve*.

And all the while, Russia is bombing people indiscriminately, adding to the atmosphere of chaos and destruction. Russia's aggravated actions in the country have taken a bad situation and made it worse. It is not only Syria's present that is in dire straits; its long-term future is in jeopardy as well. If Russia remains a destabilizing force in the region, it could jeopardize that already precarious future even further.

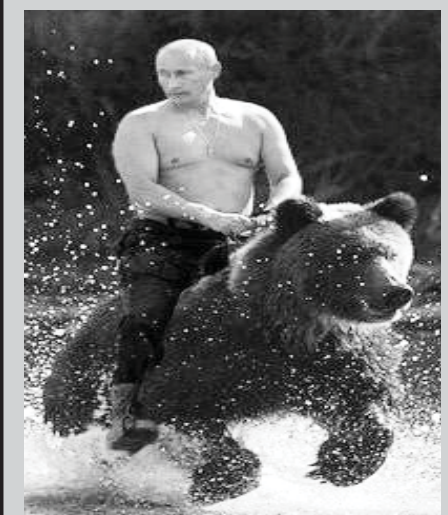
Realer

Than Fact

By Luis Gómez

### Russian Man Looks for Love in Pakistan

A Russian man is learning today that, hey, maybe going to Pakistan and offering a shitload of money to anyone who can find you a wife isn't the greatest idea. Moscow native and 28-year old Apelgans Viacheslov entered the Chitral district and put up posters offering 1 million rupees (equal to about \$9500 USD) in exchange for help achieving his dream of marrying a local Pakistani woman, because that's a thing this guy wanted to do apparently. The posters apparently listed the man's Islamic name (Turud Ali), the hotel he was staying at, and the fact that he was Russian. What a fucking player. A security official commented that Viacheslov's goal was apparently to get hitched and settle down, maybe have a few kids. Except now he's being detained at his (hopefully nice) hotel because guess what, you're supposed to register with police if you're a foreigner entering Chitral. And he didn't. Apparently Chitral is actually a pretty big tourist draw, famous for its beautiful landscape, and is home to the Kalesh people, who make up the smallest religious minority in Pakistan. And there, among the beautiful hills and the devout, there's a Russian, looking for love. And failing miserably.



# What I Saw at #BernieInTheBronx

by Siobhan Donahue  
Co-Editor in Chief

I reached Jackson Avenue a little bit before three o'clock. There was a line, but it was moving. Two days before, I found out that Bernie Sanders was hosting a last minute rally here in my home borough of the Bronx. The Sanders campaign has intrigued me due to the fact that he has had a massive effect on the beliefs of longtime front-runner, Hillary Clinton. So, I decided to head down to the rally, which was held on March 31st in St. Mary's Park. According to the official website, people would start to be admitted at four.

By the time I got to the intersection of Jackson Ave and E. 144th St., my legs started to feel the bern. The line had wrapped around the edges of the park, and there was only one entrance to get inside. By the time I had reached E. 143rd St.

and turned the corner, it was after five. Still, the mood in the line was upbeat. Many people were selling Bernie merchandise on the and my friend brought me a button that said "Oligarchy Response Team". On the corner of 143rd and Cypress Ave, the Socialist Party had a registration table. Yep, this was definitely a Bernie rally.

We finally reached the entrance which was near Beekman Ave. Of course by time we got there, it was after six and the main stage area was closed off by secret service because

## Of course our EIC was there, that's just good journalism, yo

of security reasons. Of course, as a consolation, there was a jumbo screen set up in the ballpark, which was broadcasting the events on the mainstage. Since so much time had past, my friend and I decided to stay. Hey, we were techni-

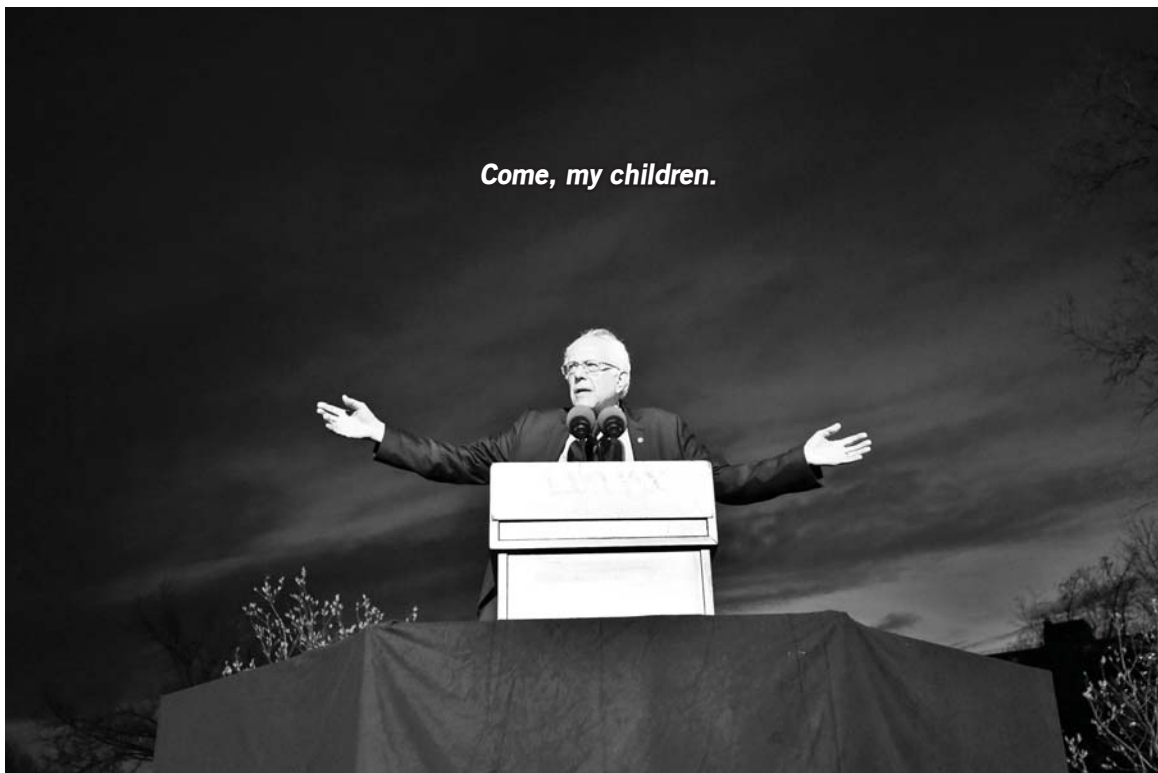
gated in a small area of the large field. Some people tried to climb the trees for a better view, but were yelled at by secret service. Obviously, unless you were in the front, a bunch of people of various heights all squished together negatively affected visibility. Trust me,

but he immediately went to the stage and was at a height which everyone in the crowd could see. What a good man.

At this mini pre-rally before the real rally, Sanders just gave brief remarks about the general goals of his campaign. He said that his campaign was going to ensure pay equity for women workers, lead the fight against institutional racism, and create an economy which works for everybody. Since this was suppose to be a quick short speech, he didn't go into too much detail. Still, despite the brevity, I appreciated the fact that he took the time to greet the people in the back.

Bernie then left in his motorcade and made his way around the park to the main rallying area. Of course, everyone was in a frenzy. On the mainstage, Bernie spoke poignantly about being a first generation kid growing up in Brooklyn and how living in New York shaped who he is as a person. He connected his personal tale with the plight of immigrants today. He directly addressed issues which the South Bronx was facing, such as the fact that due to environmental injustice, many kids suffer from asthma. All in all, he gave a very down to Earth address.

Over 18,000 people attended this last minute campaign rally. He also drew a very diverse crowd. The New York primary is on April 19th. If he wins this primary, especially by a large margin, not only will he pulling an upset, but even his detractors would have to admit he's got a chance to win the nomination over Clinton. As I left the park, I could feel the effect that Bernie had on the thousands of people in attendance. Even if he doesn't get the nomination, I know that I'll always remember hearing him speak. Anyway, New York, if you want Bernie, you can have him. Just get up and go vote.







## Surprise! Fordham Dining Is Having Issues Regarding Dining

by Michael Sheridan

Features & Lists Co-Editor

The Grille is one of Fordham students favorite places to eat. The buffalo chicken wrap is as much a symbol of Fordham as Keating Hall. Yet, this eatery leaves much to be desired. Here are the top ten things that desperately need to be improved at The Grille.

1) There's nowhere to sit. The Grille is one of Fordham's busiest locations yet somehow, there are only three tables, for a total of 15 places to sit. While in the warmer months, it's possible to sit outside, or even on the lawn, in the winter, going to The Grille can be a real hassle. Because of the lack of seats, a group of friends will have to figure out where to go eat their food, and by the time they walk to an alternative location, their food has most likely grown cold.

2) The lines are incredibly long! I understand that The Grille is a very popular place and some wait time is to be expected during the lunch and dinner rush. Yet, the lines are often unbelievably long, stretching across the entire eatery. The employees work quickly and do their best, but there needs to be a better overall system to allow lines to move more quickly. As someone who has waited over thirty minutes for a salad, I can say these huge lines are a huge problem.

3) Running out of food. There's nothing more frustrating than waiting in a long line for a salad, only to finally get to the front and be told that the chicken you were waiting for ran out. This happens all of the time with different salad toppings, fries and chicken at

### Can I get a three piece with disappointment?

The Grille, as well as types of bagels. I'm not sure why this happens so frequently but as a consumer it's really frustrating.

4) The "three piece with fries." This is a favorite order of mine and often a nice treat to eat every so often. Yet the "pieces" have gone from full sized pieces to chicken to little nuggets. I

with your undersized 3-piece. Sometimes it takes days until a particular drink is restocked. It's so annoying!

6) Lack of line control. When The Grille gets busy, the lines start to form and it's a huge mess. It's unclear where lines start and what line you're currently standing in. More than once I've gone to stand in the salad line but

or yelled at by various employees. For example, I accidentally ordered a wrap from the wrong employee who I guess was only in charge of bagels. Instead of explaining to me that I should order from the other employee, the bagel lady cut me off and yelled at me that she wasn't in charge of wraps and couldn't help me. It made me feel bad to get yelled at for a simple misunderstanding. This is certainly not a common occurrence, but the few times this has happened it has really ruined my meal.

8) Confusing system at The Grille. In order to speed the line along, The Grille often takes multiple orders at once, often of the same meal. Thus, when a meal becomes available, say a Caesar wrap for example, it is confusing who the wrap is for. Is it for me or did someone order it before me? Conversely, people who have not been waiting as long as I often take food before me (as they were standing closer to the counter) and it's frustrating to have to wait even longer for my meal.

9) On a similar note, by taking so many orders so quickly, sometimes orders are simply forgotten. It's really awkward having to go up to the counter to see if your order was forgotten or it's just taking really long. I'm not sure which one is worse.

10) O'Hare kids. Seriously do people that live in O'Hare know that there are other places to eat besides The Grille?? Other people would like to get food there sometimes! And honestly if you live in O'Hare, please don't take up one of the few tables. Thanks on behalf of the rest of Fordham.



have gotten pieces so small that they could be eaten in two or three bites. Thus, this staple of The Grille is becoming barely enough to be considered a meal and almost a waste of a meal swipe. Give us larger appropriate sized pieces of chicken! We're college students not four year olds.

5) The drink machine is never stocked. Why is this always such a persistent issue? About 50% of the time, half the drinks (or more) are out of stock. This is really sad when you've been craving a particular drink to go

have ended up in the smoothie or grill line. It's even worse when you go to pay for your meal and you have to fight against the salad and smoothie lines to try and get in line to pay for your food.

7) Getting yelled at by employees. The majority of the employees at The Grille are super friendly people who I look forward to seeing whenever I visit. They put hard work into making delicious food for me and I really appreciate that! There are just a few incidences in which I have been chastised

# Hey You, Yeah You, You Suck: An Open Letter To Mean Girls

by Anonymous

## Staff What Doesn't Kill You

Hey there, remember me? Maybe you do, maybe you don't. Well, I certainly remember you. I remember you.

I remember when we first met. I remember feeling so lucky to have found people similar to me while I was so far from my home and my family. I felt so happy and excited; each day was a new adventure with you. We grew so close; I even went as far as to call you my best friends. Maybe that's where I went wrong; maybe I smothered you. But at the end of the day, I was just a college freshman looking to find her place in her new home. And I'm not going to apologize to you for that.

I remember when things between us started to get weird, when those first thoughts of feeling unwanted and unwelcomed crossed my mind. I brushed them off, figuring it was just paranoia.

Things began to get worse though, do you remember? You would hang out without me, posting it all over social media for me to see. It didn't take you long to make me feel like I was nothing more than crap on the bottom of your shoe: a nuisance, a bother. This started occurring nearly every day, do you remember? I do. When I was around you, I felt invisible. You didn't speak to me, didn't address my presence. I'd ask a question, or comment on something you said. Remember how you would respond? You wouldn't.

I couldn't understand why things had changed so quickly; what did I do? Maybe you can answer me now,

## They may have come to college but you don't have to take their shit

many months later, because to this day I still don't have an answer to that question.

You drove me to the darkest place I've ever been in my nineteen years. I was so scared every day, scared that I wouldn't be strong enough to get up each day and go to classes and live my life.

You scared my friends back home, you scared my family. You drove me to silent tears every night; silent so I didn't wake up my unsuspecting roommate. Did that make you feel good?

Happy? Maybe in high school you needed someone to squash to feel tall, to feel important, to make yourself feel better, and maybe you needed to find someone to do the same to in college.

## **Thank you for teaching me to be strong when being strong was my only option...**

I was unlucky enough to cross paths with you and be that person.

I was so alone. It's funny, even when I was with you, I was more alone than ever. You were somehow able to do that; make me feel isolated while surrounded by people. That's a real talent, don't you think? Maybe put that on your résumé?

When you removed me from the group text message, I knew that it was over between us. One might think I

felt relief, which in a way I guess I did, but not having you meant not having friends.

Being your friend was so toxic for me, in more ways than one. Not only did you drive my mind to a terrible place, but I closed myself off to other people while I was your friend. So when I didn't have you, I didn't have anyone. And that's not how to go about college, or life for that matter.

I dreaded coming back to school for second semester. I don't think you can ever understand the pain I felt every single day over break. I couldn't enjoy my time at home because I was terrified all the time. I hid those feelings from all the people who care about me because I was ashamed. I was afraid to go back to what used to be my dream school with no friends, I was afraid to go back to a place where I felt so awful about myself. The night before my parents drove me the four hours it takes to get to school, I wondered if I'd ever make it back home again. If I'd ever see the people who really love me and care about me again. Those thoughts really crossed my mind.

I lost confidence in myself as a friend, and as a human. I thought I didn't deserve friends, that I wasn't worthy enough to feel loved. You seriously made me believe that about myself. How ironic, because you're the one who didn't deserve my friendship. I was always nice to you, because that's how I was raised: to be nice to everyone. Even when you were so awful to me, I was nice to you. I guess you were raised differently. I

can only hope that one day you'll find peace; peace with yourself so you don't have to keep doing this. There are other ways to be happy with yourself, and I pray each day that someday soon you'll figure that out.

At the end of the day, I have no idea what goes on in your mind, and frankly I'm not so sure I want to know. I have no idea how you can mutter the word "hey" when you see me, as if finally acknowledging my existence makes everything you did okay. You don't even look me in the eye, and I'm glad. You're poison, and I want nothing to do with you other than the lesson you made me learn. I have no idea why you did what you did, but I just have two words for you:

Thank you.

Thank you for teaching me how to be strong when being strong was my only option. You taught me how to be independent, how to reach out to new people, how to be happy again. Once I realized that you have no power over me, my mindset began to change. Thank you for pushing me away; thank you for pushing me right into the arms of some of the greatest people I have ever met. Happy, genuine, caring people. Not that you would know or understand this concept: kindness. I hope one day you learn it.

I wouldn't wish what I went through upon anybody, including you. I'm just grateful I was able to rise above you and what you did, and work to make myself, as well as those around me, feel loved and happy each and every day.



# It's Time to Bring Some Substance Back to the Political Debate

by Rachel Poe  
Staff Boss Ass Bitch

Look, no one likes politics. I'm pretty sure not even long standing politicians like politics. It's just one of those things we've all just come to accept we have to deal with in life like ridiculous lines at the DMV or friending your mom on Facebook. Politics is a necessary evil. Without it, things would be much much worse. And I know that sounds ridiculous with the countless shitshows sweeping the nation right now, like the Flint Water Crisis, the current presidential election from hell, the Senate holding the Supreme Court hostage, states voting into law anti-LGBT and anti-women legislation... the list goes on and on. But the beauty of politics- if we dig past the slug and slime and God knows what else- is that the American people can fix this so long as we keep the discussions open and honest. Like a nasty wart on your foot, problems don't just go away if you pretend they're not there. (I'm looking at you, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder).

I understand that talking about politics can get kinda awkward. Anytime you talk about personal beliefs, things can get uncomfortable real quick. My grandfather even taught me that politics and religion were just two things you didn't talk about in mixed company. Now, I love my grandfather very much but things have changed. We've got a broken political system with a low-voter turnout and a lot of ignorant asses with more power than their little brains can probably comprehend. We need to talk about politics and can't let this fear of being slightly uncomfortable stop us. No longer can we be blissfully ignorant to others' political views or religious views because this shit is everywhere. On the news, on social media, I even have professors who bring up the presidential race in almost every class. It's unavoidable and maybe that's how we're going to get the motivation to change things.

Almost daily I hear people complaining about politics. That they are sick and tired about hearing about what the latest idiot- um, I mean, candidate, said that day. I grew up hating politics and politicians- still do for the most part- but I've come to real-

## Ignorance is not an excuse anymore

ize that ignoring what is going on is almost as bad as participating in the hateful rhetoric. It's kind of like the anti-bullying videos we used to watch in elementary school about how the bystander is almost just as guilty as the bully because they didn't try to step in and try to help. Well, time to wake the fuck up, America. No longer is it acceptable to just sit idly by and let the clusterfuck unfold around you.

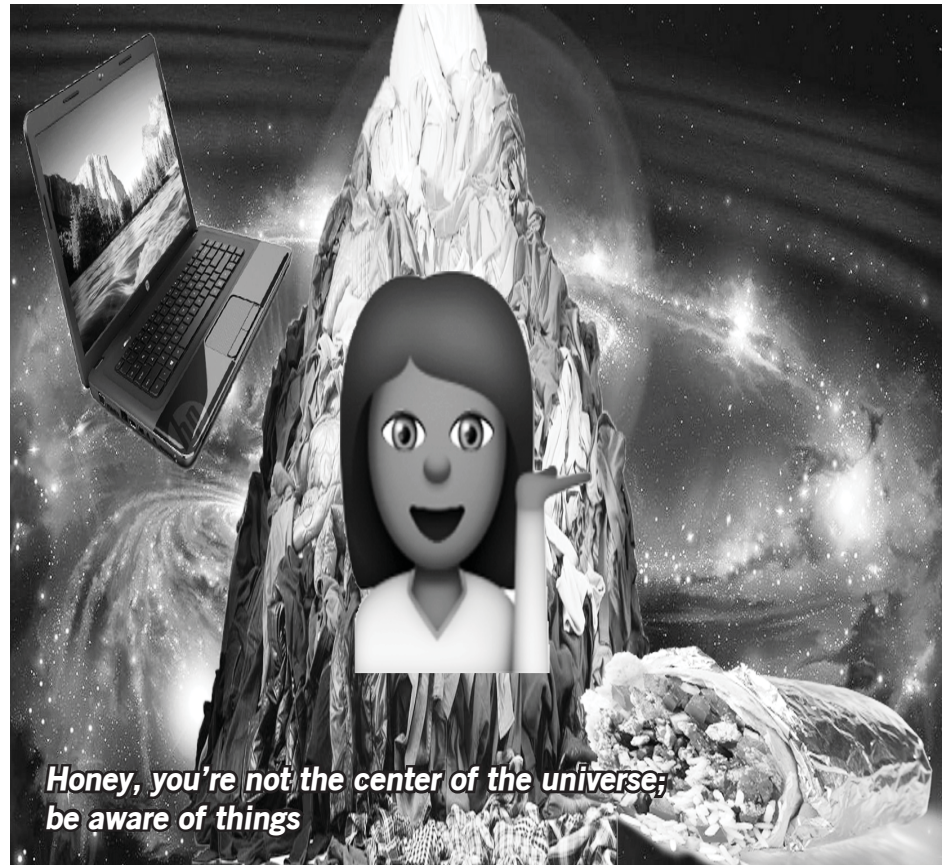
come our norms, oh happy days. But seriously, how are you not angry about the shit that comes out of Donald Trump's mouth? Or asking who even the fuck is John Kasich? How are you not questioning Hillary Clinton's authenticity or how Bernie Sanders is actually going to make public college free? How are you not thinking about all the different ways you could punch Ted Cruz in the face? I mean, that's

How did we let it get this bad?

This is why we need people to get involved in the political sphere. No, you don't have to go to rallies or work on campaigns. But is it too much to ask to know who your senators, representatives, and state representatives are? I don't think so. I just googled who mine were, took maybe 5 minutes tops. They have websites with their platforms and beliefs, which makes life so much easier. Also, watch the goddamn news every once and awhile- local, national, and international. Twitter is not a reliable news source past "oh, this terrible thing just happened." Go look it up on an actual

**We've got a broken political system with a low-voter turnout and a lot of ignorant asses...we need to talk about politics and can't let this fear of being slightly uncomfortable stop us.**

news website like CNN or *The New York Times*. Knowing what's going on in the world is important, I shouldn't have to tell you this. And finally, vote. Like I said, it's the fucking easiest way to know that your voice is being heard. Yours may not be the loudest voice, but you tried and like those participation trophies you got from youth soccer showed you, that's really all that matters. Yes, it sucks and yes, it seems like a waste of time, but if we all just refuse to participate in the government, we're leaving the decision of our elected officials to a bunch of old people who are probably low-key racist and homophobic. I don't know about you but I don't think that the interests of retirees represent the interests of the rest of America. So vote. Please. Watch a debate, google a candidate, make an informed decision. It's easier than you think. Put on your big kid pants and give a damn.



College kids, especially those who are just "uninterested" or "sick of listening to it," need to put up and shut up. If you guys were paying attention, you'd know that it's our generation that has the potential to make the biggest impact on this election. Time to show the old farts of this country that we're not a bunch of lazy, self-serving assholes.

I just don't understand how people don't care about this election. The whole thing is just one big fucking mess. It's probably going to be the closest most of us will come to a life or death situation- well, unless Trump wins the presidency. Then if you're anything but a straight, white male, the life and death situation will be-

definitely something that I think about and get irrationally angry about on a regular basis.

And then there is this mentality that your vote doesn't count which is incredibly stupid. No shit your vote doesn't count because you're not voting. This just lets politicians continue to get away with fireable offenses in normal workplaces. Like most of the Senate hardly does their job but they're still in office? How are we not voting them out? Calling them out on their shit? This is our basic job as Americans. We are the original checks and balance system and it's about damn time we show congress what doing your job looks like. Congress' approval rating is 11%. 11%, people.

# You've Heard of 1738 but What About 538?

by Luis Gomez  
News Co-Editor

Watching the U.S. Presidential Election this year is like watching a twenty-car pileup happen in slow motion. There's blood and guts and chunks of metal everywhere, shit's on fire, people are screaming, down is up, left is right, Donald Trump is a viable candidate, and there seems to be literally no way to stop him.

Actually, there is a way to stop him. The answer, basically, lies in the data.

FiveThirtyEight, named after the 538 electoral college votes, is probably the best website I've seen this election season. It's basically the only thing keeping me sane at this point. The site was founded by Nate Silver, of "I predicted the last two presidential and senate elections with ridiculous accuracy so go fuck yourself" fame, and focuses on political, economic, and sports analysis (ESPN owns the site).

So, what makes their site so much better than everyone else's at this point in time? Well, data. Nate Silver's background was in baseball sabermetrics, and most of the site's writers have at least some background in data analysis. Their data-

## Data driven reporting can explain everything except Trump

driven approach to reporting dates back to when the site was actually just a blog for *The New York Times*. The benefit of having a data-first way of reporting is that it reflects political realities that might be ignored by other sites. So, for example, while a lot of news outlets discuss momentum as if it's a set-in-stone political reality, FiveThirtyEight digs into past elections and points out that momentum \*surprise\* isn't really a thing.

That's not to say they don't get things wrong. The site has been predicting Trump's downfall since basically June. Last time I checked, a racist cantaloupe wearing human skin was still the Republican frontrunner, but to be fair nobody ever really expected a racist cantaloupe wearing human skin to get this far in the race, and he's a data-defying candidate. But still, mistakes have been made.

Beyond that, FiveThirtyEight has two coverage platforms that deserve praise. The first one is their podcasts. The site runs two separate podcasts, one a general-interest-but-with-data-thing called *What's The Point*. It's an interesting and insightful podcast that takes a nuanced look at some oft-

unheard of issues. The other one is the creatively named *FiveThirtyEight Elections Podcast*, where the staff of FiveThirtyEight discuss elections. It's also a nuanced take on a fucking nonsensical year. Every Monday, Nate Silver, podcast host Jodi Avrigan, whiz kid Harry Enten, and political writer Claire Malone, discuss the latest from the campaign trail, or something related to the campaign trail - recent episodes have focused on the racist cantaloupe's violence-inspiring rallies and his rampant sexism.

The second one is their live blogs. No, I'm being serious. Live blogs. Didn't expect to be praising them but hey, they're pretty sweet. Their staff has been live blogging debates and important election nights since the world descended into the chaos that it's currently in. These live blogs are, unlike the ones for *The New York Times*, or the *Wall Street Journal*, or the *Washington Post*, or literally any other number of publications that have live blogs, actually kind of interesting. There's always a decent back and forth as people jump into and out of the conversation. Another benefit to these blogs is that unlike other

live blogs, where two to three people are going back and forth all night, FiveThirtyEight's live blogs involve the whole staff, which means that someone will always be bringing up some new issue or data point to counter an argument that had been explored.

Mainly, FiveThirtyEight exudes honesty in a way that most other news outlets don't. As much as I respect the *Journal* or the *Times*, their biases often mean that they intentionally gloss over obvious points because it doesn't exactly fit their relative partisan arguments. FiveThirtyEight is grounded and realistic. It deals in fact. Its assumptions or guesses are well-explained as such. Counterpoints are commonly brought up. And guess what, nuanced reporting is something I can appreciate in a world where we're about to have a racist cantaloupe be a leading candidate for president.



**FiveThirtyEight**

## the paper's News Co-Editor is Completely Out of Ideas

By John Looby  
News Co-editor

I'm going to be honest I have no idea what the fuck to write about right now. We needed to get this article written and so, I sort of just agreed to write this but at this point I've written so much other shit for this issue and I'm kind of just like what the fuck do I even say. I can usually pull some shit out of left field and write 800 words of vitriol and anger but right now, I just want a nap and I don't have the energy to express rage and also, I just don't give a shit right now.

So yeah, how'd your week go, reader? Was it good? Mine was okay, I guess. I'm gonna just keep dragging this out until the article is done. Fuck, I could use a nap. Have you seen *Hellraiser*? I watched it last night; the movie was weird. I was not prepared for watching a corpse grow out of an attic floorboard, but really at any point in there life who is prepared for that?

## "This is not how I planned on spending my Sunday nights." -John

I think any movie from the 1980's looks weird when you watch it these days, but wow horror movies really haven't aged that well. Shit, okay, I was really hoping this article would be done by now.

U m m damn it. Have you noticed that the Netflix selection has been getting shittier? I read some article that said they've removed over 2500 titles over

the last few years. I'd believe that. If I were a director, I wouldn't want

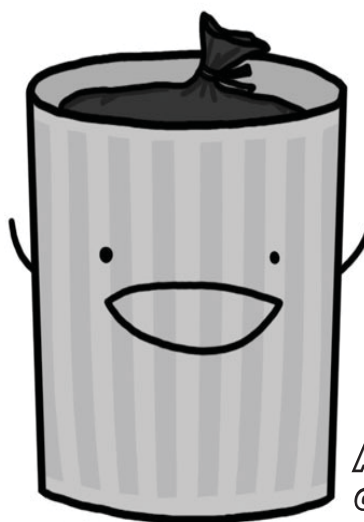
my movie hosted in the same place as *The Ridiculous 6*. I think this article is just turning into the conversation you have with that friend you don't have that much in common

with and the two of you are stuck together until the rest of your friends show up. It's awkward and a bit pain-

ful, but you have to do it. You have to just fucking do it.

How about them Mets? Hahahaha just kidding, I don't fucking follow sports. I major in English. OH YEAH FUCKING PLOT TWIST, I MAJOR IN ENGLISH. This article is awful. I'm not proud of it. No one is proud of this, but it has to be written. I've written worse things but that was in the first grade and back then, I was basically permanently suffering from head injuries. It took me a while to learn that I should put out my hands when I fall, which is apparently a thing you have to learn to do.

Okay well, I think I'm going to stop writing this now. I've done enough. The bullshit has been crafted; the gods are appeased. I have earned my nap motherfuckers. Fuck with my shit posting game-I dare you. This article is trash, I'm trash [Editor's note: yes, yes you are], Death is inevitable.



I'm full of garbage!

Accurate depiction of John Looby

## the paper's view

### Space vs. Voice, A Necessary Clarification

Women got the right to vote in 1920. The Voting Rights Act, signed into law in 1965, helped remove many barriers that black (and some other) Americans faced when voting. Today, there are many instances of disenfranchisement. Many states have enacted laws which have made voting difficult for the young, people with low incomes, and disproportionately, people of color. On top of that, felony laws also prohibit many non-violent offenders from voting.

Still, in theory, all American citizens have the right to vote. Yet, many groups of citizens could not exercise that right until relatively recently. So, did this mean that those marginalized groups did not have a voice? Before 1920, did women not have a voice? Before 1965, did Black Americans not have a voice? Do people who are facing voting difficulties today all of a sudden not have a voice?

Put aside voting for a second. Think of any instances of groups demanding for their rights. For example, marriage equality in the United States was not achieved until 2015. In many places around the world, this is still an issue. Does that mean all couples outside the heteronormative bubble do not have a voice?

The implication that none of these groups had a voice before given their rights is absolutely ludicrous. Everyone has a voice. That is a fundamental truth. Not everyone though, has a space for their voice. So, while women, for example, weren't given a space to voice their political views until they got suffrage, they still had their voice. Obviously, before 1920, many women created their own spaces and demanded to be heard. However, there's a difference between being forced to make your own space and being given equal space. The privileged in society never had to demand or make their own space. They always had it.

So, how does this relate to *the paper*? Well, there is a misconception that *the paper* gives students a voice. In actuality, every student has a voice, we just guarantee that students have a space to make those voices heard, especially on a campus with limited free speech policies. In fact, read our aim on page two and we clearly state, "we provide an outlet for all students to express themselves." Please understand, we can't violate a student's autonomy by forcing them to write for us. We can only encourage them to express themselves on our platform. So, if you have something to say, or even an event to promote, please email us at [paper.fordham@gmail.com](mailto:paper.fordham@gmail.com) or attend our meetings **Tuesdays at 9pm in McGinley 2nd**. We'd be happy to accommodate you. However, as much as we try to be engaged with the campus, please keep in mind that this publication is student run and it is preposterous to expect any Fordham student to magically know all of the hundreds of events which occur on this campus. So, please, use *the paper* as a space for your voice. Don't expect us to put the words into your mouth because that in itself is contradictory to the concept of students freely expressing themselves.

# paper Poll!

Here at *the paper*, we work really hard on our front covers. However, many people have expressed curiosity over what is the intended meaning behind them. Instead of telling you, we're curious as to what you think our covers mean. So, for now, what do you think is the underlying message in **THIS ISSUE'S** cover?

- A) Doomsday. After all, death is inevitable.
- B) Is that a bowl of onions? Is this some dank meme level Shrek reference?
- C) Quite frankly, I don't care.
- D) I'm not sure, but I think you need to tone it down with the hue and saturation.
- E) It's a metaphor about the decadent state of society's values and how the American Dream is unachievable in this type of environment.
- F) Plot twist, it's an allegory FOR the X-Men.
- G) I see Keating and Eddie's. Is this some sort of visual protest against Fordham? How typical of *the paper*.
- H) I don't know, but I'm offended.
- I) IS THIS ABOUT MY WIFE? I'M SO HEATED RIGHT NOW. Y'ALL DIRESPECTFUL. YOU'RE DISTRACTING ME FROM MY CREATIVE PROCESS. YOUR PANTS ARE COOL THOUGH! (Answer submitted by Kanye).
- J) This answer is sponsored by Arby's.
- K) There is no answer. There isn't even a cover. Nothing is real.
- L) *the paper* sucks.

# We Need to be More Accepting of Those Around Us ASAP

by Claire Nunez

Opinions Co-Editor

Every once in awhile, I'll hear people say that ignorance is truly bliss; it is better not to know what other people do. Americans often have this "don't tell me" attitude— we frequently avert our eyes from what we determine to be a blemish on our "perfect" society. One topic that our country finds itself torn over time and time again is gay rights. Yes, gay marriage is now legal as of the 2015 Supreme Court decision, but roadblocks to true equality keep cropping up. This isn't okay and as a new, progressive generation, we need to try and create equality for everyone.

The LGBTQ community has always been outcasted, or at least ostracised, from society. Assyrians, in the Middle East, during the 25th century BCE, castrated gays; in 16th century Europe, during the Middle Ages, men that participated in same-sex intercourse were burned at the stake; Nazis, during the 1940s, placed gays in concentration camps in an attempt to exterminate them. No one was exempt from the persecution either— author, Oscar Wilde, was sent to jail for sodomy in 19th century England; artist and subject of the Oscar-nominated film, *The Danish Girl*, Lili Elbe (formerly Einar Wegener), was outcasted by other artists in the community. In our own country, states like Texas created anti-sodomy laws during the mid 1900s— these laws were eventually overturned by the Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*. It is insane that people have been attacked for who they love because people looking in don't

## It would also help if we were more concious about our words

understand that love is love; it is even more mind-blowing that our so-called "progressive" country has only made big strides in the past year. There are so many more issues that need to be addressed— soon, and we are not moving towards making change quickly enough.

One of the current problems that is a source of major trouble for the LGBTQ community is the spread of the "bathroom bills." These laws that are currently a huge problem in North

Carolina, prohibit transgender people from using the bathroom of the sex they identify as— simply put, these individuals have to use the restroom of the gender they were assigned on their birth certificate. This is a problem considering the fact that as a woman, I would not go into a men's room and if I were a man, I would not go into a women's room. It is frowned upon for a

man to enter the women's bathroom, so why should we expect someone who identifies as a man, but was born a woman, to use a woman's bathroom? It is not right nor Constitutional. Also, how will people know if someone was born a different gender than they identify as? Would that not violate the privacy of not only transgender people but also cisgender people (those who identify as the sex they were born with) as well?

measure to ensure that it is passed, is frightening. Are our elected officials so twisted that they can only pass legislation to protect animals from abusive owners if there is a clause denying the rights of millions of Americans?

This is a serious problem. Our elected officials cannot be passing legislation that negatively affects so many people. But, how can we change anything?

Well, it starts with us.

As a young generation, most of us grew up in a world that was more and more accepting of gays and lesbians. Most of us probably grew up with an LGBTQ loved one or at least knew someone who is, yet we still allow for our peers to make jokes or say hurtful words. I was on a vacation recently with one of my friend's family and her parents made some offensive comments about two men kissing on the sidewalk. Although I am not gay, I took great offense to their statements, but I bit my tongue to prevent myself from calling them out out of "politeness." I should have said something— anything. I know I could not have made them change their opinions on LGBTQ people, but I could have possibly made them recognize that what they are saying is insensitive.

The first step to making a difference is telling people from past generations that love is love, no matter what form it takes. We need to remind others, and ourselves, that we need to be sensitive to the way people identify themselves and who they love. We may not always understand why, but it is necessary to make an effort.



to enforce their own ideas about how people should lead their lives. Another state that has passed legislation negatively impacting the LGBTQ community is Michigan. In February, the state government passed a law that made sodomy illegal under the guise that this law would solely protect animals from abuse. The fact that this had to be included in an animal rights law as a

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## Get the Complete Experience of This Unfinished Attraction

by Michael Sheridan  
Features and Lists Editor

It's not every day that a museum opens in New York, which makes the opening of the Met Breuer extremely exciting for the city. I recently had a chance to visit the museum during its inaugural week (March 18th-25th), and found the museum to be quite enjoyable. The museum aims to highlight the Metropolitan Museum of Art's vast collection of modern and contemporary artwork. Although currently lacking a space for a permanent collection, the museum is currently hosting two shows during its opening week.

The first floor remains fairly empty as of now. When I visited, other than the lobby, the only other feature of the floor was a performance artist, who was performing from the moment the museum opened, until it closed. Yet this show, while interesting, was only a placeholder and already closed as of March 30th. The Museum has not stated what will be taking the place of the performance.

On the second floor, there is a major retrospective of the works career of abstract artist Nasreen Mohamedi. Mohamedi's work is quite abstract, featuring almost exclusively just series or patterns of lines on simple white or off-white backgrounds. Yet despite this simplicity, I found the work in the show to be quite interesting and even beautiful. There was an innate sense of order and calm portrayed through the works. Furthermore, the endless creativity in the countless different ways Mohamedi was able to create different works with just simply lines was fascinating

### Have some fun with a museum that's not done.

to see. Another interesting facet of the show is that Mohamedi was a woman from India. As the art world is dominated almost exclusively by white, western men, it is refreshing to see work by an artist who is not from this typical mold. It will be interesting to see if the Met Breuer will continue to showcase the



works of minority and female artists.

Dominating the third and fourth floors was a much larger show titled "Unfinished: Thoughts Left Visible." This show featured works spanning from the early Renaissance all the way until the present day, and featured paintings, drawings, prints, and sculptures, all of which were unfinished to some degree. This show reveals the benefits that a large encyclopedic museum enjoys, such as Met, as the exhibit is able to feature a wide array of works.

I found "Unfinished" to be extremely interesting. It was fascinating to see

the different techniques that artists use when painting. Some artists focused entirely on the background, and never got around to painting the actual subject. In some paintings, everything was painted in exceptional detail except one area or figure, whereas in other works artists worked on the entire painting at once and never finished painting all of the details.

There was also something more human in these unfinished works. One is really able to connect more with the artist and his or her thought process that went into his or her artwork and technique. Many of the paintings also had interesting stories about why they were never finished. For example, one unfinished portrait by Alice

Neel shows a finished head with only a faint outline of the body. The man in the artwork, a friend of Neel, was drafted into the Vietnam War before Neel could finish. The man was killed in the war, and Neel decided it was more fitting to leave the painting unfinished, making a statement of the deadly toll the war had.

Not all stories are as somber. Some artists simply grew bored with their works, their patrons pulled out, or the artist himself or herself died before the work could be completed. Although it may be considered cumbersome to read the info plate of every work, the

curators of the museum clearly put a lot of work into creating the information plates, as they contain a lot of interesting info about the painting. Discovering why these paintings were never finished is perhaps one of the most important elements in properly understanding this exhibition.

The Met Breuer is clearly still trying to figure out its direction and much of the space remains empty, under construction, or with temporary exhibitions. The museum's restaurant, which according

**"The museum aims to highlight the Metropolitan Museum of Art's vast collection of modern and contemporary artwork"**

to their website "will provide a distinctively modern culinary experience that responds to the contemporary context of The Met Breuer" isn't scheduled to open for months (a small café type eatery currently exists in its place). Nor does the museum even have a proper gift shop set up (souvenir hungry tourists will have to make due with a small cart in the lobby). Yet the fact that the museum is unfinished sets it right in line with its exhibition: unfinished. It is interesting to see a museum still in the process of finding its place and feel.

The museum is located on the corner of Madison and 75th (only a short walk away from the main building). Students are recommended to pay \$12 for admission, although the museum allows you to pay whatever you wish.

## EVENTS

**What:** Gamer's United Super Smash Bros. Tournament

**Where:** Hughes C04A and C04B

**When:** April. 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 P.M.

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** Because 20XX is real and there will be memes galore. It's gonna be dank.

**What:** Commuting Students Association's Annual Commuter Week

**Where:** Everywhere on campus, check out CSA on Facebook for a full schedule

**When:** Mon. April 4<sup>th</sup> to Fri. April 8<sup>th</sup>

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** With so many NYC themed events jam-packed into one week, why not? Despite the name, any student (yes, et tu residents) can attend and partake in the free food, fun activities (including a talk by an NFL great), and get a free t-shirt!

**What:** Is the Pope Catholic?

**Where:** Pope Auditorium, Lowenstein Center, Lincoln Center

**When:** FTues. April 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 P.M.

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** Come learn about the Pope's relationship with the Church!

## Daredevil Makes Comic Nerds Smile

by John Looby  
News Editor

Comic book adaptations are taking over the fucking world. It seems like every other television and film announcement has to have some sort of connection to a superhero. I'm not mad about it as someone who is low key a bit of a geek about this shit and by low key I mean I will passionately rant about it if the opportunity arises. But the fact of the matter is that even with all these productions the majority of them can't live up to what they're trying to adapt. It's because of this that when I see a shitty adaptation I can't help but think that with decades of writing and hundreds of issues to draw from, how could you fuck it up? Luckily though there is on occasion those diamonds in the rough that are not steaming piles of shit like any film involving the Fantastic Four. Right now at least in my mind the shining example of this is the *Daredevil* show on Netflix. The second season was just recently released and I'll be damned if someone could possibly say it isn't absolutely brilliant.

If you're not watching this show you need to unfuck your sense of priorities. For those of you who might be thinking what could possibly be entertaining about the blind guy whose power is that he's like a super good listener. You should know that *Daredevil* has a long tradition of being one of the most well-written characters in comics, which could probably be handed to the fact that kids don't exactly go crazy over lawyers, so writers are free to do stories where main characters get hooked on heroin and then stabbed to death, you know all the hallmarks of good writing.

The thing that's great about the Netflix adaptation is that the show doesn't feel the need to back away from the dark side of the comics to appeal to a wider audience. We'll probably never see an adaptation of the demon in the bottle storyline addressing the fact that for a while Iron Man was such a rampaging alcoholic that Captain America literally left him black out drunk crying in an alley. I don't think parents would buy their kids action figures of that. On the other hand there's *Daredevil* that featured a season long exploration on the implications of killing a man while

## Almost as much as the new Harley Quinn

trying to be a good person.

That might be the standout feature of *Daredevil*; it is wholeheartedly embracing the human complexities of these characters rather than just having Joss Whedon brand stupid fucking quips. (Side note here Joss maybe if you're going to try and dramatically have a character die in a hail of gun fire his last words don't need to be another fucking one liner.) The most recent season presents the viewer with

be if they would just take a second and say "hey what if we didn't shit the bed on this". I mean seriously if your source material is basically just a premade storyboard for an episode you shouldn't be able to fuck up. How the hell did *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* happen? Someone please explain, how the hell did they look at all of the mistakes of *Spider-Man 3* and say "but what if we did an even worse version of that?" The level of effort that goes into *Daredevil* if



the conflict between Daredevil and The Punisher. Let it be known that the writers handled this beautifully drawing inspiration from a classic pre-batshit insane Frank Miller storyline. The show does a great job exploring the nature of justice and vigilantism. The show never tries to tell you who's right and who's wrong, it just presents you with two men who honestly do what they think needs to be done. If this were done by say someone else {Fucking Zack Snyder} the conflict would probably have involved a bunch of explosions and the Hero whose entire thing isn't that he doesn't kill mowing people down with a gun.

Everything about this show is what other comic book adaptations could

anything shows the world that we don't have to put up with a god awful Spider-Man reboot every 3 years so that Sony can massage themselves with millions of dollars.

Morale of the story is that *Daredevil* is the best show on Netflix and everyone should watch it because I'm a comic book nerd who is finally happy with a show and didn't have to bitch to all his friends about disappointment that he should have honestly expected at this point. If the rest of the industry were to follow the example of this show and actually produce worthwhile content, we could finally live in a world without Batman V Superman being the mind numbingly mediocre mess that it is.



# “Mass Shooter Man vs. Alien Neck Snapper” - Dan Slott

by News Co-Editor John Looby and Arts Co-Editor Arthur Banach

Arthur: That was some bullshit.

John: Henry Cavill looked so uncomfortable I thought zach snyder was making racist jokes on set the whole shoot.

A: He was cringing the whole time thinking, “don’t sound like Sherlock! Don’t sound like Sherlock!”

J: Ben affleck looked like someone over inflated a batman shaped tire.

A: Maybe that’s why he was so mad, and was shooting people...it was the roid rage.

J: Batman has one rule don’t kill, unless Zach Snyder thinks it’ll look like super fucking cool with that mini gun bro

A: The key word is “mini” so it’s not that bad I guess. But like even if you wanted to have Batman be all unhinged and serial killer that’s cool just give us some fucking story to go along with it. One shot of Robin’s suit implying his death is not enough for what is an almost 3 hour long movie.

J: Sitting in the theater after the first time Batman committed first degree murder the audience said what the fuck out loud repeatedly. It came out of nowhere. And what was with that Batdrunk subplot? Is Batfleck an alcoholic? That might explain why he ran those russians over. Even Alfred was throwing back brandy and controlling the Batwing are there no DUI laws in Gotham?

A: I’m waiting for the Irish Catholic Battfleck subplot. Also what was up with Alfred being the same age as Batman? Was he like a baby butler to fetus Bruce?

J: I like to think of Alfred in this universe is like Robin, after Batman lets him get killed he just abducts another replacement of the street. Seriously Alfred was the most bitter sarcastic character in that movie were his parents killed or does Batman beat him in his drunken fits.

A: Well shit. You just gave the movie more story than it even dreamed of having. Can we also talk about the chair bomb and the piss tea? Like that scene was the one chance for real plot development and it’s just FUCK YOU EXPLOSIONS!!!!

## Two fans rant on BvS

J: Who brought that piss that into courtroom? How did no one smell it? Was the piss necessary if Lex was also going to blow her up? Granny’s peach tea more like jar of bullshit irrelevance that was just used to make some afraid before their death. That scene would have been so much better if it just panned to Lex’s chair being empty and then boom “ZACH SNYDER PLOT DEVICE”

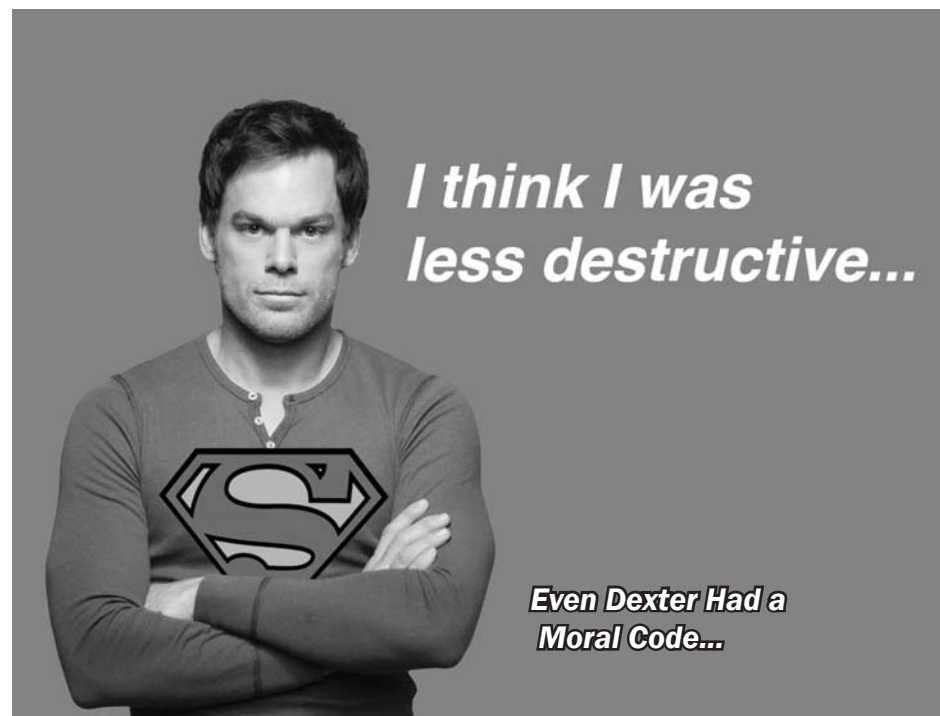
A: I mean Lex overall was a total mess. In the words of my comic fiend and friend Manny, “he was just made into just another psychotic villain guy. I think Jesse Eisenberg played what

Martha thing also really really pissed me off. What’d you think of it?

J: In my mind the best thing would have been if Clark had said “Betty!” And Batman just responded “Who the fuck is Betty, what a stupid thing to say before you die” and then boom Death of Superman. Reboot franchise. Fire Zach Snyder.

A: Yeah but if they did that there wouldn’t be room for a Wonder Woman crotch-shot now would there?

J: No there wouldn’t be and what kind of comic book movie doesn’t turn a female character into a sex object without hesitation.



the have him well but that character just wasn’t interesting. Lex would have been way more interesting as the guy that the public can get behind as opposed to superman who the public has trouble trusting. Also his motivations weren’t anything past DUDE IT FLIES IN THE SKY KILL IT ALSO DADDY ISSUES!”

J: “MY DAD WAS A DIIIIIIICK SUPERMAN MUUUUUUUUST DIE” Wow thanks Lex. You’re right Superman is the world’s abusive father. Except no. Lex is supposed to be this genius character and instead we got stuck with a socially awkward guy who just seemed like he wanted to stage his fan fiction. Man of Steel Vs. Bat of Gotham Lex’s OTP.

A: Lex really just hates Lois because she gets to see the SuperDick. The

A: I mean this movie also featured a giant acne covered teenage mutant ninja turtle as the final boss so anything is possible. I wish they’d throw in characterization as nonchalantly as they do cleavage shots. Imagine if they gave Batman a real reason to hate Supes? Or is that too crazy?

J: Imagine if they had tried to make this movie good people would have lost their goddamn minds. I swear if Justice League is this bad of a movie Zach Snyder should be forced to live as a civilian in one of his own movies and by that I mean go out in a horrific and entirely avoidable accidental death.

## SHOWS

**What:** The Mimes and Mummings Presents: STRANGER

**Where:** Collins Auditorium

**When:** Fri. April 8<sup>th</sup> and Sat. April 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 P.M., Sun. April 10<sup>th</sup> 2:00 P.M.

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** It’s a great play with a crazy twist, performed by your fellow Fordham students!

**What:** *White People*

**Where:** Pope Auditorium, Lincoln Center

**When:** Thu. April 7<sup>th</sup> to Fri. April 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 P.M.

**How Much:** \$5 for Students

**Why:** You could learn a powerful lesson about American culture.

**What:** Spring Choral Concert

**Where:** Church of St. Paul the Apostle

**When:** Sat. April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 P.M.

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** Listen to the beautiful voices of the Fordham’s choir!

**What:** Spring 2016 McGinley Lecture

**Where:** R 12th-Floor Lounge, E. Gerald Corrigan Conference Center Lowenstein Center, Lincoln Center

**When:** Tues. April 19<sup>th</sup>

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** Great speaker!

## Damn Karl, Back At It Again With The Ratchet Tweed

by Jennifer Harris & Rena Brand

Karl's back (back again) with a tweed-filled vengeance. Our favorite undead vampire recently unveiled Chanel's Fall/Winter Ready-to-wear 2016 show in Paris this past March and it was certainly a sight to be seen. Far less ostentatious than couture shows, ready to wear collections feature pieces that the average person (who has obscene amounts of disposable income) could choose to wear in their everyday lives. The real question one has to ask oneself, though, is would a sane person actually choose to wear any of this clothing? Our opinion: maybe individual pieces, but we don't really see people walking around in a full outfit from the show (unless they're desperate for attention). The number of accessories the models wear alone may be too much for us average plebs to handle in the real world. Why do we think this? Well the collection starts with a

### I don't approve of the usage of the Damn Daniel meme - Arthur

pinkspllosion of tweed and denim fabric. Pink denim you say? That doesn't sound too bad! No. Fluorescent pink tweed and denim at . the . same . time. Is that a terrible combination? Hell yeah it is. Especially considering that the denim was usually in the form of vests or socks and the tweed was made into hats and fingerless gloves. Yes, Karl is trying to bring fingerless gloves back. Perhaps he feels foolish being the only one who still wears them, so he's using his magical high fashion powers to make himself feel better. A prime example of why we don't give people who wear fingerless gloves power. Basically part one of this show is Madonna meets traditional Chanel, but unfortunately it reads more like Madonna today: too old to hang with the young, cool kids, but highly unaware of that truth. The second half of the show was almost (emphasis on the almost) pretty enough to make up for the first half.

It's incredible what can happen when Karl stops using excessive amounts of brightly colored tweed. The neutral color scheme and simplistic designs made some of the pieces in this section almost covetable. Even the hats and gloves looked like a real person might wear them, mostly because they were made out of normal fabrics instead of tweed and denim. Focusing mainly on outerwear, the coats and jackets offered a great preview of what people will be wearing this coming winter. There were several oversized nude colored coats and dark red and blue coats with white trim. Very beautiful, but perhaps not the best colors for those of us who tend to do things besides standing around looking glamorous in our winter jackets (they would get very dirty very quickly). As to be expected there were some odd moments, like a pleather puffy-jacket/dress combination, a high fashion zookeeper

outfit, and a bag that looked like a spool of yarn, but the vast majority was pretty fucking amazing. We will give Karl this collection. It's pretty good. Even though there was some questionable denim and tweed use in the first few looks, the overall collection really embodied the Chanel spirit. We know that we constantly shit on the use of tweed, but it really is the heart and soul of the Chanel brand. Tweed is what makes Chanel iconic, and we have to give it to Karl, it must be very difficult to come up with new and innovative ways to use tweed four times a year. He does it though, and just because he is more successful some times than others, doesn't mean you can't give the man props. This collection is pretty great, and it has restored our faith in Karl as the fab designer we know he can be. Suffice to say we are very excited to see what he does next.

## Yung Lean Concert A Big Hit With The Patriarchy

by Reyna Wang  
Earwax Editor

When you're at a Yung Lean show, it's hard to tell which is the bigger meme: Yung Lean and the Sad Boys or the Yung Lean fans. Webster Hall was more packed than I'd ever seen it, and I was immediately swallowed up by a sea of white boys wearing bucket hats, emblazoned with arbitrary Japanese characters. It was a 420 sauna, not that I could breath anyway wedged between everyone else pushing towards the stage, impatiently waiting to be enlightened by Lean's presence. Several punches were thrown by myself and other showgoers who had to fend off drunk boys in grid-print t-shirts groping around in the dark. I guess I should have expected a Yung Lean show to be a fuckboy hazard, but it was honestly the most concentrated dose of misogyny I've ever experienced. This one especially tall fuckboy, who my friends and I called Big Lean, asked my friend if she did squats after being pressed up against her and asked to marry me after he found out that I liked Breaking Benjamin in middle school, but at least

### Concert crowd terrible, but the show was wavy

we exploited his height to get us close to the stage. Sometimes all the fuckboys accidentally started grinding on each other though, and a chorus of "no homo" echoed throughout the crowd. Needless to say, the audience was a mildly interesting and severely obnoxious aspect of the experience.

Opening the show was Adamn Killla, who was honestly more of Adamn Bore. He was this rapper who looked like Chief Keef if he were obsessed with Lana del Rey, and I guess he kind of sounded like that too. His flow was lazy and autotune sucked the life out of his voice, but he's not committed to the apathetic vibe enough to make it ironically enjoyable the way Yung Lean and Blade do. Basically, he's a Sad Boy wannabe that didn't quite make the cut. I spent most of the set preparing myself to face imminent "unknown death" when Lean and his gang were to take the stage.

But I could never prepare myself enough for the death that was ahead. As soon as the distinctive metallic beat of Hoover began, the crowd went ber-

serk. The moshing was wilder than any show I'd ever been to, save for Death Grips. Purple and Pink lights illuminated the stage from behind and the silhouettes of Yung Lean and the Gravity Boys Shield Gang emerged. Warlord brought a new, more mature aesthetic to the gang, both musically and visually. Yung Lean sported a buzzcut that looked like it was spray painted silver, and Thaiboy Digital sported an intriguing middle part. But despite their increased awkwardness in hairstyle, the Gravity Boys commanded the stage much more confidently and energetically than their older music videos would suggest, and the tracks on Warlord similarly have more swagger and subtle aggression. Bladee was especially killing it with his stage presence, constantly dancing badly across the stage and shouting his incomprehensible autotuned versus into the mic, but in an endearing way because you know he's trying his best. They played mostly Warlord and past hits, and Bladee decided to perform an unreleased song, which was actually quite lit. It was good

to see so much energy coming from the Sad Boys/Gravity Boys, who are usually too invested in being sad to be hype, and the audience surely responded with energy. At one point, I almost lost my shoe in the swarming pit, and by the end of the night, I was drenched in

**"I should have expected a Yung Lean show to be a fuckboy hazard"**

probably 666 people's sweat. At one point, Yung Lean stage dived into the crowd, and my friend was able to get a touch of his sweaty, buzzed head. I still can't tell whether I adore the Swedish post-vaporwave sensation genuinely or ironically, and probably no one will ever be able to tell, but for whatever reason, he's a divine figure to some people in this world, myself included, and I left the concert bruised, wet, and blessed by Yung Lean's sad, emotional radiance.

# Breaking News: The Grid Is Dead

by Jennifer Harris  
Staff Concert Dr.

In late January, underneath the noise of the Governors Ball versus Panorama (Coachella in NYC) feud emerged a small "music initiative" called The Grid. Less of a music festival and more of a series of talks and concerts by people from all parts of the music industry, The Grid was well on its way to becoming a fresh and exciting music experience for New York. As a relatively cheap option compared to the aforementioned big name festivals with a unique and different concept, The Grid seemed like it would succeed in this crazy world of music we live in. Unfortunately, The Grid is no longer.

The Grid was created by the experiential marketing agency Pop2life that has worked with the Conan show host Conan O'Brien, The Walking Dead and Comic Con to create unique experiences for fans. As far as music events go, Pop2life has mainly created single day country music shows. The Grid would have been one of Pop2Life's most diverse and extensive music events to date. However, on March 29th, a little over a month before the four-day event was set to take place, it was abruptly announced that The Grid was canceled with little explanation as to why. Now their website, which used to be full of lots of exciting events and shows, is just one page that say "The Grid Has Been Canceled." in sad bold font.

The cancellation of this event is unfortunate because it seemed like the group behind The Grid really wanted to create a different experience than the three-day booze and crop top fest that Gov Ball usually is. An experience that actually wanted to help fans and artists alike unite to appreciate music and all the work that goes into it. Their mission

## Like Rubio's political career

statement said that The Grid would "be unlike any other music event you've experienced" with intimate "storyteller" sessions and concerts with "only the best new artists and bands from around the world". The line up included indie mainstay Young the Giant, known for their hits My Body and Cough Syrup, along with Quest Love, Frank Turner, Best Coast, Ra Ra Riot, St. Lucia, At-

to only live music events and increased according to the number of talks and extra events included in the ticket.

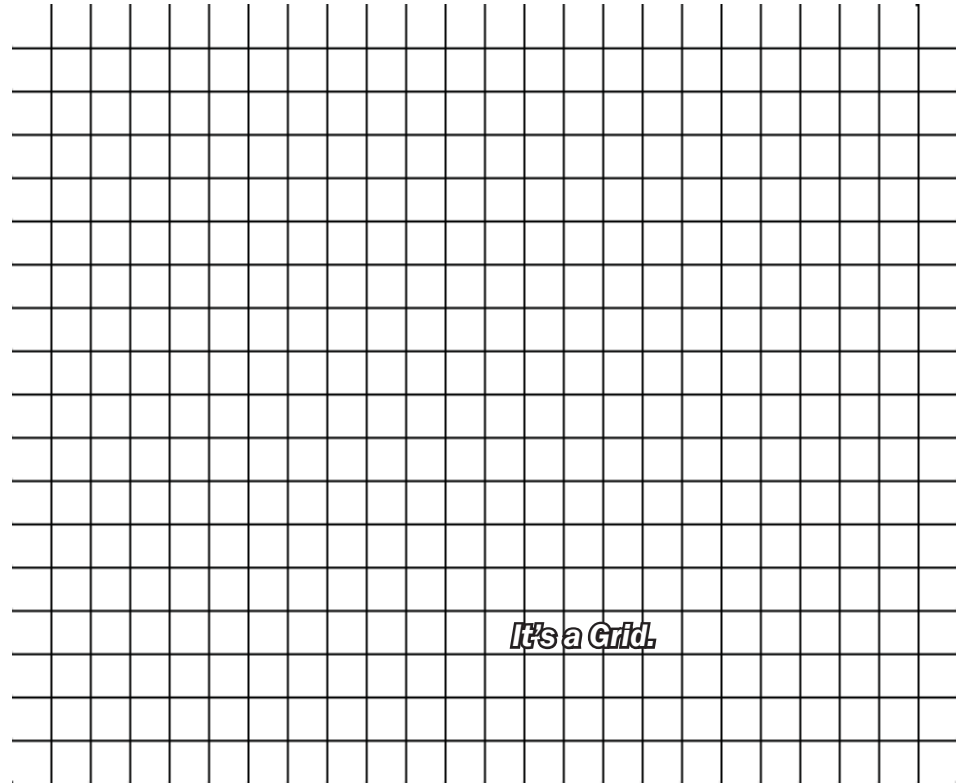
The most unique thing about The Grid was its venue, which was actually several venues all over the city, including Webster Hall, Rough Trade, Irving Plaza, Music Hall of Williamsburg and more. All of these venues do have that more intimate nature that The Grid

gating multiple burrows of New York. While The Grid website stated that all venues were accessible by the L train, this seemed to account only for the concerts and not the talks. Since the shows and talks were spread out all

### "...the Grid was canceled with little explanation as to why..."

over the city it would have been hard to get from one to another, especially if you wanted to attend a talk in Manhattan and then a show in Brooklyn fifteen minutes later. The draw of many music festivals is the convenience of having many of your favorite artists all playing in the same place, and The Grid just didn't provide that.

On a positive note, the cancellation notice states that some of the shows will proceed as scheduled depending on the venue and the artist. However, none of the shows have been confirmed yet. Hopefully a few of the shows will end up happening because the indie and alternative music concerts that have been announced for the spring have been rather lackluster. It will also be great for fans that only wanted to see one or two of the groups on the line up. Although The Grid is dead, these remaining concerts will allow music fans that were looking forward to the unique experience to get a small taste of what the coordinators intended the event to be. Maybe next year The Grid will get a real chance at life, but for now NYC must be satisfied by Governors Ball and Panorama.



las Genius and many other artists and groups for a total of over 100 music showcases over the four days of the event. The series of talks included panels on topics like musician's experiences, what it takes to work in the music industry, and how the advent of digital music is changing the industry. Prices started at 59 dollars for a single day ticket with general admission access

wanted to make a main feature of the experience, which would have made for really cool shows by the headlining groups that usually play bigger venues. While this could have been like a fun music festival adventure to some people, it could have ended up hurting The Grid's ticket sales in the end. This set up really limited their market to music fans that felt comfortable navi-



# Spring Weekend: Rejected Themes

While the campus activities board has yet to reveal much about spring weekend, the paper has come across a list of rejected ideas. From rejected Under the Tent themes, to speakers, to musicians, a lot was rejected—probably for the better.

## Rejected Speakers:



### Donald Trump

Rejected for:  
Making disparaging comments about Fordham, as well as several minorities, and being a shitty person

### Kim Kardashian

Rejected for:  
Fears by Fordham Administration that her speech would destroy students' brain cells the week before finals



## Rejected Musicians:



### Pope Francis

Rejected for:  
Despite his recent album success and his Catholic values, the Pope was rejected due to lack of interest

### Nickleback:

Rejected for:  
Being an awful band that no one likes. The student who suggested this band was swiftly removed from CAB



## Rejected Under the Tent themes:



### Florida Beach Theme

Rejected for:  
Fears that some seriously messed up, drug induced shit would happen, or Disney would take over Fordham

### Washington DC Theme

Rejected for:  
Fears by the administration about infighting ruining under the tent, or potential murder in the style of House of Cards





**BY the paper custodial staff**

Winter has come to a close and Spring is finally here! In a time-honored tradition of the season, *the paper* staff decided to participate in the annual event which thousands across the country and the world are ready, or dreading, to begin: holla spring cleaning 2016!!! We asked *the paper* staff, if you could clean anything out of your life, what would it be and why?

**Group Chat  
by Michael Sheridan**

What I need to clean out from my life this spring is all of the groups chats that I am inexplicably a part of. Group chats that were formed in order to make plans for one event somehow become a permanent means of communication between anyone in the group. Once in a group chat, people will only text someone else through that group chat, even if it has nothing to do with anyone else in the group. Thus, I am constantly left with a ton of notifications for texts that aren't for me. Thus, I need to clean out my phone and get rid of all of the endless group chats. If you need to text me, do it individually.

**Cleaning Out Rat Copulators  
By Disillusioned Dissidents**

You know what needs to be cleaned? This election cycle. Like a wash cycle, we should have wiped it down before pressing start again. Seriously, what the fuck is going on this year?

First of all, people are literally on board with the idea of having the orange guy who hosted *The Apprentice* to be in charge of the entire country. Like, his catchphrase was literally "you're fired". How the fuck is someone with that catchphrase supposed to lower the unemployment rate??? I don't know, man, I don't know.

Second, the Democrats have been

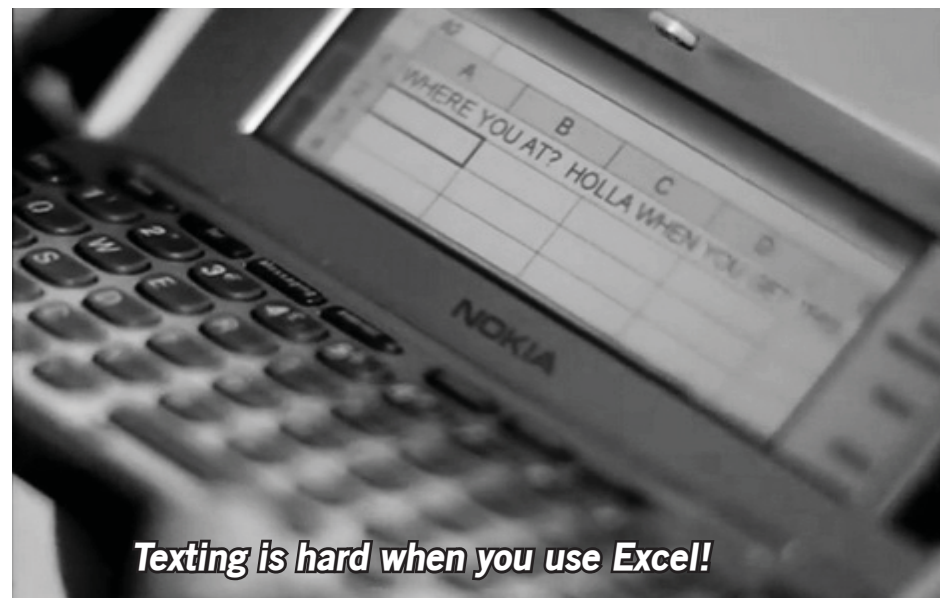
accused of voter suppression. Like, wasn't that supposed to be the GOP's thing? If we can't trust the Democrats, who can we trust? Also, how is it that America spews its "Christian" values, yet won't vote for the Jewish guy who's trying to save us all? THIS IS WHY GOD HATES US!!!

Lastly, Republican presidential candidate/zodiac killer Ted Cruz admitted to fucking rats. His EXACT quote was, "Donald Trump may be a rat but I have no desire to copulate with him." This isn't some shitty joke. Google it. He actually said it. He straight up fucks rats (except for Trump). This is the current 2016 election in America. Fuck.

their so-called memes which disgrace the term and drive people away from the greatness of dank memes. Social media websites must hand out an automatic ban to any user who unironically posts a normie meme. Through a united effort we can get normies off the Internet, bringing in a new age of dank memes. REEEEEEEEE!

**Text History  
by Kelly Rowland**

I love you and I need you Nelly but I also need to clean out my text message history. Apparently Excel spreadsheets take up a lot of data??? Who knew?



**Texting is hard when you use Excel!**

**Out with Normie in with Dank  
By Pepe the Frog**

What would I clean out of my life this spring? Normies. A normie is someone who follows the mainstream to a fault, often being devoid of any individuality because of their reliance on popular culture. He or she rarely produces anything of significance, and mostly regurgitates ideas and content created by others. These guys are the plague of the Internet, and need to be banned from every website ASAP. They post

**My Bank Account  
by Hopeless Citizen**

What needs to be cleaned out? My bank account. Lol no but seriously, this isn't an April Fool's day joke. I'm taking all the money from well-meaning relatives who I now cannot look in the face and running off to a far-odd land where I will never ever ever ever ever have to hear the name Donald Trump in serious conversation ever again. Sorry America, but we are never ever ever getting back together. Like ever.

**Cleaning out the Apartment  
by Fed up with this shit**

Lately, I've found that my suite in Walsh has been a mess. I've been slightly busy lately, but with spring, I need to finally get down to cleaning up the biggest mess of all—my roommates. Things would be so much cleaner and tidier without them taking up so much space! Whenever they enter the dorm, they immediately make it dirty. Just cleaned the bathroom? The first time they use it, there'll be pee on the seat. Just did the dishes? Somehow within an hour the entire kitchen is dirty again and with the sink full of dirty dishes that won't get cleaned for days. And don't even get me started on the laundry situation. Even when they do laundry, they mix all the colors, and then leave the clean clothes in heaps around the room. I've survived the winter in this situation, but with the onset of a new season, its time for change in Walsh and my roommates might just be put out with the trash.

**Skeletons in my Closet  
by Eminem**

I'm cleaning out the literal figurative physical emotional and spiritual skeletons in my closet. I have a lot of shit in my past that I'm gonna yell about in my songs that might frighten but then weirdly motivate you on your run through the Botans. My evil druggie mom and shitbag dad gave me scars for life but at least I can make money off them if nothing else. I don't give a fuck if you're scared or offended because I'm fucking Eminem and me turning my shit into art is what art is all about, bitch.

**Flare Ups  
By Anonymous**

Herpes. I wish I could clean this out. If only it were possible. Fuck you, Carol.



**Zayn Malik**  
***Mine of Mine***  
 By Siobhan Donahue

Zayn Malik broke my heart March 25th, 2015, when he left One Direction. Exactly a year later, he won my heart over with his debut solo album, *Mine of Mine*.

Despite the fact that every song title was made to look like it was typed by a fifth grader on MySpace, Zayn succeeded in his goal to have a more mature sound. In a way, *Mine of Mine* reads like an aggressive campaign to signal to the world that Zayn is an adult and not some baby boy band member. By far the album's biggest strength is Zayn's vocals. Most directioners know that Zayn was the one with the highest voice. He definitely used his impressive range effectively. Musically, the album covers about eleven different genres, despite the fact that there's only fourteen tracks, not counting the deluxe edition, which has eighteen. Even though that may be an excessive amount of music styles for one album, this set up works well for Zayn. Overall, the album was well produced.

While the album is generally very good and certainly deserve sits current success, there were still some issues. First, he needs to work on his annunciation. The worst offender of this nature was the song "BLUE". Second, the lyrical content ranged from pretty decent to try hard. Like we get it Zayn, you drink and sleep with GiGi Hadid. How deep. Last, many of his songs sound like something from The Weeknd. As great as they are, he



fails to distinguish himself as an artist with a unique sound.

If you're looking for a "chillax" album, definitely listen to Zayn's. Highlights include "PiLIOWT4IK", "BeFoUr", "IN-TERMISSION: fLoWer", and "wRoNg" (featuring Kehlani). Yeah, I still have no idea why he stylized all the song titles like that. The world may never know.



**Kendrick Lamar**  
***untitled unmastered***  
 By Brian Conway

Kendrick Lamar Duckworth is doing big things at this point in his career. He has the hits, he has the platform, and now he's using that power to spread powerful messages in the form of social commentary. When the man talks, people listen - and that's a testament to the bold, creative showcase he displayed with last year's *To Pimp a Butterfly*. His newest release, *untitled unmastered*, is a compilation album consisting of tracks meant for *Butterfly* that didn't quite make the cut, though you would never have guessed these parts were once unwanted, as they come together to create something great.

Sonically, certain tracks on *untitled* feature glimpses of the jazz and funk fusion that would eventually make its way onto *Butterfly*, but these tracks feel like the breaks a performer might take in between songs at a small

club in an effort to shine more light on a certain idea. The album features an intimate, stripped down tone that Kendrick gracefully weaves into the most effortless listen of the year. While some of the songs may seem a bit underwhelming compared to others, there's an underlying feeling here that Kendrick trusts his listeners enough to appreciate the art without him having to spell it out for them in a polished way. The rawness of this approach feels like the opposite of something more glamorously calculated like Kanye's recent release *The Life of Pablo*.

The moody bass lines and crisp drums littered throughout the record are accompanied by Kendrick verses that, while critical of everything from racial standards to how people raise their children, come across as reserved and confident if not optimistic. This, coupled with the melodic delivery on most tracks, ensures that nothing comes across as droning but rather extremely natural.

With a discography that grows more impressive by the year, no one knows where Kendrick is headed next, but in the words of the man himself on "untitled 02," "Cornrow Kenny, he was born with a vision."



**The Struts**  
***Everybody Wants***  
 By Rachel Poe

*Everybody Wants* is fantastic, okay? Like I really enjoyed this album and it takes a lot for me to enjoy every song on an album. Each song is energetic but manages to be different and fun. The Struts have been described as "un-

abashedly over the top retro-fetishist classic rock," which yeah, basically. The Derbyshire rockers originally released this album in the UK in 2014 but fast-forward numerous sold out shows later and here we are with *Everybody Wants* release in the US.

The album starts off with the intense "Roll Up" that grabs your attention and draws you in. It's followed by their most well-known song, "Could Have Been Me," which has the makings of an anthem. Then the rest of the album includes songs that make you want to channel your inner air-guitarist, the cliched breakup song that is just too good to criticize, a song that's surprisingly more indie-pop but still kills it, and another considered to basically be a lovechild

between Bastille and Fall Out Boy. It all comes together as an overall stellar album.

Almost every song on *Everybody Wants* just begs for you to sing along with it. They're lively, fun, and easy to listen to on repeat with a solid balance of fast-paced songs and ballads. Before you know it, you can't stop listening to them, know all the words, and have a low-key problem. Seriously, I probably listened to this album for nearly two weeks straight on repeat after its release before I lost my headphones.

So yeah, I highly recommend this album. I'm no expert but I really have nothing negative to say, just that I'm kinda pissed I haven't seen them live yet because it would be amazing.



**Weezer**  
***Weezer ("The White Album")***  
 By Luis Gomez

After the disappointing Hurley and the kinda-out-there *Everything Will Be Alright in the End*, Weezer's newest self titled album is a return to form in more ways than one. It's the first self-titled album they've had in eight years, after *The Red Album* dropped in June of '08. It's also the best album they've released in a long time. The album's producer, Sinclair, is a devoted fan of



the band's older work, and *The White Album* effectively mimics the best aspects of older Weezer songs. Songs like "Wind in Our Sail" recall "Island in the Sun" and "Surf Wax USA," with a bombastic chorus carrying a message of West-coast inspiration and warm summer air. That doesn't mean Weezer isn't attempting new things; the third track, "Thank God for Girls" is a panicked, anxiety-inducing piece that worries over loneliness and emptiness. Another track, "King of the World" is actually a list of things that Kyoko Cuomo, wife of frontman Rivers Cuomo, found stressful. She even responded line-by-line on Genius. Beyond even that, there's a micro-plot running through the album, where (presumably) Rivers meets a girl in "(Girl We Got A) Good Thing" and starts a relationship, only to have it all fall apart by "Summer Elaine and Drunk Dori." The album is catchy, upbeat, and adheres to Weezer's two-decade message: life sucks, rock is love, let's all party. And you know what? This is a party I want to go to.

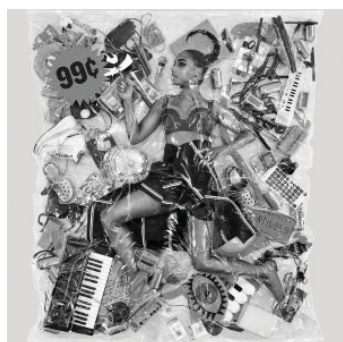


**Santigold**  
**99¢**  
**By Tommy Gerity**

From the first hollers to the final drones of this album, Santigold puts people, including herself, in their place. The opening track, "Can't Get Enough Of Myself," is a bouncy, bass-y tune on which she proclaims her top position amongst the queens of sub-Top 100 pop. It's a believable claim, and she continues to sell herself to her audience on "Big Boss Big Time Business," which sounds like the angry, Hulk side of "Can't Get Enough." Elsewhere, Santigold exhibits how she can hang with the best of them by nailing "Rendezvous Girl," a track that's so Marina and the Diamonds-esque that one ignores

the blatant copy-cattin' to just groove along with it.

The climb to the top hasn't been easy though, as Santigold explains in "All I Got." The track works as a piece of irony that points out the album's greatest flaw. While she sings about the negative consequences of putting all her focus in one place, it's this exact thematic concentration that could've taken *99¢* to the next level. Instead, there's a lot of good here, but no actual greatness to be found. However, the crowning moment comes on the album's final track, "Who I Thought You Were." The rocker is pumped up with enough potent venom to make Taylor Swift's vengeful put-downs look elementary and have any heartbroken listener feel like they actually won.



**le menu**

**Oh La La !**  
**Un poing c'est tout**

**Serge Gainsbourg**  
**Lemon Incest**

**Fauve**  
**Blizzard**

**Peter Peter**  
**Tergiverse**

**La Femme**  
**Sur la planche 2013**

the paper brings back political bumper stickers

