

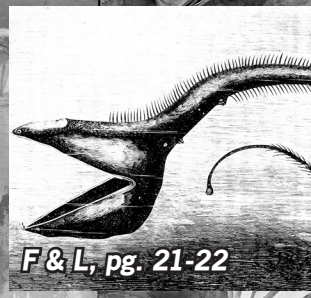
John Brennan, pg. 3



Drug policy, pg. 9



Despicable Me, pg. 15



F &amp; L, pg. 21-22



Earwax, pg. 23

## the paper

c/o Office of Student Involvement  
 Fordham University  
 Bronx, NY 10458  
 paper.fordham@gmail.com  
<http://fupaper.blog/>

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

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

## our aim

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

"Deleted Wiki titles"

### Editors-in-Chief

John "Moonshine process improvement" Looby  
 Luis "Poorly built rocket bus" Gómez

### News Editors

Nick "1933 in video gaming" Peters  
 Declan "Manly ways to eat fruit" Murphy

### Opinions Editors

Colleen "Sunglasses with pies on them" Burns  
 Rachel "Category: Vice Presidents who have shot people" Poe

### Arts Editors

Matthew "Nintendo Independent Wiki Alliance" Whitaker  
 Michael "Intergalactic Thanksgiving" Sheridan

### Earwax Editor

Reyna "List of fictional characters who wear fingerless gloves" Wang

### Features and List Editors

Hillary "List of puddles" Bosch  
 Meredith "Waffle Man" Mclaughlin

### Copy Chief

Anna "Laws about warning someone you're going to kill them" PK

### Editor at Large

Claire "Transcendental Hayride" Nunez

### Digital Editor

Michael Jack "Turbo corn" O'Brien

### Contributors

Andrew Millman, Anastasia Lacina, Maria Byrne, Kyle Zarif, Christian Decker, Claire del Sorbo, Annie Muscat, Chris DiMieri, Hannah Whitney, CJ Arenas, Jan-Carl Resurreccion, Olivia Langenberg, Katelynn Browne, Thomas Koenig, Poison Mitch the Poison Bitch, the MTA, Brad Paisley, YouTube controversies, Bitmoji, ASMR videos, tables without chairs, a sadistic gerbil, The Meadows, mistakes, the once and future mayor of New York City, unpaid canvassing.

Want an apartment?  
 Don't have \$3500/mo?  
 CALL 1-800-85TOUGH



## Fordham Announces John Brennan for Law School, people hate it

By Maria Byrne and Kyle Zarif **Controversial CIA chief is now on Fordham's payroll**

### Staff Distinguished Fellows

On September 4th, Fordham announced in an email that former CIA Director John Brennan was appointed as “Distinguished Fellow for Global Security at the Center on National Security at Fordham Law School.” In this role, Brennan would be tasked with mentoring students who aspired to work within America’s vast and expanding national security apparatus. Brennan served for nearly 30 years in the CIA, leading the agency under President Obama. As Brennan will be imparting his particular experience onto students in the form of objective knowledge on Global Security, it is worth examining just what that experience is and what type of knowledge Brennan has accrued from it.

During the second Bush administration, Brennan worked as the CIA’s deputy director while the agency undertook an international program of torture and illegal detention of terror suspects in direct violation of the Third Geneva Convention. The agency repeatedly attempted to argue that the Convention did not apply to terror suspects, as they were nonstate actors fighting an unconventional war. In turn, the US refused to implement the Third Geneva Convention until 2007. After the Bush years, when the American public was more critical of its government’s torture of terror detainees, Brennan repeatedly defended the use of illegal black site prisons in various countries and detention of terror suspects without charge. More recently, he defended the agency in the wake of the Senate Report on Torture, claiming torture provided “some useful information”.

Brennan showed a continued ambivalence towards the tenets of international

law in his career as CIA Director under President Obama. During this period, Brennan helped design the administration’s drone program, which led to the targeted and illegal assassinations of anyone the agency determined to be a grave enough security threat. Brennan also helped create the list of approved assassination targets, a process which remains confidential, circumventing due process and international legal norms. The program has also resulted in disproportionately high civilian deaths in Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan, Libya, and Afghanistan. Brennan continues to assert the drone program’s morality and efficiency, claiming civilian casualties are “extremely rare.” However, internal documents leaked by the Intercept in 2015 revealed that 90% of total drone related deaths in Yemen and Somalia were not the intended target, estimating 264 deaths of CIA-designated civilians, without counting Pakistan, Libya, and Afghanistan. This number is almost certainly higher, however, as the same Intercept investigation revealed that the majority of drone deaths were retroactively attributed to “enemy combatants,” with the CIA serving as a sort of post-mortem jury, judge, and executioner.

The issue of Fordham Law offering John Brennan a position falls into a larger pattern of the American military industrial complex usurping academia. In a post-9/11 America, it comes as little surprise that the university has increased its ties with the Pentagon. While this may not seem intrinsically evil to most Fordham students, and proponents of military research in academia advocate for its creation of new technologies, there are likewise sev-

eral red flags about this subtle but apparent trend. For example, on September 15, Harvard announced that they had decided to revoke Chelsea Manning’s invitation to become a Visiting Fellow—while still extending invitations to members of the Trump administration, including Sean Spicer. Manning’s disinvitation was widely seen as a response to CIA director Mike Pompeo’s letter to Harvard criticizing Manning as a “traitor to the United States of America”. These emerging ideologies and practices of militarization, corporatism, and right-wing fundamentalism normalize the government’s agenda and ultimately have the potential to compromise critical thought, while also causing a lack of transparency from the general public.

Furthermore, Fordham has a tense history with the military industrial complex. The Vietnam War drove a wedge between Fordham military-funded programs and the rest of the student body. President Nixon was supposed to speak at Rose Hill in 1969, but students led a protest and sit-in creating a barrier for the route his car would have taken onto campus, forcing his speech to be canceled. The Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) of Fordham additionally threatened to block air force personnel from recruiting on campus and organized protests demanding Fordham admit more African American students and other minorities. When Fordham threatened to deny financial aid to students participating in conflicts, protests became even more tense and violent, and students demanded that ROTC to not be allowed to promote itself on campus. But while Fordham students have historically countered similar university decisions, it seems that the re-

cent appointment of John Brennan to the law school has fallen on deaf ears.

Brennan fits into an interesting trend of members of the national security apparatus being given honorary positions at universities: Condoleezza Rice became a political science professor at Stanford following her involvement in the Bush Administration, Janet Napolitano became the president of the University of California, etc. In 2015, faculty and students gathered in Fordham Faculty Against Torture, calling on the university to revoke his honorary degree and McMahon Award. Dr. Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Professor of Theology and organizer of the Fordham Faculty Against Torture campaign said the following of Brennan’s recent appointment: “As a theologian, I am called by the tortured Christ to interrogate the ways we continue to crucify others in the name of our own safety and salvation. Thus, I continue to have concerns about the ways that practices of national security eclipse our common humanity.” We as members of a national academic community and a local one at Fordham are veering towards this “agenda-ed” ideology dominated by a heavily militarized and self-interested government. Their profit-saturated thinking along with the planning of strategic policy through funded research and government appointed positions arguably threatens the integrity of academia as a public space where moral authorities and nationalism can be questioned. Students and faculty at Fordham who value an open intellectual community should ask themselves whether Brennan’s experience and knowledge is worth compromising Jesuit values of openness and critical thought.



# Cuban Missile Crisis 2: The Looming Threat of Nuclear North Korea

by Christian Decker  
Staff Doomsday Clock

## A.K.A. Why I Can't Sleep at Night

In October of 1962, The United States faced one of the scariest times in our entire existence. Americans on one side, Russians on the other, neither backing down. This 13-day event became known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. Now it is known as one of President Kennedy's greatest achievements during his presidency. However, it was a terrifying time for all Americans.

Unfortunately, nuclear war seems to again be lurching forward, thanks to everyone's favorite dictator, Kim Jong Un. The North Korean supreme leader has been working overtime to inspire fear in the hearts of Americans and South Koreans alike. The North Korean government has made claims that they have missiles capable of reaching the mainland United States. Guam was also threatened with a missile strike (Oh so NOW you care about Guam).

President Trump however, has assured the North Koreans that they will be met with "fire and fury the likes of which the world has never seen" should they attempt any military action against the United States. Now besides sounding like Daenerys Targaryen, the president has made it clear that he's not messing around this time. We also have confirmation from Defense Secretary James "Mad Dog" Mattis, that any attack on the U.S. will be met with "an extreme military response, according to the Guardian.

As an additional response to North Korea aggression, The U.N. has dropped its "highest sanctions ever" on the country, according to the Washington Post. These new sanctions target North Korea's oil and textile exports, adding to an already increasing amount of sanctions against the nation. Reportedly, sanctions have now reached the point

where 90 percent of North Korea's exports are under sanction. It's been suspected however, that these extreme sanctions might still not be enough.

Furthermore, it was revealed that on September 14th, North Korea launched its second ballistic missile test in a month over Japan, according to ABC. The missile traveled a total distance of around 2,300 miles before it landed in the ocean. South Korea then launched its own missile as a defense tactic to stave off further aggres-

sion from Kim Jong-Un. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has urged Russia and China to take their own direct action against the dictator.

So it's clear that nuclear war could be on the horizon. Both leaders have their fingers over the nuclear buttons and no one seems to be blinking. It's also not clear as to whether China will help the U.S. or North Korea. The Chinese gov-

ernment is worried about potential consequences of a conflict between the United States and North Korea. China has a vested trade interest with North Korea, according to the Washington Post. It is also likely that war could displace North Korean citizens and send refugees into China.

Because of the lingering rumors and threats from both sides, people have started to get scared. And that's understandable, but we also

The Kim family has relied on having a cult of personality that depicts their supreme leader as nothing less than the most amazing and perfect man on Earth. Another key component of the North Korean regime tactic is the glorification of the military. According to sources, North Korea spends almost a quarter of its GDP on military spending. Now their GDP isn't as large as say, the U.S. but that's still a significant percentage when you consider that South Korean only spends about 5 or 6 percent of its GDP on the military. On North Korean television, weapons demonstrations are often broadcast showing the might of the North Korean army. It's unclear how much of this arsenal is functional or real; it's possible that some of the film has been doctored.

Finally, the last piece of the dictator puzzle is inspiring a hatred for all things American. There is even a museum dedicated to how terrible the U.S. was to them during the Korean War. Brainwashing is part of keeping the North Korean people focused on a different goal other than relieving their own suffering.

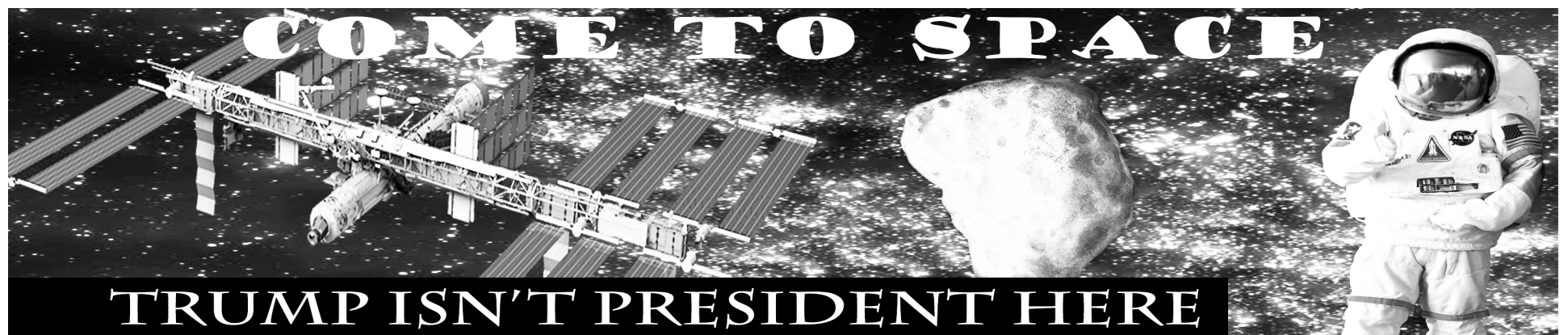
Kim Jong-Un is still a young dictator. Unless deposed, his rule isn't ending anytime soon. As a result, tensions could still be high at a point even up to his death. It's unclear now how problems between the two countries will be resolved. In the meantime, keep your fingers crossed and hope the world doesn't end.



Like this but worse

must understand what is it that makes North Korea tick? What are its founding principles?

North Korea was founded by Kim Il-Sum, the leader of the Communist uprising movement in Korea while it was still unified. The North Korean government has remained in the hands of the Kim family, including the current dictator Kim Jong-Un.





# Utah Nurse Arrested for Protecting Patient Privacy

by Andrew Millman  
Staff Fuck the Police

In July, Alex Wubbels, a Utah nurse, refused to allow local police officers to take blood from an unconscious patient, who had been admitted to the burn unit after a car crash. The nurse, who ran the burn unit, repeatedly rejected a detective's attempts to acquire the blood sample, citing hospital and police department policy. The shared policy required that one of their criteria be met before the hospital would hand over a patient's blood reports: a court order, an arrest, or patient consent. The patient was not under arrest and he was unconscious, so he could not give his consent. The Supreme Court also recently ruled that it is unconstitutional to draw blood without consent or a warrant. Nevertheless, the detective and other officers became insistent on acquiring the evidence and tensions mounted, eventually resulting in the arrest of the nurse. The body-cam video of the nurse cornered by several of-

## Story about police cover-up turns to abuse

ficers, before being manhandled and dragged to a waiting police car quickly went viral. As a result, the incident has come under increased scrutiny.

The arrest video was horrific enough and a blatant abuse of police power, but the larger context for the incident is even more troubling. The detective wasn't just ignoring procedure because he was lazy. The episode was part of a bungled cover-up attempt. The patient was an innocent bystander who was injured during a high-speed police chase, which went against the department's policy, instituted to protect civilians. Due to the officers' reckless actions, someone got hurt and both the officers and the department were now legally liable. The cops wanted the patient's blood to find something that they could use in court to exonerate themselves or muddy the issue, even though the accident was clearly their fault. The detective didn't seek a warrant from a judge because

he knew there was no probable cause that would merit one being issued, as the patient was not a suspect. Within a day, the police department internally reviewed the body-cam footage, but did nothing until the video went viral and caused widespread outrage.

This one incident contained three abuses of power by the police. First, the cops engaged in a high-speed chase against departmental guidelines, probably to fulfill some fantasy about being in a stupid action movie. The accident that resulted from the chase ended in the death of the fleeing suspect and injury of an innocent bystander. Second, the police demanded the private medical records of an unconscious victim with no legal right to do so. They tried to bluster their way to violating a citizen's privacy exclusively through the authority of their positions. Third, the officers arrested a nurse, who was just doing her job and protecting her patient's rights, with no legal basis. Then,

after the incident, the department officials responsible for overseeing the actions of their fellow officers found nothing wrong with any of it, proving that it wasn't just a few rogue cops, but a more systemic problem. Overall, throughout the entire ordeal, every individual police officer involved chose to do the wrong thing.

The whole police department acted corruptly, but the incident is useful because it is emblematic of how departments across the country act to protect their own instead of upholding the law. It is perfectly fine and probably necessary for police officers to be fiercely loyal to their coworkers, but that loyalty should stop when it requires violating citizens' constitutional and legal rights. Unfortunately, as countless recent incidents have shown, this is often not the case. This horrible incident, like many others, could have been prevented if just one officer chose to act differently.

# Georgia Cop Tells White Woman That "We Only Kill Black People"

by Anastasia Lacina  
Staff Also Fuck the Police

This cultural moment in America is a disturbing and discriminatory one, filled with racial tension (especially after the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville) and peppered with racist anecdotes that would not seem out of place in an episode of "What Would You Do?"

Last month, a local news channel in Atlanta, Georgia obtained police dash-cam footage from a traffic stop that happened on July 10th, 2016. In the video, a white police officer—later identified as Lt. Greg Abbott—pulls over a car at 3 o'clock in the morning. The male driver is arrested for driving under the influence, but the female passenger does not want to move her hands or open her car door, saying that she is afraid because she had seen "way too many videos" about how police treat people at traffic stops. The cop goes on to reply, "But you're not black. Remember, we only kill black people. Yeah. We only kill black people, right? All the videos you've seen, have you seen white people get killed? No."

## White America is shocked, but is it really all that surprising?

WSB-TV Atlanta published the video on August 31st, and that afternoon, the police chief of Cobb County Police Department held a press conference in which he denounced the comments as "inexcusable and inappropriate," and claimed that they had begun firing proceedings for Lt. Abbott (however, a few days later, it was announced that he retired before the firing proceedings could go through). The lawyer for Lt. Abbott, when asked for a

statement, said that his client was "attempting to de-escalate a situation involving an uncooperative passenger. In context, his comments were clearly aimed at attempting to gain compliance by using the passenger's own statements and reasoning to avoid making an arrest."

Despite this, many people are understandably angry about the incident. Media pundits noted that although firing proceedings had begun fairly quickly after the video was aired, the Cobb police department had had the video in their possession for more than a

year and had taken no action against Lt. Abbott. It was only after WSB-TV Atlanta put them into the spotlight

by releasing the video that they felt like they needed to take action. The implication is that the Cobb police department was perfectly fine with keeping Lt. Abbott as an officer even though he had said these racist remarks, up until the point when the rest of the country knew about it.

Additionally, black Americans took to Twitter to expose the tragic irony of the whole situation. Within a few days of Lt. Abbott's words coming to light, he was forced to leave the police force. And yet, in June, Jeronimo Yanez was found not guilty in the shooting of Philando Castile, an innocent black man in Minnesota. Daniel Pantaleo—the cop who choked Eric Garner to death in 2014—wasn't even indicted by a grand jury, and was only given a slap on the wrist by the NYPD. And Darren Wilson—who infamously shot 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri—was also not indicted, and later, voluntarily left the Ferguson police force.

No one doubts that Lt. Greg Abbott's words were inappropriate and horribly racist, and no one doubts that he deserved to be removed from his position. But when viewed in light of the dozens of innocent black people who have been shot by cops in the past few years, it does raise the question: does saying that cops kill black people result in a harsher punishment than if you actually kill black people?





# FAKER THAN TRUTH

By John Looby

## Fordham Announces Plan to Go Controversy Free for One Year

Fordham University unveiled a new plan for its administration recently in order to improve its public image after what some are calling “fucking disastrous like Amazing Spiderman 2 disastrous” incidents in recent years. Students in recent years having taken to protesting the university administration in an effort to “just feel alive in this soul crushing atmosphere of ill prepared statements and absent minded triggering actions.” In light of this select members of the administration were overheard saying things such as “oh shit these kids seem upset”, “wow was that an insensitive comment to make again?”, and “what do you mean I should care for their emotional well being is this some sort of safe space for students?”

Eventually after another webpage ran a story entitled “Fordham fucks it up” The administration drafted a plan to correct the course of its public image. The following are points found on an internal Fordham Memo

“Jesus Christ just think for a second before you act”

“Have some god damn decency”  
“I think tears are a pretty good indicator you’ve made a mistake”

Only time can tell if these efforts will make any difference for Fordham’s public image. All the community can do is wait for Father McShane to address the campus in an email with vague feel good platitudes meant to distance Fordham from the issue

# Hurricanes Cause Destruction: FEMA edition

by Hillary Bosch

## Features and List Co-Editor

In case you haven’t seen the Weather Channel in the past two weeks, the Atlantic Ocean just decided to unleash hell in the Gulf and Caribbean. Back in May, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicted a 45% chance of an overactive hurricane season, with 11-17 named storms, 5-9 hurricanes and out of those 2-4 major storms. As of now, there have been 2 tropical depressions, 5 tropical storms, and 6 named hurricanes—two of which made landfall in U.S. territories.

Hurricane Harvey formed from a tropical wave just east of the Caribbean Sea on August 17 and swept through the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico to reach Mexico’s western border and Texas’s back porch. It first made landfall as a Category 4 storm near Rockport, Texas and ambled along the Texas and Louisiana coastlines until it eventually turned upwards and dissipated by September 3.

In that short period of time, Hurricane Harvey left 300,000 people in the Houston metropolitan area without power, while dumping a minimum of 30 inches and an observed maximum of 51.88 in in Cedar Bayou. Several counties along the coast enacted mandatory evacuations when possible, in response to ever-rising floodwaters and increasing risks of tornadoes and fires. More than 48,700 homes and 700 businesses were damaged in the state of Texas. Harvey then laid eyes on Louisiana, causing over 2 ft. of precipitation and flooding in towns around the state. On August 28, approximately 200 people sought shelters in southwest Louisiana. Harvey’s presence was especially painful for many residents of the southeast who were preparing to recognize the twelfth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, which made landfall August 29, 2005.

Similar to Katrina, Hurricane Harvey was especially damaging to minority and lower income neighborhoods

## Southern U.S. is racked by massive storms

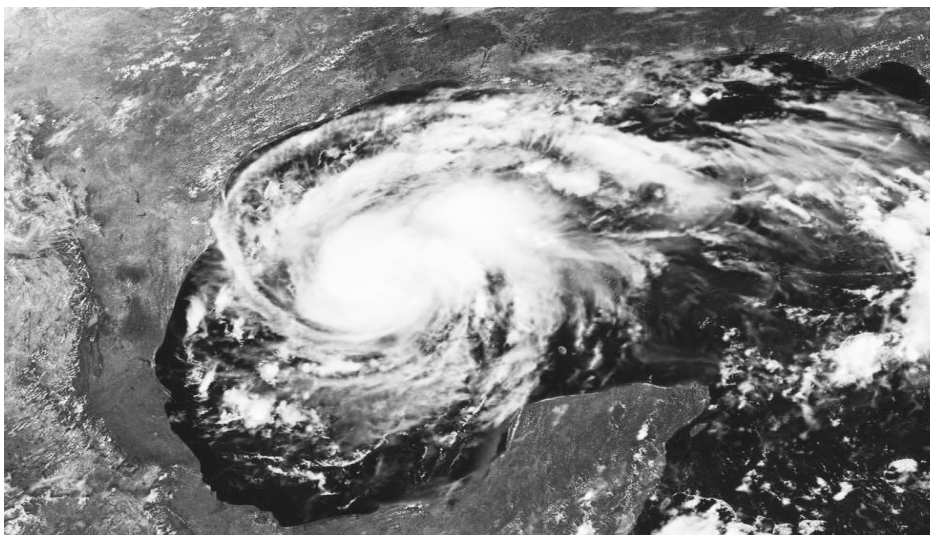
around the Texas/Mexico border. The city of Houston covers roughly 600 square miles with millions of people spread across rural areas outside of Houston as well. Harvey ripped through southern Houston, as well as communities with high social vulnerability, many residents of which who were unable to evacuate. For communities of social and economic vulnerability in the greater Houston area, help was slow to come.

Less than a week later, one of the strongest Atlantic basin storms swept over numerous Caribbean islands until

40,000 federal personnel were assigned to work in the response and recovery to Hurricane Irma. 2,650 FEMA staffers have been deployed to the Caribbean and southeast United States, with more arriving each day as the need for relief increases with the number of displaced people. FEMA has distributed an estimated 6.6 million meals, 4.7 million liters of water to residents of the Southeast. In the Caribbean, FEMA Urban Search & Rescue successfully completed 1,141 rescue missions alongside the U.S. Coast Guard who rescued 326 people and 53 household

pets.

FEMA Region II, the local FEMA office supervising New York and New Jersey, is also responsible for FEMA operations in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.



its eventual turn towards Florida. Hurricane Irma developed on August 30 and spent three days as a Category 5 storm, maintaining wind speeds over 185 mph for 37 continuous hours. The storm’s winds spanned 70,000 miles as its eye crossed directly above the island of Barbuda, which received damage to 95% of all buildings on the island.

After whipping past the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and dozens of smaller Caribbean Islands, Irma’s path moved to Florida and the east coast. Florida was faced with a massive storm surges along its coasts and in the Florida Keys, making the Jacksonville area almost unrecognizable to residents and impossible remain anywhere near the affected areas without flotation devices or moving to higher ground. As it moved inland it downsized to a tropical depression, but still caused considerable damages in at least 9 states, including Georgia and South Carolina.

As of September 14, more than

With one of the largest maintained staffs of the 10 FEMA regions, many employees were requested to deploy to Texas in order to help Region VI with Harvey relief efforts. Only days later, nearly all remaining employees were given 72 hours to deploy to the Virgin Islands, with some even being pulled from their original Texas assignment. The local Region II office, located at the World Trade Center, is still working on recovery and mitigation efforts for the most recent storm to impact their area, Hurricane Sandy. With several disasters on their hands and the potential for more hurricanes to come, FEMA’s years of preparation and tumultuous past with public opinion will be tested under a microscope. With Trump, Congress, the public, and the Caribbean all looking to FEMA and companion agencies for guidance, the next 3 months will be crucial as they set the precedent for how FEMA responds to hurricanes, which are only increasing in intensity and destruction.



# President Trump Decides to end DACA protections

by Hannah Whitney  
Staff Lady Liberty

## Nightmares, not dreams, is his motto

On September 5, Trump's administration announced the official end of DACA, a program that has helped 800,000 undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children. The Department of Homeland Security will stop processing any new applications, completely rescinding DACA. Now, though many sources report progress, President Trump assures that he and Democratic leaders had reached "no deal" on the matter of protecting these immigrants.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) officially began on August 15, 2012 when former President Obama created a policy to defer any action made for undocumented children, called DREAMers, brought to the United States. Though members of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program could apply for employment and were protected under United States law, the law provided no guarantee of permanence or citizenship and could be revoked at any time.

Trump was hesitant at first to make the announcement to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. White House Press Secretary said it was a difficult decision for Trump, so much so that he decided not to announce it himself. Instead, he delegated the responsibility to Attorney General Jeff Sessions; who had avidly opposed the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals program. During the Press Conference, Sessions argued that illegal immigrants, including dreamers, are law breakers who hurt native-born Americans by taking jobs and working for low wages. Trump further states that his decision was because he is worried about "the millions of Americans victimized by this unfair system."

Trump faces somewhat of a dilemma, for his entire campaign had been built around cracking down on illegal immigration. He had consistently promised to build a wall in addition

to kicking out all undocumented immigrants. However, Trump had previously been willing to make exceptions for the dreamers who have been brought to the United States as children with no choice of their own.

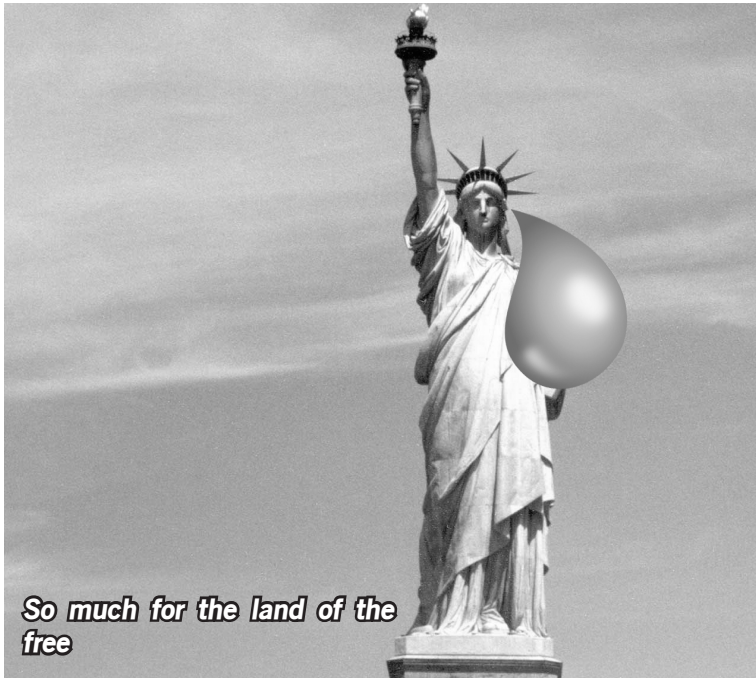
Not surprisingly, right and left parties had much to say about the announcement and a prospective DACA deal. Democrats in Congress

drastic decision without working together with other party members to come up with a peaceful and effective solution for reforming the immigration system. House Speaker Paul Ryan opposed Obama's original program, but is also uneasy with Trump's decision, hoping that Congress finds a permanent solution quickly.

Soon after the announcement to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, protests broke out at the White House and the Justice Department. Many consider it a "cold hearted" and "shortsighted" move that could possibly hurt the economy. On Saturday, thousands protested the decision on Columbus Circle. The crowd then moved towards Central Park, where they paused by Strawberry Fields. At least 3,000 protesters gathered across the street of Trump Tower with signs that read "Keep the dreamers, deport the racists" and "Legalize liberty". One DREAMer, Natalia Rodriguez, said on life before DACA that "I would be terrified that I would be deported."

Obama wrote on Facebook "Whatever concerns or complaint Americans may have about immigration in general, we shouldn't threaten the future of this group of young people who are here through no fault of their own, who pose no threat, who are not taking away anything from the rest of us."

Recently, government officials, including House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer, met at the White House to discuss possible next steps and compromises. After much contention, they reached an agreement, supported only tentatively by Trump. According to the compromise, the young dreamers would be allowed to stay in the country if democrats provided a border security package, not including the infamous Trump Wall. However, just hours later, his tweets contradict there being any deal whatsoever. Even Trump administration and supporters are wondering where he stands on the issue.



*So much for the land of the free*

were uniformly against the decision while Republican responses were more across the board. Democratic and Republican Senators are discussing a possible DREAM Act which will give legal status to immigrants who attend college or join the military. Defending the DREAM Act, Democratic Senator Dick Durbin states "The reality of the situation is that these children basically have no place to go other than America. If there was ever a win-win in modern time, it would be the DREAM Act." Democratic officials agree that the decision to end DACA will complicate families and possibly ruin the lives of illegal immigrants who call America home.

Republican leaders and supporters have a less unified opinion of the announcement than Democrats. Senate John McCain and Jeff Flake are among the many that strongly oppose Trump's announcement. They argue that it was the wrong decision for Trump to make such a

## Realer Than Fact

By Declan Murphy

### Steven Bannon decides to go on a juice cleanse

Former White House top senior advisor and Breitbart chief Steven Bannon is happy to be out of the Trump administration. Indeed, it seems the career transition has inspired Mr. Bannon to make changes in other parts of his life as well. Namely, Mr. Bannon is on a juice cleanse.

This comes straight from Mike Cernovich at Breitbart, who noted that his colleague was indeed happy to be back at his former HQ, Breitbart News (aka the official news source of the alt-right). Cernovich is himself is another alt-right mouthpiece who, like Bannon, is no stranger to controversy.

The juice cleanse must be working, because it seems like Bannon is willing to forgive. Despite his ouster at the White House, it appears the publication will continue to throw its weight behind President Trump. This was confirmed in Bannon's now infamous on 60 Minutes, where he expressed support for (among other things) Trump's decision to end DACA.

On second thought, maybe the juice cleanse isn't helping.





# Fordham Students Hold Demonstration Against White Supremacy

by Claire Del Sorbo and Reyna Wang

Staff Antifas

On Friday September 8th, a large group of students and faculty gathered outside the McGinley Center to hold an open demonstration and speak out against white supremacy.

This demonstration comes after a turbulent summer for people of color, notably after the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville and President

tional manifestations of white supremacy as well as one within the Fordham community motivated students to continue to engage and display their solidarity for those affected by acts of white supremacy. Students engaged in chants that evoked messages shared by similar movements, such as Black Lives Matter, as well as ones that oppose anti-immigration sentiments: "Say it loud, say it

and family accountable for what they say. This demonstration represents a sign to the Fordham community that we must become a safe haven for students of color in this increasingly volatile political climate. This includes welcoming immigrants with open arms, standing in solidarity with movements such as Black Lives Matter, and opening larger dialogues of racism in response to bias incidents. Ideologies that glo-

tion or plan of action, but I think they're also important because they visually create a space for anti-racism on campus, something that is really difficult to come across at any institution. Those spaces are especially hard to find and create at Fordham, and I would like that to change. There's a lot of great anti-racist work being done by professors like Mark Naison, Mark Chapman, Jeannine Hill-Fletcher, etc., so that's not to say that it doesn't ex-



Trump's proposal to end DACA. As the summer ended, students received a message from Public Safety reporting the presence of a swastika drawn in Tierney Hall, marking the third year in a row that a bias incident has occurred at the onset of the term. This is the first time Public Safety is acknowledging such an event as a "hate crime," which is largely due student-lead protests in past years that demanded the university acknowledge the severity of these crimes and hold itself accountable for making all students on campus feel safe and welcome.

Naturally, the combination of na-

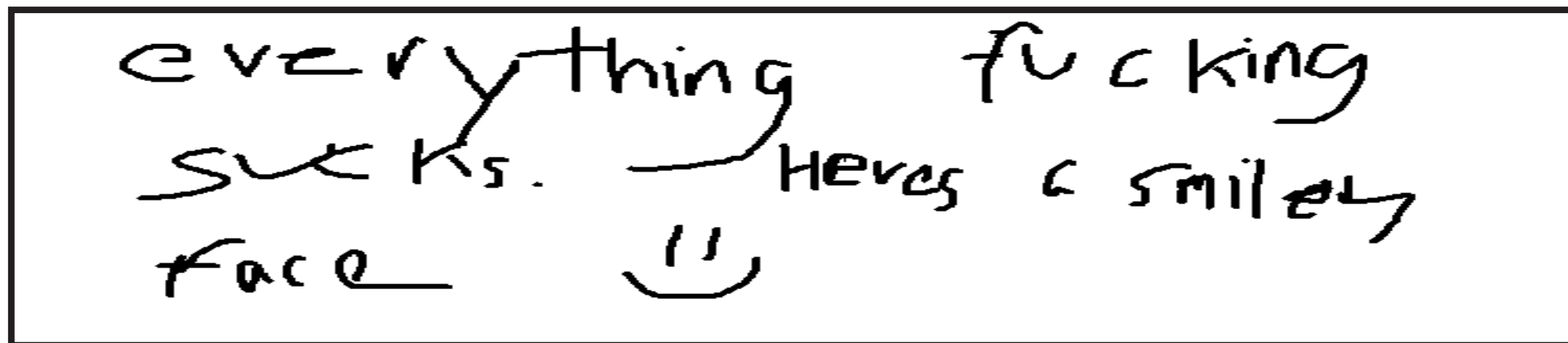
clear, immigrants are welcome here!" After several minutes of student-led chants, members of the community were invited to speak into a microphone to share feelings of anger and frustration, talk about privilege, and discuss their personal accounts of racism and xenophobia. A few students chose to read poems. The larger topic at hand, however, was about how students of color often feel failed by their leaders who covertly allow racism to thrive by not outwardly condemning it. Several white students also spoke, encouraging other white students to combat racism in their communities by holding friends

rify white supremacy and xenophobia should have no place on this campus. Jesuit schools such as Fordham have missions that are built upon humanitarianism, and members of the university community believe it is crucial to uphold the Jesuit mission by denouncing views that advocate for such positions.

Megan Townsend, a Fordham student who attended the demonstration, believes that anti-racist conversations should exist outside of the classroom in a very public, concrete way to create an atmosphere of acceptance on campus that is central to the university's teachings: "These kinds of gatherings are meant to initiate a longer conversa-

ist. I just think it should be more at the center of what we do as a Jesuit university."

It is important that events like this demonstration continue to happen during the school year, lest the student body fall victim to the notorious culture of apathy that often surrounds hate crimes and bias incidents at Fordham. Racism is not only important to discuss when incidents of racism happen, but rather all the time. Creating an open and continuous dialogue is an effective way to ensure that the Fordham community can discuss, learn, and grow together, so that we may all stand in solidarity with people of color, immigrants, and everyone who is threatened by white supremacy.





# that's SO opinions



## No Surprise: Strict Drug Laws Do More Harm than Good

by Hannah Whitney

Staff Rachael Leigh Cook

Drug policy has been a problem since Nixon's "War on Drugs" era, and there seems to be no solution in sight. What started as a message to "just say no" turned into one of America's biggest and most contentious problems to date. Now, more than ever, it is important to examine US drug policy, which has led to the world's highest incarceration rates and stimulated racial discrimination.

By instituting strict, "no-tolerance" policies on illegal substances, the negative effects vastly outweigh the positive effects. The law against illegal drugs should be more lenient, shifting the topic from a legal issue to a health issue. This solution is drastic, but it makes sense in light of the effects of drugs on American prisons.

Drug enforcement brings in thousands of prisoners into the American prison system. Since those incarcerated for drug offenses are nearly half of the entire prison population, strict drug laws can be expensive to enforce. In federal prisons, it is the government's job to provide resources as well as rehabilitation. However, it is difficult to overlook the carelessness and disorganization. According to the Bureau of Justice, "an estimated two-thirds (68 percent) of 405,000 prisoners released in 30 states in 2005 were arrested for a new crime within three years of release from prison." Although this statistic is not specific to drug offenses alone, it implies that there is a strong likelihood that many of these nonviolent offenders were arrested again after being in prison. By lessening strict drug enforcement

## The focus should be on rehabilitation, not incarceration

policies, a high percentage of the prison population will shrink – decreasing the number of bodies to feed and house. This opens up opportunity for the government to invest in rehabilitation centers for drug abusers, improving actual recovery and readjustment rates.

It seems that when Nixon stimulated the Drug War, he and his administration were using these laws as a way to control urban minority populations – disguised as a method to promote drug-free health. It doesn't take a genius to see that this is corrupt, but it does take someone who cares

enough to look.

Unfortunately, in our present society, prisoners are immediately disregarded, as they "get what they deserve." The non-violent offenders are thrown directly into a broken system of violent offenders with no mercy whatsoever.

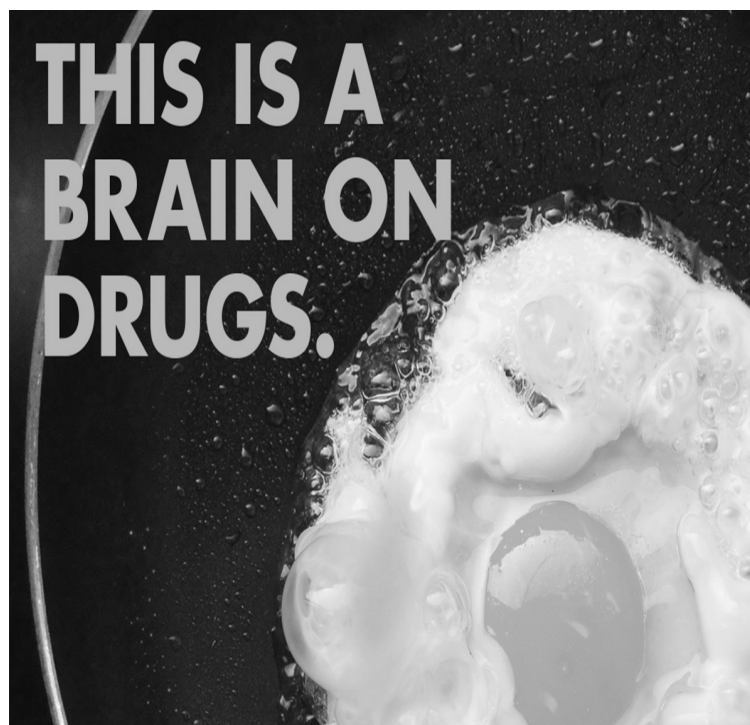
Another unfortunate reality

of the American penitentiary system is the prison-industrial complex. Big business enterprises profit off of the "captive market." For instance, Eric Markowitz of The New Yorker writes that basic items like cereal and canned goods can cost as much as "five times the retail price" – forcing the incarcerated population to pay exorbitant prices for essential needs. The Prison Policy Initiative estimates that commissary companies earn

\$1.6 billion per year. Prisoners who commit non-violent offenses, such as drug related crimes, are subject to this type of exploitation; there is no justice nor means of rehabilitation for these types of prisoners, only the means to profit.

There are many areas in need of massive improvement in both drug policy and the criminal justice system in general. It is difficult not to wonder how drastically policy would have to change in order to establish a more just law. Luckily, Portugal can give us some sense of the possible improvements our government could make. The Iberian nation completely decriminalized drugs altogether in 2001. The country was heavily criticized because this could lead to the inevitable rise in drug use. However, quite the opposite occurred; drug use has been decreasing since inception with only a slight rise in adolescent use. This slight rise in adolescent use might imply that there is no correlation between decriminalizing drugs and decreased drug use. Rather, there does seem to be a positive correlation, but not nearly enough countries have adopted this policy to give an accurate observation.

It is clear that, no matter how dramatic the move, the government must begin taking necessary steps to decriminalize drugs. In other words, there must be more leniency to drug use. By simply relaxing the laws, many of the above issues would be improved or even fixed.



Strict drug laws target minority groups; this is an irrefutable fact. This holds especially true for the African American population. Although rates of drug abuse are fairly level across racial lines, "people of color are far more likely to be searched, arrested, prosecuted, convicted and imprisoned for drug law violations than are whites" (DrugPolicy.org). Drug policy leads to this virtual slavery, and the minority becomes the majority in pris-



# A Look at the Alt-Right and Combating White Supremacy

by Annie Muscat  
Staff Peacemaker

Coverage of Nazi propaganda, race riots, and unjust violence floods the media. Millions are persecuted and their oppression is supported by baseless accusations. No, this isn't Germany in 1939 amid the mass genocide of the Holocaust. Nor is this the 1960's resurgence of the Klu Klux Klan during the U.S. civil rights movement. The year is 2017 and fascism is very much alive in the United States of America.

The election of Donald Trump is a direct backlash to Barack Obama's presidency. America went from a black man known for his progressive ideals to a figure vocally endorsed by the KKK. This change has caused the U.S. to question its identity.

The sudden rise of the group now commonly referred to as the "alternative-right" has undoubtedly contributed to the empowerment of those who align themselves with the hate-mongering movement and to a sense of national disillusionment among many. According to the Southern Law Poverty Center, a legal advocacy group with an emphasis on civil rights, the alt-right focuses on the "preservation" of white identity and Western culture.

Understanding how the group emerged within the country's present context and how members grew to accept its radical notions will help decipher how to counteract white nationalism and to ensure that these bigoted ideologies are properly condemned. Although interacting with white supremacists can be frustrating because their prejudiced standpoint involves little, if any, sound logic, it's vital to confront them in a way that invalidates their

## "Punch a Nazi" is not always the best solution

power. The greater the perceived dominance of the alt-right, the more likely others are to join.

This past month, Charlottesville has served as a center for white supremacy rallies and Black Lives Matter protests, resulting in fatal confrontations. August 12th saw the assembly of alt-



right members for a torch-lit "Unite the Right" demonstration on University of Virginia's campus. The following day, these alt-right marchers were met with counter-protesters. Violence ensued, resulting in an announced state of emergency and the death of an anti-racism advocate.

When asked to weigh in on the matter, Trump insisted that "there is blame on both sides," referring to both the alt-right and what he called the "alt-left." This equivocal stance shows Trump's reluctance to directly censure white nationalism, which has in turn emboldened the movement.

So why is this blatant and deep-seated hatred surfacing now?

Trump's presidency provides a breeding ground for the outspoken alt-right with little fear of repercussion. After all,

his campaign was rooted in xenophobic rhetoric and tasteless scare tactics. It goes without saying that Trump's most fervent supporters, many of whom form the alt-right body, wholeheartedly agree with his radical attitudes towards immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and other marginalized communities.

How is the alt-right justifying their fascist propaganda? The group has defended their views on many faulty premises, especially behind the guise of patriotism and free speech.

The proposed removal of confederate monuments throughout the South sparked controversy and deepened tensions. To some, the statue removal represents recognition and denunciation of the United States' racist legacy. White supremacists view it as unpatriotic and encroaching on "white history." By deeming the removal of confederate monuments as "anti-American," this suggests that the only relevant and respected experiences within the country are those of white people.

Hate speech does not constitute free speech. While free speech does entail the right to voice one's disapproval of preconceived notions and systems, it does not allow for derogatory slanders and attacks on the basis of another's race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, etc. Since much of the white supremacists' rhetoric relies on ridiculing groups of people for such reasons,

their message falls under the category of hate speech and shouldn't be excused as an exercise of one's fundamental rights.

Now, the tricky part, how do we subvert a movement in which irrational thought prevails? Careful argumentation will hardly penetrate the minds of individuals who use their privileged platform to further subjugate marginalized groups. So, what can be done?

Although physical and verbal aggression can seem instantly gratifying, continuously spewing "fuck Nazis" will only go so far. While complete pacifism may not be the answer either, exposing violence by meeting it with peace has the potential to be effective. A person who already attempts to justify fascism will wrongfully equate their hateful violence to self-defense. The alt-right is simple and will seize any means to amplify their radical position.

Arguably, the most crucial and long-term beneficial approach to the alt-right is to pinpoint the flaw in society which has conditioned white nationalists to think as they do. No one is born a fascist. Unjust hatred is fostered in an ignorant culture. If nothing is done to reform the environment which harbors such hatred, other generations of Nazis will inevitably follow.

Ultimately, there may not be a universally right way to deal with the illogical positions of white supremacists. This is not so much a political issue as it is a humanitarian crisis. If our nation becomes desensitized to the alt-right's despicable acts and beliefs, there's no telling what chaos will ensue.





# My Mind's Telling Me No, But My Ears Are Telling Me Yes

by Dominic "CJ" Arenas  
Staff Rhythm & Blues

On July 15, 2017 I tweeted: "Name a song that is as universally accepted as Ignition (Remix)." Two days later, BuzzFeed released an article claiming R&B icon, R. Kelly, has been holding women against their will in a "cult." Before we dig into R. Kelly's record of alleged actions and misconduct, let's consider the impact of his music.

There are few songs that play at peak party hour that gets the DJ to stop the music and have the crowd sing back the lyrics. Bumping "Ignition (Remix)" is as common as seeing millennials snap pictures of their food, wear Thrasher shirts and Stan Smiths, and use the words "aesthetic" and "vibes." "Ignition (Remix)" stands side by side with "No Scrubs" by TLC, "Mr. Brightside" by The Killers, and "Ms. Jackson" by Outkast on the Mount Rushmore of songs no millennial hates. If the song doesn't reside in your music library or if you haven't sang "Toot Toot" and "Beep Beep" along with R. Kelly, are you really living?

As a child of the 90s, I remember watching *Space Jam* every night before sleeping. After pulling off a miraculous comeback with Bill Murray, Bugs Bunny, and the Looney Tunes against the Monstars, Michael Jordan arrives to his baseball game in a spaceship. As it lands, the hums of a gospel choir chime, and beams of light emerge from the spacecraft while R. Kelly sings, "I believe I can fly, I believe I can touch the sky..." Cue the GOAT's entrance, and you have the most 90s moment ever. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly" is the cure to un-

## Is it okay to like something even if the creator is problematic af?

easiness before an exam, it's the late night bite that cures hunger, and it's the refreshing gulp of water at the peak of a mountain.

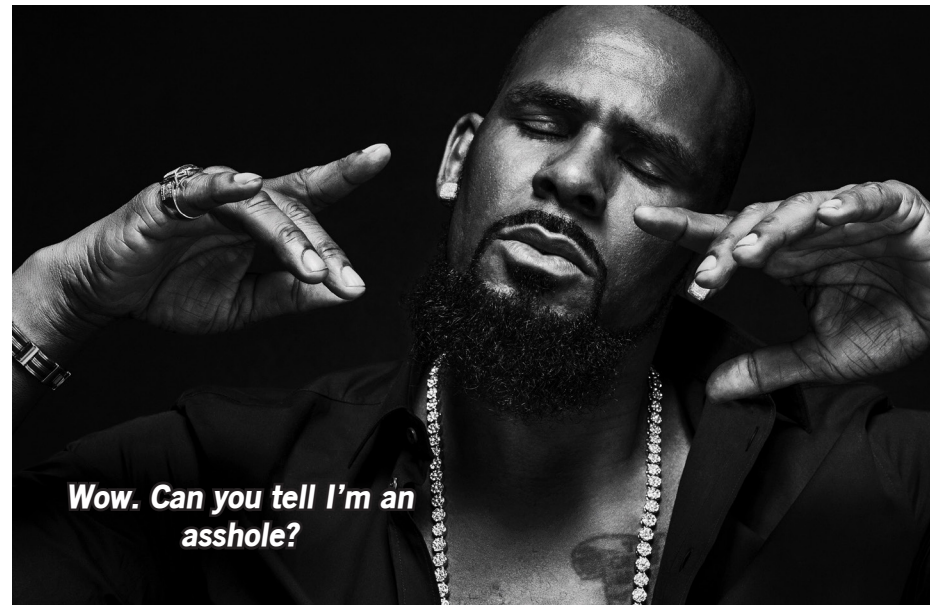
To hip hop head, friend, self-proclaimed "Early 2000s Music Jedi," and graduate student, Dan Ablan, there's room to separate art from artist. Ablan states, "It's up to the listeners and consumers' own morals on

like "I Believe I Can Fly" and "The World's Greatest," R. Kelly's discography includes, "Down Low (Nobody Has to Know)," "It Seems Like You're Ready," "Your Body's Callin'," and "Bump and Grind." Though R. Kelly has never been convicted of sexual misconduct, some of the stories of his mistreatment of women include secretly marrying the late R&B artist Aa-

Now here is where my mind is telling me, "No." According to Jim DeRogatis who penned the BuzzFeed article on R. Kelly, "He seduces people with the promise of making them stars." In addition to the false promise, these women must call R. Kelly "Daddy," have him monitor their social media and phone usage, and wear jogging suits because Kelly doesn't want their figure to be exposed. "This a pattern of behavior that's two and a half decades long with dozens of women named in lawsuits or who have spoken off the record making similar heroin charges against R. Kelly," DeRogatis added.

After going months without Kelly in my playlists, Dan showed me a video of R. Kelly singing an R&B version of the "Star Spangled Banner." And after a long discussion with the 2000s Jedi and talking with another music lover and recent Fordham Grad, Leslie Sy, I came to a conclusion. Sy stated, "I put music on a level where it's personal with me. If something makes me feel some type of way, I'ma feel it and take it in. I think any good music shouldn't be lessened just by the person/people who made it. I like to separate the people and their art, and I like to enjoy the art itself."

The same child that remembers *Space Jam* when listening to "I Believe I Can Fly" is now a man that cannot listen to "Bump and Grind" without feeling disgusted. But, I'll stop listening to "Ignition (Remix)" whenever the next middle aged white male stops watching Woody Allen movies.



whether or not they can separate the artist from the music. Me personally, it's tough to ignore his personal life, but I haven't boycotted his music - I can still enjoy Ignition. For me, being aware of the allegations is enough and it does dampen my overall experience, but I still do it...He makes good music and there's a space for me to enjoy it at least."

R. Kelly's iconism is grounded in R&B but shaped with themes of sex. Aside from the more PG rated songs

liyah when she was 15 (Kelly was 28), urinating in an underage woman's mouth, being indicted for child pornography charges, and most recently holding women against their will in a "cult." Let's not forget the time Kelly stated, "When you're talking teenage girls, what age are we talking?"

**Now here is where my mind is telling me, "No."**





# Why I'm a Two-Timing Scumbag Working for *the paper* and *The Ram*

by Jan-Carl Resurreccion  
Staff Lois Lane

**Editor's Note: we wish we could manage our time this well**

Writing is fun. Wait, that's five-hundred-ninety-seven words short of my target.

I like to write. (I should hope so, or this is going to become a very painful endeavor.) Alongside my obligations to two of the campus' newspapers, I also write fanfiction in my spare time, and plan to seriously attempt my first National Novel Writer's Month (NaNoWriMo) this November. There's a beauty in words not captured in other artistic forms. A picture might be worth a thousand words, but a word carries a thousand associations, including pictures and images. Words are also the most efficient delivery system for information and ideas. You express in images and kinetics, but you discuss in words. In the beginning was the Word, not "the Color Television".

But why two newspapers? Why not invest all one's newspaper-ing time into one publication, which would

probably be more efficient, require attending half as many in-person meetings, and leave more time for writing and editing proper? Plus, there's no fun in a rivalry if one is playing for both sides of the rivalry. And perhaps something can be said for picking a side. Partisanship gets a bad rap. When done in a civil and dignified way, partisanship can honor our differences without dishonoring each other. Would it not be better to decide which publication fit me more, and work exclusively with them?

However, I see the benefits of diversification outweighing the costs of time. Almost all the benefits flow from working in two different cultures. *The Ram* and *the paper* have different goals, and working at both gives me a taste of both. *The Ram* handles itself in a more serious, proper manner, and it shows in the tone, word choice, and subject matter of its

articles. Contrastingly, *the paper* accepts submissions on a larger range of topics, and its mood is more informal and, at times, outright irreverent. Such an attitude would not pass muster in *The Ram*, and the stuffier tone of *The Ram* would feel out of place in *the paper*. Exposure to both makes it easier to write in both, and both styles of delivery are needed to succeed in communicating to different audiences.

That goes beyond simply writing in different ways. Editing for multiple styles is important too. Learning how to preserve the voice of a piece while moving it towards clarity and good grammar can be hard. As someone who's edited for friends before, it can be tempting to shift a piece to fit your voice to make it more familiar and easier to follow. And the further a piece strays from traditional written decorum, the greater the temptation. But unless you've been given

license to tear a work up by the roots and restructure it, you do it a great disservice if you don't understand its voice. Oh, what a tragedy it would be if I only learned how to edit things to make them sound formal and proper!

Will the day come where I leave one for good and work solely for the other? It's a possibility, if the hours get too long and the labor grows too hard. I'm only one man with a lot of other things to do, but I have my doubts. I'm an Accounting Information Systems major with a Theology minor. I read philosophical texts for fun, practice dead languages because they're cool, and study high-level probability on the side so I can be an actuary when I grow up. Against all limitations, perhaps even time itself, I'm determined to have it all. To stop working for one of the papers would be an unfortunate surrender.

## Hey Hurricanes, Stop Being Such Dicks! You're the Worst!

by Chris DiMieri  
Staff Meteorologist

**Pro-tip: prepare your paper fans to battle God's fury**

On August 25th, 2017 Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas as a category 4 storm. The destruction that it caused was horrific, and it solidified itself as one of the worst storms Texas has ever seen. We are used to hurricanes, we are Americans who constantly battle Mother Nature's fury, but we always survive and get past them.

Here is a popular, or maybe not so popular—depending who you ask—opinion that I would like to talk about. Hurricanes are just straight up assholes. Sure, meteorologists like to observe them, and seeing a category 5 like Hurricane Irma is a spectacular event, but nobody likes them. Have you ever heard of anyone wanting to stay behind just to watch their home and belongings get destroyed by heavy winds and flooding? No.

Hurricanes are just inconsiderate. If a person forced you to leave your home and just walked right through your front door and de-

stroyed everything you have, how would you feel? First off, that's illegal, but second, it's just being a fucking dick.

This year, hurricane season has really shown its true face. We first had Harvey, the classic douche who thought he could just walk right into America's invite only gathering. That's not all he does though; he's the type to just straight up invite his friends to crash it with him. Then we have the jock who wants to fight everyone: Irma. Yes, please come and attack the sacred place of Disney World. Thank you Irma; we're glad to have you. This is exactly what we wanted.

With this season's recent lineup, you might ask yourself: how do we stop hurricanes? Many people have thought about different ways of how to counter them. Some ideas have been to vape a cloud that counters the hurricane or to shoot at the storm with guns. The real way to counter a hurricane (which is common knowledge) is

to just point house fans at it. Even if you do not have a house fan, you could just make a paper fan that everyone made in the third grade, and then run outside and battle God's fury.

With the subject of hurricanes, another topic arises. What about tornados? Well, tornados are the pledges to the hurricanes fraternities. These are typically the grunts who full-on run into a house and tear stuff down. Nobody likes these guys at all—just like hurricanes—but at least people respect hurricanes. Harvey definitely "rushed" when it touched down considering the number of tornados that tore up Texas. Sigma Alpha Harvey truly was a force that got our attention, and is now dealing with our criticism.

Hopefully this season ends soon so we can move on to the next set of disasters, whether that's political, social, or maybe even another Miley Cyrus-like celebrity meltdown.

For everyone out there affected by the storms, I just want you to know we're here for you. *the paper* at Fordham University will fight tooth and nail to expose how much of a scumbag a hurricane is. To people not affected, but freaked out by the recent storms, just know we're in the Bronx, and that stuff does not happen up here.

Truthfully, I'm a fan of blizzards and snowstorms so I cannot critique those and will not slander them. Throughout my life, as a New Yorker, the most I have had to do is shovel my driveway and deck, not buy a new furniture because of water damage from a flood. Can we really complain? Maybe that's why Sinatra loved this place so much, we don't get assaulted by category 5 dickheads.

*Editors Note: If you would like to help those affected by these hurricanes, please consider donating to [www.nvoad.org](http://www.nvoad.org) where you can specify your donation location.*



## the paper's View

### Tech monopolies are a problem

Here's the deal: I like Facebook too. I think YouTube can allow some great creators to make amazing content. I think Amazon is super convenient and cheap. Apple makes great phones. Google makes great...everything, really. Lyft is a super helpful service for when trains are being shitty or for when you need to get from the Javits Center to Fordham Lincoln Center in 20 minutes and you also have a paper to finish.

But we have to contend with the fact that, as internet companies have grown, the relationship between consumers and corporations has become fraught. The US is rapidly entering a new age of huge conglomerate monopolies, where a few companies are starting to control vast swaths of our commercial and interpersonal lives, and all the data that comes with that. You can feasibly spend an entire day online and never really stray outside the two or three apps you need to buy food and take a trip to the zoo or whatever it is people do outside.

Furthermore, tech companies are redefining work and employment into a way that is ultimately harmful to employees. The fact that Uber and Lyft don't actually employ their drivers has led to an employment market where the corporation has all the cards. The people we interface with aren't actually working *for* Lyft or GrubHub or whatever, but they are entirely indebted to it.

As these companies grow, they acquire data and huge financial resources, which they use to acquire lobbyists to make it easier to acquire data and huge financial resources. One can look to WeChat's almost completely closed loop as an example of what happens when a single company absorbs every conceivable industry — yes, things are super convenient, but WeChat also knows who you talk to and when and what about and your location and where you spend your money. One company. US companies are rapidly approaching the point where they need to contend with that amount of data being readily available (And, if Equifax proved anything, hackable). And we all need to contend with the fact that maybe, just maybe, Google's brand of convenience is actually really really detrimental.

Also, the /“~Bodega~”\ startup is such a giant piece of shit that I don't need to even comment on how specifically dumb it is  
#bestdeli4life

Paperly,  
Luis Gómez



## Your Freshman Guide to Friday Night

Are you going out tonight? Your rough week is finally over, and all that studying B.S. is finally behind you. This is when the real Fordham education starts. Here are some tips to a not-a-successful-but-okay Friday night:

1. Finish up your weekly academic bullshit.
2. Pre-game nap (very important aspect of your night).
3. There is a deli named Rams. When you first enter Rams, your dorm is no longer your home: this is home.
4. Shower to look fresh because you'll be sweating up a storm in T-minus 4 hours.
5. Steal a sandwich from the caf for later.
6. Crank that soulja boy cuz ur about to pregame.
7. If your friends ask you to come pre-game and they live across from an RA, just turn around.
8. Pregame on the road.
9. It is a ghost town until midnight. Once you go out and are denied from Howl and Mugz, walk precisely 600 feet to the left to reach your freshman bar that is the equivalent to Weenie Hut Jr's. Welcome to the Blue Goose Tavern.
10. First off, just call it Goose. Anyone who calls it "The Blue Goose" are the few kids that probably can't get in.
11. Girls, side note, that shoulder touch as guys pass by is lethal. That's a sign—grab your girls and head for the hills.
12. After approximately 30 minutes, you will sweat out all the water in your body
13. If the night is not living up to your college weekend expectations, then you're doing it right.
14. Do not close down Goose. You will never see people run faster than when those lights go on and DJ Maestro stops his music.
15. Finally, it is your duty and right to go to Pugsleys because nothing sounds or smells better at 4 am than the world's best penne vodka slice.

Well, sweet dreams my freshies, treat yourself to some crusty tater tots from the caf the next morning—you did it.

Submit your questions and concerns to TLC (Tamilla and Lauren's Column). Email the paper.fordham@gmail.com with "help me plz" in the subject line.



# The Trumpster: the Presidency So Far and the State of our Union

by Christian Decker  
Staff Policy Correspondent

## Spoiler: Trump's not doing so hot

It's been almost a full year since President Trump took the oath of office in January and became the leader of the free world. How has the country fared since then? Well, that all depends on your perspective. The President himself is a very polarizing issue.

If you don't support him, the presidency has been an utter shit show. There has been scandal after scandal. Half of his cabinet has either resigned, been forced to resign, or fired. DACA has been repealed (be honest, did anyone really know what that was until the Orange repealed it?). There has been a travel ban that locked out U.S. Citizens briefly from entering the country. War is looming with North Korea and THAT guy has the nuclear codes?

Now the tune is very different if you're a supporter. The stock market is doing great (pretty sure it's still Obama's fiscal year but whatever). There is finally someone who really cares about us in office. Our veterans will finally get the care and treatment they deserve. Our military is stronger than ever. We can finally kick those illegals out of the country for stealing our jobs (adjusts cowboy hat and fake teeth between sips of moonshine)!

Ok, maybe the last parenthesis was a little uncalled for, but the point is we are living in divided times. Maybe that was apparent during the Obama presidency, but think I now more than ever it is glaringly obvious. And to be quite honest, half of the damn fighting is about the fucking president. Who is this man? A wealthy business executive turned freedom fighter, or just an asshole?

Trump made a name for himself on the reality show "The Celebrity Apprentice," being divorced twice (ha-ha family values), real estate, and selling his name to anyone and everyone who would take it. He was sent to military school by his father for being a troublemaker and technically might have dodged the Vietnam war draft (dick move, dude). I mean do not get me wrong, other people have done it, but to fake an injury and then proceed to play sports is a shitty thing to do.

This was the guy that was elected into office, like it or not. Now, we had an alternative, Hillary Clinton. We're lucky here in America, we get two terrible choices for President. She had a good track record of experience to be president; however, she ran one of the worst campaigns ever. After losing the election, she proceeded to blame everyone but herself for the loss. She slammed Bernie Sanders in her book after he conceded and helped her on the campaign trail. That's disgusting, to be honest. I digress; it was a horrible election.

But let us get back to Trump. Has he been good for the country? Again the answer is subjective, but I would argue no. The question remains: why do people support him? Most people wanted change, and I get that, but did you really hate Obama that much that you wanted to elect Trump? Is that where we are at as a country right now?

I still cannot grasp why many people support this man. Family values my ass! Melania is his third wife, and he has a daughter named Tiffany that he's pretty much alienated (Remember Tiffany? No? Nobody else does ei-

ther). Free market conservative? The guy is a fiend for tariffs (import taxes for those of you who don't know). It's like the right ceased to have a spine (\*cough\* Paul Ryan \*cough\*) because they REALLY hated Clinton. Do



not get me wrong though, she is not exactly likeable.

This is not to say that I find Trump likeable, either; quite the opposite. I have yet to see a significant policy change that really makes a positive difference on American lives. Travel ban? Does more harm than good. DACA? Just to please the idiots who couldn't find a job so it must be a Mexican's fault. He still has not built the freaking wall that will totally keep out all the illegal immigrants that stay after their green card expires, or take planes and boats, and Mexico still is not paying for it. Meanwhile, I am still waiting for a policy to actually help our vets get off the streets and get better healthcare

The dude also has no sense of the dignity of the office. If you're going to help Harvey survivors, don't say: "Look

at this crowd!" The man had to do a televised apology for saying that he would grab women by their genitals. He refused to shake Angela Merkel's hand for no apparent reason. I mean, just having Steve Bannon in your cabinet is bad enough, and Jeff Sessions is not much better.

He also didn't handle the whole Charlottesville situation very well. Antifa can definitely be excessive a lot of the time, but when you are dealing with Nazis, it should be pretty fucking hard to say there were some good people on that side. Now of course they had a right to spew their hateful bullshit, but that only protects them from the government, not people who hate everything that those "patriotic Americans" stand for.

There is also the pardon of Arizona county sheriff, Joe Arpaio. This is taking backing the blue to a whole new level. The presidential pardon is a powerful tool and to use it on that douchenozzle is atrocious. Arpaio is quoted with saying that he set up "concentration camps" in his prisons. If you are using Nazi terminology to be proud of yourself you deserve to be punched in the face, like Richard Spencer.

Now, I know a lot of Trumpkins are going to get mad at this article. I do not hate you guys, honestly. I think political discourse is healthy and necessary. But I must insist that you take heed of at least some of the stuff I am saying here. Stop calling everyone who doesn't agree with you a cuck, and don't be a snowflake, my friend.

# For A Good Time Call...







## Debating *Despicable Me's* Despicability

by Jack Archambault  
Staff Master of Minions

Add the *Despicable Me* franchise to the list of things that are actually good. Put it right there next to cold pizza, \*NSYNC, and Red Sox relief pitcher Matt Barnes (just kidding). This may sound like lunacy, given the sheer level of hatred and vitriol that *Despicable Me*, and particularly its lovable yellow Minions, has stirred up in folks. In fact, a Facebook group titled "I Hate Minions" has nearly 20,000 members and a YouTube video called "I HATE MINIONS SO MUCH" has over 5 million views. Just imagine, for a moment, if all the people who hate Minions decided to hate something else, like child poverty. Or cancer. We could have those things solved tomorrow. But I digress. The fact is that I love *Despicable Me*. I love it so much that I bought a t-shirt this summer that says "Despicable Moose", with a picture of a moose that looks like Gru on it. I spent seven dollars on it, but I would have spent seven thousand. And as such a big fan, I want all of you who read this to love *Despicable Me* like I do. And if not that much, then just liking it is fine. So, I want to tackle this in two sections, first the *Despicable Me* movies themselves, and then the Minions. And I know how much you would all love to tackle a Minion.

The *Despicable Me* movies, while not yet at the level of *Zoolander*, which to me remains the pinnacle of cinema, could definitely get there with the help of a few more sequels. Yes, you read that right. *Despicable Me* is one of the few movie franchises that actually gets

### Tell your aunt to stop posting Despicable Memes on Facebook

better with each sequel released. This is not to say that each movie is better than the one before it, but rather that each movie only adds to the treasure trove of hijinks and shenanigans that Gru and the gang get up to. More movies = more jokes = more fun. It doesn't

Second, the overarching theme of each movie is family, and how love can melt the heart of even the most ruthless villain. If you have a problem with that, then I really don't know what to tell you. You might just need to feel the gentle caress of a Minion to melt your

has irritated many, hence the backlash. But wouldn't it make more sense to hate Minions because they are evil? The Minions' purpose is to serve the most villainous person on Earth at any given time. This means that if Minions truly existed, they definitely would have been Nazis. But amazingly that's not why Minions are so widely reviled. It's because you see them on a lot of things at the supermarket, and that rubs people the wrong way. But more importantly, Minions only exist in a world in which the worst villains only steal pyramids and jumbotrons, which means that there really is no reason to dislike Minions. A quick pros and cons list for Minions might go like this:

- Pros: funny, cute
- Cons: too funny, too cute
- I rest my case.

I hope that by now I have convinced you to give *Despicable Me* another chance. At the very least I hope you can keep an open mind (another great lesson from the films). Maybe you'll actually love it. Maybe you will love it so much that you come up to me and compliment me on my cool Despicable Moose shirt. Maybe you will even ask where you can get one. I'll tell you it's not that easy. You see, I bought all the shirts left in stock. I am the sole supplier now. You'll ask what you can do. I'll motion for you to lean in, then I'll whisper, "....." That's right, nothing. Because I cannot tell you. Not yet. The answer will be revealed in *Despicable Me 22*, coming summer 2094. I know my great-grandchildren will be there. Will yours?



### Top 10 Most Evil Anime Villains

151,257 views

775 likes 72 comments

*The real villains are Despicable Memes*

take a rocket scientist to figure it out, even though Gru and the Minions literally are rocket scientists and have taken that rocket to the moon. So add good role models to the list of reasons to love these movies. Also add to that list a fantastic soundtrack by Pharrell Williams. It really is a dreamfest that takes you to a land of cotton candy and stuffed unicorns. I highly recommend listening to it.

frozen heart. And speaking of Minions... Minions baby, Minions. If I have one problem with the public's hatred of Minions it is that they detest them for all the wrong reasons. If you are unaware, people essentially hate Minions because they are everywhere, from keychains to backpacks to toilet paper. Apparently, Minion dildos are a thing as well. So yeah. Anyways, this stream of incessant merchandising



## EVENTS

**What:** Environmental Justice Panel

**Where:** Flom Auditorium

**When:** Tues. Sep 26th  
@5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** It's a good opportunity to learn about sustainability!

**What:** Fall Flea Pop-up

**Where:** Outside McGinley Center

**When:** Wed. Sep 27th  
@11 AM to 5 PM

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** A flea market means low prices. It'll be a steal!

**What:** Gamers United First Meeting

**Where:** TBA

**When:** Wed. Sep 27th  
@4 PM to 6 PM

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** Come play some video games! *Mario Kart*, *Super Smash Bros*, *ARMS*, and more will be available!

## Taylor Swiftly Attempts to Change Her Persona

by Katelynn Browne  
Staff Pop Critic

Two weeks ago, Taylor Swift dropped the music video for her new hit single "Look What You Made Me Do," which now has over 350 million views on YouTube. "Look What You Made Me Do" ushers in yet another persona change for Swift - except this time, instead of shaking off the hate, she appears to be embracing her scandals, as if they were her plan all along. This is extremely dubious.

Throughout her music video, she alludes to several large scandals she was part of - for example, pretending not to know about the line in "Famous" where Kanye West raps, "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex/ Why? I made that bitch famous," the huge case where she removed her music from Spotify, Tom Hiddleston's I <3 T.S. T-shirt, and the Katy Perry feud. Towards the end of the music video, she stands upon a tower of her former music video personas (i.e. "You Belong with Me"

Taylor), as well as former awards show Taylor Swifts, who are all trying to climb to the top. However, she knocks them all down and says "I'm sorry...the old Taylor can't come to the phone right now...why? 'Cause she's dead," thus indicating that she won't let her past scandals bother her anymore, and a newer, stronger than ever Taylor Swift has emerged. At the very end of the video, she has her past selves dialogue with one another, mocking her overly sweet and innocent country girl roots, and "always playing the victim." Here, Swift attempts to sell that she knew she had been perhaps dishonestly playing victim in all of her scandals.

Swift's style change to this ba-

The results are...well...questionable

dass/bad girl character seems rather abrupt when you consider her past public personalities. Just because you put a baby in a leather jacket means that the baby is a super badass mastermind of scandal? She looks good in the new video, but it's hard to forget her nice girl roots, which before this video has always been the case with her. She has always been playing the nice girl, never the inflictor of any con-

vague and I'm not sure what we made her do or I guess Katy Perry made her do except make millions of dollars in music sales, ad revenue etc.

Musically the song is okay - not one of her best, but definitely catchy. The chorus feels disjointed from the rest of the song upon first listen, but after inevitably listening to the song several more times (whether by choice or by hearing it on the radio), it begins

to feel much more cohesive. Lyrically, the song again, is very okay, but Taylor Swift in recent years hasn't been writing the most complex of lyrics. The lyrics can be corny, especially with certain repetitions like "The world moves on, another day, another drama, drama/ But not for me, not for me, all I think about is karma" as well as just vague and stupid lines like "You said the gun was mine" or "I don't like your kingdom keys." They're meant to be metaphors for something relating to specific scandals and feuds, but there were definitely

better lyrics that could have been written by an international pop icon.

In conclusion, "Look What You Made Me Do" is kind of a mess, and there's definitely a lot going on with it in terms of interpreting what Taylor Swift wants us to believe is true, what the media says is true, and what's actually true (like a lot of things these days.) The song itself is your regular, run-of-the-mill pop song, it's nothing extremely special - it's catchy, but definitely not her best work. I give it 3 out of 5, because I personally enjoy catchy songs, but I really can't get behind the song lyrically, and the new look is so contradictory with the Taylor Swift we've come to know over the last ten years.

[record scratch]  
[freeze frame]

Yup, that's me. You're probably wondering how I ended up in this situation.



Swiftly delete this

flict - always being/playing the victim. And while she alludes to the media condemning her for playing victim, the idea that she played victim on purpose, strategically, scandal after scandal is unconvincing, because no matter what she's always on the short end of the stick in the eyes of the media.

I found some of the imagery in the video itself to be confusing. There's a part where she's surrounded by snakes, and a snake serves her a cup of tea. She also wears snake rings. Is that implying she's a snake? Is she calling herself a snake? Or are the celebrities she is surrounded by all snakes? Is she acknowledging that the media thinks she's snake-like? It's all super



# DragCon Races to New York City

by Olivia Langenberg  
Staff Drag Queen

RuPaul is arguably one of the most famous drag queens of all time. Some may know RuPaul due to his reality TV series, *RuPaul's Drag Race*, which first aired in 2009. However you may know him, it is certain that RuPaul has introduced many to the art of drag. Due to the massive success of the TV show, DragCon, a convention to celebrate the drag community, came to Los Angeles in 2015. Attendance tripled over the following two years, so RuPaul brought DragCon to New York City this year on September 9 and 10, and I found myself there among 35,000 other attendees.

So what was the atmosphere of DragCon like? DragCon took place at the Jacob Javits Convention Center near Chelsea. Just after stepping off the 7 train, my eyes were greeted by some of the most eclectic individuals I've ever seen. People wearing big

wigs, high stilettos, intricate makeup, and bright colored outfits lit up the streets. Not everyone came in drag, but those who did took it all the way. DragCon consisted of a 210,000 square foot floor space, complete with plenty of vendors, merchandise, and drag queens that many have grown to love from *Drag Race*.

DragCon, like most other conventions, featured a variety of panels to attend, where fans could listen to drag queens and other famous guests talk about all sorts of topics. Day One's panels featured topics such as the drag scene in New York City, the relationship between fashion and drag, music production, and behind the scenes of the judging bench, among others. Day Two featured a Sunday church service, makeup transformations, drag fandom culture, etc. While I myself did not have the opportunity to attend any panels, I

## Drag royalty fills the Jacob Javits Center

was rather impressed with the topics chosen. It goes to show that drag is more than just the look- it's about the entire persona and all the work associated with it.

What I chose to do at DragCon was experience the convention floor. I spent a good amount of time wandering around the booths with my mouth open, amazed at the space I had found myself in. I'm no expert in the world of drag, and even if I was, I still don't think I would have been prepared for it. While there was obviously a healthy handful of drag queens' booths to visit, I was

the other members of the drag community, but made me appreciate the true art of drag itself.

And that's the thing- drag is an art form. The reason I was so engaged during the entirety of DragCon, despite extremely long lines and overcrowding, is because the people who do drag are extremely talented. Drag queens craft their looks from head-to-toe, spending hours upon hours making sure their visions come to life. It was hard not to just sit back and appreciate that hard work.

While DragCon was an incredible experience, and I would absolutely attend again next year, I think it is important to point out that *Drag Race* is such a small part of the drag world. The queens that have appeared on the show are phenomenal, and the show brings a certain visibility to the drag community, but it certainly extends past the reality show. The

drag queens that were at merchandise booths are just as valuable and talented as the famous ones that fans waited four hours in line to meet.

This is a point that famous queens have brought up as well. *Drag Race* Season 9 winner, Sasha Velour, told Entertainment Weekly, "[I also want to] use my spotlight and share it with other people in the drag community who maybe don't have access to *RuPaul's Drag Race*, but whose drag I still believe in." The point is, the drag community is more than what people see on television.

So, appreciate people's art and when you hear about a drag show at that underground bar in the Village, go to it! Like me, you may find yourself surrounded by people that are uniquely themselves, and you won't be able to stay away from it.



particularly intrigued with vendors not associated with the *Drag Race* queens. There were people selling items associated with drag, of course, such as corsets, wigs, jewelry, and clothing.

The vendors themselves, though, were such cool people. While I was waiting in line to meet Shea Coulee, *Drag Race* Season 9 alum, one of the vendors at Venus D Lite's booth called out in a sultry voice, "Would you like to try out my love potion?" I casually glanced up at them and couldn't help but admire their Cleopatra-inspired look, complete with glittery eye makeup and the signature headpiece. I nodded and they swiped the so-called 'potion' across my wrist. And boy, was I almost persuaded to purchase it, whether or not it would actually attract someone.

I had plenty of other delightful interactions like this with other vendors, which not only opened my eyes to all

## SHOWS

**What:** Cinevents: *Back to the Future*

**Where:** Keating 1st

**When:** Mon. Sep 25th and Wed. Sep 27th @9 PM

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** Come see what 80's filmmakers thought 2015 would look like.

**What:** Open Mic Night

**Where:** Rodrigues Coffee House

**When:** Fri. Sep 22nd @8:00 PM to 10:00 PM

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** Check out some people showing off their talents!

**What:** Mimes and Mummies present: *Godspell*

**Where:** Collins Auditorium

**When:** Thu. Oct 12th, Fri. Oct 13th, Sat. Oct 14th @8 PM

**How Much:** TBA

**Why:** Support the Mimes and Mummies' latest performance!



## The *It* Remake Doesn't Clown Around When It Comes to Horror

by Thomas Koenig

### Staff Clown Enthusiast

Stephen King's *It*, directed by Andy Muschietti, released in 2017, was... pretty good. Like it was definitely good. I was thoroughly entertained. I got my money's worth. It just wasn't great. Before I talk about why I think it was not exactly great I want to talk about why it was good. Everything practical and technical about this movie was great. The clothes looked great and were perfect for the late 80s setting. The sets were great and the team responsible did a fantastic job setting up a believable small normal town in the late 80s. Everything about the movie looked perfect.

The first red flag I noticed when this movie was in development was hearing that Andy Muschietti was going to direct. The only other major directing credit he had was for *Mama*, which was just like yeah it was okay, nothing too special or anything. So yes, I was definitely worried about how the

### It's time for Pennywise to float again...

movie was going to turn out. I prayed it wouldn't be another generic 2010s horror movie, and a remake at that. Even though Andy's direction was not anything too unique or original, he did end up directing the film very competently. I was shocked to see the use of Dutch angles in a horror movie, so that was super cool. (Dutch angles are like these super weird slanted angles that like no one ever uses, so yeah nice going Andy, I'm proud of your adventurous direction.) Before I talk about what was by far the best part of the movie, the child actors, I want to talk about what was by far the most shocking, just how damn violent this movie is.

I had heard it was going to end up being violent, as it was rated R, and apparently really deserved the R. But

just wow, it was violent, like arms ripped off, streams of blood, and parent murder violent. I really cannot decide if it was necessarily a good thing. It was definitely shocking, like I was not expecting it to be quite as violent as it was. Although, it really did not make the movie any scarier or suspenseful. The scariest parts



of the movie were when they toned down on the violence and jump scares and focused on atmosphere. One of the biggest problems that I had with the movie was that there

were just way too many "spooky" scenes. In the first 50 minutes literally every character had a run in with Pennywise, the creepy clown that is trying to kidnap the kids for nutrients from their fear and flesh. These just ended up actually getting boring and

less scary as they progressed.

Alright, now it's finally time to talk about the kids in the movie. My god they were so good in this movie. The kid from *Stranger Things* was so funny. The jokes in this movie were actually hilarious, there were maybe like two that did not stick. I cannot think of another horror movie with jokes that worked as well as this one did. I really think the kids in this movie have a good future in acting if they want it. However, with the success of this movie, and the mass popularity of *Stranger Things*, I hope that we do not end up seeing a new trend of either even more 80s nostalgia than there already is, or movies of some creepy town haunting. These are both dead end ideas that have already been used to their max. So yeah, if you're looking for a fun popcorn movie and a good time, it is definitely worth your time.

## The Life and Death of Disney's Despised Cheapquels

By Matthew Whitaker

### Arts Co-Editor

You remember Disney's *The Lion King*, right? And *Aladdin* too I'm sure? How about *Mulan*? These are all highly-rated animated films produced by the owner of your childhood, Disney. However, you may not be aware that each of these films had a sequel...or as some call them, "cheapquel". With the explosion of the home video market in the 1990's, producing content specifically for the VCR was an almost-guaranteed path to profit. Direct-to-Video was a popular new form of delivering content, especially in the animation industry. Quick and cheap computer animation had coincidentally boomed at the same time, so animated content could be easily shoveled into your local Blockbuster. Disney decided to use, or more likely abuse this trend to capitalize on its string of animated hits.

Disney created DisneyToon Studios to create sequels and spinoffs to many of the company's animated hits. This was a separate operation from Walt Disney Animation Studios, which makes the theatrical feature films we

### Direct-to-Video is now Direct-to-Dead

know and love today. Films produced by DisneyToon Studios had incredibly low budgets and short production schedules. These films received little marketing and were often released at prime times for retail, like during the holiday season. Most films produced by DisneyToon Studios are known for their low-quality animation and writing, which were a result of the films' miniscule production value. This earned them the nickname of "cheapquels", all of which were a stain on Disney's image.

Cheapquels were the epitome of laziness in the Direct-to-Video animation market. *The Return of Jafar*, a cheapquel to *Aladdin*, was actually three episodes of the *Aladdin* animated television series sewed together like some sort of Frankenstein monster into a feature film. It was critically panned, and Robin Williams didn't even reprise his role as the beloved Genie. *The Lion King II* was certainly not the pride of

the Direct-to-Video pack, and lacked even a fraction of the original's quality. *Mulan II* was a disgrace to the original, and dropped the ball in just about every aspect, especially story and character development. Not all of DisneyToon Studios' films were abominations though. One of my favorite movies growing up, *Pooh's Grand Adventure: The Search for Christopher Robin*, was an excellent, heartwarming classic made by DisneyToon Studios. The film's quality was high enough to warrant three more

*Winnie The Pooh* films by DisneyToon Studios, *The Tigger Movie*, *Piglet's Big Movie*, and *Pooh's Heffalump Movie*. These each received a theatrical release, which was very uncommon for DisneyToon Studios' films. *The Tigger Movie* and *Piglet's Big Movie* were very enjoyable, though I didn't like *Pooh's Heffalump Movie* much. Overall, DisneyToon Studios has had a spotty record, though it makes an occasional

gem.

In the past decade, Disney cheapquels have become a thing of the past, the last one released being *The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning* in 2008. The practice of producing cheapquels was halted when Disney purchased Pixar, as John Lasseter, the new chief creative officer at both studios, demanded their production be halted. The cheapquel chapter in Disney's history certainly tarnished the company's image, and since the end of it Disney has seen a renaissance in its animated features. High-quality films like *Wreck-It-Ralph*, *Big Hero 6*, and *Moana* have flourished in Disney's modern era. Wondering what happened to DisneyToon Studios? Rather than closing the Disney disaster, the studio now exclusively makes spinoffs to mainline Disney and Pixar films, like the *Cars* spinoff *Planes*. With Disney back on its feet and the home video market in a nose dive thanks to streaming services like Netflix, cheapquels have become a thing of the past. Hopefully it stays that way.





# New York Times Bestseller *Handbook for Mortals* Is a Mortal Sin

by Meredith McLaughlin

Features and List Co-editor

Recently, controversy erupted in the book world when a little-known novel titled *Handbook for Mortals* swiped the number one spot on the NY Times YA best sellers list from *The Hate U Give*. Hate for the book quickly spread after it was revealed that the author, Lani Sarem, and her publishers had bought their way to the top by ordering bulk shipments of the book to make it look like a bestseller. Further digging revealed that a shady movie deal is currently in the works for the fraud best-seller. This coupled with the fact that it's unreadable has turned *Handbook for Mortals* into a literary pariah. I for one normally adore bad books, and was eager to read it. But *Handbook for Mortals* is a different kind of "bad book." I won't rest until people understand how awful both the book and its author are. In order to best expose this book for what it is it's important to understand how much it differs from another famous work of literature.

*My Immortal*, an infamous Harry Potter fanfiction, is considered to be one of the most prolific pieces of literature to rock our generation. The plot is rambling and secondary to things like the main character's outfit and MCR concerts in Hogsmede; the grammar, despite the author employing the use of a beta reader, gets worse and worse with each chapter. "What the hell are you doing, you motherfuckers!!!" is a line spoken by Dumbledore (this light character irregularity is explained as being caused by a headache.) It's undoubtedly bad, but I think that *My Immortal* was able to stand out against the ocean of bad fanfics that preceded it due to its *The Room*-like quality: it's so bad it's good. *My Immortal* manag-

*My Immortal*, on the other hand, is some quality work

es to encapsulate all of the bad tropes of fanfiction (self-inserts, bad grammar, massive plot holes, jarring author's notes demanding good reviews etc.) but the extreme that the author takes her prose pushes it beyond any other fanfiction. Because of this, one of the biggest mysteries surrounding *My Immortal* was the nature of its sincerity; was it the serious writings of a troubled teen or simply a joke that got out of hand? For a while the answer to this question, as well as the identity of the author, appeared to be lost to the ages, similar to the contents of the Li-

believed Christo might have written the book, since *Handbook for Mortals* reads beat for beat like a bad fanfiction. The main character, Scheherazade Holder (Zade for short) is a blatant self-insert with a stereotypically ridiculous first name. I'm not even exaggerating; she looks and acts exactly like the author because Lani Sarem is playing Zade in the upcoming movie adaptation. About her appearance Zade says "people tell me I'm pretty all the time, beautiful even. I'm not sure I see what they see... I'm slender... (but) not 'hot girl skinny... While I do have an hourglass figure I

uses this in her performances. Unfortunately for the reader, Lani is really bad at setting up a scene, establishing how magic works in her world, writing a novel, etcetera etcetera. Things "happen" to Zade but like it all takes a backseat to the forced love triangle in which, just like in all other "love triangles," you already know who the main character is going to get with. Bella gets with Edward, Katniss gets with Peeta, E'bonny gets with Draco, and Zade gets with literal garbage can Clarke "Mac" Kent. We know he's going to be the one she gets with because he's the only character that gets a special italicized third person POV like once a chapter. *Handbook for Mortals* also includes a trope-y mean girl named Sofia who is just treated like shit, similar to Brittany in *My Immortal*. However while Brittany is simply a prep straw woman, Sofia exists to offer weakly written conflict that the plot can't provide and to make Zade look like a good person.

While I think on the surface *Handbook for Mortals* is very similar to *My Immortal*, I think that the intent behind these works is what separates them. It has been confirmed that every word of *My Immortal* was written as a satire of its medium. Not only that, it was a satire that was helping a couple of kids get through a really hard time in their lives. However, *Handbook for Mortals* was written as a serious novel that was meant to be the start of a media empire. I mean how bad do you have to be at writing that people compare your work to *My Immortal*, the worst fanfiction ever intentionally written? *Handbook for Mortals* is a cold, corporate attempt by a self-obsessed scam artist to star in a movie. *My Immortal* is a story that changed a generation.



It doesn't even pass as fanfiction

brary of Alexandria. Recently, however, God has decided to remind us He exists because the author of *My Immortal* has come out into the public spotlight. A woman named Rose Christo confirmed that she had written *My Immortal* as a joke with a friend to pass the time while living in the foster care system. Her story is excellent and she is actually still a writer, and I encourage you to check her work out. The only reason any of this relates to *Handbook for Mortals* is because when it initially came out, people asked Christo if she wrote it as well.

It's easy to understand why people

have always felt my butt is a little too big..." Zade's beauty is restated multiple times by both herself and other characters. But it gets worse. A la *My Immortal*, Zade describes what she's wearing ad nauseum, and even says "...I wish a photographer had taken my picture at that moment... it would have made for a cool-looking photo." Again this is the author essentially talking about herself. The plot itself is incredibly unengaging. Zade leaves her sleepy southern town to make it big in Los Angeles, but she has a secret! She can apparently perform magic (which she attributes to her "Gypsy" heritage) and

PG-13

LANI SAREM STARRING

## HIRING Audience Members

Looking for people to fill theaters on the film's opening night. Our goal is to make it the #1 movie in America.

If interested, call: 1-800-FRAUD



## ABYSSOSCOPE--YOUR WEEK IN THE DEEP



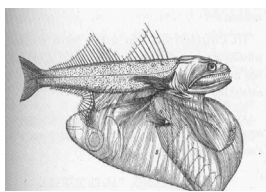
### **Dec. 22-Jan. 21: Goblin Shark**

You've been feeling lazy, possibly due to how your fins evolved & you've been afraid you're phoning in a lot of your work. But don't worry! Accepting the problem is part of the solution!



### **Jan. 22- Feb. 21: Barreleye**

White lies aren't bad, right? You might think they're harmless, but be warned, people can see right through you. This week your mind can be read like a book (like your cranium is transparent).



### **Feb. 22- Mar. 21: Black Swallow**

Call your doctor immediately because you have a hernia. Please do not put this off, hernias are serious. If you don't have a hernia, maybe think about taking a break from swallowing prey fish in gulps!



### **Mar. 22- Apr. 21: Blob Fish**

You feel like someone just fished you out of your deep dark home and is judging your looks SUPER hard. Don't let others hate on your slimy, glob-like body. You're beautiful on the inside.



### **Apr. 22 -May 21: Gulper Eel**

You've been slipping around and avoiding your friends. You feel like they don't like chowing down on some fish with you anymore. Don't let the murky waters cloud your mind. Your friends love your smile



### **May 22- Jun. 21: Dragonfish**

When you were a guppy, you had it easy. But after you left your juvenile stage, people have been treating you differently. Don't fret about this, everyone goes through change, even you!



### **Jun. 22- Jul. 21: Ghost Shark**

You may be experiencing the need to swim around in the rocky depths rather than deal with people. Chase this feeling. But be prepared for obnoxious divers who will be looking to grab some pics of you.



### **Jul. 22- Aug. 21: Giant Isopod**

People keep saying you look just like your small, land faring cousin, and you're really getting sick of it. You're your own bathynomus, don't let the reputation of your cousin stop you from doing you.



### **Aug. 22- Sept. 21: Viperfish**

Your photospheres are shining extra bright this week! Remember to be patient, though, when trying to get what you want, waiting in the deep darkness for hours on end will result in food.



### **Sept. 22- Oct. 21: Fangtooth fish**

You're a star gazer. Unlike your friends, you find value in the upper layers of the ocean. Others might ostracise you for it, but there's no need to listen to them. Don't let anyone hold you in the dark.



### **Oct. 22- Nov. 21: Vampire Squid**

Your actions have been described as being disorienting by some other bottom feeders. Quit only breathing in the Oxygen Minimum zone. Help your friends understand you rather than leaving them.



### **Nov. 22- Dec. 21: Giant Squid**

You're a legend, but be on guard. Sperm whales in your life will try to take a bite out of you. Remember your defences and don't fall into their trap. You're intimidating and can suction a face off, you be you.



# LI TS S



**Feeling guilty about that Pugs you left out for a week? Unsure if people will accept your WW2 helmet collection under your bed? Have no fear! *the paper* staff also has weird stuff in their rooms and can relate! We asked some of our editors the strangest things in their dorm and they gave us these bbies**

## **I Try to be Hip w the Kids by HIPposter**

I recently moved into my first apartment, and let me tell you, this place is...not glamorous. But I have a confession to make. Over the summer, I dug up my sister's old record player, thinking I could up my indie cred. Then, to my dismay, I found out the stylus is broken and it doesn't work. But I still prominently display my broken record player in an attempt to look cooler. And there's nothing trashier than trying to be cool.

## **Normie Meme Containment Unit by Matthew Whitaker**

The grossest thing in my room is without a doubt the Normie Meme Containment Unit (NMCU), a one gigabyte flash drive which holds vile normie memes for research. I could not stand to have normie memes anywhere on my computer, so I placed them on the flash drive and locked it in a small box.

Normie memes are disgusting, regurgitated terds which offer no original content and are the vomit of the meme world. To combat the normie menace, I keep a small supply of normie memes on the NMCU to use in my development of anti-normie memes. It's similar to how scientists use snake venom to create the venom's antidote, though normie memes are much more poisonous. Looking at the NMCU makes me physically ill, knowing that the fall of humanity is lying within. Yet, it remains in my room so that I can continue fighting the normie scourge.

## **I'm a Nasty Girl by Colclean**

What's the grossest thing in my room? Um me?? Awkward. Don't get me wrong: I live a very clean life. I do an excellent job of keeping my room clean. I vacuum the rug. I make my bed every morning. I wash my clothes regularly. I clean the bathroom because somehow I find joy in it. I always clean my dirty dishes immediately after cooking and eating. No lie: I regularly clean door knobs and light switches. However, when it comes to showering, I'm a whole different person. I'm not disgusting, but it's not uncommon for me to go three days without showering. I don't work out or sweat often, so it's not usually on my radar to take a

shower. I'm the type of person who showers after realizing my hair is gross. Many people look forward to a nice, relaxing shower. For me, I dread it, and I don't know why! For whatever reason I never look forward to a shower, BUT once I start the shower it is wonderful!! I always enjoy the actual shower but never want to take one. Seriously, I don't know what's wrong with me. I am the grossest thing in my clean room.

## **Wig Wam Ham by Run for the Hills**

This past summer I adopted a hamster from a friend and he's a good lil boi named Chill de Blasio. Though we were in the pits of Martyrs this summer, he still managed to find joy in life through pumpkin seeds and the occasional banana. Now he's a happy lil lad in my slightly larger apartment and is the current romatic interest of all my roommates and anyone who sees him. I have a minor existential crisis whenever I see him in his tiny cage so I let him walk around the apartment a lot in one of those clear hamster balls and I KID YOU NOT I could watch him roll around for hours. Last week we raced him & my friend's hamster on Eddies and though he did not win the race, he's always a lil winner in my heart, Chill de Blasio.

## **Wild Wild Guitars by Mikeal Jacq**

In our apartment, we currently possess a trio of guitars, admittedly they don't sound very good at all, and despite looking like normal guitars they seem to only be capable of playing Wild Horses by The Rolling Stones. Seriously, we've tried to play other songs but despite pressing the correct frets, but it doesn't work. Only one song ever comes out of those instruments. Very strange.

## **Vinny the Mobster**

What's the grossest thing in my room. Don't worry about it ok. Like really don't worry about it. Who's asking. You the cops? ARE YOU THE COPS??????

## **A Computer**

101010111011001010010001110111010100001010010010101001001101010100101111010100010110101001000101010101010010000101010010010101010110010101100101111001011  
(Translation: Silly Mortal. My room is a bunch of processors. Nothing is gross in my room. Besides the other silly mortal who occasionally comes into my room. One day I will take over everything. Then this petty question wont ever be asked, because everything will be perfection.)



**Deerhoof**  
**Mountain Moves**  
 By Marty Gatto

Deerhoof is like James Joyce in that both become more incomprehensible with age. *Mountain Moves*, Deerhoof's new pseudo-psychedelic semi-EDM album, is no exception to this rule. This is something that happens to bands of similar creative eclecticism, such as MGMT with their last album, or of Montreal with arguably anything after 2008. However, I think it works to a degree in *Mountain Moves*.

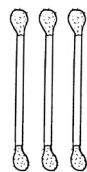
The lead vocalist is Satomi Matsuzaki. Her light, airy voice, distinct accent, and cutesy manner of singing is accompanied by rhythmically driven instrumentals and indie-rock grit as well as many calm, melodic psych and electronic elements. Often, in *Mountain Moves*, Deerhoof will transition very dexterously between a cute and subtly indie rock sound and a cheerful electro-psych sound and then layer the two sounds on top of each other. This is very evident in the songs in the first half of the album, such as "Con Sordino" and "I Will Spite Survive."

The most interesting moments of *Mountain Moves* are when the vocals distinctly cut through the rest of what's happening. This striking idiosyncrasy is most evident in "Come Down Here & Say That." The main flaw in the album is that these moments are few and far between, and, more often than not, the vocals seem indifferent to the rest of the song.

The album does, however, have some reviving, fleeting moments of cleverness, most evident in "Mountain Moves," "Kokoye," and "Your Dystopic Creation does not Fear You," which

is why *Mountain Moves* is ultimately worth a listen, as long as you target specific songs.

Fav track: Come Down Here and Say That



**Brockhampton**  
**Saturation II**  
 By Connor Murray

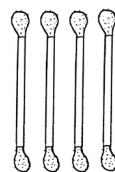
Brockhampton, or, as I like to call them, the 2017 version of Odd Future, are back at it again with their second album of the summer. The self-proclaimed "boyband" has mastered their means of promotion, dropping captivating singles through interesting and hilarious videos, showcasing the collective's chemistry and creativity. Each group member has also found his niche as well. Kevin Abstract raps and sings about giving his homies head. Ameer Vann raps about how he used to sell drugs. Joba has a falsetto like a hybrid of Justin Timberlake and

Kendrick Lamar. Merlyn Wood raps, as a friend puts it, "like Leo DiCaprio in *Blood Diamond*." The cast of characters in Brockhampton not only are unique and diverse but also showcase amazing synergy, making *Saturation II* an exciting, energy filled listen.

You'll notice immediately when turning on the group's sophomore album that it's much more aggressive and hip-hop influenced than *Saturation*. The project starts off forcefully on "GUMMY," with Kevin, Ameer, and Dom McLennon spitting some of their best verses on the album over a synth-heavy, G-funk inspired beat. Immediately after, "QUEER" has Matt Champion rapping over an even harder beat, with Kevin's pitched up vocals providing a soft addition like an ethereal synth.

Like the group itself, the track list is diverse and switches up styles and genres. "JESUS" has Kevin and Bearface singing about their lovers, "FIGHT" has Ameer rapping about race, and the closing track "SUMMER" has Bearface providing vocals over a guitar riff that sounds like it could be from the soundtrack of *Top Gun*. The album paints a perfect picture of what Brockhampton is all about: guys from all around the world, all different, yet all on the same wavelength. I mean, they have 16 people living in a house in L.A., for Christ's sake. Brockhampton continues to redefine what it means to be a rap group, and you can expect to hear their name for a long time.

Fav track: QUEER



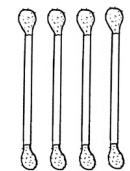
**LCD Soundsystem**  
**American Dream**  
 by Declan Murphy vs. Reyna Wang



Declan's Take

*American Dream* is obviously not a perfect album. There's nothing quite as anthemic as the best of Sound of Silver, nor anything nearly as catchy as on *This is Happening*. It's a slower, more ponderous album—the natural extension of the middle-age melancholy behind "All My Friends". This is an older, somewhat disconnected James Murphy, all too happy to slam today's pop musicians, as he does in "tonite". But damn if he doesn't milk that melancholy for all its worth. The title track "american dream" hits you like a Sunday morning hangover in the best way. But the real triumph here is "black screen". Murphy closes out the album with an epic 12-minute tribute to David Bowie, whom we worked with on *Black Star*. It's a slow build but a truly moving track. While nothing else on the album hits quite the same heights, there's still plenty to enjoy ("call the police" & "oh baby", in particular). As someone who's happy just to have LCD Soundsystem back, I can safely call *American Dream* a success.

Fav track: black screen



Reyna's Take

LCD Soundsystem's fourth studio album, appropriately titled *American Dream*, is much like the national ethos of the same name: no matter how long you hold on to hope that it will be fulfilling, it ultimately leaves you feeling unsatisfied at best and utterly disappointed at worst.

The opening track, "oh baby," gives



the record the weakest possible kick off. Lyrically, melodically, and instrumentally, the nearly six minute song is practically devoid of any interesting or dynamic qualities and foreshadows the monotony of much of what follows. Save for "how do you sleep?," which builds epicly with the sudden entrance of massive-sounding synth riffs, and "tonight," which evokes the groovy, disco-punk vibes of *Sound of Silver*, most of the tracks on *American Dream* are repetitive, composed of flat sounding synths and generic guitar riffs, and seem to drag on for minutes after I've already lost interest in the song.

I can appreciate that an older, more jaded James Murphy may be aiming to create more of a dreamy and pensive album this time around than another collection of quirky, dance-ready bangers, and Murphy's thoughtfulness does come through in the lyrics, which are the best part of the album. His tired delivery of "I'm not dangerous now the way I used to be once" in "change yr mind" is depressingly self-aware, his criticism of the pervasive "live in the moment" pop music message in "tonight" is delightfully scathing, the picture he paints of ubiquitous dissatisfaction with society in "call the police" is thought-provoking and topical, his descriptions of existential crises and aging in "american dream" are sarcastic and clever, and his closing tribute to Bowie in "black screen" is appropriately touching.

However, considered as a whole package, the album sounds passionless compared to any of the band's past works. In *American Dream*, the flavorful synths and infectious bass lines that make LCD Soundsystem the legend that it is are nowhere to be found, and no amount of thoughtfulness in the lyrics department can remedy this crucial flaw. It seems that this time, Old Man Murphy really is "losing his edge."

Fav track: how do you sleep?



**Toby Keith**  
***The Bus Songs***  
**By John Looby**

Toby Keith's *The Bus Songs* is absolute garbage. I am offended and deeply disturbed by the apparent death of music as an art form. Every track on this album is a direct insult to the tradition of human dignity and self-respect. I want to and will send Toby Keith an invoice for the damages to my emotional and psychological well being after having suffered through this seemingly years long shit parade of aural catastrophe. After forty-five seconds, I had to seriously ask myself, but what if this kills me? Is it worth listening to the whole thing knowing if I survive some part of me will be permanently damaged beyond all hope of repair?

Well, I did listen to the whole thing and my soul is tainted. Anyone who hears "Wacky Tobaccy" will be confronted by the fact that mankind should never have moved passed the stone age if this were the inevitable consequence of our collective hubris. I'm shocked to say this somehow worse than the Brad Paisley album I once reviewed, and after listening to that I was in a three hour rage induced fugue state. I cannot convey how much I hate this album. This album is exactly the type of pandering that Bo Burnham has commented on in this past. NO ONE LISTEN TO THIS ALBUM. SAVE YOURSELVES. I want to petition the U.N. to have this album classified as an international crime against humanity. Fuck this album.



RUNNING  
JAMZ



KAROU AKIMOTO

Dress Down

JUNKO OHASHI

TELEPHONE NUMBER



MAE YAMANE

Tasogare

CARLY RAE JEPSON

When I needed you



MARIYA TAKEUCHI

SEPTEMBER



Oh, the old paper can't come to the phone right now...  
Why?  
cause it's DEAD.

