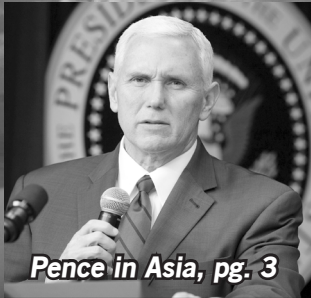


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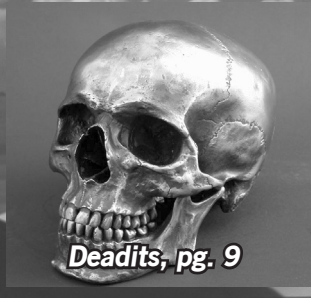
THE PAPER

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the paper

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

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

our aim

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

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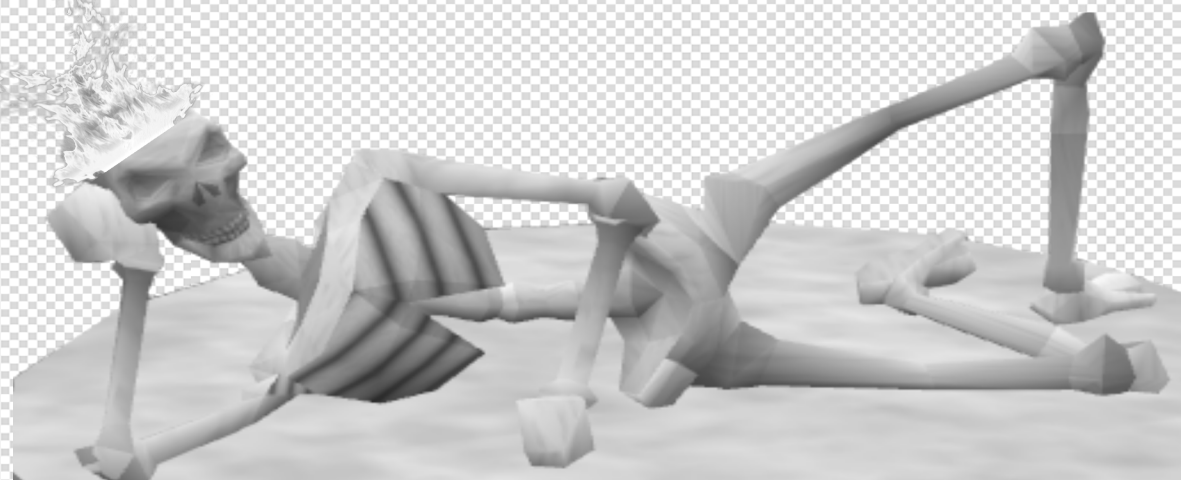
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Shit's fuego, Janet



NEWS

““DEMOCRACY DIES IN DARKNESS” - THE WASHINGTON POST”
- THE PAPER

Pence In Translation: the Vice President Takes a Tour of Asia

By Declan Murphy

Features and List Co-Editor

This week, Vice President Mike Pence began a 10-day tour of Asia to meet with foreign leaders and more precisely define President Trump's foreign policy with regards to Asia. Of course, as with any effort from this administration, there has been confusion, gaffes, and strategic errors. This trip is more noteworthy for elucidating Trump's politics in the Asia-Pacific, including his attitudes towards North Korea, and how he prioritizes different relationships.

This is a time of heightened tension in Asia. Some of this is part of long-term complications that predate Trump. US-China relations are both critical to international security and fraught with tensions. China and the US have, historically, disagreed on a number of issues, as evidenced by many UN Security Council votes on which China either abstained or vetoed. On top of existing tensions, Trump had already taken an aggressive stance towards China on the campaign trail. In the transition period Trump made a controversial call to Taiwan and promised to label China a “currency manipulator” during his first 100 days, (thankfully, he has not followed through on that—yet.) He also shut down the planned Trans-Pacific Partnership, which would have strengthened the US presence in Asia.

Beyond that, the threat of a nuclear North Korea looms large. Recent events have heightened tensions and point to an increased risk. In March, North Korea fired missiles that fell over the Sea of Japan, demonstrating an increased willingness by Kim Jong-Un's government to antagonize enemies in Asia. This is particularly concerning given Japan's ties to the US. This past Sunday, North Korea attempted another

What does this mean for US/Asia relations under Trump?

er missile launch. In a subsequent UN Security Council vote, Russia vetoed a proposed condemnation of the launch, further complicating efforts in the international community to restrain the increasingly aggressive Kim Jong-Un regime.

While the most publicized aspect of the trip is Pence's visit to South Korea, Pence will also visit Japan, Indonesia, and China. It makes sense that the media wants to keep the focus on North Korea. It is arguably the biggest security threat in the Asia-Pacific region. It is also worth noting how the administration is greeted in China and Japan, the latter of which has historically been a strong US ally but whose support may be wavering.

Beginning his tour in South Korea reflects the new, more aggressive approach to foreign policy. The Trump administration has shown an increased willingness to show force to intimidate North Korea. Speaking in the demilitarized zone (DMZ), Pence said that the Trump administration would change tactics from those of the Obama administration, which Pence characterized as “the failed policy of strategic patience”. This likely refers to Obama's tactics of sanctions, acting through the UN to economically target North Korea.

Pence spoke at length about using North Korea's Asian neighbors to pressure Kim Jong-Un to surrender its nuclear weapons program and “join the family of nations”. He cited China specifically, but implicitly such a statement suggests cooperation with Japan and South Korea as well. In a separate speech on the *USS Ronald Reagan*, Pence affirmed that the US would not negotiate with the North Korean government, though he did express hopes

that this could be resolved peacefully.

Then came the gaffes. The error was not from Pence himself, but rather the Commander-in-Chief, whose incendiary comments back home caused trouble for Pence. Trump claimed that he was sending an “armada” to North Korea in order to demonstrate the US's opposition to North Korean aggression. However, the ships Trump was referring to were in fact sailing away from North Korea, to a training exercise in the Indian Ocean. Pence tried to cover, saying that Trump merely wanted to imply the US's *readiness* to marshal such a force. However, the fact remains that Trump spoke in error, and Pence was left to (yet again) defend his actions.

After South Korea, Pence visited Japan to meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Japan is particularly concerned about the failure of the TPP. Pence's visit was aimed at creating trade agreements to improve the bilateral relationship, and both nations publicly proclaimed the strength of the relationship. But Japan is pursuing alternatives to the TPP which will not involve the US, in an effort to check the growing economic strength of its rival China. Pence also reaffirmed the US's commitment to stand against North Korean aggression, which is especially salient given the recent attempted missile launches against Japan.

Pence visited Jakarta, Indonesia on Thursday, where trade was the main agenda item. Pence met with President Joko Widodo to discuss trade. Pence and Widodo reached agreements related to energy totaling \$8 billion, according to Indonesia's foreign minister. It is worth noting that Trump has economic interests in Indonesia, including proposed resorts in Jakarta and Bali.

Further, one of Trump's local business contacts Hary Tanoesoedibjo may run for the Indonesian Presidency in 2020. The Trump administration, therefore, has questionable conflicts of interest in Indonesia.

Pence's trip will also include a visit to Australia, which (like Japan) was disappointed by the failure of the TPP and is looking in to alternatives.

So what are the major takeaways from this trip? Well, first and foremost, conflict is undoubtedly brewing in Asia. The Trump administration's hardline stance against North Korea is potentially dangerous and unstable, but demonstrates a commitment that is certainly a new direction in US foreign policy. Trump is increasingly aggressive towards North Korea in a way that we haven't seen before. Whether or not he will succeed in using pressure to create a peaceful solution, or will instead cause a violent outbreak of war, remains to be seen. For now, the situation with North Korea is increasingly unstable.

Despite all that's happening in the Middle East, we must not forget that some of the US's most important allies—and its most unstable enemies—are in Asia. We cannot afford to overlook Asia. The Trump administration has shown, at the least, a high attentiveness to these issues. However, their responses have been bold and unpredictable, that may provoke further aggression. An unstable Asia means an unstable world; quite frankly, I'm just not sure that Trump- or Pence- is up to the challenge.

Fordham Faculty Votes No Confidence over New Healthcare Plans

by Reyna Wang, Megan Townsend, and Justin Westbrook-Lowery

Earwax Editor, Staff Activists

Tensions rose to a boiling point as the Fordham University faculty overwhelmingly passed a vote of no confidence in President Joseph McShane, S.J.,'s leadership. Out of a vote of 460 faculty members, 433 voted "no confidence" in Father McShane's leadership of Fordham University on Friday, April 14th.

This staggering vote stems from the university's handling of adjustments to faculty healthcare plans. These changes are believed to drastically increase the out of pocket costs for professors in need of medical care.

Moments later, the Board of Trustees released a brief statement expressing their dismay with the vote and directed the Fordham Community to their resolution in support of Father McShane's leadership.

After the vote, a group of assembled students and faculty on the Plaza of the Fordham-Lincoln Center campus broke out into cheers. Sapphira Lurie (FCLC '17), said "[the vote] is a sign that is due to McShane's terrible leadership and complete dismissal of faculty needs and concerns..." Lurie is a leader within Fordham Students United, the organizers of the protest and a student group focused on aiding faculty in their pursuit of better benefits and fighting for racial justice on campus.

Father McShane released a statement expressing his displeasure on the matter, saying he was "disappointed with the results..." He continued that "[t]he outcome of the vote, however, in no way diminishes the high regard that I have for them, or the pride I have in all that they achieved in their research."

The faculty's distrust of Father Mc-

Shane and the administration's budgeting process is not a new development. Fordham's contingent faculty have been fighting for fair wages, benefits, union representation, and job security for over a year now by establishing Fordham Faculty United (FFU). FFU has held teach ins, created petitions, and organized actions alongside student activists.

On March 9th, students and members of FFU assembled to deliver a petition, which asked for student, faculty, and administrative support of a contingent faculty union, to Father McShane's office. Due to possible legal implications, Father McShane at the time declined to meet with FFU to discuss plans for unionization since he did not wish to intervene with the process.

Despite the president's original stance of neutrality and the widespread support of the Fordham community, the administration released plans on March 31st to prevent the contingent faculty's unionization filings by hiring union busting lawyers. In their statement, Fordham said that the union is a threat to religious freedom as a Jesuit institution. Then, on April 13th, the administration suddenly reversed its position, sending out an email which stated that all employees have the right to unionize and that it would not stop the contingent faculty from forming a union.

Tensions over unionization were compounded by the release of university plans to downgrade tenured faculty health plans. The new "standard healthcare plan" would increase copays and out-of-

pocket expenses for professors and their families, in order to save the university \$4 million. Simple procedures that would have cost as little as \$10 on the university's current plan will rise to hundreds of dollars. For faculty with disabilities, chronic healthcare problems, or children, this is especially troubling. On April 19th at Fordham Lincoln Center, FFU organized a "sick-in" demonstration, with a wooden coffin placed on the

House, this time to seek clarification of Father McShane and the administration's stance on a free and fair process for the contingent faculty union. However, John Carroll, associate vice president of the Department of Public Safety, barred students and faculty from entering the president's office and insisted on acting as a messenger by recording the group's questions and delivering them to the administration. Carroll suggested that the administration was working on

a response, which they would release by the end of the day. Though students and FFU members remained on the steps of Cunniffe for four hours awaiting a response, the administration eventually declared that they would not respond at the moment since they were dealing with more pressing issues.

Overall, both contingent and tenured faculty have been organizing for rights on campus and a fair voice in administra-

Plaza, and crutches, bandages, and medical equipment around them.

This protest was followed by an action the following day outside of the Board of Trustees meeting at Rose Hill. Faculty, students, and supporters gathered outside of the Walsh Library to listen to faculty speak about how these cuts to benefits would affect their lives, their health, and their families.

After receiving a confusing set of seemingly contradictory messages, students and members of FFU once again gathered outside Cunniffe

tive matters, and will continue to. It is a good time for unity with student organizers, who are growing increasingly frustrated with administrative denial of free speech and student voices. With each action that violates the university's oppressive policies on denying freedom of speech and assembly, we as a community are seizing the rights the administration has been refusing to grant us. They cannot ignore these issues, or the people behind them - the people who are their colleagues, their community members - for much longer.



Convicted Former NFL Player's Suicide Draws Attention to Prisons

by Claire Nunez
Opinions Co-Editor

Sparks questions on how mental health is handled within prison

Since the early 2000s, the U.S. prison system has had a steady increase in inmate suicides. The Department of Justice released data from 2013 that shows that between a third and two-fifths of prison deaths are from suicide. On Wednesday morning, former NFL player, Aaron Hernandez hung himself in his prison cell in Massachusetts. Prison suicides are not often publicized, and to many the news was a shock.

Hernandez was a tight end for the New England Patriots, playing for the winning team from 2010 to 2012 after being drafted from the University of Florida. Hernandez had a promising career in football, but he had always had trouble with fights and the law.

In 2012, Hernandez was accused of killing Daniel Jorge Correia de Abreu, and Safiro Teixeira Furtado as they were sitting in their car one evening in Boston. Hernandez was not found guilty for homicide, but he was prosecuted

for unlawful holding of a handgun. Hernandez had a few more run-ins with the law, but he was convicted for the murder of his friend, Odin Lloyd. He was found guilty in April 2015 of first-degree murder and of unlawful holding of guns and ammunition.

Hernandez was sentenced to life without parole. He was held in at Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Massachusetts for about two years. The Patriots cancelled Hernandez's merchandise and removed his name from their roster after the murder arrest. His name was removed from the stadiums at the University of Florida and he lost all of the prominence in the NFL that he came to enjoy.

The former NFL star was found hanging in his single cell in the maximum security correctional center he was kept at. Hernandez was pronounced dead at a hospital nearby the prison Wednesday morning. The authorities at Souza-Baranowski were not initially

aware of any possible suicide notes left by Hernandez. Days later, though, multiple handwritten notes were found. Aaron Hernandez apparently did not show any signs of being suicidal, otherwise he would have been sent to a mental health facility, according to Christopher Fallon, the Department of Correction spokesman.

Suicide is currently the tenth largest cause of death for people in the United States, but in prisons and correctional facilities, it becomes the third largest cause. Heart disease is considered the number one killer of people in America, but in prisons, suicide rates are higher than both the rate of Heart Disease and AIDS related deaths (not combined). AIDS rates in prisons were relatively high and as of 2013, were down 30%. Death due to heart disease has remained at about 30% while suicide rates in prisons have jumped to a mid-40% in recent years.

We rarely see anything about prison

suicides in the news. Hernandez's death was the first time I have seen anyone say anything about prison suicide. There is currently a lot of activism to change the way correctional facilities handle treatment of inmates as well as reacclimating inmates to the free world. All over the country, different non-profits and activist groups work to change different aspects of prisons. The National Center on Institutions and Alternatives has been working to better train correctional facility staff to be more equipped to know when prisoners are facing mental health problems. The way suicide in prison is handled is extraordinarily important considering that these institutions are intended to "correct" behavior. Suicide is not an answer for anything and if we want to get criminals back into society, we have to pay more attention to their mental health and treat them as humans.

Georgia Dem Narrowly Misses Normally Republican House Seat

by Luis Gómez
Co-Editor in Chief

It might not have been a win, but it's still a glimmer of hope

Jon Ossoff, the upstart Democratic candidate in Georgia's 6th District, narrowly missed reaching 50 percent in a recent special election. A runoff between him and Republican candidate Karen Handel will take place June 20th.

The seat in question used to belong to Tom Price, now President Trump's Health and Human Services Secretary. The special election saw eighteen different candidates vying for Price's former seat, five Democrats, eleven Republicans, and two Independents.

In a traditionally Republican district, Ossoff's campaign was a unicorn of sorts, drawing upon an energetic and furious Democratic base. Tom Price initially won the seat by over 20 points, and Republicans have held the district firmly since 1979. However, the historic unpopularity of President Trump inspired calls to 'Flip the 6th.' Money flowed into his campaign from outside donors, giving Ossoff an \$8 million war chest in a race that usually sees a few hundred thousand dollars, and qua-

druple the amount raised by the next-closest campaign.

Ossoff is a young candidate - he only recently turned 30 - and has spent most of his time as a documentarian, mostly producing films about Africa. His experience in government is limited to his stint as a staffer for Congressman Hank Johnson, who represented Georgia's 4th district. Republican attack ads largely focused on Ossoff's lack of experience, and also decided to highlight the fact that he dressed up as Han Solo one time in college and did acapella.

While Ossoff failed to cross the 50 percent threshold that would have given him an outright win, the election still held some promise for Democrats. A recent special election in Kansas' 4th district came within six points, in a district that many believed was a safe Republican district.

These two recent close elections, while not leading to results for Democrats, are seen as a sign for 2018. If districts in Kansas and Georgia are in contention, then the political land-

scape for the House is within Democratic reach. The logic goes that if heavily 'red' districts in Georgia and Kansas put Democratic candidates within striking distance, then there are potentially dozens of races across the nation where incumbent Republican house members are not as secure as previously thought.

Still, the runoff election is by no means secure for Ossoff. He emerged as a frontrunner in a crowded field, with several more Republican candidates than Democrats. If Republicans can build a coalition around Handel, then Ossoff would likely lose or win by a slim margin. FiveThirtyEight, the pollster news website, projects that Ossoff could win the runoff by four points (based on Ossoff's previous polling right before the election), well within the margin of error. Another point to note is that Trump and his associates did not campaign any significant amount for Handel or any other candidate. Trump could very easily hold a few joint rallies for Handel and himself, simultaneously bolstering her position

and boosting his perception.

In many ways, this election is entirely reliant on Donald Trump. Democrats have a long history of not showing up to midterms and special elections (remember 2010?). If Trump begins to act in a way that his supporters or more generic Republicans agree with, Ossoff may not have the necessary numbers of angry Democrats and dissatisfied moderate/anti-Trump Republicans to swing the election in his favor. Jon Ossoff now has to translate his Trump-fueled success in the first round of the election into a general push to flip the sixth district in his favor. Demographics are on his side, as Georgia has been slowly narrowing the margin between Democrats and Republicans over the past few years. What remains to be seen is whether or not Ossoff has the ability to translate those emerging demographic trends into an electoral victory.

FAKER THAN TRUTH

By John Looby

Fordham Memes' Mystery Man Unmasked

Fordham's resident Instagram page for niche memes and high impact truth bombs has long been headed by an enigmatic figure of illuminati-esque *a e s t h e t i c*. We've sent out and lost innumerable reporters on ill-fated voyages to find out who this mystery figure could have been. Reporter Harry Leonard was lost searching the Marianas Trench in our official paper patrol submarine and we've since had to fold the aquatics desk. However, we here at the paper remained undeterred in our efforts to locate the source of these potent dank memes. In fact, we reallocated our entire budget to finding the plug. Months went by, Nick Peters missed the birth of his first child, and still, the search lingered on. I'm ashamed to say I once suggested that we end the venture and spend our time elsewhere. After a few well-placed blows and a stern talking to by the entirety of the staff I immediately rescinded that opinion. I then took it upon myself to resolve the issue. I first searched the distant jungles of the amazon. As I came to learn an Amazon order addressed to Fordham Memes did not mean that the page was based out of the amazon. Eventually distraught and desperate amidst one of Dean Rodgers and I's biweekly brunches in a momentary lapse of decorum, as we never discuss business, I asked: "hey uh any chance that you're Fordham Memes?" He swiftly responded, "Of course I am, who else could it have been?" I collapsed in relief. All those months of stumbling through the dark and the answer was in front of us the whole time. If only we had seen the clues.

Erdogan Gains Greater Control as Head of Turkey

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

Reform gives more power to executive

In an ever more concerning trend of global politics, it appears that the strongman state head is in fashion once again. In a referendum held this week, Turkey voted to drastically reform their constitution. This grants President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a grand suite of executive powers unprecedented in the country's history. The referendum, in which the "yes" camp won by a razor thin margin of 51.4 percent decided that the nation would cease to be a parliamentary system and instead be turned into a powerful executive presidency not unlike The United States.

While the presidential office was a largely symbolic and limited role for most of the nation's history, this referendum completely abolishes the office of the Prime Minister, and in turn granted Erdogan wide sweeping powers as Turkey's head of state. A sample of Erdogan's new-found powers includes the ability to be both President and leader of a political party; while previously the President was an apolitical office, now Erdogan is permitted to be both head of state and the leader of Turkey's ruling party the AKP (Justice and Development Party). Other powers include the ability to bypass the country's parliament on important state matters, this includes the ability to publish decrees which regulate how certain ministries are composed. The president can also declare a state of emergency without the approval of parliament. This is most likely a response to the failed military coup that occurred during summer of last year, after which a state of emergency was called and Erdogan was given a "sample platter" of new executive powers. These new executive powers continued on as Turkey's state of emergency has been extended multiple times. He gained these executive powers this week.

Despite winning by a thin margin, many critics of the referendum have stated that the vote was a sham, and it's not hard to see why. The "no" campaign

was unfairly hampered by red tape and critical media coverage by the media; in addition, a sudden rule change regarding ballot stamps gave the "yes" campaign a competitive edge. In the end, international monitors and watchdogs slammed the referendum as fixed

all legislative power, leading to massive protests and riots within the country. One cannot help but make parallels between Maduro and Erdogan in looking at this. Erdogan, Maduro, Trump, Putin, Xi Jinping; it appears to many that the strongman candidate is in fashion,



by Erdogan and his compatriots. While the vote was celebrated by much of Turkey as a new chapter in the country's relatively young democracy, the country is nevertheless split with many opponents accusing Erdogan of being a power-hungry autocrat. It should be noted that the country is much more divided than Erdogan would like to admit; even with the alleged foul play, Erdogan was expected to easily win over 60% of the vote. Accusations that Erdogan is a dictator are also not helped by Turkey's crackdown on journalists and political opponents over the last year. In 2016 alone, over 81 journalists were arrested and jailed under faulty accusations of "supporting terrorism." In addition, over 100,000 government employees were fired last year following the failed coup attempt in July.

To many, Erdogan is just the latest of a series of "strongmen" world leaders to have seized power within their nations; utilizing social, economic, or political turmoil as a tool to expand their own influence within their respective nations. For example, in Venezuela, Nicholas Maduro stripped congress of

a chilling trend in a time where global unity is being challenged by the rise of Far-Right candidates and large actors such as China and Russia are vying for greater power and influence in an ever-changing geopolitical environment.

Many take for granted that a large majority of world governments are democratic institutions, a situation that wasn't always the case until the Third Wave of Democratization in the 1970s. In reality, democratic institutions, although relatively stable, are not invincible. During times of international turmoil, such as the present, the promises of unity and inclusion that are extolled by democratic institutions get called into question. Many citizens look for a strong executive leader to guide the country through times of struggle. This is not to say that democracy is dead or dying, but instead serves as a stark reminder that nothing lasts forever, and that for democracy to survive, it must adapt. Whether or not democratic institutions are capable of adapting to a world where strong men are becoming a more prominent threat is yet to be seen.

Chechnya is Setting Up Gay Concentration Camps

by Michael Sheridan
Arts Co-Editor

Why you should care and how you can help

It is difficult to even write about this topic, yet it is important that we get the word out to more and more people about what's happening the semi-autonomous region of Chechnya in Russia.

To provide some context into this tense situation, Chechnya has been trying to get its independence from Russia for decades and has fought multiple wars to try and achieve this goal. Separatists have unleashed various terror attacks against Russia, including once taking 1,100 people hostages, including 777 children, after seizing a school, resulting in the death of 385 people.

Continuing this tradition of being just terrible people, the Chechens have decided on a new target: Chechen gay men. Through the use of technology, and raiding underground gay social clubs and networks, Chechen gangs have been rounding up the region's gay men and imprisoning them in what are being described as modern day concentration camps.

Chechen gay men have never had an easy go of it within Chechnya and its surrounding areas, which are predominately Muslim. Homosexuality is considered extremely taboo. Ekaterina L. Sokiryanskaya, Russia project director for the International Crisis Group who is an authority on Chechnya, said "the society is highly homophobic. Homosexuality is condemned. It is believed Islam considers it a great sin."

These men first are stripped of all their belongings, but their phones are kept on and charging, just in case a gay lover or friend tries to contact them so the gangs will have a new target to round up. After being thrown in essentially a cell, prisoners are subsequently beaten, abused, electrocuted, humiliated, and forced to participate and quasi-sexual acts meant to de-

moralize these men even more.

Survivors describe abysmal living conditions, with inadequate food and water, and only being allowed to use bathroom facilities three times a day. Prisoners are forced to pay

state. They claim that if a gay person were to be found, he would merely be exiled. Russia also denies the existence of any camps. Independent Russian LGBT groups have denounced the camps and are calling on Putin to deal with this ever growing situation.

In a surprisingly strong message, the US ambassador to the UN, Nicki Haley, released a statement calling for an international investigation into the human rights violation taking place in Chechnya.

Yet so far, there has been very little action taken to help the gay men of Chechnya. It is understandably difficult, as Chechnya is not easily accessible for foreigners let alone foreign aid groups. The Kremlin's denial of

the atrocities also complicates matters, as the Russian state won't let outside groups investigate or help the matter, as they claim that no such atrocities are occurring.

Inside Russia, LGBT groups are trying to do their best to evacuate gay men from the region and find them resources and places to stay outside of the Chechnya (although to be honest, the rest of Russia is still a pretty shitty place to be gay). The only actions I have found in my research about how we in America can help these men is to sign petitions calling on Trump, Putin, the UN, or other groups to take firmer action to help the situation. Amnesty International is probably the biggest charitable organization that is trying to provide help to the situation, although as of writing this article, they have no clear plan on how to help these gay men. Yet, if you were looking to make a financial contribution to help the fight, I would say Amnesty International is the safest place to do that.

I can only hope that the more news spreads of this abominable human rights tragedy, that actions will be made to help the gay men in this region.

huge ransoms for their freedom, which many of these men cannot afford. Even those that do pay, many are often just recaptured a short time later and forced to pay for their freedom over and over again.

For those who cannot afford the ransom, they are held indefinitely in their cells and face near continuous torment and abuse. One survivor described a fellow prisoner that was beaten so badly that he was reduced to a "bag of bones." At least three gay men have died in these camps, although the death toll is likely higher and will continue to rise.

What is perhaps the most tragic part of these prisons, is that even when prisoners are lucky enough to be released back into the public, they have been outed. Most people in this hardline Islamic state are likely to refuse to house or take care of their relatives, leaving many gay men with no resources and no one to turn to. There has been at least one case of a man who died after being released, as his family refused to take him in.

Chechnya denies the existence of the camps, just as it denies the existence of gay people at all in the



Pictured: protest of the concentration camps

Reader Than Fact

By Nick Peters

Netflix's Competition Comes From an Unexpected Place

Netflix, everyone's favorite procrastination tool, announced earlier this week who their greatest rival is. It's not you think it is. Trust me. Sorry Amazon, Hulu, HBO Go. Sorry YouTube, Dailymotion, Vimeo. Sorry Crunchyroll, Seeso, the CW Player. None of you matter to the behemoth that is Netflix. Their greatest threat is sleep. Yup. Sleep. Those 8 hours of sleep you should be getting but never do are holding Netflix back from being streamed more.

This information comes directly from Netflix's CEO Reed Hastings. Following up, Hastings said that he is not scared of the competition. Regardless of their competitors' success, Hastings fully believes that they will never reach the level of Netflix's success, that none of their other competition will dethrone Netflix's spot as the number one streaming service.

These are bold words from Hastings. However, he has a right to express this confidence and superiority. Netflix is currently very close to reaching 100 million subscribers around the world. These numbers are crazy big, especially in comparison to their competitors. Yes, the other streaming services do have large numbers, but none of them have seemed to reach Netflix large.

In light of this announcement, Netflix is probably planning on reducing sleep by getting into the same fringe sciences that other companies are. I mean, Facebook is exploring mind reading technology right now. They want you to post from your mind. Your mind! That's just rad. So yeah, your sleep is apparently more competition for Netflix than your Hulu subscription, if you even have one.

French Election Proves to be Contentious and Divisive for Everyone

by John Looby

Co-Editor in Chief

As the United States carries on in the wake of the election of a populist anti-establishment politician, the rest of the world is facing the same tense political climate. In the domino chain started by Brexit and Trump, the next to fall could very well be the French presidency. Far right Populist Marine Le Pen is following the same playbook that allowed Trump to take the White House. Her support is coming from statistically speaking, less educated voters from rural areas. Le Pen appeals to the voters on the basis of nationalist rhetoric, an anti-EU stance, and a hardline stance on Islam and immigration. The American electorate is more than familiar with this type of Candidate. What they might not be well aware of is the consequences should the French election go in favor of Le Pen.

Le Pen's party National Front, first lead by her father Jean-Marie, has a long history of questionable stances, as he has faced criminal charges for previous statements about the holocaust. Le Pen has done what she can to normalize the party image, going so far as to oust her own father from the party. Ultimately, it seems as though the party is just putting a more pleasant coat of paint over its far-right tendencies. Le Pen is still a candidate in favor of closing mosques and aggressively clamping down on immigration in an effort to keep France French, something which comes across as inherently xenophobic. Furthermore, Le Pen is an aggressive secularist, which at first glance

Will France get their own Brexit/Trump situation?

may read as a non-issue if one was unaware that Le Pen primarily uses France's historic separation of church and state to discriminate against the Muslim community in France.

Outside the French Muslim community, Le Pen spells danger for the European Union at large. Le Pen would see France like the United Kingdom before it holds a referendum on membership of the EU as well as a swift exit from the Euro-

zone. Le Pen, like Trump before being an actual head of state, sees NATO as obsolete and a drain of her nation's resources. Given the recent French history of being invaded and overtaken, one might imagine that France would in favor of a unified international defense front.

Recent terrorist attacks have given Le Pen a bump in the polls as Trump himself commented, but that doesn't mean the French people lack alternatives. Emmanuel Macron, a centrist,

the whole. Macron's stance on immigration and Islam are drastically different than Le Pen's as well. Macron sees no problem with France being welcoming to refugees, holding a similar stance to Angela Merkel's policies in Germany. Perhaps the most impressive thing about Macron is that he founded his own party for this election and from there rose to be the favorite to win the election. For an American politician, that is quite simply not possible to pull off. Macron represents a viable option outside the es-

establishment that is not a far right nationalist something, which feels rarer and rarer these days.

The first round of the French election has left us with Le Pen and Macron facing off in the second round to see who will become the president. Macron edging out Le Pen's 21% by close to 3 % is an encouraging indication for liberals given that one can assume that many of the liberal votes that went to other candidates in the first round will flock to Macron in rejection of Le Pen's more extreme policies. While recent terrorists incidents have caused alarm among the French public, the historic trend of rejecting the National Front's candidates resoundingly in the election would suggest that Macron can still clinch the presidency despite what some are calling a light hand on Islam. The



Marine Le Pen and Father, circa. 2015

second round of voting comes on May 7th, and will decide whether the global order shifts to the direction of far right conservative populist or continues the centuries-long trend of pushing in the direction of liberal progression. A lot is hanging in the balance and the American public could afford to look out beyond its own borders.

He is in favor of remaining within the EU and by many regards is pro-European on

HEY MOM LOOK
I MADE A FAKE AD



Wow! What a Wild Ride: A Look at this Academic Year and the News

By Claire Nunez
Opinions Co-Editor

And boy, do we have some things to say. This year was something.

Think back to this past academic year and everything that has happened. There are probably a lot of hazy, Friday nights, dinners in the caf, and hopefully, some interesting class discussions. Oh right, and how could anyone forget literally anything else that has happened? To be completely frank, I, an avid news consumer and editor of this fine publication, have forgotten a lot of the events that have happened this year both on and off campus.

News articles are constantly churned up and spit out at us for our personal media consumption. I can't remember everything that has happened this year (no one can), but a lot of the important occurrences have just been erased. My co-editor and I had to do some real deep digging to find out the big stories from this past summer and the academic year. Like hey, remember the Summer Olympics in Rio this summer and the fake scandal involving some divers? Yeah, I do now. I also completely forgot about Cuba and the U.S. defining the relationship a bit more. So many awful things happened and most of my fellow peers don't even remember them happening. I can't even define them, they are just things that will be in a history book someday. The refugee crisis? Yup, it will just be a paragraph in the chapter on the 2010s.

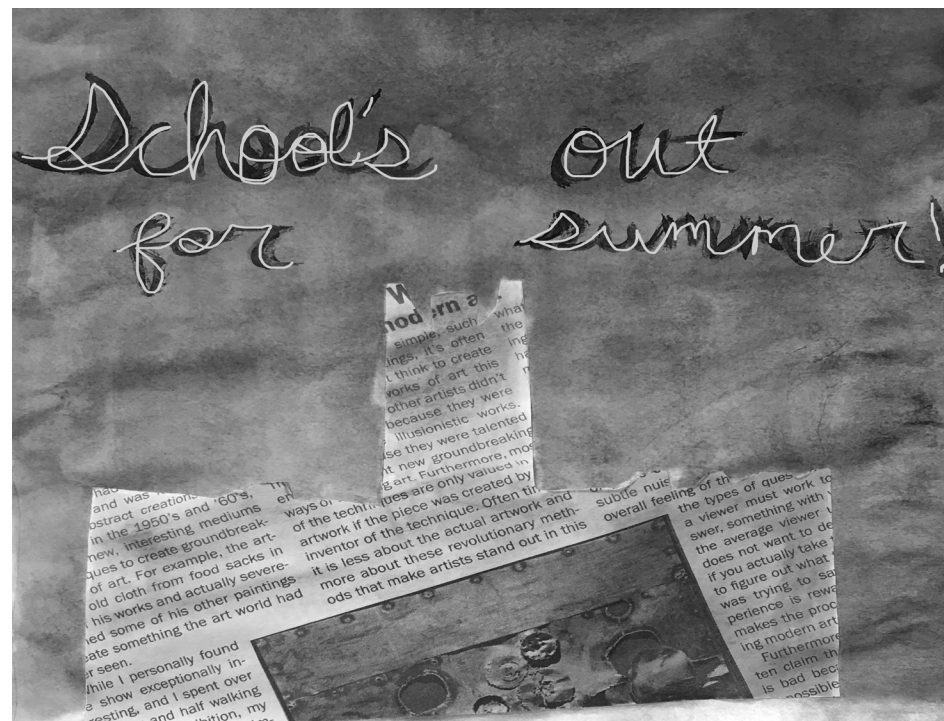
What was not forgotten you media heathen? Uh, the election. This filled *the paper's* pages and all of our social media feeds. Really, a day did not pass without someone condemning Trump or getting angry about Clinton's

emails on Facebook. Bigger media conglomerates than *the paper* have placed most of their attention on degrading Trump or tearing apart Clinton for a distasteful pantsuit. So much shade was thrown on these two individuals while SO MANY more

the political activist woodwork when Trump announced his run. The media played into the anger of us youngin's by just publishing so many stories about him and scandals involving him. The media has babied us and given us what we need to be emotional about an

adjuncts. Really, I feel like all of my Facebook friends were just concerned with the sensational aspect of this USG executive election. I have a feeling more people were talking about USG than even know what the acronym stands for. Every club meeting, all of the group chats, the hallways, were just shitting on one candidate or the other. I actually heard someone outside of my room asking his friend if my roommate and I supported one candidate over the other. His friend replied, "no, they like all of the [other candidates'] Facebook posts." Like, what? Why do they care? This is how petty people got about this USG election when they really should have been involving themselves in what is going on with the Iron Triangle of Fordham, the president, the Board of Trustees, and the Faculty Senate.

I do understand that those who are in power are representative of the bodies they represent and it is important to care about who they are, but we shouldn't spend as much time sensationalizing politicians. We spend so much time distracted in the emotions that the media evokes from us. So much has happened in the world and most of us, myself included, are just chillin' reading and writing the things that will cause some kind of hysteria. I used to hate publishing Opinions pieces on Trump, because it was just too much. There are so many pressing topics that can be written about that are just brushed over. I just think that we should take a step back and realize what is really the most important.



important and horrible events were occurring. Anything with Syria or any kind of human suffering for that matter, was pretty much overlooked. I found only certain people were interested. Discussing the importance of fostering change in refugee camps is usually banned at most campus dinner tables.

As a generation, most of us really only care about the news when it is about something as sensational as this past election. So many people came out of

election. *the paper* was even affected by this blatant indulgence. Almost every issue featured a ton of news and opinions pieces on the election. These were the more trafficked articles on our website too. A lot has happened, and Trump is all that we care about? Sad!

Even on Fordham's own campus, the USG election overshadowed a lot of the news regarding the vote of no confidence in Father McShane and all of the stuff going down with the

College is Temporary but Family is Forever: *the paper* and Siobhan

By Siobhan Donahue
Deaditor-in-Chief

Spring 2014, I was a second semester freshmen. I showed up to the last production weekend of the semester because I rarely went to them and just wanted to be more involved in my favorite club on campus. I remember being taught photoshop and made my first image: a rhino with Rihanna's head. A rihannaceros if you will. Also, I was tasked with copy-editing deadits.

Those deadits were weird to me since I had just literally started my college career. I wasn't even an editor at the time, so I didn't fret the possibility of writing one. Also, the deadits that year were overshadowed by a minor controversy which resulted in that issue being pulled from circulation.

My sophomore year, I was actually an editor. So, spring 2015, when I read those years' deadits, I realized that someday, specifically today, I would be writing my own. Yet, I find myself at a loss for words about how to express how transformative *the paper* has been.

In my opinion, the true climate change has happened at Fordham. The relationship between key college actors-admin, faculty, students-has gotten more tense reformat this

First, *the paper* managed to evade the clique contagion. Many times, clubs start out as one unit, and end up being several factions under one name. There's nothing inherently wrong with different friend groups developing within one club. However, in my experience, *the paper* has mostly been populated with positive people who genuinely try to be mindful and inclusive of all members.

A love story chock full of tear-jerking and questionable moments

Not only did I gain friends through *the paper*, but I was always comforted by the fact that every week, I would have a wholesome social interaction where one can just let loose on political

when throwing a party, it's not about the drinks, but the snacks. Also, Twitter fights are fun when they are contributed to by everyone! Moreover, it's okay to roast your own children



strife, school issues, and meme trash and somehow not be ostracized. On top of that, there was the tradition of ordering Estrellitas on Sundays. If you're keeping score at home, *the paper* has covered, at the very least, two layers of Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

Second, *the paper* has actually been very helpful career wise. It gave me skills that I can put on my resume in an attempt to seem "experienced." Seriously, I learned Photoshop, InDesign, and different ways to improve my writing. Honestly, I was president of a student government, and I assumed that would be most impressive to employers. Yet, in my experience, interviewers cared more about my experience as Editor-in-Chief than as Executive President.

Lastly, *the paper* has been a great family-planning resource. When co-deaditors-in-chief, Zoe and Ali, told me that I was one of their replacements, I not only inherited a free speech publication but I gained a wife and ten children. We became the The Paper Pals.

Being a father has taught me what matters most in life. For example,

and leave said roasts taped to the New Student Orientation auxiliary closet. Finally, when everything's on fire, stay calm, send a snapchat of your screaming children to Kelly, and email VP Grey.

In typical dad fashion, I have lessons to share which I've learned over the years due to *the paper*. One: when you're tired and don't feel like copy-editing, just say you're releasing a themed issue and make up a theme which incorporates editing mistakes. Two: be considerate of how your actions affect others. Remember, every late article means some editor is staying entrapped in a windowless basement for another hour. Three: be flexible because life is unpredictable and sometimes Adobe will change on you and only work on two computers.

Finally, have confidence in your choices. This might not seem like a big deal, but think about how many decisions one has to make in a single day. Now, what if none of those decisions got made because you got too nervous about making your choice. Obviously, one should always look at the facts of a situation and make a rational choice. Still, for

some people, making decisions, even a reasonable one, can be daunting because of the fear that it's wrong, you're wrong, and everything is wrong.

However, *the paper*, has forced me to trust myself. For example, we are a free speech publication. Sometimes though, people send in objectively bad articles. It's one thing to correct an article's grammar and word structure. However, sometimes the badness of an article lies in its content. So, do you publish it anyway because you don't want people to think you're biased? After all, we always promote the free speech aspect of *the paper*. Or, do you publish it contingent on if Warra Chan writes a rebuttal? Or, do you just say no? Then there's the other editorial decisions where you have to be careful about not making choices which can result in being contacted by administration yet at the same time not erase *the paper's* personality. Some of these decisions are harder than others. However, I've learned that you really can't doubt yourself when you're on a deadline. If a choice feels right to you, then you just have to go with it. Sometimes it's the wrong decision but I believe you lose more inhibiting yourself due to a fear of mistakes rather than making mistakes in the first place.

I graduate on May 20th. In my opinion, the true climate change has happened at Fordham. The relationship between key college actors-admin, faculty, students-has gotten more tense in a multitude of different ways. What this means is that the next few years will probably involve a ton of transition. This will affect *the paper* not only in terms of OrgSync requests (do those early) but in content since I guarantee some group will be protesting and necessitate coverage. I'm confident though that *the paper* will be able to tackle these issues while maintaining a meme-filled, inclusive atmosphere. In fact, I'm more than confident. I'm completely arrogant in my trust in *the paper*. That's because if you ask me, Kelly and I made the right decisions when we chose our children.

What A Long, Strange Trip It's Been in the McGinley Basement

By Kelly Tyra

Deaditor-in-Chief

For me, *the paper* has always been about the people. I came to my first meeting because Will Speros looked fine as wine in that lil' Pugsly's Pizza hat but I kept coming because *the paper* staff made me laugh almost as hard as they made me think. This trend continued as I sat perched in a corner of the print shop proofreading during my first semester as a writer. I didn't say much but I was constantly listening, desperate to absorb anything from the upper classman who were so clearly cooler than me. During production weekend's I learned how to use Photoshop and In-Design but I also learned what poppers are, how to pronounce 'constituents,' why Fordham sucks, and why I would never go anywhere else or write for any other publication on campus.

The students and staff at Fordham constantly challenge one another to think critically about the world around them even when the gates make it seem far away. As Fordham's only free speech publication we often hold those conversations in print. We have a responsibility to amplify the voices that are too often stifled at Fordham and a tendency to overuse the f-bomb while doing so. But even still, the paper is essential. Fordham will always need the paper because there will always be something to improve on our campus and that something may not always be willingly publicized or discussed. We are beginning to see this more and more and while it may be discouraging for some to witness our campus in a state of transition I remind you that change is necessary, natural. Though

Shoutout to Kelly for making us cry in the basement this weekend

it is often hard to process, the pages of the paper are your place to think out loud. In this regard, we are Rivalled by no Ram.

I was asked to be an Arts Editor because I had purple hair at the time but I was asked to be an Editor-in-Chief be-

not sure anyone could have fun sitting in a basement for 30 hours but somehow we've managed every other weekend (or at least I have, aided by your company). We have laughed together, cried together, and sang Christina Aguilera songs with the lights turned low.

We share food, shade, and spots on Rachel's floor. In the fluorescent light of the McGinley Basement, I've watched each of you step out of your comfort zone with the pride of a mother watching her child take their first steps. I'd do anything for any

in-chief-ship. Thank you, Luis for your persistence, patience, and passion. Thank you, Matthew for having a meme ready no matter the occasion. Thank you, Meredith for lending your thoughtful and thought provoking perspective. Thank you, Michael Jack for resurrecting our website and our smiles. Thank you, Michael for your flexibility and ferocity. Thank you, Nick for standing up for what you believe in and standing down when we poke fun. Thank you, Rachel for your openness and for allowing us to make a home within your own. Thank you, Reyna for keeping us woke and watchful. Thank you, Scott for your consistency and endless competence. And thank you, Siobhan, my husband, for everything you've done for me, the kids, the paper, and this school. Even though you are afraid of the flames, you are the fire that lights up my life.

I'll end the best role of my life with this: On September 26, 1995, the 50th Anniversary Edition of the paper hit the stands. Less than 20 miles away on that very same day I was born. This prophetic coincidence almost reduced me to tear when I pulled that fateful issue from our archives. I looked at the names and stories of people I've never met who share a school I know all too well. The staff has changed but the paper is ever the same. Like a single sheet, it has the potential to become almost anything if inspiration strikes. For some it's been a soap box, for others a spring board but for no one is it a satire rag so stop spreading that rumor and pick up a copy, you losers. And most of all, thank you for reading.

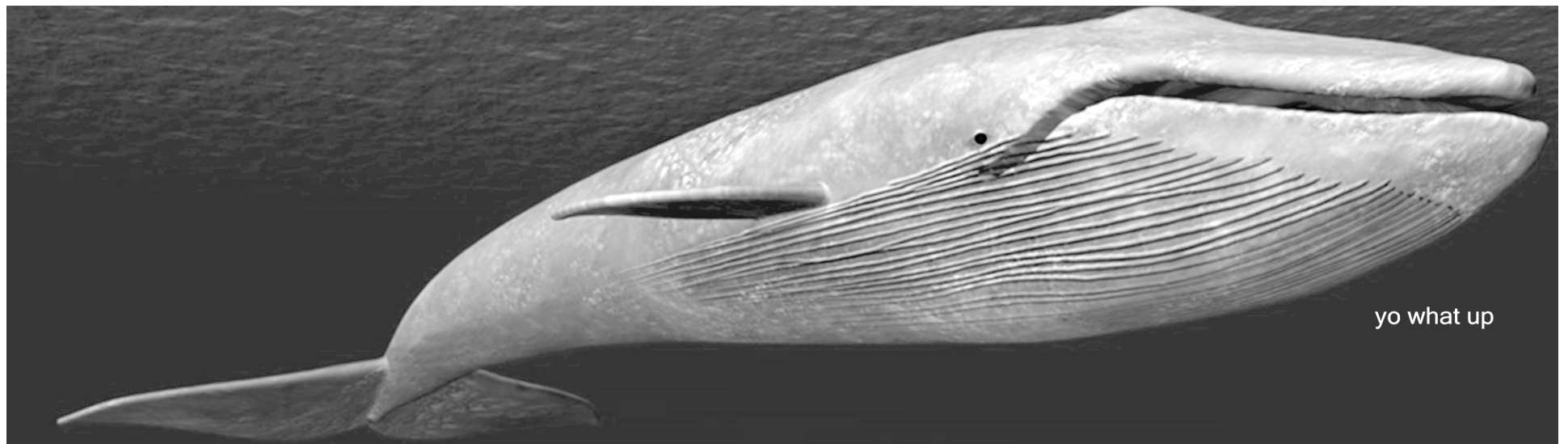


cause Siobhan Donahue is an angel. When Zoe, Ali, and my future husband brought me into the dark room to ask that fateful question I was pretty wine drunk and pretty sure it was a bad idea considering I'd be spending the next semester abroad in London like so many paper alums before me. Siobhan waved all my worries away and printed my name on the first page of five issues I had little to do with while I started twitter beef from my bed in Britain. When I returned I did so timidly, after all half of the staff was unfamiliar to me and had every reason to be annoyed with their absentee mother. But I came home to a family as strong and silly as ever.

You paper kids have no idea how much I love and learn from you. I'm

of you and for every roast listed on our wall I have a ten-page honey roast waiting to sweeten even your worse days. We are a family and it is always hard to say goodbye.

So, instead I will say thank you. In alphabetical order because momma doesn't play favorites: Thank you, Anna for your poise and power. Thank you, Claire for killing the game and cracking the whip when you need to. Thank you, Colleen for sharing your kindness and creative spirit with us on the days we've needed it most. Thank you, Declan for always finding time to make the paper shine with your wisdom and wit. Thank you, John Looby for embracing that last name and every obstacle that's been thrown at you already in you editor-



A Heartfelt Farewell from the paper's Beloved Blackout Barbie

By Blackout Barbie

Staff Barbie

All good things like a long bender must eventually come to an end. Mostly just because the human liver can only endure so much before you find yourself vomiting in the road like a common peasant. My career here at *the paper* has been a long primarily alcohol-fueled venture into the darkest dregs of human existence, colloquially referred to as the 3:00 AM Mugz crowd. Ernest Hemingway once said something about writing and drinking, and I think that's pretty cool because he wrote some pretty famous books. I have never read any of these said books, not because I drink too much to read, but because his treatment of women is about as quality as a thirty of Busch. The paper staff insists that outside of my absolute devotion to the feminist cause I am however basically shitty Hemingway.

Writing for the paper has been an interesting experience as it is literally the only thing I have and probably ever will contribute to productive society on the whole. When I arrived on the scene freshmen year, I was slightly buzzed and needed the idea that it was simply called "the paper" explained to me a reported 34 times. I considered this a marked improvement

We'd say we'll miss you, but we don't actually care

from my initial interaction with The Ram who rejected my first attempt to attend a meeting by stating that I smelled like "a bar and shame" before a surprisingly large student journalist dragged me from the premises. Since then *the paper* has allowed me to churn out what most of my critics have referred to

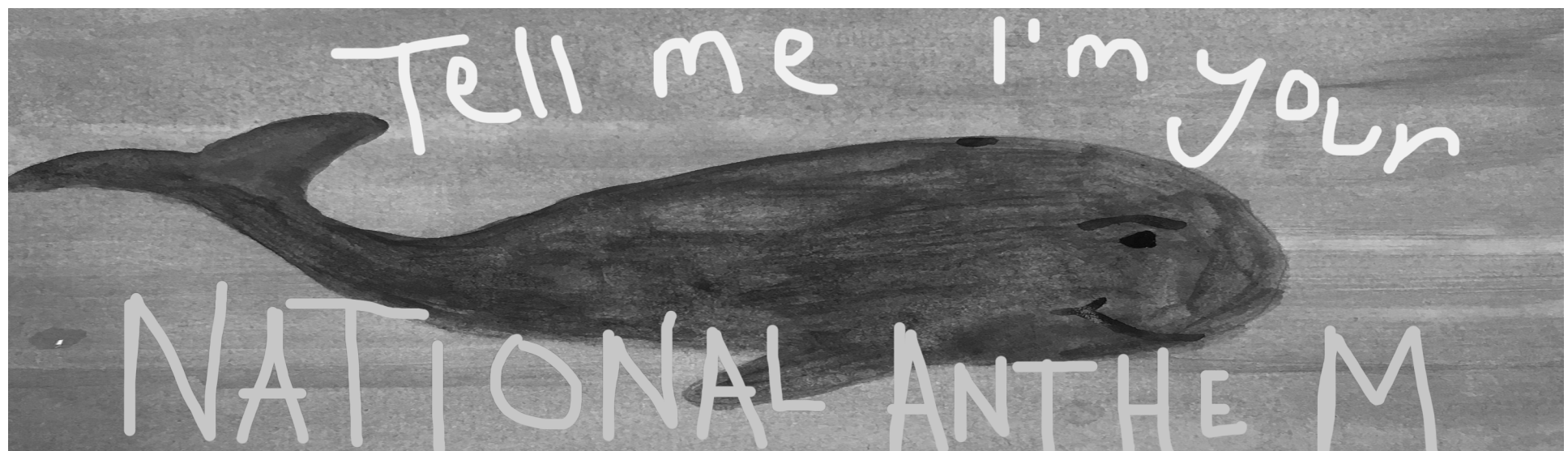


as "garbage passing as a remote semblance of literacy." Personally, I believe that I am a substantially better writer than current Editor In Chief Michael Jack O'Brien or is it the other one who is in charge? Christ I can never tell. They're both the light beer of humanity; weak and more widely available than anyone could have ever wanted. I once I had a dream where I won a Pulitzer, granted said dream was cut short by the realization that I had soaked my sheets in urine, but I challenge Generic White Male EIC to aspire to anything great than that.

I would like to say that I am looking forward to graduating with the rest of my peers, but the truth is that I am actually just packing up my room in Walsh because I've been expelled. I pride myself on having been documented for an "inconceivable number of alcohol policy violations." As the son of a wealthy oil baron and the heiress to the Heineken fortune, I was given far more leeway than the rest of you peasants could ever hope for here at Fordham. And yet I still managed to get expelled because I will never surrender. Did I tap a keg in Father McShane's office? We'll never know because I signed a pretty strongly worded NDA in order to stay at this school. Did I once shotgun a four loko before falling off the high dive during a regular season NCAA swim meet? Again we'll never know because according to my Dad's Attorney, an NDA is super legally binding. To be honest though the guy's a Mormon and can't drink cause of "beliefs," so I don't really trust anything he says.

I'll be fine though. First, cause again I'm just inordinately wealthy. Second, if the paper has taught me anything, it is that I should always have a backup plan. Say for instance your article is rejected because you were on a

bender and the staff thinks you should "think about where you are in life," you just publish it on the odyssey online. Now that I've been expelled, I'm just going to ask my dad or mom for a job. I'll make six figures for doing nothing and never have to address my glaring personal issues. I'm living the alcohol infused dream guys. Honestly, I probably won't even miss Fordham, mostly because the vast majority of my memories here are hazy at best. Outside of NSO and that week I tried going gluten free, most things are seen behind a pretty thick fog of intoxication. Maybe I'll miss that fucking ram statue. I've ridden it every weekend for the last three semesters according to recent court documents. Apparently, a court can file a restraining order on behalf of an animal sculpture. I think. I had a Starbucks cup full of Maker's Mark for the entirety of the proceedings. Well, I guess this is my final farewell Fordham unless my father buys the naming rights to South, which he can like super easily to do because he is a wealthy oil baron, and the rules don't apply to rich people. I solve all my problem with my Father's credit card and alcohol and there is nothing anyone can do to change who I am.



the paper's view

The Dawn of the Crow Age of Fordham University's *the paper* as recounted by the two ne'er-do-wells who try to run it.

John Looby: Well with all the horrible ways I thought we'd die in our efforts to lead *the paper* to glory, number one being the dolphin uprising, I'm disappointed that not a single one came to fruition. Not even a typing accident involving chipotle flavored pringles. Aside from that good semester I'd say.

Luis Gómez: Honestly, I agree. Except for the dolphin thing. I always assumed it'd be otters. Or crows. Crows are awful people. Beyond that, good semester. We've survived, people sometimes read what we say, and Dean Rodgers hasn't shut us down even though we essentially compared him to the second worst birds on earth. Because crows are the worst.

JL: Fucking crows man.

LG: Dude, I know.

JL: I guarantee those fuckers tried to get one of our issues pulled. That weird comment about horse porn on the website. Totally the crows dude. I heard a rumor that Brianna Lyman got her ideas on immigration policy from a racist murder of crows- not that all crows aren't racist.

LG: I heard Richard Spencer is actually a small family of crows who stole a half-finished wig from Macy's.

JL: I can, in fact, confirm that story. I am a former employee of that Macy's. It was a dark day. A crow called me a cuck.

LG: Well, I guess it's nice that we have an outlet to discuss all of our problems with crows, right? Like, the sole benefit of being a free speech publication is that we can talk about the terror of the crows with impunity. That's exactly how free speech works. The internet told me.

JL: I mean yeah, writing about serious issues and giving a voice to the under-represented is for the junior editors. We have a duty to preach. Preach unto the masses the way of the crows. They are a bunch of feathery bastards seeking man's destruction and must be stopped.

LG: I mean honestly, I'm almost sick of writing about the crows, y'know? Ever since they coned Donald Trump into running for president, it's been crows, crows, crows on the news every hour of every day. Seriously! It's like there's no other news to be reported on. Why are we all so captivated by the crows, man?

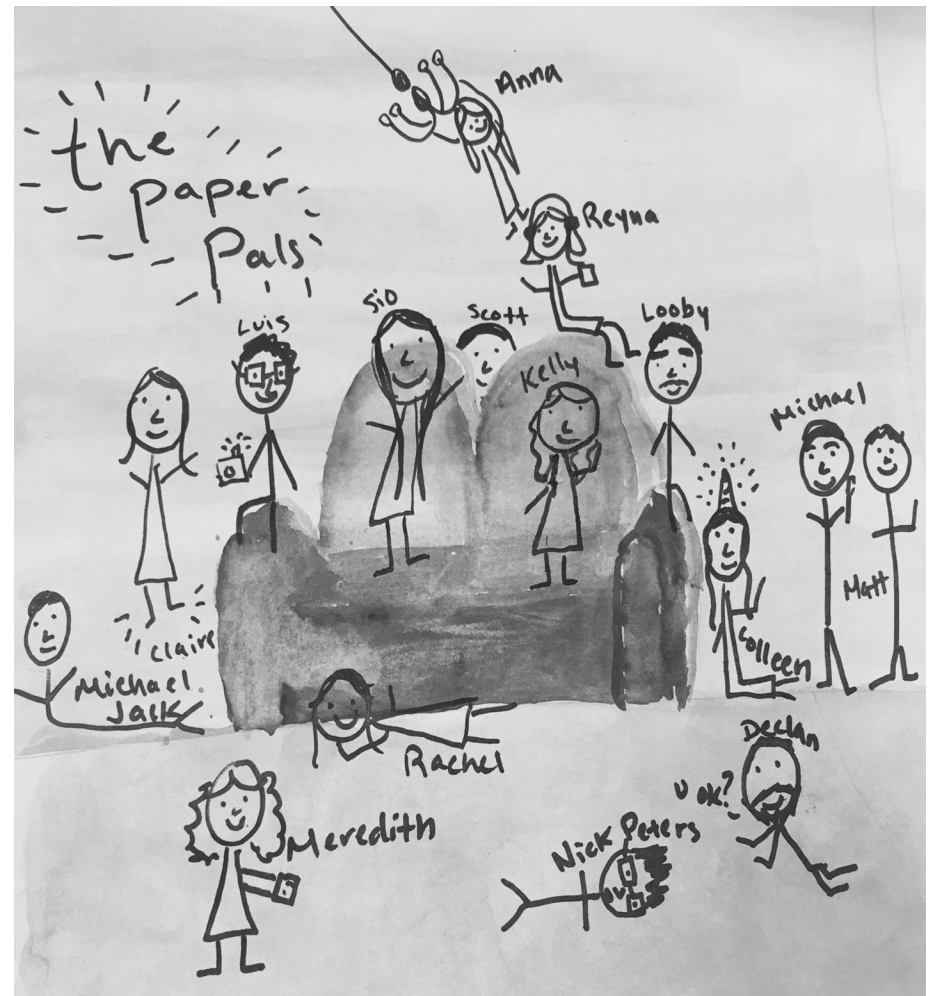
JL: Dude, every fucking issue is just page to page crows. We had to make an official crow editor. I thought the pigeon editor was a step too far. I'm going to level with you, Luis, I think Rachel might be a crow. POE, author of the raven, an animal with known crow connections.

LG: Wait...are you serious? We have a mole? We have a crow mole? How is that even- *oh shit, I think they're outside.*

JL: No that's just vaguely man shaped bag of pigeons Dean Rodgers. We're finalizing our plans for brunch tomorrow after this.

LG: Oh, thank god. Can you grab me a bagel while you're out?

THANK YOU MOM & DAD!!



Dearest Kelly and Siobhan,

Thanks for being the best Paper Mom and Dad a Pal could possibly have. When we were estranged from Mom for a semester (did someone go to London?), Dad became a temporary single parent but effortlessly made *the paper* feel like home. September brought a family reunion, and all was well. We faced many challenges in Fall lol are we even a club? Thanks to Mom and Dad--we are! On top of addressing some ahem administrative problems, surviving our political climate, and reducing our great grandparents' debt, they produced some iconic and memorable issues. Thank you Mom, for always bringing sunshine and snacks. Thank you Dad, for always bringing fatherly advice and relevant anecdotes.

Love,
the paper pals

The Romanticization of Mental Health in Media Narratives

By John Schebece

Staff Culture Critic

Mental Health is, unfortunately, still a novel concept for what we consider a postmodern society. Whereas racial bias, gender bias, religious bias etc. have all been addressed to some degree, remnants of our society's overall dismissal of the validity of mental illness have evolved (rather than rejected), as our relationship with mental illness has developed. One quote which I think frames these attitudes quite aptly is a tagline from some rapper who was trying to get famous through Facebook, in which he asks, "why is every rapper depressed or fake deep?" (I wish I could cite this but his flash in the pan is likely over). This quote addresses the modern and postmodern romanticization of certain mental illnesses and then dismisses the validity of mental illness in general, simultaneously.

The no-name rapper is most likely citing the recent success of rappers like Kendrick Lamar, Earl Sweatshirt, Mick Jenkins, and others. For some reason the accolades of these more successful rappers are not valid because they are "depressed," or rather, they are using the romanticization of mental illness to their advantage, at least in this rapper's eyes. This attitude of dismissal is now heavily prevalent in society due to archetypes like the "different" lil boy seen in film, television, gag-inducing teen short fiction novels, etc.. These archetypes became popular due to a greater societal acceptance of people (particularly men) portraying more emotion in everyday life and the embrace of

Don't confuse discontentment and depression: they're different

individuality that came with modernism and postmodernism. Unfortunately, these archetypes played upon a certain, flawed association that we make in contemporary society: that discontent is the same as depression. This is a dangerous, dangerous equivocation, due to the fact that the



two can frequently go hand in hand, but certainly aren't associated with one another.

This terrible trope spawned from studies that demonstrate that more intelligent people are often more depressed than less intelligent people, as well as from countless brilliant authors who were depressed, bipolar, had high anxiety, or committed suicide (Hemingway, Plath, Wallace, Woolf, just to name a few). The association is often hard to refute due to all the brilliant literary minds who take their own lives. To examine the confusion over mental illness, let's pick apart one of the aforementioned

examples of brilliant authors committing suicide, namely, Plath. A wonderful quote from Plath's *The Bell Jar* brilliantly depicts depression in a few phrases: "I saw my life branching out before me like the green fig tree in the story. From the tip of every branch, like a fat purple fig, a wonderful future beckoned and winked...I saw myself sitting in the crotch of this fig tree, starving to death, just because I couldn't make up my mind which of the figs I would choose." Here, Plath hits right on the difference between discontentment and depression I've been discussing: the ability to see the opportunities around you and

feel unable to pursue any of them. Plath realizes that the lives are out there in front of her if she so chooses to pursue them, but she can't, and turns the errors she perceives about life upon herself.

Enter: the "sad boy" archetype. An evolution of the different/hipster guy, the sad boy is often portrayed as a "misunderstood genius," who has difficulty relating to others just because he's so gosh-darn brooding and mysterious. I think we can all agree, this shit is old, stale and frankly, was never all that engaging. These sad boy archetype characters are discontented with the state of things yet never

seem to want to work to change them. Unlike Plath's view, they see things as being unsatisfactory, and see this external factor as being their limitation, rather than feeling like they are the limitation to themselves. Basically, they're being portrayed as more intelligent because they are sad. Regardless, the sad boy has been successfully promulgated by many people confusing discontent with depression or other mental health issues. People who just walk around discontented with everything, I think we can all agree (even though I myself am one of them quite often), are pretty damn insufferable at times. The reason that these people are so insufferable is because we are associating discontentment and mental illness in a dangerous way.

This is not me—a person with a mental illness— saying that people like me have a monopoly on discontentment. Hell, we should all be a little discontented; it's one of those facets of doubt or skepticism that keeps us from working in inefficient systems, committing atrocities, etc.. However, this discontentment isn't something wrong with you; it's a doubt in humanity that is healthy and should be exhibited as that, a doubt. To wrap this all up as neatly as possible, we need to be able to see mental illness not as something to abuse for one's own good, nor as something to characterize a person or even to enrich a narrative. Mental illness is a type of affliction on a person just like anything physical, and should be treated and addressed as such.





Editor Levels Up Her Passion for Creative Work

by Claire Nunez
Opinions Co-Editor

To many, video games are an escape from the real-world, a way to go somewhere else without leaving your couch. To me, video games are super difficult. I have no flexibility in my fingers so playing video games is not the easiest. I also have no interest in hopping down green tubes or playing virtual warfare. For so long, video games were just dumb, then I picked up another major and I ended up in a class focused solely on video game design.

“Kill. Me. Now.” I said as I walked into the class. A three-hour class on video games? No thank you. I only wanted this class to count for some of the electives for my second major—New Media and Digital Design. I just picked up this major because I needed something else to make my Political Science major a bit more marketable. I intended to take mostly digital marketing classes, but a lot of them were full when I was fidgeting with my schedule again in December. So here I was, stuck in this dumb class. The last thing I wanted to do was have to play any Mario game with anyone.

I sat towards the back of the class with some people who seemed as uninterested as I was. The professor, Nicholas Hubbard walked in and caught my attention. He was this young, hip guy—not nerdy at all. Once he started talking about video games, I was oddly surprised to find out a lot of people in the class did not know what he was talking about. I mean, like some did, but they didn’t go too in-depth about the games they’ve played. I learned that we all

Finds out that video games aren’t so lame...

spoke the same language.

For the first few weeks, we played all sorts of different narrative video games. We discussed the importance of the story. Over time, the story lost prominence in the video game world and it became more about how fast

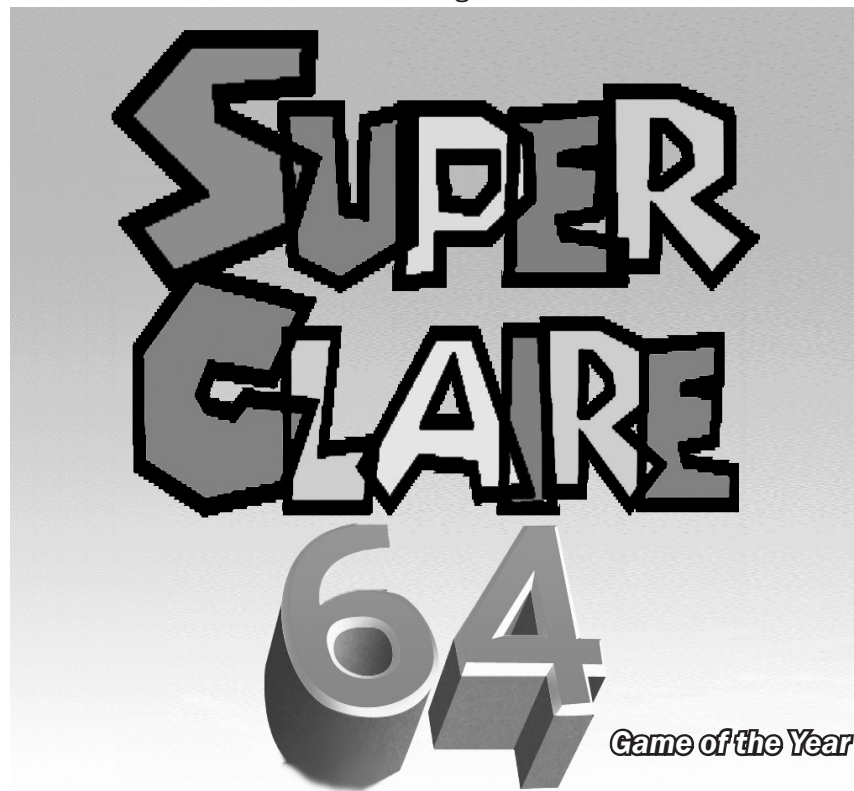
mind about video games because I had such an aversion to them, but here we are.

This class, ironically, has made me more social. You would think I would just be sitting around playing video games. I made some friends in this

class. The professor helped us streamline our ideas and gave us critical feedback. I don’t think I have ever had someone help me with my creative process so much before.

Now that we are towards the end of the semester, I have learned so much about the mechanics of video games—I have even made two of my own. I never realized how many different coding languages are involved in making video games. We first started out with a more elementary-level game making software called ChoiceScript. It is very much like HTML or CSS and is easy to pick up. I was surprised how capable I was at creating a fun and eccentric gaming experience. My first game is called A Work in Progress and it revolved around the player character trying to figure out a post-grad life. I bet you can guess where I got my inspiration from.

Taking this class was a mistake, but it is one I learned a lot from—it was a happy accident. I have found a passion. I never even realized that I could use my creativity to make video games. It is so cool! It has even helped me in my other classes. It has taught me to think of everything more as a story. I am my own controller and I can create whatever narrative I’d like to. If I could take this class again, I 100% would mainly because it has forced me to think more creatively. I am so glad that all of the digital marketing classes I was going to take were filled because I really have rekindled my passion for creative work. Take Game Narrative if you ever get the chance, you will never regret it.



you can flick your fingers around an Xbox controller. We played a lot of adventure games, like *Machinarium* and *The Choice of BroadSides*. I never really looked at video games as a form of art, but I began to appreciate the beauty not only in the animations, but also in the mechanics of the games. I never thought that I could really change my

class. It turns out that yes, I do have the ability to make friends (that is a surprise to anyone that knows me because I hate making new friends).. It turns out that when you put twenty creative minds in a room, something beautiful is bound to happen. During our class discussions, we came up with some pretty cool video game pitches. Our profes-

EVENTS

What: Campus Moviefest

Where: Keating 1st

When: Wed. April 26th
@7:30 PM to 10 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: Come watch your fellow students' films! There's even a movie by one of our editors!

What: Rose Hill Rush

Where: Rose Hill

When: Fri. April 28th @4 PM to 6 PM

How Much: TBD

Why: Support ACT and USG and receive a free tank! What a deal!

What: Open Mic

Where: Rodrigues Coffee House

When: Tues. May 2nd
@8 PM to 10 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: It's the last open mic of the year, so it's now or never!

Netflix Now! For Recommendations, Better Call Scott

by Scott Saffran

Copy Editor

With a deluge of titles coming and going from the world's most popular streaming service every month, it is a little difficult to sort out what is worth watching on Netflix. Distilling countless recommendations from friends and family, trending TV shows, and Netflix's own suggestions is time consuming and needlessly stressful. So, I have taken it upon myself to offer my own top two picks for your monthly binging.

Documentary Now!

Documentary Now! is an IFC series that spoofs the documentary style by parodying various famous documentary films in short, 22 minute episodes. The series stars SNL alums Bill Hader and Fred Armisen and features a writing team that includes Seth Meyers and John Mulaney. Each season consists of seven episodes: five stand-alone stories and a season finale that spans two episodes. Both season 1 and 2 are available now.

The series itself is modeled on a long-running television show, and is hosted by Helen Mirren, which showcases the best films of the documentary genre. The series launches in its supposed 50th Season with one of its best episodes: "Sandy Passage," which spoofs the famous *Grey Gardens*. It carries on with parodies of *Nanook Revisited*, *The Thin Blue Line*, *Hollywood*, *History of the Eagles*, and *VICE News*. After hitting "Sand Passage" out of the park, *Documentary Now!* slips a little around the middle of the season, but finishes incredibly strong with the superb "Gentle & Soft: The Story of the Blue Jean Committee" pair of season finale episodes.

Season 2, added earlier this month, continues on with a pseudo 51st season, again hosted by Mirren. With another DocNow season, comes another killer opening episode – this time "The Bunker", a take on *The War Room*. Hader goes back to the impression well here, resurrecting his popular James Carville alongside Armisen's George

Good luck finding anything like these on Hulu...

Stephanopoulos. The season fills out with *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*, *Swimming to Cambodia*, *Salesman*, *Stop Making Sense*, and *The Kid Stays in the Picture*. Like the first, Season 2 plays a lot with various styles, but has a better understanding of its strengths this time around. Music is, again, the strongest suit of the cast, as "Final Transmission" showcases Armisen's often ignored musical prowess to much success.

Documentary Now! is excellent short form spoof comedy, pulling from the diverse zeitgeist of documentary filmmaking to parody the genre and its var-

ious tropes and practices. The show, only still in its infancy, rides high on the immense talent of its cast and crew. I feel fully comfortable calling this must-see TV and an absolutely perfect binge watch.

flashing back (and sometimes forward) to various points throughout his life. Both Season 1 and 2 are available for streaming now.

The genius of Vince Gilligan made a pair of despicable drug chemists into deeply complex and sympathetic characters. He does not fail to deliver again with his spinoff; in fact, I would argue that he and his team succeed to an even greater degree. Season 1 introduces the future Saul Goodman as newly minted attorney James McGill and his older brother Chuck. Additionally, we meet Jimmy's friend/lover/aspiring partner at Chuck's firm, Kim Wexler, Chuck's business partner, Howard, and Nacho Varga, member of infamous lunatic Tuco Salamanca's gang. Jimmy spends much of this season chasing a promising case from a quirky family accused of embezzlement, but parlays his luck into an opportunity litigating on behalf of exploited elders at a local nursing home. The season ends with a gut-punch twist that made the wait until Season 2 interminable.

The recently added second season kicks right off where Season 1 ended, a personal crossroads for Jimmy as he begins his slow descent into the seedy underbelly of the law. Not to spoil Season 1, but

the perennial antagonist from the first season continues his crusade against Jimmy throughout the ten episodes. The flashbacks this season reveal less major moments, but play towards subtle motivations that drive Jimmy and his supporting cast. Season 2 is considerably less bombastic, but a lot more cohesive and focused. The final episode delivers a double-edged cliffhanger that sets up a surely explosive Season 3.

As a cable drama, this is a bit of bigger investment time-wise, but surely worth the payoff. Fans of *Breaking Bad* must add this to their queue, but first-timers should not be too wary. Generally speaking, there are no barriers to entry or required viewings. For my money, this is one of the best shows available on Netflix.



ious tropes and practices. The show, only still in its infancy, rides high on the immense talent of its cast and crew. I feel fully comfortable calling this must-see TV and an absolutely perfect binge watch.

Better Call Saul

Better Call Saul is a prequel series to the critically acclaimed, phenomenally popular *Breaking Bad*. This series focuses primarily on *Breaking Bad* regular Bob Odenkirk and his Saul Goodman character. Mike Ehrmantraut (Jonathan Banks) is also featured in often-intersecting storylines. The show chronicles Saul's journey from young con artist Jimmy McGill to sleazy ambulance chaser, beginning with his first cases as a barred attorney and

Felix Colgrave's "Double King" Rules

by Meredith McLaughlin
Copy Editor

Animated short delves into monarch madness...

2D animation is honestly one of my favorite mediums on this earth. I don't know if it's because I watched a ton of cartoons as a kid but there's something about animation that fascinates me. I just can't get over how each second can have twenty-four fully detailed drawings in it, especially since it takes me about eight years to finish one drawing. There are a ton of really good animated shorts on Youtube, but recently I came across one that really blew my socks off.

Felix Colgrave is a popular animator on Youtube; some of my favorites from him are "The Elephant's Garden" and a music video he animated for the band Fever the Ghost called "SOURCE." However, "Double King," his most recent animation, has to be his best work yet. This short took him two years to make, and his hard work shines through the short. Going through his channel you can

see how Colgrave's art evolved over time. He gets more and more surreal with his work, and it's clear in "Double King" that he really has a handle on his bizarre style. It's hard to describe the plot of "Double King," but the film follows this little cloaked king hunting down other monarchs to take their crowns. To quote the description of the video, it's "a film about love and regicide." We follow this protagonist through a colorful and bizarre world

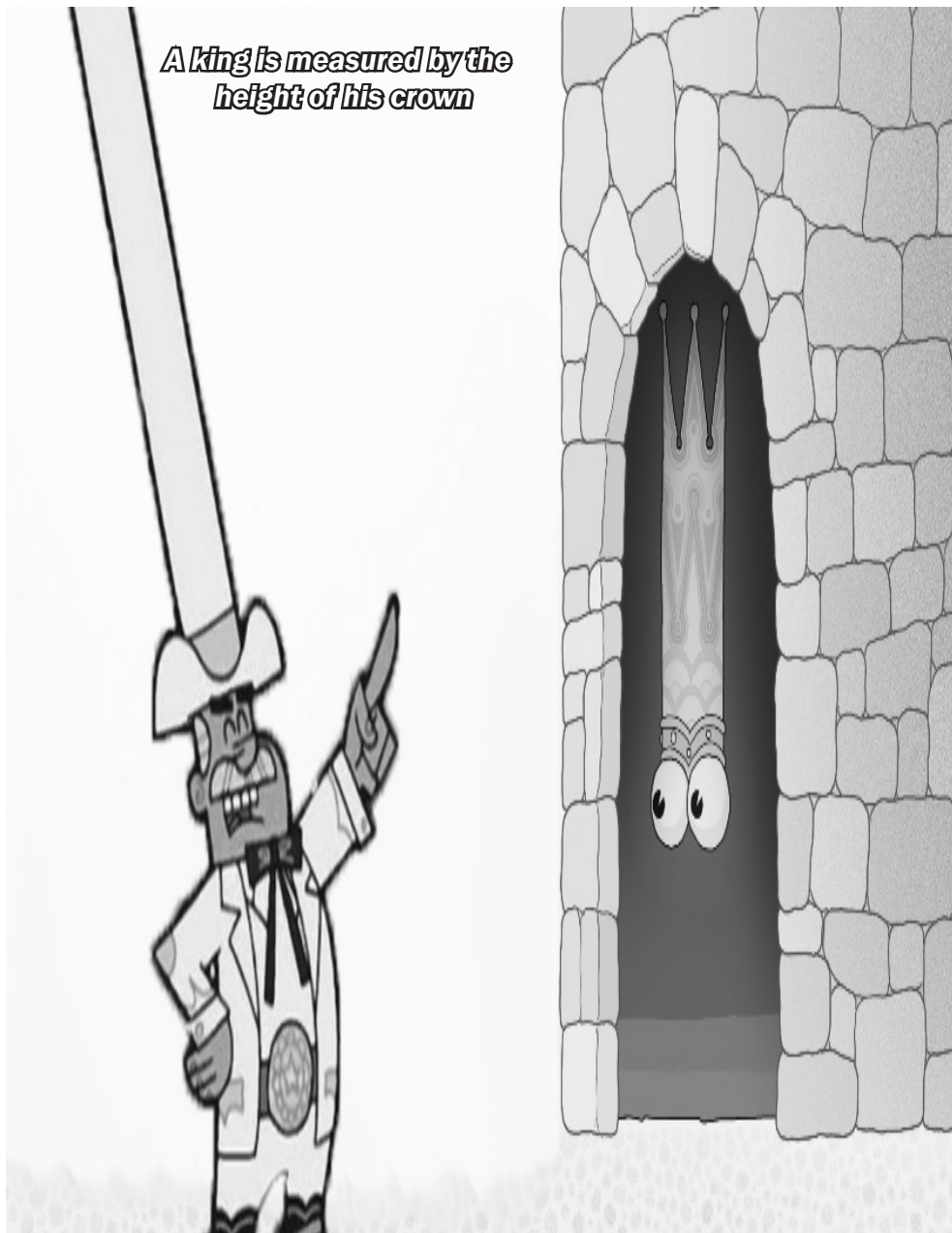
as he desperately tries to increase his crown count. "Double King" manages to bring us through the mind of a king gone mad without any dialogue. Why watch *Breaking Bad* when you can get the rise and fall of an egomaniac in only ten minutes? However where

rug-like garden. If you decide to watch it (which you should) also keep an eye out for this flag at the top of the king's castle. It's just... so good you guys. This flag moves so mesmerizingly that I would pay for a five minute video of just that flag with chill music. Speaking of

music, "Double King" has a pretty jammin' soundtrack. Colgrave, a modern renaissance man, also composed the music for the film. The music fits the film like a glove, and honestly I wouldn't mind wearing that glove. Overall, "Double King" is a mini masterpiece. I'd suggest it to anyone who's into animation or short films. However "Double King" takes multiple viewings to really appreciate. It's one of those things where you watch it once without getting it, but you also feel compelled to watch it again.

If you're really into animation like I am, Youtube is a pretty decent spot to

look for good films. Take a break from watching "Popular Youtuber X and Popular Youtuber Y Play Sims" to check out some of the animations online, because they deserve all the support they can get. Animation takes a ton of time and effort, and I just want to see people give it the attention it deserves. Please check "Double King" out, because it might be the gateway animation into a whole new world of art.



SHOWS

What: Cinevents: *Rogue One*

Where: Eddie's Parade Field

When: Wed. May 3rd @8 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: It has Diego Luna in it, and one of our editors really likes him.

What: The b-Sides Present: *Disney*

Where: Collins Auditorium

When: Thu. May 4th @7:30 PM to 9:30 PM

How Much: TBD

Why: You know you love Disney songs, especially when sung by the b-Sides.

What: Spring Weekend Comedian: Colin Jost

Where: Fordham Prep

When: Sun. April 30th @6 PM to 8 PM

How Much: FREE

Why: He's on SNL, so he must be at least somewhat funny.

Samurai Jack Is Back on Adult Swim *SPOILERS*

by Matthew Whitaker

Arts Co-Editor

After an eleven-year hiatus, *Samurai Jack* is back with the show's fifth season, now airing on Adult Swim. *Samurai Jack* is an animated series which premiered on Cartoon Network in 2001, and received critical acclaim during its original run. The show tells the story of Jack, a samurai who was flung into the future by Aku, the shape-shifting Master of Darkness, and seeks to return to the past to save the world from Aku's evil. *Samurai Jack* abruptly ended after its fourth season in 2004 without concluding the series' story. On March 11th, the fifth season of *Samurai Jack* began airing on Adult Swim.

The fifth season of *Samurai Jack* is a continuation of the series, not a reboot like *The Powerpuff Girls'* 2016 series. Despite this, the fifth season contains many changes from the previous four seasons, the most notable being the more mature themes of

"Whip it out!" - Scaramouch, 2017

the fifth season. *Samurai Jack* has grown with its audience, many of whom were children during the previous seasons. While the previous seasons presented simple issues like "good versus evil", the fifth season handles much more serious moral dilemmas, especially Jack's strict aversion to killing non-robot beings. Fans of the original series will certainly enjoy the fifth season, as it retains all of what made the original series excellent, like its superb ability to set a scene and beautiful animation. New elements keep the series fresh for returning fans, like the fifth season's focus on a single story and the Daughters of Aku. Those who did not watch the previous seasons of *Samurai Jack* will enjoy the fifth season just as much as returning fans. Aside from the first three episodes of the first season which set the premise of *Samurai Jack*, anyone can jump in at the beginning of the fifth season and

truly enjoy it.

Samurai Jack handles its transition from the style of the previous seasons to that of the fifth season astoundingly well. The first three episodes of the fifth season execute this transition. In the first episode, the style is very similar to a typical episode of the previous seasons. A typical episode would usually involve Jack facing robotic opponents in a one-off story unrelated to other episodes. The fifth season's first episode follows this format, while planting the seeds of the season's main story. In the episode, Jack battles Scaramouch, a robotic musical assassin who is quite similar to the villains Jack faced in previous seasons. Scaramouch is a robot, thus Jack has no problem brutally destroying him. Also in the first episode, the Daughters of Aku are introduced. They are a group of women raised from birth with the mission of killing Jack. They play an important

role in the second and third episode, where they hunt Jack, forcing him to kill one of them at the end of the second episode. This becomes a moral dilemma for Jack, as he has always refused to kill living people. The second and third episodes handle more complex issues than the previous seasons, like Jack being forced to take a life. The fifth season of *Samurai Jack* shows how the series has matured while retaining what made the previous seasons a joy to watch.

Now that six of its ten episodes have aired, it is clear that *Samurai Jack's* fifth season is the continuation fans have wanted for the past eleven years. Everything about the fifth season is outstanding. For both previous and new fans alike, *Samurai Jack's* fifth season is well-worth watching. As the final season of *Samurai Jack*, the fifth season will certainly serve as an excellent climax to the beloved series.

Kendrick Lamar Raps Up Work on His Latest Album

By Alvin Halimwidjaya

Staff Ram Editor

The first time I saw Kendrick Lamar rap was his appearance on the 2013 BET cypher. It was October and Kendrick was a year removed from bursting into the big leagues of the rap industry with his debut album *Good kid, m.A.A.d city*, and he was a month removed from dropping a bucket of hydrochloric acid on his peers with his verse on Big Sean's "Control." Having issued an unexpected statement of dominance for the world to see, he followed up with an encore when no one else had seen the main act coming.

Though the TDE crew was out in full force, with standouts like ScHoolboy Q, Jay Rock, and Isaiah Rashad present, everyone tuned in for Kendrick, and boy, did he deliver. From threats like "you know I'm a killer," to the always relevant, "your career ain't shit unless you got some Kendrick in it," he capped off his rapid-fire flex moment with, "you're scared to death, you're scared to look in the mirror when Kendrick is near you/ King Kendrick."

When looking at Kendrick's newest

His latest work is Duckworth checking out...

album, *DAMN.*, it's important to see where he came from. After weaving a story in *GKMC* and building discourse in *To Pimp a Butterfly*, his third album, crafts a collection holding pieces of his identity inside. Some are delicately placed inside introspective, wandering narratives like "FEAR." or "DUCKWORTH.", while others are chiseled into defiant slabs of braggadocio like "DNA." and "ELEMENT." Though this album is not as nuanced and thoughtful as the other two, it's a blatant, obstructive reminder of how exciting Kendrick Lamar's music can be.

From the constant allusions to being godlike to his varied, light shots across the bow at both ambiguous and specific targets in the rap industry (sorry Big Sean, your career is dead), Kendrick's tone is back in full "Backseat Free-

style" mode, and he's ready to tangle with anyone who dares mouth quietly to themselves in a corner that he isn't the best in the rap game.

One defining feature of *DAMN.* is the who's who list of producer credits on the album, which combine to create a stream that can easily shift from brash to haunting. One of my favorite tracks is "LUST." The smooth undertones and the beat slipping in and out of consciousness suits the murmur Kung Fu Kenny adopts on the track, and his quick variations of verse keep the audience on their toes as they

try to anticipate which way the story will turn. Meanwhile, outspoken, up-beat tracks like "DNA." and "HUMBLE." prove their worth as notable tracks on the record with Kendrick Lamar pulling out all the stops: from prominent producer Mike Will Made-It orchestrating

the dissonant, jarring piano on the latter track to an elaborate music video of the former featuring Don Cheadle.

However, all of the bells and whistles on the album can be cast aside when you boil this album down to Kendrick's lyrical prowess. He takes each track to wax poetic on his identity in relation to core ideals like love, pride and loyalty. However, his most stunning tale is woven in the final track "DUCKWORTH." In the song, he tells the story of how Anthony Tiffith, a gangbanger in his youth, spared a fry cook named Kenny from robbery and a possible shooting because he always gave Tiffith free chicken when he was in line. Years later, Tiffith is now the head of TDE, and Kenny became the father of a man that, through TDE, has forced his way into the position of greatest rapper alive. Kendrick's strength is using his past to frame his present, and combined with his verses laced with nitroglycerin and disses at Drake, *DAMN.* has given Kendrick Lamar a three-peat of timeless albums in a incandescent career.



*They won't take me out
my element*

Michael's Summer Museum Extravaganza

by Michael Sheridan
Arts Co-Editor

While the semester is coming to a close, the art world is gearing up for a spectacular lineup of summer exhibitions. Hoping to gain much needed income from the summer tourists, museums often host their best shows during the season. Here are my picks for the top summer exhibitions that are being held in New York.

Museum of Modern Art, *Women Artists and Postwar Abstraction*. Despite the fact that the art world is often associated with liberal and progressive ideas, the history of art is littered with extreme sexism. However, amid the wave of feminism that took hold in post-war America, women confronted this extreme sexism and fought to have their creative voices heard by critics and institutions. MoMA plans to showcase these artists in a female-only show dedicated to abstract art of the postwar period. The show is a great opportunity for works of art that are often otherwise pushed aside, as MoMA does its part to take a stand against the continued sexist approach to fine art. The show runs through June 13th.

Neue Galerie, *Richard Gerstl*. The first retrospective of Gerstl in the United States, this show aims to examine the tragic life and amazing art of the little-known Austrian Expressionist. The show features 55 of the 90 works that comprise the artist's body of work, revealing a true insight into what could have been one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. Tragically, Gerstl famously committed suicide after his affair with the wife of his friend, the composer Arnold Schoenberg, before Gerstl's career could really take off.

12% of this article is about the Guggenheim...

The show runs from June 29th to September 25th.

Guggenheim Museum, *Mystical Symbolism: The Salon de la Rose+Croix in Paris, 1892-1897*. What is shaping up to be one of the most unique exhibitions, the Guggenheim is presenting works that were inspired by members of the mystical Salon de la Rose+Croix

furniture offering to take visitors back in time. The show pairs well with other smaller exhibitions such as *The World of Radio* and *Jeweled Splendors of the Art Deco Era*, which offers a further view into the world of the interwar period. The Jazz Age runs through August 20th.

tume Institute exhibit. The crowds will certainly be smaller! The show runs from April 27th to August 6th.

The Whitney Museum of American Art, *Calder: Hypermobility*. Exploring the works of the pioneering artist Alexander Calder, this retrospective aims to show Calder's "Kinetic Sculptures" in a way that has never before been seen. By implementing "regular activations" of the moving sculptures and mobiles, the Whitney is aiming to allow the visitors to experience the artwork as Calder originally intended. I believe that the massive spaces and ceilings in the new Whitney building will be an asset to making this show a success and properly portray the work of Calder as it is meant to be seen. The show runs from June 9th to October 23rd.

The Brooklyn Museum, *We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965-85* and *Georgia O'Keeffe: Living Modern*. These two shows focus on women who defied expectations and the world around them. The first show reveals the important role Black women played in second wave feminism. The second show reveals how the artist Georgia O'Keeffe threw all the rules and expectations out the window through her Bohemian lifestyle. Both bring important insight into feminism of the past, and the continued struggle for equality to this day. *Revolution* runs from April 21st to September 17th and *O'Keeffe* runs through July 23rd.

Whether you live in New York, or are just planning to visit, there are plenty of exciting exhibits to keep you occupied throughout the entire summer!



which was popular in Belle époque Paris. The show features work from a variety of nations, and a multitude of artists who mainly worked in the symbolist style. Overall, the show promises to be a rare glimpse into a century old French cult. The show runs from June 30th to October 4th.

Cooper Hewitt, *The Jazz Age: American Style in the 1920s*. Embrace your inner flapper or tote your Al Capone suit to see the style and design of the enigmatic 1920s. The show features everything from jewelry to fashion to

The Museum of Art and Design, *fashion after Fashion*. This show focuses entirely on fashion in a world which has reportedly experienced "the end of fashion as we know it" by the influential critic Li Edelkoort in 2015. The show focuses on the future of fashion and how modern designers are looking to reinvent and reinvigorate the entire art form, and a return of creativity and thought to what has become a commercialized form of expression. In my opinion, this exhibition will be more interesting than the Met's famous Cos-

nickelodeon™
we haven't had a good show since 2007
...but at least we're not Disney channel.



FEATURES SPRING WEEKEND '17

COACHELLA *VS* Fordham Spring Weekend

The Lineup	Every band you ever dreamed of, and then, like, 30 EDM DJs.	A band that was in a car commercial that your little brother really likes
Recreational Activities?	Taking molly, sex, rock and roll	Rock and roll, a DJ playing only songs from 2009, Jesuit values, and one kid on your floor who claims to have done molly
Lodgings	A dirty tent	A bed in Finlay that someone puked in earlier that day
Cost	First born child, travel costs, food, actually paying to shower	The price of 6 Four Lokos + expenses
Getting there	Taking an airplane to a bus to a taxi to a pedicab that takes you into the freaking woods	Trying to successfully navigate your way to Martyr's Lawn past security guards while clearly intoxicated



THE BIG LIST

The time is upon us, boys and girls: Spring Weekend (“Spreekend” if you think you’re cool), the most sinful weekend of the year. But of course, the most critical part of any Spring Weekend is not the band, the DJ, or even Under the Tent: it’s the fashion. Here’s what looks our editors are rocking this #Spreekend2k17.

**GPA All Day
by a dedicated student**

The only place I’m getting lit spring weekend is Club Lib. I’m hitting the books unlike you losers! I base all of my self-worth on my ability to get good grades, so I’m not wasting any time on silly concerts or tent dances. I’ll enjoy myself by judging each and every one of you and making you feeling guilty for wasting the last weekend before finals day-drinking and binge eating. Who cares that I won’t have any college memories to look back on? I’ll get to say that I got an A on that one essay when you’ll have to console yourself with just a B+. Good luck getting a job!

**Dead Presidents
by Siobhan Donahue**

My Spring Weekend aesthetic is inspired by the first paper baby, Jicama. She was born in the Spring of 2014. She may have been forgotten about along with her ad-

opted brother Pablo and her pet dog, Lt. Looby. However, the imaginary paper family still lives on. So, if you catch me at the concert, you’ll understand what each article of clothing represents. My dog ears are for Looby. My backwards baseball hat is for Pablo. Finally, my french fry costume is in honor of paper baby, Jicama. RIP the old paper inside jokes.

**See Picture Below
by Nick Peters**



**Festival Culture
by a mindless sheep**

I can’t determine my spring weekend aesthetic until we freakin know who is performing (@CAB). If you haven’t noticed, I’m a conformer. I follow the crowd. I enjoy safe outfit choices that don’t make me stand out but are still cute. How am I supposed to plan the perfectly balanced outfit IF I DON’T KNOW WHO IS PERFORMING???? I’m not creative enough for this. I’m too closed-minded about outfit choices. I guess you could say I’m not...clothes-mind-

ed. Ha. Punny. Bottom line: tell me who is performing, and I’ll get back to you.

Fear And Loathing At Spring Weekend ‘17 by a writer

My look for spring weekend is a fusion of sweatpants, Hunter S. Thompson fishing hats, self-loathing, and socks with sandals. The outfit also features a portable 30-gallon drum of Chi-Chis lemon drop liqueur strapped to the wearer’s back. All in all, a pretty accurate representation of Fordham Spring Weekend.

**The Duck Life Isn’t For Everyone
by Rachel Poe**

For Easter, my mom gave me some high socks with rubber ducks on them so clearly I’m wearing them to the concert on Saturday- if we even have one. What’s going on with that CAB? For real, I have planning to do and it all rides on whether or not I’m going to this blasted concert, okay? Can we fix that please? K thanks. I’m also wearing overalls because I’m five. Yay! Go Fordham!

**The Future Is NOW..I Think
by Luis-tron5000**

This year, I’ve decided to do a deep-dive on weird US subcultures and I’ve decided I’ll be going to Spring Weekend in full bio-punk getup. I mean I am going all

out – lab coat, spiked green hair, tinted glasses that don’t actually have usable lenses. I also visited a surgeon that sat behind a dumpster on 1st and 43rd and added a microchip to my left palm so now I can pay for shit by waving my hand, or unlock my apartment doors with my forehead, or start my car with my right foot. It’s nice. I’m basically a cyborg now. Going through airport security is basically a nightmare though, and last week the camera I got planted in my left eye got hacked by Anonymous and posted a bunch of random photos from my commute on twitter. On the upside...actually, I’m not really sure what the upside is. Lemme get back to you.

**Hasta La Fuego
by Father John Looby**

My spring weekend aesthetic beyond being drunk or toppling the bourgeois is Father John Misty merch because I will convert every single one of you goddamn heathens to being fans. There is no reason to not have listened to I Love You, Honeybear you fucking monsters. I bought another 50-dollar shirt because 1) it is associated with Father John Misty and 2) shit’s fuego Janet.

**The Way God Intended
by Reyna Wang**

No clothes.



Cold War Kids
L.A. Divine
 By Rachel Poe

L.A. Divine is the sixth studio album from the indie group Cold War Kids. I've always been a casual fan of Cold War Kids, like the kind of fan who never listens to the full album but always gets excited to hear a new song. Most of the songs on *L.A. Divine* definitely has that quintessential Cold War Kids sound, which most of the songs have. To me, there was no confusion about whose album this was.

Honestly, I just don't think the album knows what it's supposed to be doing. I have no idea what "LA River" is supposed to be. It's just a minute of weird off-tune singing, and no? Maybe it was an attempt from the band to be pseudo-artsy that just falls flat. But it's immediately followed by "No Reason to Run" which has that stamp of a classic indie summer anthem—a weird mix to say the least. "Wilshire Protest" and "Cameras Always On" also try to mimic that "deep art" vibe but it just doesn't work and really gets in the way of enjoying the album.

"Ordinary Ideals", "Can We Hang On?", and "So Tied Up" feat. Bishop Briggs are also pretty fire. The rest of

the album isn't bad per se, but it's not blowing my mind. There's some pretty solid songs on this album, but the wannabe hipster artist thing they're trying here is just unnecessary and clashes with the rest of the album. The songs are good, but the album as a whole just isn't. My suggestion is to listen to



the songs that made it into the popular section on their Spotify.



John Mayer
The Search for Everything
 By Marty Gatto

On the cover of John Mayer's *The Search For Everything*, Mayer presents himself as an ethereal, exposed, sensitive, yet beautiful being. Nonetheless his music is aggressively pandering to sad teenage girls and their equally dependent middle-aged mothers.

Mayer starts this platitudinous monstrosity with a song titled "Still Feel Like Your Man." His sexy, raspy vocals and the calm, jazzy background come together in a way that would seduce anyone with a preconceived notion of what a good, calm, jazzy song is supposed to sound like. "Still Feel Like Your Man" is a wonderful song if you approach it as a parody of the genre it's delving into, and, from my point of view, there is no other way to approach it.

Mayer's album includes enough nauseating clichés it should come with a condensable airplane vomit bag. Throughout the album, he utilizes techniques from jazz and, surprisingly, country, and proves in every measure that he is a walking cliché. His uses of techniques from country music are, if anything, indicative of his metamor-

phosis from one type of douche into another.

Near the middle of the album, Mayer presents to us a lovely track called "Changing." It starts with a humble, confessional, repetitive piano, and his raspy voice is set down on top of the piano and stretched out in an impassioned manner like the vocals on a Christian pop song are.

Mayer finishes his excessively anodyne, strategically overtly sensitive masterpiece of an album with a remotely sad track called "You're Gonna Live Forever in Me." In this track he succeeds to express shallow emotions in a seemingly profound manner, a technique he has perfected.

Overall, John Mayer is wonderful at what he does: making bad music. He has perfected the art of making emotionally meretricious statements in ardent, airy vocals, and in doing so has made a mint. In regards to *The Search For Everything*, I would say it is what should be expected from the man.



Various Artists
The Fate of the Furious: The Album
 By Declan Murphy

A great soundtrack should complement the movie that it's in. It should be carefully designed to either create a certain tone or even a whole aesthetic. (Think, for example, of *The Royal Tenenbaums* soundtrack.)

In the interest of full disclosure, I have not yet seen *The Fate of the Furious*, the latest installment of the cheesy action franchise, but I do admire the series for its boldness and its sense of fun. The soundtrack, however, captures none of the fun, opting instead for a generic frat-boy collection

of would-be bangers.

For a soundtrack that only has 14 songs, a surprisingly large number of artists are represented on the soundtrack. There are genuinely good artists on here—Migos, for one—but plenty of truly terrible artists as well—Pitbull, Jeremih, Wiz Khalifa, and others. Honestly, these tracks are way too dense with features. Only three tracks are credited to a single artist, and two of the tracks are credited to FOUR artists. Sadly, these tracks tend to be less than the sum of their parts.

There's stuff on the album worth listening to, but it'll take wading through some trash. "Gang Up" is a Frankenstein's monster of featured verses, weird plot summary, and lyrics that sound like car commercials. "Speakerbox" is regurgitated beats over shouted half-assed verse. Both versions of Pitbull's "Hey Ma" are typical Pitbull garbage. If you're sensing a trend here, it's that I do, indeed, hate Pitbull.

That said, the good tracks are satisfying enough to make some of this up. "Seize the Block" by Migos brings a refreshingly low-key antidote to the amped-up tracks that surround it. "Mamacita" by Lil' Yachty (feat. Rico Nasty), while repetitive, has a catchy beat and chorus. Lastly, the mildly entertaining "La Habana" brings a Latin sound that has nothing to do with Pitbull. (Once again, screw you, Pitbull.)

Listen. You can watch it the movie—I hear it's quite good—and you can listen to Migos, Lil' Yachty, and even (god forbid) Pitbull songs on their own. But there is literally no reason to listen to this album. Don't buy it, don't download it, don't even recognize it. Even the title—declaring itself *The Album*—is more credit than it deserves.



Kodak Black
Painting Pictures
By Panda Martini

Kodak Black is a good, young rapper. His lyricism is poignant and his flow, quite subtly, has tremendous range. His sound is both hard and melancholy, and above all, his sound is real. The most intriguing thing about listening to Black is that the realness does not appear to be an act. *Painting Pictures* is a candy-coated fantasy of harsh realities Black has thus far encountered.

The album opens with Black speaking as if he were a child trapped in his crib, but he is quickly cut off by a litany of newscasters reporting on his various legal troubles. Black has been arrested four times and jailed for as many months, the most significant of the charges being a disturbing rape accusation. This opening minute is a thematic summation of *Painting Pictures* and captures the state of Kodak and the listener: torn. While his experiences with the law have shown him to be an increasingly vile human, Kodak is still a teenager systematically unprepared for the success he has encountered. As frequently as he makes searing statements like "They call me Kodak 'cause I'll shoot a nigga," he glumly laments how the streets took his conscience. A dichotomy of this sort is found throughout *Painting Pictures*.

The album does its best to match sonically, as Black's flow as well as his music are extremely diverse for the trap world. Like his life, it's all over the place. *Painting Pictures* is a diverse, yet cohesive work that bears the state of Kodak Black. He is a defiant child that seems to lack remorse, yet he is an eloquent artist that has been disserved by the system. *Painting Pictures* is a valuable listen, if not purely for the music, as a way understand how a figure like Black can come to be and where his future lies.

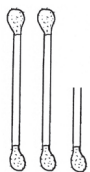
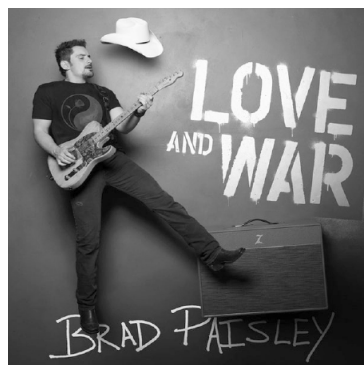


Brad Paisley
Love and War
By John Looby

Brad Paisley's *Love and War* is absolute garbage. I am offended and deeply disturbed by the apparent death of music as an art form. Every track on this album is a direct insult to the tradition of human dignity and self-respect. I want to and will send Brad Paisley an invoice for the damages to my emotional and psychological well being after having suffered through this seemingly years long shit parade of aural catastrophe. After three tracks I had to seriously ask myself, but what if this kills me? Is it

worth listening to the whole thing knowing if I survive some part of me will be permanently damaged beyond all hope of repair?

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



The "Bangers for Nobody" Playlist



by
Michael Jack
Jack Michael

- Kill Jill**
Big Boi et al.
- All This Money**
Injury Reserve
- The Full Retard**
E1-P
- Enough**
Flume & Push T
- Legend Has It**
Run The Jewels
- ROCKABYE BABY**
Joey Bada\$\$ & Schoolboy Q
- What's Goodie**
Injury Reserve & Cakes da Killa
- Kill Yourself (Part II)**
\$uicideBoy\$
- Telephone Calls**
A\$AP Mob et al.
- Okay, But This Is the Last Time**
Bones

SMASH THE STAT3BUCKS

