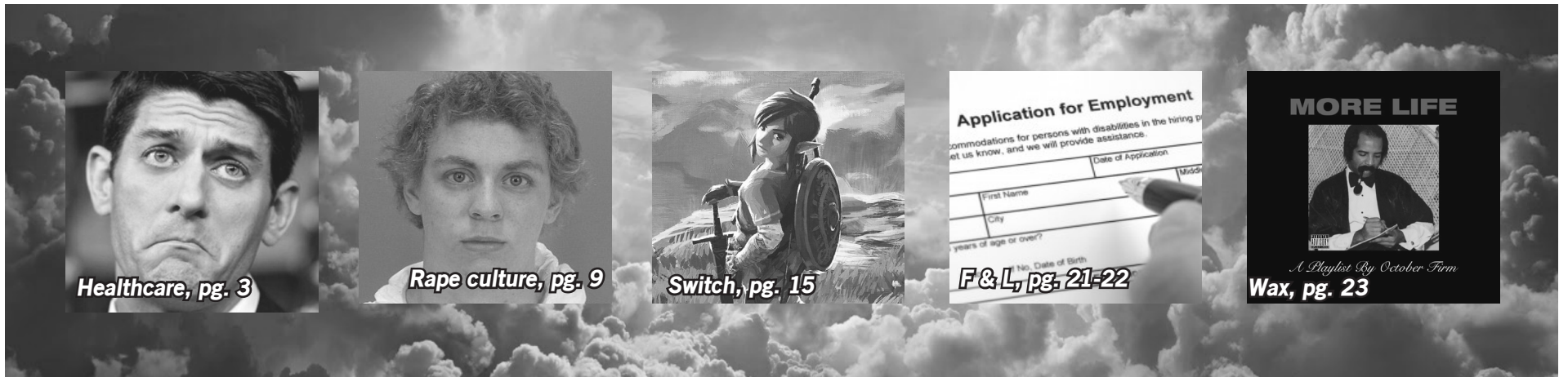


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## the paper

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*the paper* is Fordham's journal of news, analysis, comment and review. Students from all years and disciplines get together biweekly to produce a printed version of *the paper* using Adobe InDesign and publish an online version using Weebly. Photos are "borrowed" from Internet sites and edited in Photoshop. Open meetings are held Tuesdays at 9:00 PM in McGinley 2nd. Articles can be submitted via e-mail to [paper.fordham@gmail.com](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.

"Board Games"

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**paper meetings**  
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# Republican Replacement Healthcare Plan Ends Up Dead on Arrival

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

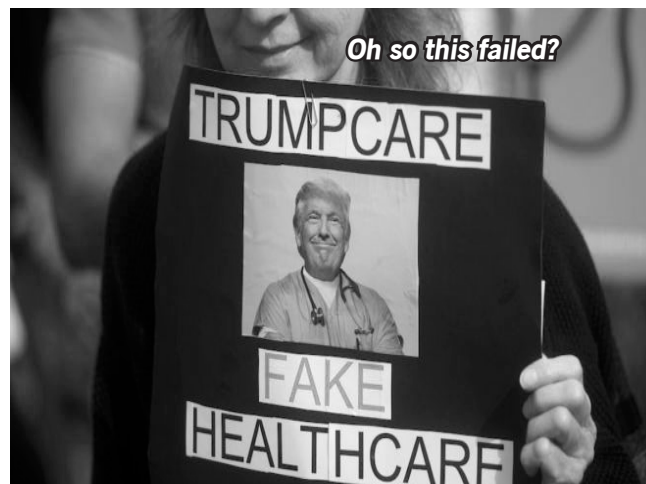
**R.I.P. American Health Care Act, we hardly knew ye**

When this article was started, I planned on laying out a list of possible scenarios in which we could see a replacement or modification to the Affordable Care Act. However, this plan was quickly thwarted, because as of Friday afternoon, the American Health Care Act (AHCA), sometimes called Trumpcare, Republicare, or even Ryan care, is no more. On Thursday, March 23rd, Donald Trump offered house Republicans an ultimatum which stated that either the AHCA be passed, or the legislation would be shelved for the foreseeable future. The next day, the latter option happened; despite the GOP having a majority in the House and Senate. Speaker Paul Ryan rushed to the White House to tell Trump that there weren't enough votes to push the legislation through. As a result, Ryan later announced that the bill would be pulled from the House, and that there were no plans to try again. So, where did it all go wrong?

To many, the failure to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a sign of deep divisions within the GOP's various factions. While more moderate center-right groups, such as the Tuesday Group, supported the bill, far-right factions within the party including the Freedom Caucus rebelled against Trump's healthcare plan, stating that they wanted the ACA repealed and scaled back even further. Additionally, many Republican representatives who represented districts where Hillary Clinton won or was extremely close to winning in the 2016 elections were hesitant to support the bill. All of these factors together resulted in the AHCA being largely doomed from the start.

In order to pass the bill, House Republicans could afford to lose around 22 votes from their own party and still pull it through. However, by Friday, the number of possible "no" votes totaled to over 50 representatives.

It's hard to understate just how un-



popular this bill was on both sides of the aisle. The bill was first criticized by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. The CBO stated that while the AHCA would reduce the deficit by \$151 billion (less than half of what was it was projected to save), over 24 million Americans could be uninsured compared to the current system. Even after being revised, the legislation featured large cuts to essential services such as prenatal care, mental health services, and even Medicaid, an extremely vital service to many of Trump's supporters.

For both Democrats and Republicans, there was a lot to hate about this legislation, and it showed. According to FiveThirtyEight's estimates, the polling average for the bill was 30% favorable and 47% unfavorable. To add to the bad news for Republicans, favorability on Obamacare actually increased after Donald Trump's election. 2017

was the first year since the ACA was enacted that more Americans supported the program than opposed it, and that margin is growing. One can only speculate as to why this is, but perhaps the threat of losing the benefits for many Americans, including an extremely

large percentage of Trump's voter base, swayed opinion on the matter.

And so, the American Health Care Act has quite ironically died on the floor of the house (yes I stole that joke from Conan O'Brien, sue me). So where does that leave Donald Trump? All we know for certain at the moment is that Obamacare is here to stay. In what form, however, is a different question entirely. While

Trump might be incapable of amending or cutting away from the legislation itself, keep in mind that the Department of Health and Human Services has the ability to make their own judgements on the implementation of the programs in question. Moreover, Tom Price, Trump's Health and Human Services Secretary is a fervent opponent of the ACA. Price could make significant changes as to what services are considered "required services". More specifically, the secretary can make changes as to what is included in these necessary services. For example, the bill requires insurers to include coverage for mental health care, but whether or not this includes services such as behavioral therapy or occupational therapy for children can be changed by the Secretary. Some of these changes have already been put in place, such as the pulling of enrollment advertisements from the media,

which experts speculate has caused a drop in enrollment by young adults. Despite this, it is estimated that 11 million more people will join Obamacare in 2017, and it is very unlikely that Trump and Price will stand idle and keep the ACA's programs as they are.

In addition to this, there is a more important lesson to be learned, one that Trump must embrace very quickly if he hopes to push any legislation through Congress: the deep ideological rifts within the Republican party that were made clear through this bill's failure will not go away anytime soon. The fragmented nature of the party, which Trump is expected to lead, should serve as a harsh wakeup call to the president that the West Wing is a different world than that of a business. While Trump might like to believe that his word is final, reality couldn't be further from this. In the case of this bill, large amounts of opposition came from factions like the Freedom Caucus, with 22 out of the 50 possible "no's" coming from the group. In addition, the health care vote uncovered large rifts between Senate and House Republicans. The AHCA was drafted by House Speaker Paul Ryan, without any input from prominent Republican senators such as Tom Cotton and Rand Paul. Trump's first large legislative failure should make it increasingly clear that in order to pass legislation moving forward, such as the budget or raising the debt ceiling, the president must be capable of working with these various groups within his party. Until very recently these groups had been united in opposition to President Obama's policies, but now to many are perceived as directionless and at war with themselves.

# Donald Trump: the First American President Elected by Russians

by Declan Murphy  
Copy Editor

In the days following James Comey's testimony before Congress, there has been increasing evidence of communication between the Trump campaign and the Russian government. While the link has been far from conclusively proven, evidence has been piling up of meetings between Trump staffers and Russian officials which generate suspicion.

This is far from a new story. The main allegation that has been made is that Trump's campaign conspired with Russians to facilitate the leak of Democratic National Committee (DNC), which were released (via WikiLeaks) last July. In December, outgoing President Barack Obama imposed sanctions against Russia for their suspected interference in the election.

Notably, two Trump officials have left prominent positions because of improper ties to Russia—Paul Manafort and Michael Flynn. One more—former Senator and current Attorney General Jeff Sessions—is still the subject of inquiry. Manafort resigned in August because financial records indicate he had received money to promote Russian interests while working in Ukraine.

More recently, in January, the Wall Street Journal uncovered records of contact between Michael Flynn and Russia. Flynn had been Trump's pick for National Security Advisor. Shortly after being confirmed, it was revealed that Flynn had spoken with Russian officials about the sanctions imposed by Obama. More specifically, it is believed that Flynn was reassuring Russians that the sanctions would be lifted. Again, this is not conclusive, but it certainly could indicate a quid-pro-quo relationship. In other words, Flynn's phone calls support the narrative that Russia hacked the DNC in order to install Trump as President and

## "Trump is totally not Putin in a face mask lol nah" - James Comey

therefore benefit from a more sympathetic administration. Flynn resigned after these allegations, while not admitting any wrongdoing.

Another storm of controversy arose over meetings between Jeff Sessions and the Russian ambassador. Sessions had previously testified in his confirmation hearings that he "did not have com-

under suspicion. Of particular note, Roger Stone, who had been an advisor to the Trump campaign, continually tweeted about the DNC leaks, in one instance seeming to know in advance that a leak was coming. Also, unsubstantiated claims of widespread contact between Russia and the Trump campaign formed the

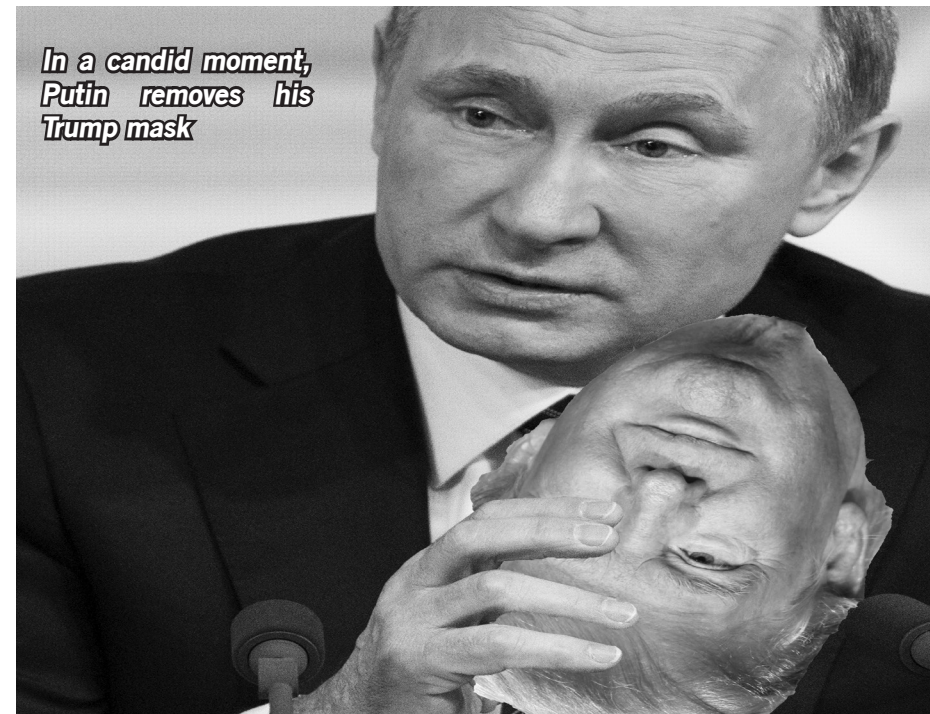
statement proves that the probability of corruption is high enough to merit attention by the intelligence community.

That alone is concerning enough. Indeed, the sheer fact of Russian interference in the Presidential election is itself highly troubling. But it remains to be seen how far these ties go. Flynn, Sessions, Manafort—these are only the officials where there is evidence of colluding with Russia. Add in the fact that Trump openly called for Russian to continue hacking the Hillary campaign (in what he later would claim was only a semi-serious statement), and you have a troubling picture of Russian sympathy on the Trump side.

Again, there has not been conclusive evidence that the Trump campaign coordinated any of these activities. The problem is that the cloud of illegitimacy still hangs over the Trump presidency. Until the Trump campaign can prove that it did not work with Russians to sabotage Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump's presidency will rest on uncertain grounds. An election unfairly won is no legitimate basis for power—it's the sure sign of a failure of democracy.

On the other hand, should it prove that the Trump campaign did in fact conspire to delegitimize the Clinton campaign, the implications are even more troubling. Were it true, we must confront the reality that our democracy no longer functions independently. If Trump were indeed installed by Russia, not only would it threaten the integrity of our system, it would pose a substantial security risk to United States/Russia bilateral relations.

The facts are not quite settled. But this ongoing story is of vital importance to the continuation of our democracy—if it has not been threatened already.



*In a candid moment, Putin removes his Trump mask*

munications with the Russians." Yet in the weeks following his confirmation, it was revealed that Sessions had met with the Russian ambassador twice. Sessions maintained that he was doing so in his capacity as a Senator, not as a Trump surrogate, but the timing is suspect. One of Sessions meetings with the ambassador was during the Republican National Convention—in other words, right as the Republican Party formally rallied around Trump. Sessions eventually recused himself from the ongoing investigation of the rest of the Trump administration.

Others with ties to Trump have come

majority of the so-called "Trump dossier" that leaked earlier this year.

That brings us to this week. The Senate held hearings to investigate these ties to Russia, and at the center of this was FBI director James Comey. Comey made headlines for admitting that the FBI was in fact investigating the possible influence of the Trump administration on the Russian election interference. The admission came as a shock to many, who expected Comey to adopt a much more neutral stance on the Trump allegations. Instead, Comey's



**Thursday, 3/30:**  
 Sydney, Australia  
 Sailing Into Sydney |  
 Rose Hill Commons |  
 1:00pm - 2:30pm

**Friday, 3/31:**  
 Tokyo, Japan  
 Sushi Event |  
 McGinley 2nd |  
 12:00pm - 4:00pm

**Saturday, 4/1:**  
 New York, New York  
 Bronx Celebration Day | McGinley 2nd |  
 12:00pm - 3:00pm

**ASILI: Black and Gold |**  
 Rose Hill Commons |  
 8:00pm - 11:00pm

**Rams Got Talent |**  
 McGinley Ballroom |  
 4:00pm - 7:00pm

**#CommuterWeek2017**

# People Who Still Believe the Earth is Flat: Celebrity Edition

by Meredith McLaughlin  
Copy Editor

The country as a whole had a big scare this week concerning the scientific views of national icon Shaquille O'Neal. On March 20th, during Shaq's podcast, the former basketball player said some risqué things that made it seem he had joined Kyrie Irving, Draymond Green, and Wilson Chandler in their belief that the Earth is flat. Thankfully, O'Neal came out three days later to clarify that he was simply joking, but in light of the weird resurgence of the Flat Earth Theory, the public was more than ready to accept the fact that another basketball star had turned away from modern science.

At any other time, Shaq's joke would have been seen as just that: a joke. However, the flat Earth conspiracy theory has been thrust back into society ever since Kyrie Irving first announced that scientists were lying to us this past February.

## Former basketball player jokes about anti-science belief

"If you really think about it from a landscape of the way we travel...can you really think of us rotating around the sun and all planets aligned? There is no concrete information except for the information they're giving us. They're particularly putting you in the direction of what to believe and what not to believe." Irving had declared on the Road Tripping with RJ and Channing podcast. Following this, Green and Chandler soon voiced their support of Irving's opinions. Despite being disputed by mountains of concrete evidence that the Earth is in fact a sphere, Irving has held his ground against even the most basic scientific facts, like how the Earth is circumnavigated on the daily by planes. And these basketball players aren't alone; rapper B.o.B. has long supported the Flat Earth theory, leading to a twitter spat between him and physicist Neil deGrasse Tyson.

So what do these stars mean when

they say that the Earth is flat? Well for starters, a flat earther believes that the Earth is actually a flat disc, with the North Pole in the center, and a 150 ft. ice wall forming the circumference of the disc. This ice wall is patrolled by NASA to prevent people from climbing the ice wall and falling off the disc. Flat earthers also deny the existence of gravity, and believe that things fall to the ground when you drop them because the Earth-disc is constantly accelerating upwards at  $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ . And because gravity doesn't exist to them, they can dispute the idea that our oceans can stick to a planet that's constantly spinning on its axis. To them, on a globe model, the water would just fly off the earth. They also dispute any and all photographic evidence as being doctored by NASA in order to keep the sheeple complacent in believing the earth is a sphere. One of my favorite Instagram accounts, [flatearthtshirtco](#),

asks why, in 2017, NASA has yet to place a Hi-Def camera on the moon to show earth's rotation. Clearly, the answer is that the Earth is actually a disc.

But why is this archaic belief making a comeback in our modern era? I would honestly chalk it up to a backlash against science and the government. Some people want to wage a war against intellectualism, and this is taken to the extreme when denying that the earth is a sphere. No real scientist would say the earth is flat, that's why we're hearing it from a group of celebrities with no scientific background. But this weird paranoia has created a world where we take jokes about flat Earth as a confession of faith in the "theory." I really want to go back to a point in time where the flat Earth wasn't considered a serious scientific belief.

# Food Company Does More Harm Than Good For Bee Population

Colleen Burns  
Opinions Co-Editor

In early March everyone's favorite whole grain cereal, Cheerios, launched a new campaign called #BringBacktheBees, responding to the sudden and extreme decline in bee populations. Just last October, seven species of the Hawaiian yellow-faced bee were added to the endangered species list, and the bumblebee joined the list for the first time in January.

First, Cheerios said goodbye to the adored Buzz the Bee to raise awareness since "44% of bee colonies in the U.S. collapsed in 2016." Cheerios also reminded consumers that the bees play an essential role in the world's food systems, as "1 in 3 bites of food we eat is made possible by bees and other pollinators" and "more than two thirds of the world's crop species rely on pollinators."

The campaign centered on a 100 Million Seed Giveaway, which urged the public to sign up to receive packets of wildflowers to provide bees with nectar. While the goal was 100 million seeds, Cheerios ended up giving away 1.5 billion seeds, completely depleting

## Say cheerio to the bees!

their seed supply and subsequently halting their give-away campaign.

However, recent controversy has arisen around the types of seeds in Cheerios' packets and their potential invasiveness. Invasive species can overshadow the native species because there are no natural controls on their population. Invasive species also grow unchecked and thus take up excessive space, deplete important resources, and spread disease.

Cheerios claims that the wildflower packets "contain the same varieties of seeds that consumers will find in seed racks at major national home store chains throughout the U.S." However, the company reported that forget-me-nots and California poppy are included in the wildflower seed mix. Forget-me-nots are a banned, noxious weed in Massachusetts and Connecticut while California poppy is considered an invasive species in the southeast.

Clearly, some seeds are only native

to certain parts of the country. Cheerios posted on Facebook, "The seed varieties in the mix are not considered invasive" and "flower varieties within the Bee Friendlier Mix were selected for their flowers which produce nectar and pollen that are attractive to bees and other pollinators." Perhaps Cheerios

is sending state tailored seed mixes, but they have not confirmed this.

The company also plans to build new bee habitats on their oat farms by hosting "about 3,300 acres of nectar- and pollen-rich wildflowers, which are full of the nutrients bees and other pollinators need to stay strong." While this part of the campaign seems progressive and beneficial, others question it.

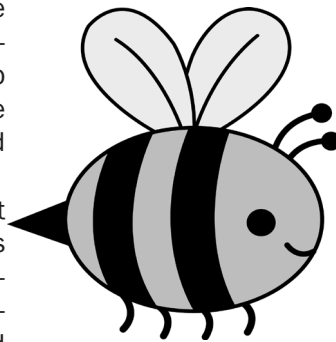
Here's why: Cheerios is likely guilty of contributing to some of the issues plaguing bee populations because Cheerios' oat farms are monocultures.

Monocultures, or land farmed for hundreds of miles with a single crop,

cause a decline in bee habitats for various reasons. One: monocultures are a single crop so, the entire field blooms at the same time, providing food for a short time (unlike mixed wildflowers). Two: having only one type of pollen as a food source can lead to nutrient deficiencies and poor immune systems. Three: monocultures require intense pesticide use, since a single insect infestation could wipe out the entire crop. These pesticides can be toxic to the bees themselves and to the wildflowers they snack on.

Therefore, it's ironic that a company like Cheerios has a #BringBacktheBees campaign when they likely implement practices that contribute to the endangerment of bees in the first place. Even putting this aside, Cheerios did not take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of invasive species.

While the campaign was in good heart, it might be safer to plant wildflowers bought at your local store. This way you are guaranteed to be planting native wildflowers that bloom at all different times throughout the summer—and layoff the pesticides!



# FAKER THAN TRUTH

By John Looby

## Fordham Student Totally Understands Race Relations In America After Reading Ellison's *Invisible Man*

Jack Bradford, Fordham Class '18, recently finished reading Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, after seeing in it in an episode of *Luke Cage*. Speaking to his close friends he was quoted as say things such as "Man, I just feel so woke now," "I think I just really get it now," and "I finally see why people told me I just couldn't understand the struggle." When pressed on whether or not reading just one critically acclaimed novel really gave him an understanding of the years of racial turmoil in the United States, Bradford had the following to say "Bro of course, you know it's shit like this that Bernie would have fixed."

Reports say that in the coming days Bradford claims he might finally watch *Moonlight* as he thinks "Ryan Gosling is like my boy you know, but I feel like *Moonlight* was just so important." We attempted to speak to Bradford to follow up on his activity but were ultimately unable to approach him due to the incredibly dense Vape cloud that seems to constantly envelope him like some sort of bizarre defense mechanism. One reporter had to be hospitalized after nearly choking to death on "some bullshit called cranberry cloud craze." Who knows what else Bradford will quickly come to master in days to come?

# A History of Fordham's Gentrification

by Claire Nunez  
Opinions Co-Editor

If you go to Fordham (and if you are reading this as you most likely do), you should really know about our University's link to gentrification. We have strong ties to it, believe me. Robert Moses, the famed city planner, displaced thousands of people with his creation of Lincoln Center and many highways. One of his more, uh, displacing works, the Sheridan Expressway in the Bronx, will soon be replaced. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced a \$700 million replacement of this expressway.

Robert Moses was the king of gentrifying people out of their homes in order to create something that he thought would better New York City. Lincoln Center, yes our campus included, is the product of Robert Moses' architectural work. Before Lincoln Center was what it is now, a "cultural hub," it was a different kind of place for culture. This area was once the slums where immigrants and minorities lived and it was a place where different traditions mixed and blended. In the 50s, these people were forced from their homes and had to find new places to live because, guess what, Robert Moses was going to change this seemingly disgusting and awful place into a center for the arts.

Another important aspect of Robert Moses' work, besides displacing people for "centers for the arts," was forcing people out for highways-- yay! The Sheridan Expressway runs parallel to the Bronx River. In case you don't know, the Sheridan Expressway connects the Cross Bronx Expressway to the Bruckner Expressway. Google map it and get a better idea of what the roads actually look like.

So, you may be thinking: "what is so bad about this expressway?" Good question friend! Well for starters, the

## The Sheridan Expressway is just the start

Sheridan Expressway cut neighborhoods from having easy contact with each other. Imagine being divided from walking or easily traveling to your best friend's house. Since most people don't have cars in New York City, crossing the Sheridan Expressway is not particularly easy. The Expressway also produces a heck of a lot of light, sound, and air pollution. In case you didn't know it, the Bronx has some of the highest asthma rates in the nation; an estimated 20% of Bronx kids have respiratory problems. Health problems

many of its residents. Some believe the funding should be funneled into schools or into fighting poverty. There are also a lot of businesses along the Expressway, like car shops, repair garages, and industrial warehouses. Many are concerned that businesses will shut down and the neighborhood will again be changed for the worse. Residents are also concerned about their commutes being drastically altered. The Sheridan Expressway is an important route for people to travel from the more-northern Bronx downward. Traffic patterns will also be changed dramatically with the construction that will be happening.

You may be wondering, I am only here for a few years-- why should I care? Well, for starters, gentrification is important to know about. No matter what your political views are, you should know about the consequences-- good and bad-- of gentrification and your part in the whole process.

As a student here, you should know Fordham had a hand in the

facelift of the West End during the 50's and of course the changes that constantly happen in the Bronx. We were promised a plot of land for a Manhattan campus.

If you look up the history of Fordham's founding, our website of course says Robert Moses' work was a renewal project, not gentrification. That would not be the best marketing technique to grab those prospective students. Lincoln Center sits on the land that was once the place where homes were; the Sheridan Expressway covers the remains of businesses and walkways. It is important for us to recognize that as students at an urban university, we are a part of the changes to the neighborhoods around us. As New York State seeks to rectify changes made in decades past, we need to recognize how our actions alter the Fordham community.



It's important to know how gentrification impacts us all

# US Led Coalition Surrounds ISIS at Mosul

by Adam Hamilton  
Staff Contributor

Since their rapid victory against Iraqi forces in 2014, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has become the main threat to democracy in the Middle East. Soon that may no longer be the case. The United States led coalition to oust ISIS from Iraq has contained the extremist movement to a final city in the country, Mosul. The city has been systematically besieged beginning in October of last year and so far more than half of it has been liberated in bloody street to street fighting. Victory by the Iraqi forces here stands in sharp contrast to the initial defeat they faced from the rapidly expanding ISIS forces who captured the city in June 2014.

ISIS has been put on the defensive in the near three-year effort by the United States to defeat the terrorist group. Under President Obama, the United States returned to Iraq in 2014 after leaving triumphantly nearly four years previously. America's commitment to the conflict is purported to be

supportive rather than direct, mostly focused on air power and logistics, but so far 25 American soldiers have died in the revived conflict. The mainstay of the fighting has been done by the Iraqi military, Shia militias and Kurdish forces, trained and supported by the US led coalition. These efforts have been aided by the involvement of 59 nations in collaboration ranging from Morocco to New Zealand providing support ranging from the training of the national police by the Spanish and air power offered by the Dutch.

Their rapid seizure of the oil-rich territory and expansion into neighboring Syrian Civil War lead to ISIS becoming the main opposition to the Governments of Iraq and Syria. In response, the Obama administration formed a

## Update on the fight against ISIS

coalition of allies to help Iraq's liberate their country. Last fall, Fallujah, Iraq's second city, was liberated, leaving ISIS solely in control of Mosul. Starting last December and into the Trump administration, Iraqi and coalition forces have been working to liberate Mosul.

ISIS rose to power in Iraq by becoming the main opposition to the new, US-backed regime. After Saddam Hussein was deposed, American administrators disbanded his

large swaths of the Sunni population in Iraq. This gave us the name the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS.

Finally it looks like ISIS will be pushed out of Iraq. Over the last few years the United States has formed a coalition of dozens of countries to help the Iraqi army recapture lost territory. After several initial setbacks ISIS has been pushed to its final stronghold in Mosul.

After Mosul is liberated, Iraq will be at a crossroads. The leader of Iraqi Kurdistan has called for an independence referendum once the city is freed from ISIS control. Iraqi Kurds control an autonomous region in the north of the country and have been leading fighters in the war against ISIS. The potential splintering of Iraq could pose a problem for the Trump administration as the current Shia government in Bagdad wants to maintain control of the northern Oil fields. Regardless, the defeat of ISIS, which is expected to happen within the next few months, will be a



Ba'ath Party and the Iraqi Army. As a result, the Sunni Arab minority, on which Saddam based his support, was largely disenfranchised. Many rallied to Al Qaeda in Iraq, the main insurgent group from 2005-2013, and its breakaway movement, ISIS, after 2013/2014. ISIS was able to turn from one of many Sunni rebel groups opposed to the American backed government of Iraq into the terrorist powerhouse that we all know by getting involved in the neighboring Syrian Civil War. ISIS took advantage of the power vacuum in Syria to claim territory in the country and build a base to recruit, train, and raise money. With this base, ISIS' lightning offensive in early 2014 gave them control of

major victory for the Trump administration. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said within the last year that ISIS' capacity for foreign recruitment, a major source of the group's manpower, has been cut by 90%- a sign of their waning power.

In Syria, the war against ISIS has taken a darker turn. In December, Aleppo fell to the forces of Bashar Al-Assad and the Syrian government. Aleppo was the center of the non-ISIS resistance in Syria. After its fall, the civil war in the country has switched from being between ISIS, Assad, and several moderate factions to a showdown between ISIS and Assad.

The future of the Middle East is complicated, but the ending of this chapter of violence in Iraq will give the country an opportunity to rebuild after fourteen years of conflict.

## Realer Than Fact

By Rachel Poe

### Friendly Reminder that Science is Cool AF

Because science is dope as hell, scientist have found a way to use spinach to build a mini version of a working heart by using spinach leaves like scaffolding. This new technique may be able to one day aid in tissue regeneration and help solve the long-standing issue of repairing damaged organs. Scientists have already been able to create large-scale human tissue in labs by using methods like 3D printing, but always struggled to recreate the smaller, more delicate blood vessels that are crucial to tissue health.

The study, which was published earlier this month, offers a new way to grow a vascular system. The inability to recreate a vascular network has been a major road block for tissue engineering. These scientist hope to use spinach leaves for their branching network of thin veins that deliver water and nutrients to their cells by decellularizing the plant and using its remaining cellulose. Cellulose is biocompatible and has already been used in a wide variety of regenerative medicine applications.

The eventual goal of the study is to be able to replace damaged tissue in patients who have had heart attacks or who have suffered other cardiac issues that prevent their hearts from contracting. The veins in the modified leaves should be able to deliver oxygen to the entire swath of replacement tissue, which is vital in generating new heart matter. The study team hopes to one day be able to use other types of plants to repair a variety of tissues in the human body, like swapping out the cells in wood to help fix human bones.

# Golfing President isn't Supposed to be Golfing at Golf Club

by John Looby

Co-Editor in Chief

You might not spend a lot of time thinking about golf, golfing at a golf course you own, or watching golf at a country club, but then again you're not the sitting President of the United States. President Donald "President Obama played golf yesterday???" Trump has spent what many are calling an alarming amount of time at golf courses. Each of these trips, of which there have been 12, costs American taxpayers three million dollars. Roughly 36 million dollars has been spent already for our current President to participate in the leisure sport of that kid in high school whose dad's car costs more than your house.

The current progression of Trump's expenditures is alarming for several reasons. First, there's the stunning fact that for almost a third of the days Trump has been President, he has been on Trump owned property. Trump is creating a link between his businesses and the presidency that at the very least raises some ethical quandaries. The Mar-a-Lago has doubled

its initiation fee to \$200,000 in the wake of Trump becoming president. This, along with those foreign dignitaries who have been opting to stay in Trump owned hotels, would point in the direction that Trump is profiting off of the Presidency and foreign governments might be attempting to use this as a means through which to gain influence over the President.

The President is supposed to divest themselves of business interests. President Carter was forced to give up a peanut farm and yet the current Pres-

**"Just mention 'golf' as many times as you can" - John Looby**

ident can bring the Japanese Prime Minister to his country club and then discuss matters of national security in a crowded restaurant. It begs the question of what exactly congress defines as an ethical conflict of inter-

of a President possibly profiting off the Presidency while directly in office, there is, of course, the obvious hypocrisy of this entire situation. President Trump has not only a long track record of attacking Obama while he was in office for playing

is the projected cost of Trump's golfing based on the current going trend. Trump's golfing could cost the public \$120 million a year. Some think that is a low-ball estimate. These golf trips alone could fund the National Endowment for the Arts. If

we want to cut something from the budget for being wasteful, personally, I would go with presidential golf trips. President Trump playing golf doesn't cause a great deal of cultural growth unless, of course, you consider this article a bastion of culture. For a man with, as he would put it, an excellent business record, you would imagine that Trump would know how to effectively prioritize a budget. Trump, however, seems more determined to cut institutions frequently tied to liberal causes.

Trump's golfing is emblematic of the biggest issue of his administration so far: irresponsibility paired with blatant hypocrisy. The administration is going back on its word left and right while lashing out every which way with condemnable policy after condemnable policy. Wasting money on golf like this is similar to, say, attempting to cut healthcare for the impoverished voter he swore he would not forget



*Golf is only mentioned 18 times in this article. Sad.*

est given the sheer number of hoops Carter was made to jump through over a peanut farm. The infamous stack of documents that Trump used to prove his divestment from his corporate holdings should not have been taken at face value. Especially not in light of the recent statement from Eric Trump that he would be updating his father quarterly about the financial status of the company. It's as if they just don't care if they get caught behaving unethically.

Outside of the ethical ramifications

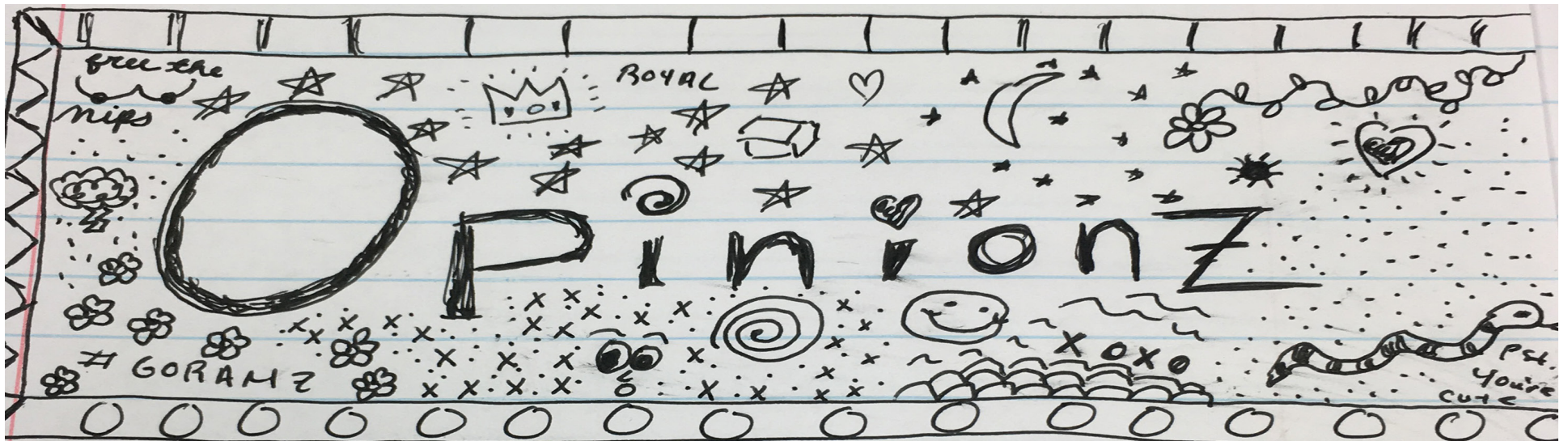
golf but furthermore, Trump himself assured the American public that he would not have time to be playing golf when in office while he was on the campaign train. Maybe we just ban Presidents from golfing and call it a day. Then we wouldn't have to dig through twitter, tracking politicians being hypocrites as they jump back and forth on each side of the golf issue. In all honesty though, Sean Spicer contorting his mind to fit whatever currently suits him is the least surprising aspect of investigating this issue.

What is the most surprising aspect

while giving tax breaks to wealthy health insurance executives. It goes against his campaign assurances while also misappropriating federal funding. It seems unlikely that the President will change his stances on many of these issues unless he can pin it on Paul Ryan and then throws him under the bus, but that does not mean that there is nothing to be done. Calling your representatives and voicing your concerns is the best way to ensure the democratic process is not left solely in the hands of men who want nothing more than to golf every weekend and binge watch Fox & Friends.

**the damage report**  
 your biweekly news update  
 tuesdays & fridays  
 on our website





## A Look at Human Accountability and Rape Culture

by Anna Passero-Koennecke  
Copy Chief

We live in a rape culture that has near impossible standards to meet, in order for the public and the court to actually address the crime both for the victim and the rapist. People want to believe rapists are monstrous beings that can be identified and avoided on sight. So when the rapist almost inevitably turns out to be an everyday person, the public is likely to disbelieve the victim. This is a fundamental problem with othering evil actions; it takes responsibility away. Humanity can be pretty shitty, and sadly many people would rather let a rapist go free than hold them responsible and accept that the person they bonded with at a barbecue is capable of evil.

Whenever a rape goes public, the comments around it are filled with people who intend to be kind and supportive by saying things like, "That's not a human, that's a monster" or "Luckily my son would never do this." These comments—while nowhere as cruel as those that blame the victim—are still harmful. Why? Because they remove rapists', and the people surrounding the rapist's, responsibility as human beings and replace it with a monster/other identity. The moment something normalizing about a rapist (such as their swim times or scholarships, maybe their favorite food or mother's name), is printed by newspapers, the rapist suddenly becomes someone the public and courts can relate to. Then the call for justice dissipates, as people don't want to admit someone that resembles their loved ones could be capable of evil. This insistence that a rapist must be some

### We must recognize that everyone should be held responsible

inhuman monster leaves out the reality that *rapists could be anyone*. Victims are left to suffer without justice, while those possessing some of the worst traits of humanity are left free to hurt others.

A study done by the University of North Dakota found that 31.7% of men admit to being willing to rape someone if the word "rape" is not in-

formed on women to see how shared a mindset this is.

Truth is: most people honestly do hate rapists, including rapists who don't identify with the monstrous image culture perpetuates. They hate this image of some ghastly, vague-faced man hurting someone close to them in a violent attack before dissipating back into the bushes. They

or sexual assault (so long as it's not called rape or assault). These were eye-opening moments for me: the realization that friends I had gone on road trips with, friends who claimed to be feminist and hate rape (at least in the abstract), were actually not upset with rape in reality, because to be upset with it meant acknowledging those they knew, or possibly (though I hope not) themselves, were rapists.

If we only allow ourselves to see rapists as monsters, it is too easy to avoid convicting them when the papers start telling us about how human they are. It becomes very hard to acknowledge their capability of committing such a heinous crime when it turns out they are humans, too easy to avoid intervening when they are our friends, and too easy to avoid correcting behavior leading to a mindset that rape is okay. While those subtle but telling signs – creepy comments and pushy behaviors – might be rude, you would never believe your little sibling could ever actually rape someone. However we need to acknowledge that rape is human action, a very dark, evil human action. Once we acknowledge that humans, and not monsters, commit these crimes we can successfully hold the people who commit the crimes accountable. We can become more willing to stop those who engage in these crimes, even if they are our friends and family, or even self. Hopefully by acknowledging the reality of a rapist's personhood, we will better be able to give justice and belief to those harmed by rape.



cluded in the prompt. When questions otherwise describing the exact same scenarios were posed, just now using the word "rape," that number dropped to 13.6%. A scarily high amount of men are fully willing to commit what they know to be rape (over 1 in 10). Even more importantly, it shows how few of the 1 in 3 men actually willing to commit rape would see their actions as rape. Unfortunately, I was not able to find any such studies per-

hate this image of a person who has no interaction with society outside of their heinous crime. However, they don't hate their friend, their brother, their aunt, their kid, their boyfriend, or themselves. But the fact of the matter is rapists are these people. They are not just faceless monsters; they exist outside of their crime. I myself have had moments where I learned people I knew and trusted, some for years, were not bothered by actions of rape

# I am Opening up my Mind, but Tomi Lahren Still Sucks

by Rachel Poe  
News Co-Editor

## Yes, I am a special snowflake, but I'll listen to the other side

I will always be the first one to admit that I am not perfect. Lately, I've been working on being a more tolerant person when it comes to people with fundamentally different views than mine. I'm trying to understand them and where they are coming from to have open, honest discussions. However, you have to look hard to find one of those positive discussions; that's my biggest issue with today's political discourse. It's not a discussion but a screaming match between the right and the left, berating each other until one is deemed morally superior. I shouldn't have to say this, but that's dumb as hell.

One of the biggest proponents of this constant screaming match is conservative commentator Tomi Lahren. You've probably seen a couple of Tomi's rants circulating Facebook. She's the angry Barbie with soulless eyes— you know who I'm talking about. She's famous for the fact that she's an objectively attractive woman with polarizing views and who is therefore very easy to hate.

This past week Tomi made headlines, and not because of her usual hate-filled rants. She was reportedly "permanently banned" from her nightly talk show for the week on Glenn Beck's conservative network, The Blaze, over remarks she said on The View. Tomi announced that she was pro-choice because she believed in limited government. "Stay out of my guns and you can stay out of my body, as well," she told the hosts of The View. Tomi went on to say that she thought pro-life Republicans were hypocritical to try regulating women's bodies in such a way.

Unsurprisingly the response from most of her viewers hasn't been positive.

The backlash that Tomi is facing is not coming from the fact that she identifies as pro-choice, but the fact that she has to "rip" the other side to prove her point. It's incredibly ironic for her to call anyone hypocritical. Tomi Lahren has made a career for herself by perpetuating misleading information and exercising her freedom of speech while simultaneously slamming us "snowflake" liberals for trying to exercise our own



She even previously called pro-choicers "baby killers." Tomi is nothing more than a bully with a national platform to ridicule anyone she doesn't agree with. Now it's blowing up in her face. I personally will never judge a person for being pro-choice or pro-life. I judge people from the way they treat others, and I've never seen Tomi say anything positive about someone who doesn't fit her political alignment perfectly. She calls herself an independent thinker but trashes others for doing the same thing on the opposite side of the political spectrum. How is that independent

thinking? To reinforce the line in the sand between conservatives and liberals?

Some of Tomi's more famous rants include her distaste for the #BlackLivesMatter movement. She heavily criticized Colin Kaepernick's decision to take a knee during the national anthem in protest of police brutality against African Americans and other minorities. When pressed by Trevor Noah of The Daily Show on how she thought #BlackLivesMatter should protest, she could only provide "peacefully." Isn't that what Kaepernick did? Additionally, Tomi has insulted International's Women's Day and the Women's Marches. She simplified the fight for equal pay, reproductive rights for all, and the end to gender violence to playing the victim, belittling serious and universal issues.

Now if I take away her hypocritical stances and just listen to her talk, it physically pains me. She starts talking down to anyone who disagrees with her in this monotone voice, as she clearly reads word for word off a promoter. To like-minded people, this seems like a great thing, putting us snowflakes in our place. This is the worst thing you can do as a political commentator. There's one thing I know to be true: the moment you start to talk down to someone because of their beliefs, they stop listening to what you have to say, no matter who is right or wrong. I know I do this. Hell, if I get the slightest inkling that someone thinks they know better than me or is going to "tell me the facts," I shut down, dig my heels in, getting ready to fight them.

Remember how I said I was trying to

be more tolerant? Yeah. It's a work in progress.

Also, snowflakes? Really? That's the best she could come up with? To call liberals snowflakes? I don't mind being called a snowflake. Snowflakes are beautiful individuals and a couple million of them can shut down New York City for a day. Not the worst thing to be called, and I'm pretty sure that's not Tomi's interpretation of "snowflake" either so win-win!

All Tomi Lahren does is continue to push this narrative that she's somehow better than everyone because she's "more informed." No duh, she should be more informed. It's her job to analyze and make connections in the news for her viewers because that's the role of media in our society: to be the middle man between politicians and their constituents. But Tomi isn't informed. She only adds to old, conservative tropes and never dares to criticize our current administration, blaming anyone and anything over those who are actually at fault. Being liberal or conservative, or Democrat or Republican, should not be synonymous with being morally right or wrong. There's plenty of liberals that I do not like because being a liberal doesn't mean that you can't be a shitty person too. Same goes for conservatives.

I guess all I can say is be better than Tomi Lahren. Be willing to listen to others and don't talk down to them. Don't be afraid to call out people who you normally agree with on their bullshit. And don't think you're better than anyone else - we're all pretty shitty at the end of the day.



# Why I Let A Norwegian TV Show Influence My Study Abroad Plan

by Kirsten Nolan  
Staff Skammer

This is pretty embarrassing for me to admit but I one hundred percent chose where to study abroad based on a TV show. The show, *Skam*, takes place in Oslo, Norway and is actually funded through Norway's public broadcasting channel, but I'm not even studying abroad in Norway. I'm going to Copenhagen, Denmark, which was the closest place I could get to Oslo, but it's cool with me. I haven't actually studied abroad yet, so I could regret this completely. I'm really excited!

I found out about *Skam* on the internet, as most people nowadays find out about things. But when I first read about it, it didn't really strike me as something I absolutely had to watch. Norway is so random, I thought when I read about how the show was becoming the latest internet sensation. But then in my Understanding Television class my professor mentioned it. She hadn't watched it either but explained what she knew about it, and the show began to intrigue me more. At its core, the show is a teen drama. I've been told it's just like the British show *Skins*, but I have never actually watched *Skins*, so I cannot confirm this. What I can confirm, is that *Skam* is really enthralling and is worth the watch.

What makes *Skam* more unique than your typical *Gossip Girl* or *Riverdale* teen drama is that it heavily incorporates social media into its content. Almost every major character has an Instagram and Facebook account and while the show is airing, these accounts are updated. The

## Save London for when you're ninety, and go to Copenhagen now!

show also posts screenshots from the characters' text messages to get yet another glimpse into their lives outside of what viewers see during the episodes. The best thing about it though is that their accounts and text

## What is the point of studying abroad if you aren't going to maybe run into Harry Styles in front of McDonald's?

messages actually seem authentic. It doesn't seem like it's just an out-of-touch middle-aged producer trying to sound like a teenager on Instagram. Besides just the cool and original use of social media and technology, *Skam* drops clips from their episodes throughout the week in real time. So if there is a scene where a character is getting coffee with her boyfriend on a Tuesday at 5 pm, the clip will drop on Tuesday at 5 pm Norwegian time. The producers and creator work hard to make the show seem authentic and true to life, which is refreshing to see in a show when so often on American television there are thirty year olds playing high school sophomores (@*Glee*).

So because *Skam* is so innovative in its conception, I decided to start watching it last December. I then proceeded to binge the whole series during my reading days and finals, and it was honestly a great decision that I

do not regret at all. I didn't even do that poorly on my finals, so it was a win-win for me. Around the same time that I started watching *Skam*, I was also starting to think about studying abroad. For as long as I could remember I had my heart set on going to London for study abroad. I thought it was perfect because 1) they speak English there and 2) being that One Direction is a British-Irish boy-band, there is a greater chance of me running into one of them in London. And after all, what is the point of studying abroad if you aren't going to maybe run into Harry Styles in front of McDonald's?

But watching *Skam* had a weird influence on me and my study abroad decision specifically. Being that it is Norwegian, *Skam* introduced me to a culture that I really had no knowledge of beforehand. The most I knew about Scandinavian culture was that it had IKEA, the actor Alexander Skarsgård, and Swedish meatballs. By watching *Skam* I got a better glimpse at what Scandinavian culture is like. The cozy sweaters and high-waisted jeans the characters wear, the music they listen to, and the little weekend trips they go on to their cabins by the lake and in the mountains showed me how trendy and interesting their culture actually is. I know the television show really just showed the highlights of it all, but it was enough to sway me to definitely want to visit Scandinavia.

Watching *Skam* made me realize that maybe sticking to London would be a bit boring for me, personally. That is not to say that if you are studying abroad in London you are boring

or making a boring decision! Just for me, it felt like the safe choice.

Still, even after watching and re-watching *Skam* over winter break, I was not ready to fully commit to studying abroad anywhere else besides London. I hovered over the "Study Abroad in Scandinavia" link on the study abroad website, but I continued to fill out the London application, telling myself it was the better option. Like I said, London seemed like the easy, safe decision to make. Then, ten days before the application was due, I took the plunge and changed my mind. One of my professors pushed me the most. She told me I would definitely go to London someday, but there was less of a chance that I would ever have a reason to go to Copenhagen. She said I could be ninety and still get myself to London, but a city like Copenhagen was less likely. So I raced to get my application done and then I was accepted to study abroad in Copenhagen in the fall.

I know this is not that revolutionary. So many people study abroad in Copenhagen. The city is still in Europe! Most people still speak English! But for me, a natural born homebody, the decision is a little scary. And it's weird because I know if I had never watched *Skam*, I never would have even thought about going to Copenhagen instead of London. I am happy with the decision I made though. Now in less than 150 days I will be there, soaking up Scandinavian culture. Hopefully everything will be exactly how it is in *Skam*, or I will be so disappointed and demand to get my money back.



# Honey dew? More Like Honey DON'T! Why the Green Melon Sucks

by Jack Archambault  
Staff Fruit Fly

First, let me preface this by saying that this article does not belong in the Opinions section because everything I am about to say is the indisputable truth. I have never been so sure of anything in my entire life, and my very existence is more debatable than the fact that honeydew is the worst fruit.

What makes honeydew so bad is not necessarily that it tastes bad; it is just offensively bland. It does not taste bad in the way that cheese tastes bad (you can fight me on this) or the way snake shit tastes bad (I assume). It's more of a massive disappointment. Nothing simultaneously raises and then crushes my spirits like seeing fruit salad in the cafeteria and then discovering that the bowl is chock-full of honeydew. That's because honeydew can take a fruit salad from an A to a C+, at least. It is nothing but a hard, tasteless obstacle that one must either ignore or choke down in order to get to the good stuff. The perfect fruit salad should contain cantaloupe, strawberries, pineapples, raspberries, and

## Fruit salad with honeydew, NOT yummy, yummy @ The Wiggles

blueberries, just for some size variation. You can throw grapes in there if you want, but they're more of a sixth man, better served coming off



the bench when another fruit is unavailable. Honeydew, however, ranks somewhere around 12th or 13th on this list of ideal fruits. To even put it in the conversation as a top-tier fruit that belongs in a salad is simply insulting to the consumer and to every other fruit that has any semblance of flavor.

What truly gets to me, though, is that it is nearly impossible to come

across a fruit salad that does not contain honeydew. There is no possible way that I can be the only person who detests this green trash. Given

how abundant it is, sometimes I feel like I'm taking crazy pills. However, I have learned that there is a reason for the superfluous amounts of honeydew that we get. It is roughly half as expensive as cantaloupe. Plus, buffets like to put it out because it looks nice

next to cantaloupe and watermelon, even though it is typically served out of season and most of it is wasted. Even the people who put honeydew on fruit platters know it's bland as hell and universally detested, but it is more of a garnish to make other fruits look more enticing. At this point, I'm actually just sad for honeydew. Its pointless existence is only perpetuated because it's cheap and looks good at

first glance. Maybe instead of poking fun at honeydew we should just be a little less cruel towards it.

But then again, maybe not. At the end of the day, honeydew is still about as flavorful as lettuce, and I can easily think of fifteen fruits that I would rather eat. Don't believe me? Here they are: watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, pineapples, grapes, apples, oranges, mangoes, peaches, kiwis, bananas, blackberries, and starfruit. I have never even eaten a starfruit, but I am confident that it cannot possibly taste any worse than honeydew. I know that because honeydew is a bland melon for bland people. Honeydew is the melon for the John Smiths of the world. I am willing to bet any amount of money that ex-Bachelor Ben Higgins, possibly the blandest person alive, eats honeydew like there's no tomorrow. Every time I see honeydew, in all of its beige-green glory, I have to wonder, can anyone hate honeydew more than honeydew must hate itself?

# The Effects of Climate Change have Never Been Clearer

by Kelly Tyra  
Deaditor-in-Chief

In the Bronx there is a garden people pay to visit, they sit on trolleys that trudge and trash the troposphere with carbon dioxide as concrete and tourist feet stamp out and over Poe's cloudy-looking woods, this week in Congress the new leader of the EPA denied publically that the CO2 pluming and oozing like an omen from the tailpipes of trucks, trains, planes, factories, and the Botan-mobile in front of me is a leading contributor to global warming, I cross the street to the school where I learned why he is wrong in an intro level environmental education class, the more Pruitt speaks on issues regarding the air we all breathe I wonder why he seems like such an airhead, even I can contribute more expertise and I am only an environmental studies

## ...but our government wants us to think otherwise (a poem)

minor, but in class I pay attention, I've learned to care, to look at the world as it is, not as it benefits corporation that are recognized as humans while humans often don't even have that advantage in our country of equality, I've learned that white polar bears have black skin as do the ice caps to which they cling and claw as their blubber thins, the ice chunks chip and drip tears of solidarity, turning gray as they float away from one another, but the true terror lies below the surface where warm currents cut like sharks teeth that wash up on beaches that claim more shore, you can hear them crashing, waving goodbye to the world as we know it because some people don't know, don't care about those polar bears, whose tundra's are turning gray attracting the attention of the sun even

more every day, and those people are in charge now, the sheer irony mirrored in Greenland's name as her ice melts, Iceland rebounds as rocks like a memory foam mattress rise to meet the sun again, the coming changes visible in the Springs, at least the ice and green hills of Te Urewera, New Zealand are now protected as people but the land does not have a brutal history to reclaim, a history once glazed over in glacier of our ancestors populating distant places turning century after century of rape and pillage and ending up here or there on the get-away ship into a society that spreads like a cloud of soot across masses of land, calling them countries even as they float away to keep us apart we spread like parasites and called it discovery in textbooks but genocide on remembrance day,

do you know, Mr. Business Major, Mr. Trump flag in your window, that dragging a colonoscopy tunnel through the sacred lands of ancestral nations is not worth the money or the heat, it is not making America great again it is poisoning the water, it is poisoning the water and Flint, MI hasn't had clean water in 1,063 days (last week a school in the South Bronx reported lead levels twice as high) pretty soon kids will need a parent permission slip to learn that your oil is the rotten decay of dinosaurs, yes, I bet(sy) Pruitt will make that phone call but soon he won't be able to hide the evidence of his negligence. It will have a body count.

*Editor's note: This is meant to be read as like, a poem. Just so you like, you know, know.*

## the paper's View

### I think Maybe Capitalism Is Killing Art

“Does everything need a goddamned franchise?!” I scream before hurling my laptop out my tenth floor window directly into an unsuspecting, but probably deserving, longboarding undergrad. Four more Power Rangers films. Are they trying to directly commodify my childhood? Would the capitalist swine stoop so low as to make a profit off my fond memories of destroying my mother’s peaceful weekend with Saturday morning reruns of recycled Japanese footage? How fucking dare they? “I will not accept this,” I shout, grabbing my coat and running out the door. My roommate tries to stop me in the hallway. I push him to ground. He’s bourgeois scum. I found him buying a video game that wasn’t an original I.P.. Does he not value the need for constant innovation? The proletariat can’t rise up if we become complacent. I can’t relax as I ride the elevator ten floors to the lobby. The girl next to me asks if I’m all right. I mumble “Cars 3 has been announced,” before curling up in the corner. The doors open. I rise swiftly. I must bring the revolution. Three almost entirely identical girls enter the lobby through the front doors as I’m running out. “Fucking hivemind drones,” I yell. They seem unphased. I remember they’ve gotten this from me twice today. Suddenly I’m in Times Square. I must have blacked out on righteous indignation again. There are people, so many people. And the lights, the lights, oh the lights, they burn with the fury of a thousand forum comments, all screaming in unison, “Toy Story 4 is a cynical cash grab given the near-perfect ending we received in Toy Story 3.” A child asks if I’m okay. I ask if he’s seen *The Lion King 1 1/2*. The child cries. I can tell by the look in his eyes he’s seen all the direct to dvd Disney sequels. His parents are foul enablers of our constant oppression. “You’re foul enablers of our constant oppression!” I scream at what I assume are his parents. They are not, but by the capitalist shine of their iPhones’ flashes as they ready evidence for the police report I know my point stands valiant and true. I ready my trusty bourgeois basher baton and exact my vengeance on every advertisement for major franchises. I know in my heart of hearts in this way alone I will decimate their domestic box office growth and true art shall rise from the ashes of the decadent filth so erroneously called film studios. Soon I come to realize that most every cop in the area has me surrounded. “Enemies of the revolution” I scream as they taser me out of so called concern for the public well being. They’ll never understand I’m trying to save them. Star Wars is planned through 2030. Don’t they know that we’re fucked? As soon as I make bail I set out to record the story of my plight so that my brothers in arms prepare to march. I record it on vinyl as it is the medium of the true artist. Spread my message children of the revolution.

Transcribed from anonymous vinyl submission by,

John Looby, with emotional support in the Toy Story bit from Luis Gomez

## Misunderstood

by anonymous

I may be a little contagious  
but everyone is acting outrageous

They look at me like I stink  
cuz my eyes are sorta pink

I walk in a room, people retreat,  
yet I refuse to accept defeat

People say, “look at that girl’s eye mucus,”  
“step away from that inbred doofus”

Ya, I know this infection is kinda beat  
but it is not okay to treat me like unwanted meat

In religion they teach Imago Dei  
and still you run away

Saying “yes” would have been a lie  
when people asked if I was high

My integrity: was it worth the trouble?  
the pink eye has locked me in a bubble

Jesus risked becoming a leper  
he truly is God’s shepard

Christ, a genuine martyr, would never neglect  
while you betray and refuse to protect

Don’t even try to deny this:  
You are AFRAID OF CONJUNCTIVITIS!

## Pink eye

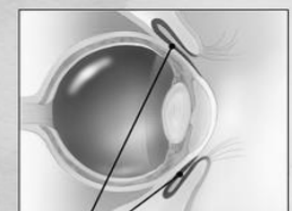
Also called: conjunctivitis

ABOUT

SYMPTOMS

TREATMENTS

Eye with conjunctivitis



Lining of eye  
(conjunctiva)

# A Response to Being a White American in Political Discussion

by John Looby

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Well shit, didn't think this one would ever have to be clarified, but oh my god yes, white privilege exists. I'll make this as abundantly clear as I can. If you come from the race that used to literally own other races, you are at an advantage in life. As a straight white man in America, I am basically playing Monopoly, except I started with a bunch of extra money and get easier rules. I'm not proud of this, but I refuse to ignore it. Of course some people (we all know who I am talking about), won't even acknowledge the existence of their privilege. Interestingly enough, a guy named Paul Piff actually did a psychological study where he did the whole rigged Monopoly thing. Turns out science shows objectively that when you're given an upper hand you start refusing to admit you have one and treat others like garbage (@whiteamerica). That's basically the only reason I can give to the existence of an article called, "I'm White and Don't Have White Privilege" outside of satire. Clearly someone needs to try a little harder to avoid being quite so outlandishly problematic.

Oh, but don't you worry friends and lovers, we are dumpster diving to find the real trash-gems of this article. So there's this bit of non-logic: "When people tell me that I live a privileged life because I am white, that I don't, and will never know, a non-white's struggle I feel like all the hard work I've put in to get where I want to be... is all being belittled." No. The pressure to sympathize isn't an attack on your work. When you see someone in a wheelchair do you think: "Fuck, I can walk! Everything I've done is meaningless" or do you understand that others face different adversities than you?

Of course, this article establishes that some people aggressively don't understand, which is shown with this manifestation of sheer ignorance: "I have the exact same opportunities available to me as any non-white person does." Stop. Please stop yourself. Read an article on systemic oppression and cyclical poverty. The system is rigged and we don't all have the same opportunities. Saying, "Hardships do not discriminate, neither does ill-

## Gosh! For the love of all that is holy, white privilege exists!

ness, rape, hate, robbery or murder" is bullshit. Criminal victimization statistics for 2014 show that in America, violent crime does actually discriminate based on race. I, as a white person, don't have nearly the level of risk and fears of, you know, getting fucking murdered. That's a privilege. The history of America has, through acts like white flight, cultivated an environment where white Americans shelter themselves from the harsh realities



people of color face. One might think hardships don't discriminate because they are not made to observe as it occurs, and again, that's a privilege.

Moving on, here's a nice straw man argument: "So when anyone says that 'white privilege' is the bane of a non-white's existence, remember you are diminishing the accomplishments of non-whites by making it appear as though these people just happened to get lucky." Yeah that's gonna be a no from me. The acknowledgement of white privilege does not mean that the oppressed cannot succeed. It is not luck that they succeed but an incredible overcoming and years of struggle. As Ta-Nehisi Coates put it, "If I have to jump six feet to get the same thing that you have to jump two feet for — that's how racism works." White privilege is a colossal head start, but not a magical 'only my success is valid and

allowed' barrier. Continuing with this line of critique let's look at this "Solutions do not come easier to white people." I'd like to direct everyone to the history of the criminal justice system in this country and move on.

At this point if you haven't figured it out yet, I'd like to formally announce that I do in fact lean so far to the left that Google maps doesn't let me take right turns for my own safety. So after I was told my white privilege

my opinions time and time again." Your point might not be that great if your primary defense is that technically it's not illegal to say. It's not illegal to say that Shakespeare was a lizard person, but I don't think my professors will buy my case that only lizard men speak in iambic pentameter. A good argument goes beyond 'I can say this if I want to.' It also helps to go beyond so super generalized critiques such as "Stop trying to force society to be considerate of other people's feelings — life doesn't stop for a few— and yes I'll say it— snowflakes." First of all what is wrong with being considerate to others? Does the apocalypse start once everyone is treated with decency and comfortable in their identity? Second, the hypocrisy in calling liberals 'snowflakes' is super jarring when one sentence later we're told "don't resort to insults." I'm confused. Is being an asshole the designated conservative territory? Am I not allowed to say 'fuck off' to a person who compares me to Joseph Stalin and Joseph Goebbels, committers of genocide, for critiquing points I disagree with? We have a standing rule in the paper office to finish your argument without referencing Nazis. I can't believe I have to explain this, someone you disagree with is not the fucking darkest part of human history. Liberals and conservatives love playing the Hitler card. It's never a good argument; it's the laziest of arguments. Why bother researching when you can scream 'Nazi scum!'?"

When I think about all this having seen someone try to deny white privilege, I'm not all that surprised that their follow up would be an attempt to delegitimize their opposition, but it's a disappointing addition to a growing trend. People don't genuinely want to discuss. Saying "We conservatives love discussion" and "I'm forced to engage in discussion, to hear views that contradict mine" in the same article makes it kind of obvious. Most people want to "discuss" but in reality it's just who can call the other person a Nazi, enemy of free speech and self expression the fastest. Stop attacking character and just stick to the fucking point like say the overwhelming abundance of evidence that white privilege exists in this country.

didn't exist and vented all the reasons I disagree with that idea (as you've just read), I'll admit I was interested when the next installment of Brianna Lyman's A Series of Misrepresented Realities was announced. I won't say I was surprised when it turned out to be an accusation about the sort of thing that we do here at the paper. It was the same sort of argument that both sides of the aisle are guilty of writing. The shouting match of 'you're intolerant for disagreeing with me... I have the right to say whatever I believe... Don't insult me' is about as productive as a highly flammable fire extinguisher.

Now, let's jump into the next rhetoric dumpster and pretend not to be disgusted with ourselves. To begin, here's one of the laziest arguments possible: "Sorry liberals, but I luckily have the First Amendment to validate

# Arts

## Switching on the Nintendo Switch, Nintendo's Fancy New Console

by Matthew Whitaker  
Arts Co-Editor

On March 3rd, Nintendo released its new video game console, the Nintendo Switch. The console's main feature is that it is both a portable and home console, as it can be played on the go or while connected to a TV. This allows players to enjoy games like *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* in the comfort of their homes or on a crowded Metro North train. As an owner of the console, I have had the pleasure of experiencing both options. I picked up the Nintendo Switch on launch day, and bought *Breath of the Wild* and *Super Bomberman R* the next day. Setting up the Nintendo Switch was very simple, and I was playing *Breath of the Wild* within minutes of powering on the console.

The Nintendo Switch offers three styles of play, those being TV Mode, Handheld Mode, and Tabletop Mode. So far, I have been playing mostly in TV Mode, which offers superior graphical performance when compared to the other modes. As a commuter, I spend a lot of time on Metro North trains, so when Monday came after Switchmas weekend, it was time to try out Handheld Mode. After accidentally falling off a cliff in *Breath of the Wild*, I pulled my Nintendo Switch out of the Nintendo Switch Dock, and the console seamlessly switched to Handheld Mode, with Link continuing his plummet from the cliff on the console's screen. The transition was so smooth that I had time to save Link by pulling out his paraglider, sparing me a repeat viewing of the Game Over screen. After

### Exploring the world of Hyrule on a Metro North train

placing the console in my backpack, I hopped on a Metro North train to Fordham and continued my journey in the land of Hyrule during the ride. The Nintendo Switch feels great to play on the go, and has added plenty of fun to my daily train rides. Whether I play my Nintendo Switch on my TV at home or in the McGinley Center, it is always a fun experience.

Most of my time with the Nintendo Switch has been spent playing *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*. (No spoilers in this article, I promise!) To put it simply, I think *Breath of the Wild* is the best Legend of Zelda game Nintendo has ever created. It breaks the conventions of the Zelda series in the best ways possible, offering newfound freedom in any way you can imagine, except for petting dogs. You can't do that, but you can play with them. In past three-dimensional Zelda games, the game world was made up of separated areas with defined borders, limiting the player's freedom in exploring Hyrule. *Breath of the Wild* breaks this convention by following one rule: if you can see it, you

can get to it. In one instance, I noticed the orange glow of a Shrine at the top of a snowy mountain on the horizon, and spent two in-game days traveling to it, facing strong monsters and freezing weather on my journey. *Breath of the Wild*'s best experiences are the ones the player creates, like my adventure to reach the Shrine atop the mountain.

The game's open world offers countless hours of exploration, as the map is bigger than *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*, *The Wind Waker*, and *Twilight Princess* combined.

*Breath of the Wild* gives the player freedom in much more than just exploration. The game redefines puzzle-solving in the Zelda series, allowing the player to find several solutions to one puzzle. A puzzle I had trouble with required the player to burn a trail of leaves leading to a wooden barricade blocking a door, with hanging metal lanterns located above the leaves. The first solution I found was to use Magnesis, an ability which allows Link to move metal objects from a distance, to smash a lantern against a wall, causing

its flame to fall on the leaves. Another solution was to shoot a bomb arrow at the leaves, igniting them without breaking a lantern. Also, I could have placed Red Chuchu Jelly near the leaves and struck it with an arrow, blowing it up and burning the leaves. Most puzzles in *Breath of the Wild* offer the player this much freedom in solving them, making the puzzle-solving fresh and exciting.

Freedom is prevalent in all aspects of *Breath of the Wild*, and its story is no exception. The player is free to choose the order in which the story is experienced, if the player chooses to even experience it at all. After completing the tutorial on the Great Plateau, the player can travel anywhere in Hyrule and immediately face the final boss without completing any other objectives. In my playthrough, I decided to complete all objectives related to the main story before facing the final boss. I think that this is the best way to experience the game, as the game's backstory came together in pieces as I completed all the main story objectives. The story is aided by cutscenes with full voice acting, and can get very emotional at times.

Playing *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* on the Nintendo Switch has been lots of fun over the past few weeks. I think the Nintendo Switch is off to a great start, with plenty of great games like *Splatoon 2* and *Super Mario Odyssey* coming this year. Overall, the Nintendo Switch has a very promising future.



## EVENTS

**What:** Bronx Celebration Day

**Where:** McGinley Second

**When:** Sat. April 1st @ 12 PM to 4 PM

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** It's a day to appreciate the culture of the Bronx.

**What:** Commuter Week

**Where:** Rose Hill Campus

**When:** Mon. March 27th to Sat. April 1st

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** Travel around the world with Commuter Week, offering activities themed around places like Tokyo and Cairo.

**What:** Rodrigue's Open Mic

**Where:** Rodrigue's Coffee House

**When:** Tues. April 4th @8 PM

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** You can watch others perform their talents or perform your own, like reciting Spongebob quotes by memory.

## The Value of New Intellectual Properties in Video Games

by Scott Saffran

Copy Editor

*Horizon Zero Dawn* (HZD) was one of the more anticipated releases of early 2017, contending with games like *Nioh* and *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* and new console, the Nintendo Switch. What set HZD apart in the minds of most video game consumers was the impressive originality of the game concept. For those unfamiliar, HZD is set in a sort of post-apocalyptic world overrun with robotic beasts and dinosaur-like creatures. The story focuses on a young hunter named Aloy, who has been cast out from her tribe, and her quest to traverse the expanse and learn more about her own history and the world in which she lives. This game felt truly new. This was a character we had never met before in a world we had never yet seen. The entire concept, while riffing significantly off open-world action RPG tropes, was intoxicatingly imaginative. Even more impressive was the fact that publisher Guerilla Games was able to create on such a scale after working with the *Killzone* IP uninterrupted since 2004.

So what does this mean and why is HZD important? Let's take a look at the best-selling games of 2016. In order from first to last: *Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare*, *Battlefield 1*, *The Division*, *NBA 2K17*, *Madden NFL 17*, *Grand Theft Auto V*, *Overwatch*, *Call of Duty: Black Ops III*, *FIFA 17*, and *Final Fantasy XV*. All but one of these games are a sequel or a spin-off of an existing IP. One is even a remaster of a previously released game. Still, these are the best-sellers, the games we gamers went out to purchase by our own volition. Intuitively, this shows that the video game public is simply not predominantly interested in new video game experiences. Of course, publishers will be taking note of these numbers; it's why they

### Industry needs fresh IP's, not stale sequels

make these games after all. If existing IPs like *Call of Duty*, *Grand Theft Auto*, and *Battlefield* are the moneymakers, why try anything new? *COD: Infinite Warfare* was the thirteenth installment in the COD franchise. Activision had published a variation of a first-person military shooter twelve times prior and the thirteenth time was able to sit at the top of the charts, undisputed. There is no incentive to divert from the obscene flows of cash.

Nevertheless, console producers have taken notice of this trend and

sequels and spinoffs make their money hand-over-fist, now more than ever before there is little reason for gamers to side with one console over another. If I can play what were effectively the top ten games of 2016 on either the PS4 or the Xbox One, what reason do I have to choose one over the other?

HZD and Aloy, herself, are crucial to PlayStation and Sony's continued success. While general console exclusives like *Uncharted 4* are a boon for business, new IPs like HZD are doubly valuable. By publishing this game, Sony is

investing in an identity for the PS4. They are helping to create something that is inextricably connected to PlayStation's fourth generation, a reason for gamers to choose their console. This even holds true for publishers and developers. Rocksteady, the developer of the *Batman: Arkham* series – while renowned for their impressive track record – will never jump immediately to mind at the sight of the Caped Crusader. CD Projekt Red, developer of *The Witcher* series has the right idea. After the massive success of their third installment, the Polish studio is turning to an entirely new IP with *Cyberpunk 2077* in

hopes of sealing their legacy with an IP that is unmistakably CDPR.

Mainstays like GTA, COD, and all the sports titles under the sun are not going anywhere. However, outside these juggernauts is where console producers, publishers, and developers should be looking to make their names with original IPs that cement their brand identities and provide a continuous cycle of new content for video game consumers. Whether they be console exclusives or just a break from an overly published series, new IPs in video games are inherently beneficial to all areas of the gaming industry. Of course, this all assumes they aren't garbage. \*cough\**No Man's Sky*\*cough\*

# CALL OF MONEY

## REHASHED WARFARE

*The game no one wants*





# Lucha Underground Wrestles the Pro Wrestling Monopoly

by Scott Saffran  
Copy Editor

## Unique wrestling show enters the ring

The wacky world of wrestling has been long dominated by one force: World Wrestling Entertainment. Every Monday and Tuesday night, their television programs broadcast on the USA Network. Every few Sundays, their pay-per-view events air. For every second in between, there's the WWE Network, a streaming service chock full of all the pro wrestling you could imagine. Pro wrestling in America, especially on our airwaves, is damn near a monopoly. Fortunately, on March 15 a new avenue opened up. On that day, Netflix brought aboard *Lucha Underground*. While it still airs live on Robert Rodriguez's El Rey Network, the show's first two seasons have found a residence on the streaming juggernaut.

What is *Lucha Underground*? The easy answer: pro wrestling. No matter which way you slice it, the show is focused on presenting professional wrestling matches. The long answer is a bit more interesting. For the bulk of its existence, traditional American pro wrestling broadcasts have been consistent of wrestling matches loosely (or not at all) strung together with interview segments and backstage vignettes. LU takes a very different approach. The series is filmed as a narrative with an unmistakable B-Movie crime/horror/sci-fi vibe. Every episode is part of a larger story. Each match contributes not only to the night's events, but to an overarching tale that includes a diverse roster of characters consistently crossing paths. The backstage vignettes featured throughout are filmed with a cinematic flair and add much to the distinctive style of the show.

While this all aids in making LU unique, the singular separating factor remains lucha libre. The cast consists of luchadores from the United States, Mexico, Canada, Japan, Australia, and Puerto Rico. Many luchadores are masked, some are not – but all per-

form as unique and entertaining characters ranging from motorcycle goons to spiritual embodiments of mythical beasts to immortal vessels of death itself. Many legendary luchadores like Rey Mysterio Jr., Chavo Guerrero, Blue Demon Jr., Dr. Wagner Jr., and Mascara Sagrada have made appearances and even stuck around for a season or two. The style of combat is high-flying, high-risk action that challenges traditional American wrestling conventions. The multitude of combatants contribute a range of backgrounds, keeping



### 10 Best WrestleMania Matches Of All Time

1.4M views



20K



694



Share



Add to

the in-ring proceedings always exciting and never stale. Lucha libre is extravagance, from the costuming to the announcing to the fans at ringside. LU embodies those traditions excellently and adds its own unmistakable twist to maintain its individuality.

Why should you watch *Lucha Underground*? If the idea of pro wrestling throws you into a twisted rage, this show will do nothing to change that. Like mentioned above, no matter how you slice it, LU is still wrestling. If you used to watch WWE when you were in grade school, then you should give this a try. Familiar faces and favorite tropes make this easy to get in to as a casual fan, while the narrative form fits perfectly for weekend binging. If you actively enjoy wrestling, but have been repulsed by the major wrestling promotions, then you should absolutely add

this to your list. LU prides itself on showcasing the best and most promising talents from across the globe and takes a more self-aware approach to presenting wrestling that is considerably more comfortable to watch. If you are entirely new to the world of wrestling, then I could not recommend any program more than *Lucha Underground*. I would only caution new fans that the show might spoil you and make watching other programs like WWE pretty difficult.

What should you know about the world of *Lucha Underground* if you want to watch? Well, interested parties, you've made it this far. If you are actually interested in watching LU on Netflix, there are a few pieces of information you should know going in. The show is set in a single arena: the Temple in Boyle Heights, CA. As introduced in the first episode, the show is run by promoter Dario Cueto. Cueto is played by Spanish actor Luis Fernandez-Gil. Fernandez-Gil has had no prior wrestling experience, but assumes the role with exceptional talent. He has been recognized in 2015 and 2016 by the Wrestling Observer

Newsletter as Non-Wrestler of the Year. The show progresses linearly, with all information necessary for viewing available at the start. I could recommend several matches, but there is no need to start anywhere but the first episode. Additionally, you'll want to stick with it for a bit. The first few episodes act as a pilot and you'll have to wait an episode or two before the show really picks up steam. You might also want to get those subtitles up on screen. As many of the performers are native Spanish speakers, their promos are in Spanish; Netflix subtitles are in English and will translate the promos for you. Most importantly, prepare to have fun. If I haven't conveyed this clearly yet, LU is entertainment. This is over-the-top, ridiculous amusement and if you are willing to suspend your disbelief, you are going to have a great time.

## SHOWS

**What:** Mimes and Mimmers Present: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

**Where:** Collins Auditorium

**When:** Thu. March 30th to Sat. April 1st @8 PM, Sun. April 2nd @2 PM

**How Much:** TBD

**Why:** You can enjoy another great play by the Mimes and Mimmers.

**What:** Battle of the Bands

**Where:** Rodrigue's Coffee House

**When:** Sat. April 8th @5 PM

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** Have some fun watching ten student bands duke it out to see which gets to open for the spring weekend concert.

**What:** Cinevents: *Passengers*

**Where:** Keating 1st Auditorium

**When:** Mon. April 3rd @9 PM and Wed. April 5th @9 PM

**How Much:** FREE

**Why:** Beats paying \$16 to see it in theaters.

## Food Recommendations for the Broke College Student

by Caroline Bojarski

### Staff Delicacy Discoverer

At this point in the semester, we're all broke. Maybe the savings from a lucrative summer job are beginning to run dry. Maybe you're saving up so you can take an exciting yet unpaid internship. Maybe you're in Gabelli, and you just put a down payment on a new yacht. Regardless of the circumstances, we as Rams are united in our sketchy financial situations.

We all know the stereotype: the budgeting undergrad, crouching in a grimy sublet, subsisting on Ramen noodles, Folgers, and the free pizza from information sessions for which he harbors little to no interest. This should not be you! Lack of sunlight and zero access to delicious food are correlated with higher stress levels and poor test performance. Luckily, even in New York City, options abound if you're in search of sweet and savory treats that you can afford without having to sacrifice your ability

### Delectable dishes that won't eat your earnings

to purchase textbooks. I have compiled a sample of my favorite stunningly delectable, shockingly cheap food vices in the five boroughs.

#### Mamoun's Falafel

At Mamoun's, a massive, warm pita stuffed with crispy falafel and salad is only \$3.50. Located both on Macdougall Street near Washington Square Park and in St. Mark's Place, Mamoun's provides a delightfully filling meal on the go. Add zesty hummus or smoky baba ganouj to your sandwich for just fifty cents. If you're hardcore, add a generous dollop of the hot sauce that you will find perched on one of the tables. I dare you.

Instead of giving Mamoun's a numerical rating, I will simply say instead that I once overheard a man at the Macdougall location murmuring sexual nothings to his sandwich. He was of sound mind, but he just wasn't

able to help himself. The falafel was that good.

#### Peter Pan Donut and Pastry Shop

Unless you're Polish (or even if you're Polish), there aren't many reasons to venture to Greenpoint. This Brooklyn neighborhood, however, does boast excellent food, namely Peter Pan Bakery.

At certain times of day, you will see a small line extending onto the sidewalk from the shining, diner-esque counter of Peter Pan. Wafting over the line will be a smell of donut-y goodness so light and sugary it could break even a hardened gluten abstainer. Glimpses of red velvet and white cream from the window display will lure you inside where you will find to your disbelieving ecstasy that each donut is only \$1. That is correct. A puff of pure fried heaven for only a dollar.

#### Los Hermanos Tortilleria

I found this Bushwick gem entirely by accident, and the tacos were so magical that I was afraid that, should I try to return, I would find the spell broken and that the tortilleria could no longer appear to me as it had in my youth. This is fairytale nonsense of course. Los Hermanos was on Starr Street near the Jefferson L stop that hot July day, and it thankfully remains there still.

The prime reason to be thankful for Los Hermanos is that each taco, homemade tortilla and all, costs a mere \$2.50. Tell Chipotle to try its pre-packaged luck with someone else because Los Hermanos wins in terms of both quality and price. Here, the street cart taco of your dreams meets the stability of a permanent restaurant. Maybe it is always summer at Los Hermanos.

## Rachel's Rad Beauty and the Beast Review

By Rachel Poe  
News Co-Editor

For whatever reasons the internet ever does anything, it was seriously hating on the live-action adaption of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, starring Emma Watson and Dan Stevens, in the weeks leading up to its release. I mean, yes, it's Disney and I have high expectations, especially after *Moana*, but this remake totally exceeded them.

Let's start off just with the cast: Emma Watson is Belle and no one can tell me any different. Her voice was a little autotuned for the role but there's no way kids (who the movie is for) would notice. She totally captured the role. My biggest worry was that she was going to be a singing version of Hermione but they were two completely different characters. The star-studded cast was just fabulous in general: Dan Stevens as the Beast, Ewan McGregor as Lumière, Sir Ian McKellen as Cogsworth, Emma Thompson as Mrs. Potts, Luke Evans as Gaston, Josh Gad as LeFou- it was about as name drop-y as Disney could get.

### Live-action Disney remakes show no signs of stopping

Now, here's where we get into some spoilers so tread lightly if you haven't seen it.

Probably my favorite aspect of the movie was that it didn't feel like a word for word remake of the original animated film. A lot of the songs and sequences were the same but they added some new aspects that I think just gave the movie more depth and pushed the plot further. They even added a couple more songs which was dope as hell. The biggest changes were probably that

Belle was the inventor. She creates this donkey-pulled washing system to do her laundry while she sits and teaches a little girl to read. The whole scene is totally empowering to little girls and it's fucking great. Disney also gave Beast more of a backstory: kind mother dead at a young age, dick of a dad corrupts

him- because it's not a Disney movie unless there's a dead parent. All of the characters were developed just a tiny bit more and that made the movie all the more heartbreaking.

The biggest criticisms of the movie surrounded Belle's signature yellow dress and the director's reveal that *Beauty and the Beast* had the first "explicitly gay scene and character."



and character." The internet was severely hating on Belle's revamped yellow ballgown, calling it ugly, tacky, "why couldn't you have stuck to the original?" Personally, I wasn't the

biggest fan of the original dress so I didn't mind this new one but the criticism that it was cheap looking isn't entirely inaccurate. I would say the top of it doesn't look that great but during the dance sequence you can't tell.

For Disney's "first gay character," no surprise, it's LeFou, Gaston's dorky

sidekick. Both sides of the internet were hating on this one. Obviously, the anti-LGBT community was not okay with a Disney movie having such a "political agenda." I should not have to explain why this is ridiculous, outdated, and hypocritical. On the other hand, many members of the LGBT community and their allies did not like the fact that LeFou is a villain and seemed like an easy out for Disney to insert a gay character. If this is your hesitation for seeing this movie, SEE IT ANYWAYS. I cannot stress enough that LeFou's character is not what you think. Yeah, he goes along with some of the shitty things Gaston does but he's not all that comfortable with it and ultimately redeems himself. It's a really well executed sub-plot and the "explicitly gay scene?" It's fucking adorable so again, everyone shut up and enjoy it.

What more can I say? It's Disney- it's a cute movie with important life lessons and fun sidekicks. If you're a fan of the original, go into it with an open mind and I think you'll enjoy *Beauty and the Beast*.

# Michael's Mysterious Museums

by Michael Sheridan

## Features and List Co-Editor

If you're like me, you love art. And if you love art, chances are you love art museums. However, it can be tiresome to constantly go to the Met, MoMA, Guggenheim, and Frick Collection to see fine art. Luckily, there are many more art museums in New York City beyond these top institutions. Here's a list of museums in the city that might be interesting if you're looking to go a bit off the beaten path.

### The New Museum

Probably the most well-known entry on this list, the New Museum is often overlooked even by those who have heard of it. A relatively new museum (no pun intended), the institution serves to showcase contemporary art. Nothing older than 1960 is ever typically displayed, and shows tend to be even more contemporary than that. This is a great place to discover successful but lesser known artists of today. It is likely that most of these artists are still living! The price for students is \$12. My tip is to do research before you visit and make sure that the museum isn't in between major exhibitions, otherwise it will not be worth the visit.

### The Morgan Library and Museum

If you're into books, libraries, or just beautiful photograph-worthy spaces, then this is the place for you. The room containing the actual library of Pierpont Morgan is a bibliophile's dream and makes the visit to this otherwise small museum worth it. The Museum also rotates through exhibitions with a more traditional approach to art, although occasionally a more modern

## Beyond the Met, MoMA, and Guggenheim

show is held here. Cost of admission is \$13 for students.

### The Museum of Arts and Design

You've most likely walked past this museum dozens of times. Located in Columbus Circle this small museum highlights the arts of fashion, industrial, and graphic design. The shows vary widely, so do research to make sure



the museum is showing something you are interested in and that there are even shows running. Just like the New Museum, if you come in between major exhibitions, the offerings are extremely limited. Don't miss the gift shop as it houses many unique and innovative products, especially jewelry. The restaurant, "Robert," while expensive is a great place to take a date or to simply treat yourself. The view of Columbus Circle and Central Park is simply stunning! The cost is \$12 for students.

### The Skyscraper Museum

While you may have heard of the first three, the Skyscraper Museum is virtually unknown. However, it makes sense that New York, with our dozens of skyscrapers would have such a museum. The museum itself is quite small, and is dedicated entirely to the history of the skyscraper, its role in New York and other cities, and the future of ur-

is the many free samples they give out. In addition, the museum hosts weekly cooking classes ranging from cuisines found all over the world. The museum's website has a detailed schedule of the cooking classes offered. Pay close attentions as some are 21+. Tickets are \$10 a person.

### International Center of Photography

Everyone these days thinks they're a world class photographer because they own an iPhone and can use Instagram filters. Come see some of the best photographs in the world in this space, which houses temporary and frequently changing exhibitions. The photographs are often political and extremely artistic, so if you're unfamiliar with modern art, this might not be the place to start. However, if you're up for a new experience and are willing to engage with the art and be challenged to think, then this is the place for you. Tickets cost \$14.

### Japan Society

This museum houses artwork produced in Japan or by Japanese artists. The museum offers an interesting contrast to the barrage of western artists and artworks that fill almost every other museum in the city (and country). The space is also extremely peaceful, featuring an interior garden and waterfall, making it the perfect place to contemplate the art. Admission is \$10 for students.

Now that you have some new ideas of where to go, get out there and try something new! Netflix will still be there when you get back.

ban construction. The highlight of the museum is the many models they have on display of the various buildings of the world. Cost is a mere \$2.50 to students.

### Museum of Food and Drink

Technically this museum is still a work in progress, yet a gallery space has opened to house temporary exhibits about history relating to food and drink and the impact it has had on culture. The best part of this museum however,



# Honest Internship Classifieds

Tired of sifting through bull shit internship postings that promise one thing but deliver another? Well, for the first time, the paper unveils a classified section without the all the crap.

## Unpaid Intern, Fresh Look Communications

Come work for a startup that will probably fold in a few years! We literally are in such debt that we can barely afford to pay ourselves, so don't expect any sort of compensation. Since we can't afford real employees, we're going to give you a ton of work that any other company would pay you good money for doing.

## Paid Accounting Internship, Deloitte

This internship is everything you've been looking for. Its in a great location, its exactly the kind of work you're interested in, and it pays an amazing salary. But don't worry, you literally have no chance of even getting an interview with us, let alone the actual position. It's okay though, we both know you'll still apply anyway.

## Production Assistant, NBC Universal

This internship is actually relatively interesting, but its unpaid and honestly a lot of work. So to get people to actually apply, we'll lie and promise the possibility of getting an actual job at the end of the internship. We don't have an opening and literally only need some extra help for the summer, so there's no chance you'll ever get work afterward.

## Teaching Internship, CB6

Apply now for this unpaid internship. It's a pretty good position, but the best part is that we'll start paying the interns only after the semester you leave. Enjoy living with the knowledge that the new interns are doing the exact same work as you but getting paid to do it!

## Paid Finance Internship, IBM

Do you know anyone that works here? If the answer is no, don't even bother applying. We won't even look at your resume unless you have someone on the inside.

## "Paid" Arts Internship, Whitney Museum

We got tired of our internships playing the "you don't even pay me card" so we have decided to offer a "modest" stipend for the soulless mule work that we'll have you do. Work for less than \$5 an hour without the ability to complain about it.

## Marketing Internship, Halo Group

We'll lead you on by promising exciting meaningful work and responsibilities. We'll make this sound really interesting and literally say anything to attract vulnerable young people. But honestly you'll end up filing papers, getting coffee, and other mindless tasks that the actual employees are too lazy to do themselves.

## Administrative Assistant, Smith & Brown LLC

The internship is a company that isn't that prestigious and the work isn't that interesting. It's unpaid and probably won't lead to any connections or really help you in the long term. You'll apply here as a safety net, but inexplicably, we won't even call you for an interview

## Mayor's Aide, NYC Mayor's Office

We think we're doing you a service by providing you a travel stipend but we literally haven't taken the subway since 1996 and have no idea how expensive it is. So here's \$30 for the entire three month period.

## Policy Intern, Pro-Progress Lobbying Group

Much like real politics, this internship is designed specifically to suck any soul you might have right out of your chest cavity. Work includes coffee runs, standing around with your thumb up your ass, and handing out pamphlets.



by the paper staff

It's that time of year again! When society comes together and deems it socially acceptable to inflict pain and damage on our friends and family all in the name of "April Fools." However, sometimes, people can go a bit too far with their pranks. We asked the paper staff, what April Fools Prank did you pull that went way too far?

**Veteran Pranker**

**By CANNOT LEGALLY DISCLOSE**

I love pulling April Fool's day jokes and pranks in general. What can I say? I love the thrill. It makes me feel like a spy. I love spies #totallyspies. Shout out if you get that reference. We should be friends. Unfortunately, there's only been one time when I didn't go too far in a prank (when I convinced my mom to get a kitten by covering all her things in our house with pictures of cats). Then there was the time I got stuck in a locker, and a maintenance man had to get me out...commitment. Then there was the time my mom deemed me "slutty" when she thought my magnetic cartilage earring was real...I gave my dad an earring too. Then there was the time I made my roommate cry...I can't talk about that for self-infringement reasons. Basically, I gave up pulling pranks and April Fool's day jokes. I miss it, but it's not worth it.

**Dad?**

**by Declan Murphy**

"My roommate and I have posed as a father/son duo. I'm 6'0" with a beard and he's 5'6" and young-looking. The problem is it worked too well: my roommate was furious that people could believe he was 10. Never mind the fact that people thought I was 40..."

**Prank with me?**

**by Claire Nunez**

In my senior year of high school, I was asked to prom on April Fool's Day. Yes, this is a true story. I was just minding my own business and walking down the hallway in my dumbass dry-fit shirt that said Cornell on it because at that point I was still committed there (LOL TBT). School was over for the day and I just wanted to leave unscathed from pranks. I was walking down the stairs and my friend comes up behind me and we're just small-talking and all that jazz. All of a sudden, he turns super red and spits out, "Claire, will you go to prom with me?" I laughed in his face saying funny joke. It wasn't a joke. He was serious. After a lot of questioning him and then scolding his dumbass for asking me on APRIL FOOL'S DAY, I said I would totally go with him. The moral of the story is that you should always check the calendar before you ask someone to prom, or to marry you or even on a date to be safe.

**Presidential Mistake  
by Fake News Writer**

So back in like the 1990s, I knew this douchebag real estate businessman. He had such a huge ego and kept talking about how he would be the best president ever in the history of this country. So I told him he should run for

president as a prank and even told him that his ideas were relevant to the 21st century. He took my advice literally and ran for president and even won. I don't know how it got this out of hand

and I don't know how to tell the world that this whole thing was supposed to just be a prank. Whoops. I'll keep my mouth shut next time.

**Miss-communication  
by Michael Jack**

When I was really little, like 5 or so, I decided to try and trick my parents into thinking I was my younger sister. I walked to a costume store and bought a wig that looked fairly similar to my sister's hair style. Anyway, fast forward about 15 years and I accidentally became a finalist for Ru-Paul's Drag Race even though I really don't like drag at all. I tried to explain that I just did it as a joke but every time I tried to take off

the wig somebody yelled at me about looking "fucking fierce". I really need to get out of here, but I think that I might be in too deep.

**AHCA April Fools!**

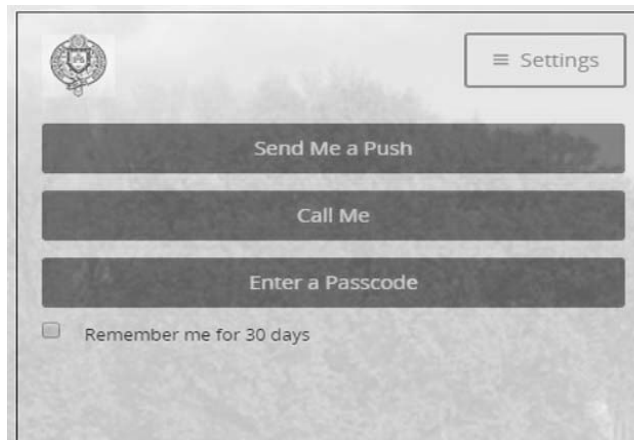
**By Paul Ryan**

Honestly, the whole "repeal and replace Obamacare" thing was always a joke. We were never going to replace the thing with any kind of worthwhile alternative. The whole thing was a scam. It was a joke. I thought it was honestly going to be this whole huge prank, where we'd get to vote on the bill and then light some cigars on the steps of the Capitol and be all like "Surprise! We actually don't care about our constituents!" Because we don't. That was the joke. Me pretending to give a shit about poor people was a joke. I have literally been dreaming of taking away the rights of the impoverished since my last kegger - don't ask when that was. And now the prank's been turned on its head and I look like the asshole. That's not how this was supposed to work. That's not how any of this was supposed to work...

**Didn't Go Far Enough**

**by Rachel Poe**

So my stepdad's truck is his baby, like he's obsessed with keeping it super clean and perfect and spotless. On his truck it says 4x4. I'm not sure what it refers to, probably some car thing that I don't understand. Anyways, when I was younger all I wanted to do for April Fool's was to write "=16" next to the 4x4 in dry erase markers or like shaving cream because I'm a lil shit who likes math just to piss him off. My mom said no, though. Lamest prank ever.



## Top 10 Pranks That Went Way Too Far

2,857,252 views



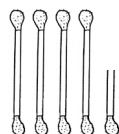
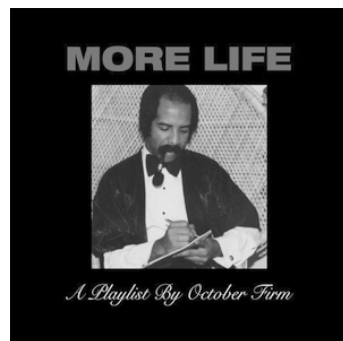
**Drake**  
**More Life**  
 By Emma Chioke

Last weekend Drake released *More Life*, an album he terms a “playlist.” Objectively speaking, I can say that this album might just be one of his best so far. It is nothing like the dull and uninspiring sounds of his previous album *Views*, and I commend him for that. Drake’s new album is so great because it doesn’t know what the hell it wants to be. It can’t be described by a specific genre or musical type because it draws influence from so many countries and musical genres. It is a composite flow of undeniable South London grime, Nigerian undertones, and comical Patois accents.

This album has a more global outreach than his previous ones because features like Skepta, Giggs aka Mayor of South London, and Stormzy have allowed him to stretch his fan base, particularly across UK borders, much to the chagrin of his American fans who cannot relate to UK grime music or its artistes. His use of UK slangs like “wasteman,” “skeng,” “side ting,” and “gyalchester” infuriated his American fan base because they now feel disconnected. To create a balance, he features some of the more mainstream American artists like Kanye, PartyNextDoor, Quavo, and Young Thug.

Drake’s new album and perchance for UK culture and music have made him the butt of many jokes on social media. Some people describe him as a “walking culture studies module” but despite these bare chides, we all love

Drake and the great music he gives us. *More Life* to him.

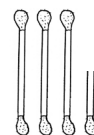
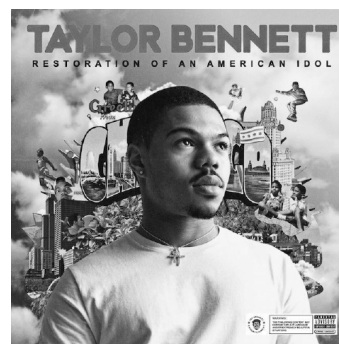


**Taylor Bennett**  
**Restoration of an American Idol**  
 By Josh Rosen

For all of you plebs out there, Taylor Bennett is a rap artist most notable for being Chance the Rapper’s younger brother. Slowly trying to break away from this notoriety, Taylor Bennett, released his best project to date with *Restoration Of An American Idol*, his fourth mixtape. Most songs feature a soft beat with quick verses from Taylor, much like his previous releases. Also like his previous releases, the mixtape features some bangers. The last three songs are harder, so just skip to these if that’s what you’re looking for, especially “Neon Lights” feat. Supa Bwe and Lil Yatchy. Taylor’s verses are pretty impressive and are often accompanied by vocals. The mixtape as a whole

reminds me a lot of Chance the Rapper’s early work.

It is primarily about Taylor’s life, where he is, and what he’s doing. If you are looking for some crazy theme or deep meaning in album or its tracks, you’ll have to scour the lyrics of the songs. Similar content can be found in most any rap album. but I still stand by *Restoration Of An American Idol*. What it lacks in depth it makes up for by sounding exponentially better than said similar content. I actually like all the songs he has on the mixtape. Basically, if you like early Chance the Rapper, you should check out Taylor Bennett on SoundCloud.



**TinderGodz**  
**The Emergence EP**  
 By Reyna Wang

Up and coming jazz fusion band TinderGodz marks their formation as the night they played a basement show in Belmont last fall. No one at the show had ever heard of the band, but the crowd was immediately captivated by their distinctively complex yet danceable groove and their playful energy. The five-piece from The New School, who chose their band name on a whim in reference to the bassist’s avid use of Tinder at the time, kicked off their set with a prayer service to the “Tinder gods,” comically slid snippets of traditional jazz into their avant-garde compositions, and tried to hype up the audience by moshing and kicking over stands. But don’t be fooled by their foolishness; TinderGodz’s music demonstrates tastefully innovative manipulation of unusual time signatures and melodies, and their performances are

characterized by skillful and expressive musicianship.

This year, TinderGodz released *The Emergence EP*, aptly named. The band is inspired by experimental jazz musicians like Tigran Hamasyan, Steve Coleman, and Donny McCaslin as well as by metal bands like Meshuggah, and they describe the unique style of their EP as metal on the bottom with jazz harmony and improvisations on top. The bottom is comprised of weighty, metal-inspired bass lines, guitar fuzz, and dense drums, which include rich fills and are saturated with characteristic elements of metal drumming like double kicks and liberal use of cymbals. Still, this “metal” bottom diverges from the metal genre as it meanders through different time signatures and explores complex rhythms. All of the drums on the EP are programmed, as it wasn’t possible to record them live at the time, which is on one hand impressive from a production standpoint, but on the other unfortunate as the percussion, especially the cymbals, is flat and a bit quiet in the mix, detracting from the full-bodied, heavy groove that TinderGodz brings to their live performances.

“This Is What Happens,” opens the EP explosively with weighty drums and fast and a dark sounding bass and guitar riff after a brief initial saxophone solo and a muted shout. The saxophone first builds on this riff when it reenters, but then breaks away from it into a more freeform melody, loosening the composition from its rapid and rigid start and contributing to the “improvised top” of TinderGodz’s sound. The keys, whose rhythmically contrasting chords produce interesting dissonance, are also essential to the “jazz harmony” that characterizes the “top,” albeit less dominantly than the sax. Shifting between repeated phrases and improvised segments and guiding each song in new directions, the sax can be seen as taking the place of the fronting vocalist of the band, and though it provides engaging melodies, I would have liked to hear more diversity in the instruments that drive the compositions. Additionally, improvisation is an important element of jazz, and along with intriguing shifts in harmony and time, the freeness of movement gives the EP a dreamlike quality; however, I think TinderGodz’s songs could be improved by catchier melodies or even a real vocalist, increasing the

potential for emotional attachment, which is lacking. Another drawback to *The Emergence EP* is that since each instrument was recorded individually, the EP lacks the personality and flow that surface in their live performances, as the members of the band respond to one another's improvisations. Though, to address some of these these drawbacks, the TinderGodz did mention that going forward, they hope to expand the size of their band, adding vocals as well as an extra guitar and more horn parts, and to release a higher quality, live-recorded album.

However, the playful attitude that characterizes TinderGodz's live performances certainly comes through on the EP. "French Scream" begins with the bassist answering a ringing phone and repeatedly asking, "Hello, is this Baguette?" presumably in reference to their French sax player, culminating in a maniacal scream before the distorted guitar and heavy bass riff take over at full force. The third song is actually a cover of Sandstorm by Darude, a song that the band's guitarist is inexplicably obsessed with. Though the cover is made in the style of "recorder-core" and is obviously intended to be comical, I would say it's just as strong as any of the other tracks on the EP. Who knew how much better Sandstorm could sound with some gritty bass, blast beats, and half-decently played recorder?

Though they've only released about 20 minutes of material, TinderGodz shows that it has a lot of potential to appeal to a wide variety of listeners, which ironically results from their one-of-a-kind, niche jazz-metal sound. Jazz Boys will dig it the EP for its free jazz qualities, metalheads and fans of harder hitting music like myself will dig it because it's "heavy, (dude)" and everyone can dig it at the function because it gets them moving. TinderGodz's music is rhythmically and melodically complex while remaining comprehensible to the casual listener, and achieving this balance is no easy feat.



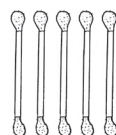
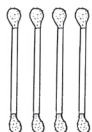
### Spoon *Hot Thoughts* By John Looby

Spoon's *Hot Thoughts* was arguably one of the best records I bought and it would have been the best if I hadn't bought reissues of my favorite albums. The album continues the long trend of constant innovation while still coming from the same vein that brought us

masterpieces like *Transference* and *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga*. Tracks like "Do I have to Talk You Into It" and "Tear It Down" are tour de forces of what Spoon does best. It's the type of catchy hooks and grooves that made fans buy *Gimme Fiction* on the merits of "I Turn My Camera On"

alone. The tracks will make you want to dance in a way that *They Want My Soul* weren't intended to. The percussion paired with the increasing complexity of Spoon's production creates a much more energetic atmosphere than I was expecting.

More than anything else this is a fun album. Spoon has always been in a manner of speaking the pop band of the indie rock scene and this album fully embraces that branding in a way that previous album seem to have scared away from. This is the Spoon album meant to be played at parties is what I'm saying. In the five time I've listened to the album in the past week or so I've never had to think how would explain to a passerby why I'm listening to this in the way that listening to a super sad Bon Iver album gets you a concerned look.



# The Keyboard Solos Playlist



### Miles Okazaki *Trickster* By Kieran McAuliffe

Miles Okazaki's latest release *Trickster* shows the continued development of his unique rhythmically elusive jazz guitar style. He recorded the album while on tour with his mentor Steve Coleman, to which comparisons are inevitable, though Miles definitely proves himself as an independent artist with a unique voice.

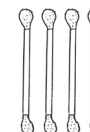
As the name of the record suggests, *Trickster* is not about spoon-feeding singable melodies to the listener. Miles instead presents puzzles: snaky rhythmic phrases that reveal their simple interior only to the careful listener.

The album features a cast not unfamiliar to fans of Okazaki and the scene around him. He borrows electric bassist Anthony Tidd and drummer Sean Rickmann from Coleman's band to help strongly outline the thorny rhythmic forms of these compositions. Pianist Craig Taborn acts as a great counterpart to Miles, as the two trade off both rhythmic chords and melodic phrases especially on tracks like "Box in a Box" and "Kudzu", and also taking the lead role on "Eating Earth".

Reflecting the cover art featuring origami animals crafted from simple paper base, an understated acoustic texture permeates the whole record. Unlike his contemporaries that use guitar tones colored by electronics, Okazaki sticks to either a hollow body guitar plugged straight into an amp or a nylon string acoustic. All members of the ensemble play with great instrumental patience, never overstriking notes and never saturating the tonal field with aimless shredding. The result is none of the daunting cascades of noise one expects from an album that falls within

the realm of "experimental jazz".

Unlike on his previous works, Miles brings in a funk element on tracks such as "Mischief Maker", "Box in a Box" and "Caduceus" reminiscent of Coleman's works. Also, on the last track "Borderland" features Miles exposed playing solo on an acoustic guitar, demonstrating that complex rhythms can be not only be handled by a guitarist alone, but also that they can be lyrical. Along from giving the audience a knot to untie, *Trickster* asks many questions of where experimental jazz on the guitar can go.



# PAPER PETS



ROXIE



MARCUS



LINCOLN + MONROE



PIPPIT



FARLEY



HENRY



ATHENA



ROBI



KINGSLEY